



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2018

Staff and Volunteers:

Theresa Dolch, Library Assistant II, Janet Makoujy, Head of Children's Services, and Veronica Reynolds, Head of Community Relations, provided excellent public relations for the Library as they worked the booth at the **New City Street Fair** on September 30. They received a lot of positive feedback about the Library from the fair attendees.

Adult Services Librarians Joseph Barbieri and Matthew Aull attended the **New York Family History Conference** in Tarrytown.

Head of Adult Services Brian Jennings was interviewed by **Clarkstown Supervisor George Hoehmann** for his public access television show. The video may be seen at <https://youtu.be/x3ov-7v86VU>.

Adult Services Librarian Dana Munsch and Brian Jennings are both participating as volunteer tutors in the Town of Clarkstown's **Digital Class for Absolute Beginners** on Monday mornings at the Street School.

Collections:

Patrons are always delightfully surprised and impressed with the **inter-library loan** system the library offers both within RCLS and beyond. We belong to the Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC), which provides us with items not found in the RCLS system. Through RCLS, we can also obtain items not locally found from throughout the country. Karen Ostertag, Adult Services Librarian, was thanked for arranging these services for a grateful patron with a box of chocolates!

Local History Librarian Joseph Barbieri presented at an RCLS Reference Users Group meeting. Joe talked about our Library's extensive in-library and online **local history and genealogical resources**.

There is a new display in the local history case. Joe Barbieri assembled a collection of photos, articles, and ephemera from Elizabeth Ryan, a Rockland County native and medalist at the 1936 Olympics with the swimming relay team.

Programs:

A new book group called **Rise and Read** had its inaugural session led by Adult Services Librarian Nancy Moskowitz. Six attendees proved a solid start. She and Veronica Reynolds will alternate hosting this early morning weekday program.

Volunteer Peter Reiner did a nice job leading a group of nine patrons during one of our **Hike & History** programs. It took place at Rockland Lake.

New City Library teen patrons participated in the annual **Battle of the Books** program and tied for 4th place amongst 18 teams. Teens read eight books and were tested on their knowledge of plots, characters, settings, etc. The competition was held at SUNY Orange in Middletown.

Registration for our **Tai Chi program** was so popular that a second class was added to accommodate the high volume.

Dr. Dubious and the Agnostics performed another rousing concert in front of a crowd.

The **Sewing for Kids program** led by Janet Makoujy and Children’s Librarian Kathy Bachor won Honorable Mention for the RCLS Youth Program of the Year award. The plaque was proudly accepted in their honor by the Director at the RCLS Legislative Breakfast.

Building and Facilities:

Electrical access was provided to some study tables in the Adult Services area and Teen Room that were lacking. This was done to address the common problem of patrons plugging into distant outlets creating tripping hazards.

The Director and Facilities and Finance Manager Shibu Abraham met with Principal Town Planner Joe Simoes and Director of Operations Albert T. Moroni of the Town of Clarkstown to discuss the possibility of installing an **electronic sign** in front of the Library.

Technology:

Mark Gervino, Head of Support Services, Matthew Ciuccio, Library Assistant II, and the director met with a representative of Bibliotheca to explore **RFID technology** and its possible benefits to circulation services and inventory procedures.

Miscellaneous:

The Library was closed Monday, September 3, in honor of **Labor Day**.

Trustees Bob Axelrod and David Zuckerberg attended the **RCLS Legislative Breakfast and Annual Meeting**, along with the Director. It was held at The Sullivan Conference Center in Rock Hill, New York.

No **applications for library board** trustee were received by the October 1 deadline. Petition forms were made available subsequently as per the by-laws.

The Library received a **\$1,000 grant from the Kurz foundation** to be used for pro-literacy purposes.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
October 11, 2018

MG/kc