



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2020

Staff and Volunteers:

Adult Librarians Mary Phillips, Nancy Moskowitz, and Karen Ostertag attended Library Journal's Day of Dialog on September 23. This popular annual program only for librarians promotes upcoming titles, author presentations, and industry talk from editors is usually held in NYC. Due to the pandemic, it was offered virtually this year.

The Board should take great pride in the ***professional conduct and attitude of the library staff***. They have proved themselves capable in providing superb library service in the face of this pandemic. Thanks to their cooperation and can-do spirit, The New City Library was the first big library in the county to open its doors to patrons after having been closed for three months. I feel we are running the best possible model of service considering the challenges faced, and the staff can take credit for all the great ideas generated during our problem-solving sessions.

Two veteran part-time Library Assistant Is retired, Maddy Messina (33 years) and Susan Kessel (14 years). Their service to the Library and assistance to our patrons was exemplary.

Collections:

We continue to develop a more patron-driven collection with our ***Purchase Request*** program. Patrons fill out a form online with information about their title of interest, and the librarian responsible for that part of the collection reviews it for suitability. Best-sellers are not considered, as we purchase them anyway. Once the title is in, the patron is notified. It's a great way for us to discover titles that make it under our radars.

Programs:

Teen Librarian Mary Phillips has been hosting popular ***painting and crafts programs online***. Patrons pick up materials ahead of time, and an instructional, step-by-step, how-to video is shown to the group at the appointed meeting time. Even some adults have taken part.

Head of Adult Services Brian Jennings and Adult Services Librarian Nancy Moskowitz launched an online book chat entitled, “**What We’re Reading.**” It’s a virtual form of Staff Picks, and just another way of librarians providing reader’s advisory to patrons. At the end of the program, participants shared their own recent reads. You can find the recorded program on our YouTube channel.

Local History Librarian Joe Barbieri, accompanied by patron Peter Reiner, led a Saturday **Hike in History** at the old Nike Missile Base in Orangetown.

A **Wednesday Webinar** series offers digital research instruction on various topics. Brian Jennings hosted one on Tutor.com, which offers academic and career support to our patrons. Joe Barbieri also hosted one on using Ancestry.com. Since the pandemic closures began, Ancestry.com has been offering free access remotely instead of library-only. This wonderful opportunity has been extended through the end of the year.

Adult program attendance this month was higher than September 2019 despite being entirely online and having seven fewer program sessions. **Forever Young’s** concert drew in 54 people, and **Travels in Jewish History Part I** had 64 attendees. The Rockland County Department of Mental Health presented a talk for **Suicide Prevention** month. Although low in attendance, it did provide an opportunity for a meaningful conversation.

Building and Facilities:

The **final interviews for architect selection** for the renovation project were conducted in the Library early in the month. Architectural firms VMDO and Lothrop Associates presented examples of their work and explained the Design Development process. An ad hoc **Negotiations Committee** met to discuss moving forward with VMDO.

On September 23, the Library started to **ban masks with valves** following CDC guidelines.

Technology:

Nothing to report.

Miscellaneous:

Some noteworthy patron comments:

“Just want to say thank you for all of the wonderful virtual programs these past months. Not quite sure what I would have done to keep boredom away without the libraries in New York and New Jersey. Stay safe and thanks again.”

“These programs are keeping me sane!”

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
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MG/kc