

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT JULY 2023

### Personnel

PT Library Display Designer Alexis Ramos de Moore has resigned, effective 7/21/23.

#### Library Page (P.T.)

Matthew Cupo	Start Date: 6/22/23
Emily Fastoff	Start Date: 6/22/23
Greta Swanson	Start Date: 7/5/23

#### Library Display Designer (PT)

Izsaack Gonzalez	Start Date: 7/22/23
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### Statistics

#### Databases (comparison is to June 2022)

- Hoopla
  - ebook usage up 64%
- Kanopy
  - Pages browsed up 141%
  - Number of videos played up 30%
- OverDrive
  - Usage up 30%
    - Adult usage up 29%
    - YA usage up 69%

#### Library

- June 2023 Adult Summer reading sign-ups 316; 36 in 2022 a 778% increase up from 2022 - 44% increase from 2021
- Total Adult materials added in June was up 51% from June 2022
- Total circulation of periodicals was up by 200%
- Interlibrary Loan - Loans were up by 44%
- Adult public computer usage was up 28%

### Youth Services

693 patrons signed up for our SRP and received a free ice cream during the week of June 20-23rd. Staff from all departments helped to make this a success. Trustee Mike McCue also participated as a representative from the Board of Trustees.

Art student and PRPL patron, Kiera McDermott decorated the front window at the library entrance, using the Franklin Ave playground as her inspiration for the All Together Now theme.

SRP reporting began with the help of teen volunteers. Prizes are being awarded to anyone who reads for 30 minutes per day for 5 days.

We are also offering a weekly guessing jar. The closest guess wins a prize. The first week's prize was a picnic blanket and 5 tickets to any NY Boulders baseball game. This

prize was generously donated by Mike Greco who works with the Boulders and grew up in PR.

We have also invited community helpers to read during our Thursday afternoon storytime. So far we have had an EMT from the PR Ambulance Corp and the manager of ShopRite. An OPD officer will be our guest this week.

Patrons have offered donations such as toys, puzzles, and games that have been incorporated into our Toddler Play Area and program materials collection. Mary Flanagan has donated a handmade doll cradle in memory of her sister, Elizabeth Van Wynen. Monetary donations have been made in honor of patron Leanore Loeb's 90th birthday. With a total of \$3,644.00 to be endowed for the implementation of a 1,000 books before kindergarten program. This program will kick off in early fall 2023.

### **Adult Services**

We were accepted into the DHPSNY Foundational Planning Assistance grant program on June 6. Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) is a statewide program that provides free planning and education services to support the vast network of collecting institutions such as archives, libraries, historical societies, museums, and other organizations that safeguard and ensure access to New York's historical records and library research materials. Jim Cassetta and Diana Wendell met with the Coordinator on June 28 to discuss moving forward with this.



Fiber Arts Club started on June 8. Great to see participants learning from each other! Diana Wendell started Coordinating our participation in the RCLS Road Trip program. This will be a fun way for the public to visit libraries across the RCLS region and win fun prizes!

Diana Wendell started implementing the McNaughton Book Leasing program and migration to all other book ordering to Baker and Taylor. Baker and Taylor has a Sustainable Library Program that we will try

out. It allows us to get paid for some popular books that are returned and to have all discarded books picked up for free by UPS.

### **Learning Lab**



The local bestselling author Mary Beth Keane event was a big success: 90 in-person attendees, 694 online views. We looked and sounded very professional in this author event, which was part of a Visiting Writer Series I ran this year including 6 other authors.

Spring Chickens First Appearance breaks our FB Live record at over 2,500 views.

Our grant-winning program, PRPL Spring Chickens Choir, is going strong. The morning after our first performance we received a call from the staff at Promenade, asking us to perform there.

John wins RCLS Adult Program of the Year Award for Writing from Life

Thank you, Eugenia, and members of the Board, for continuing to support this program!

Writing from Life is our longest running program, with well over 200 sessions since I started the program in 2016. Writing from Life was also our first program to go virtual when COVID hit, then running every week online for the duration of our closure. I taught the seniors how to use Google Drive, Google Meet and Google Classroom in advance of the shift to virtual. Writing from Life has remained hybrid ever since, with in-person attendees and online attendees at every session.



We have published 6 volumes of writing, all available on Amazon and in the library collection. We also published - this June - the collected short stories of 91-year-old PR Resident, Jeanne Lyons. We have had 6 public readings in the library and 2 public outreach readings at the Temple Beth Am Senior Center.

The members of Writing from Life nominated John for an I Love My Librarian Award in 2022.

Nearly 50 patrons got waitlisted for Learning Lab Summer programs as of the writing of this report. As usual, due to room constraints, and lack of STEAM-ready staff, the Learning Lab had to turn away nearly 50 patrons that signed up for our summer programs. For example, Librarian Katie Bertussi's Apple Pencil Exploration class had more people waitlisted (15) than registered (10). During Tech/STEAM classes there are often 3 or more hands raised at a time with questions to be answered. The larger room afforded by the

Bond Project will help matters, but we will still need more qualified, capable and willing staff to run additional STEAM programs or to help run them so we can allow higher attendance numbers.

### **Compliments/Highlights/Appreciation**

A patron came in with his family last week. He grew up in Pearl River and lives in Spain. He was excited to visit the library with his kids because they do not have the same resources where they live. He commented on how happy he was to see the toddler play area, computers, books, and programs. When he asked to place books on hold, I assumed that he would be using his parents' library card. But he said that he still had his own active PRPL card for his visits, and would be using that.

Diana Wendell received a thank you note from a patron for fulfilling purchase request suggestions.

Abigail Toral, Library Assistant had a tech help session with Pat Michel, one of our long-time patrons. Ms. Michel was very pleased with Abigail's help and couldn't have said enough wonderful things about her.