

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 16, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, April 16, 2009, in the Central Library pursuant to due notice to trustees. The following members were present:

W. Lawrence Buck, Chair
Sharon A. Thomas, Vice Chair
Sheldon M. Berlow, Treasurer
Richard L. Berger
Phyllis A. Horton
Anne M. Leary
Elaine M. Panty
Judith K. Summer

Excused:

Jack Connors - out of town
Frank Gist - out of town
Annette A. Juncewicz - conflict
Hormoz Mansouri - out of town
Rebecca L. Pordum - out of town
Mario J. Rossetti - out of town
Wayne D. Wisbaum - out of town

Chair W. Lawrence Buck called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. in the Joseph B. Rounds Conference Room. Mr. Buck proceeded with informational items with the expectation of meeting a quorum within a few minutes.

Agenda Item D - Report of the Chair. Mr. Buck reminded Trustees the next Board meeting on May 21, 2009, will be at the Audubon Branch Library. As the Central Library parking lot will most likely be under construction, this works out well.

Agenda Item E - Committee Reports.

Agenda Item E.1 - Executive Committee. Sharon Thomas reported Trustees Buck, Thomas, Panty, Summer and Horton were present, as was Stanton

Hudson, Kenneth Stone, Mary Jean Jakubowski and Bridget Quinn-Carey. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Mr. Stone provided an overview of Resolution 2009-15, which would authorize the staff to submit the 2010 County Capital Projects request. The deadline for submission was moved up 3 months to April 15, 2009, which is why the Executive Committee had been asked to take action. Ms. Thomas moved to approve, Ms. Panty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jakubowski reported on the 2009 Read Down Your Fines program, which is being offered again this summer as it was so successful last summer. She also gave an overview of Summer Reading Program planning, including the collaborative efforts with the Mayor's Summer Reading Program and the Mayor's Summer Youth programs.

Ms. Quinn-Carey reported several members of the Library Board had received letters regarding the Kenmore Library from Kenmore resident Arthur Parks. The Executive Committee reviewed a draft response that Mr. Buck will send to Mr. Parks. Ms. Quinn-Carey will send a response to a letter received by Ann Kling from another Kenmore resident regarding several library service related issues at the Kenmore Library. The Executive Committee noted that while they are monitoring the situation in the Town of Tonawanda with the Library administration regarding future library facilities in the Town of Tonawanda, the System Library Board currently has no role in the planning or decision making process for library facilities.

The Committee reviewed the agenda for the April 16, 2009, Board of Trustees meeting including the proposed resolutions.

There was no other business to come before the Executive Committee. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Trustee Sheldon Berlow arrived at approximately 4:10 p.m., whereupon a quorum was present.

Agenda Item B – Approval/Changes to the Agenda. Approved as mailed.

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of March 19, 2009. Ms. Horton moved, Ms. Panty seconded, and approval was unanimous.

Agenda Item E.1.a – Erie County 2010 Capital Project Requests. This resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on April 7, 2009.

RESOLUTION 2009-15

WHEREAS, the time of year to prepare and submit capital project requests to Erie County for the following five-year period is approaching, and

WHEREAS, the Library received 2010-2015 Capital Budget preparation forms and instructions in March, with a due date of April 15, 2009 which is prior to the Library Board's next meeting, and

WHEREAS, bonding for projects approved in the 2007, 2008, and 2009 Erie County capital budgets has yet to occur and the status of potential federal funding for projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA - also known as the fiscal stimulus program) is not yet known, and

WHEREAS, recognizing these unknowns, recommendations for the 2010-2015 Erie County Capital Budget focus on extending and updating those projects prioritized in the 2009-2014 plan and those identified for potential funding under ARRA,

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1 of Bylaws of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library states: The Executive Committee, in intervals between meetings of the Board of Trustees, shall have all the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees not inconsistent with law. All Trustees should be notified of any actions within three (3) business days," now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library hereby directs the Library Director to prepare, update costs as needed, and submit 2010-2015 Erie County Capital Project requests prioritized as follows:

FOR THE 2010 FUNDING YEAR

- Central Library Infrastructure Renovations for New Cultural Tourism Exhibit Space - Estimated cost \$2.5 million;
- Infrastructure for a Green building - Central Library Renovation, Asbestos Abatement and Energy Efficiency Improvements - Estimated cost \$3.225 million.
- Escalator Replacement with ADA compliant elevators and Entry for New Cultural Tourism Area - Estimated cost \$2.7 million;
- Shipping Vehicle replacements (2) - Estimated cost \$55,000; and
- Library Replacement Project Incentive Funds (1 proj.) - Estimated cost \$2.5 million.

FOR THE 2011 AND BEYOND FUNDING YEARS

- Infrastructure for a Green building – Central Library Renovation, Asbestos Abatement and Energy Efficiency Improvements – future phases (one project area per year 2011-2013) – Estimated cost \$8.275 million ;
- Shipping Vehicle replacements (2) in 2012 – Estimated cost \$60,000;
- Additional Library Replacement Project Incentive Funds (1 project in 2012 and 1 project in 2014) – Estimated cost \$5 million, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library expresses its support for requests that may be submitted by the County Public Works Department to address Central Library mechanical equipment and building needs not covered by the above requests, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Director transmit the requests to the appropriate County Department pursuant to the County's instructions and timetables and provide a report to the Library Board detailing the requests submitted.

Trustee Berlow posed a question about the cultural tourism exhibit and its ramifications. Ms. Quinn-Carey explained Mr. Stone repackaged our previous year's county capital request to align with what the County Executive set out as his priorities for the community. Mr. Berlow inquired if we were tuning in to attracting people from out of the area. Ms. Quinn-Carey stated, "absolutely."

Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Berger asked Mr. Stone to brief the Board on action items.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Appropriate Available Fund Balance for Library Programming. Assistant Deputy Director Ann Kling introduced this resolution stating it would appropriate \$20,000 from the available fund balance for library programming. This was also done last year. Ms. Horton moved, Mr. Berger seconded, and approval was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2009-16

WHEREAS, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library conducts and coordinates programs for the residents of Erie County, and

WHEREAS, the programs are within the scope of the Library's mission, and

WHEREAS, the Central Library and Buffalo Branch Libraries have planned for more than 230 programs to be conducted through the end of the year, and

WHEREAS, the planned programs include both system-wide and in-house activities, and

WHEREAS, currently additional funds need to be identified to insure the success of said programs, program materials/supplies, speaker/trainer fees, etc. now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library amends the 2009 Operating Budget, increasing:

Revenue:	SAP 402190 - Use of fund balance:	\$20,000
Expense:	SAP 530000 - Other Expense - programming	\$20,000.

Agenda Item E.2.b – Approve New York State Annual Reports. This resolution would authorize filing the System’s New York State Annual Reports for 2008. Two copies of the reports were available for review at the meeting. Mr. Stone further explained how information contained in these reports is looked at. Mr. Berger made a motion, Ms. Panty seconded, and approval was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2009-17

WHEREAS, the Library System Basic Aid, Local Library Services Aid (LLSA), Local Services Support Aid (LSSA), Central Library Book Aid (CLBA), Central Library Development Aid (CLDA), Coordinated Outreach Library Services Aid, State Correctional Facilities Aid and Services to County Jails (Interinstitutional) Aid are annual New York State statutory aid programs aimed at assisting library systems, central libraries and local libraries in developing collections and providing services to their constituents, and have provided funding for many years, and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the Library’s charter as well as qualify for State Aid, each library files reports annually with New York State summarizing achievements, activity and financial performance, and

WHEREAS, the B&ECPL files both a Public Library Report and a Library System Report, while each contracting library also files a public library report, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees assures that the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library “Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries – 2008” has been reviewed and

accepted and that the Library operated under its plan of service in accordance with the provisions of Education Law and the Regulations of the Commissioner, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees assures that the Library System operated under its approved Plan of Service in accordance with the provisions of Education Law and the Regulations of the Commissioner, and assures that this "Annual Report for Library Systems - 2008" has been reviewed and accepted, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees assures that the Library System will be operating under its approved Plan of Service in accordance with the provisions of Education Law and the Regulations of the Commissioner and assures that the "Budget Summary" has been reviewed and accepted, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Library Director transmit the completed online reports to the State Division of Library Development.

Agenda Item E.2.c - RFID Contract Award. Mr. Stone explained this resolution is a recommendation to make an award for Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and commended Shirley Whelan, Mary Jean Jakubowski, Carol Batt, Kelly Donovan, Maureen McLaughlin and Toni Naumovski for their hard work. He pointed out the initial award is to put RFID in the Central Library, Buffalo Branches and the Amherst Libraries and includes pricing that will allow us to go after additional grants and other funding to finish up and put RFID in varying levels at all our libraries in the future. Mr. Stone briefly went over pricing differences and bidders. This resolution recommends the award go to Envisionware and the Director be tasked with negotiating an agreement with Envisionware based upon their proposal as clarified. If unsuccessful in negotiating a contract, the Director would then be authorized to negotiate with the second runner up, Bibliotheca. Mr. Berger moved, Ms. Summer made a second, and approval was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2009-18

WHEREAS, one of the major initiatives to generate operating savings to help the Library offset recession induced funding shortfalls while at the same time improving customer service involves a complete overhaul of the Library's inventory, materials handling and security systems to implement a system-wide, state-of-the art Radio Frequency Identification based system (otherwise known as RFID), and

WHEREAS, while RFID technology results in major cost savings and streamlined materials handling for public and staff, the initial start up costs are significant, and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2008 the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library adopted Resolution 2008-54 authorizing the Library Director or her designee to develop an Incentive Grant application to implement Phase 1 of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) project at an estimated net cost of \$1,718,343; submit same to the County Executive; and encourage the County Executive, Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority (ECFSA) and Erie County Legislature to support this project, and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature in its meeting of December 4, 2008 adopted, by unanimous vote, Resolution No. 371 supporting the Library's Efficiency Grant submission, and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2009 the ECFSA voted unanimously to approve the Library's Efficiency Grant application for the \$1,718,343 amount requested, and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2009 the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library tasked the Library Director and/or her designee to prepare the necessary documents, seek all needed approvals to accept the grant, establish a corresponding grant budget and implement the project, and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2009 the Erie County Legislature, pursuant to the request of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, approved creating the RFID Efficiency Grant in the Library Fund Grants Budget utilizing funds received from the ECFSA, and

WHEREAS, the Library issued a request for proposals, #09104VF, to select a vendor ("Vendor" or "Contractor") to provide all or some components of an integrated RFID system for those libraries for which grant funding is obtained and to develop a long-term relationship with the vendor awarded the contract for the initial phase of the project to supply the remaining libraries with RFID when funding is obtained for these facilities, and

WHEREAS, the RFP did not include building modifications & sorting equipment for the Central Library which will be the subject of a later procurement process, and

WHEREAS, a total of total of five (5) major vendors submitted proposals in response to the RFP, with total costs listed for their proposals to

serve the Central, Buffalo Branch and Amherst Libraries, in descending cost order of:

3M Library Systems, St. Paul, MN	\$1,581,652
SirsiDynix, Provo, UT.	\$1,564,148
Libramation, Inc., Edmonton, Alberta CN.	\$1,397,290
Bibliotheca, Inc., Huntsville, AL	\$1,312,170
Envisionware, Inc., Deluth, GA.	\$1,258,695, and

WHEREAS, since each vendor proposed solutions with a different mix of equipment and capabilities, a simple cost comparison is not sufficient to sort out the “apples and oranges” amongst the proposals, and

WHEREAS, an RFP review committee was established to review the proposals and compare proposed equipment, technology, services and costs, paying particular attention to capabilities that streamline system operations, lowering future operating costs and ensuring effective operation, and

WHEREAS, after screening proposals and checking references, the committee invited the two best and lowest cost proposers emerging from the screening and reference checks, Bibliotheca and Envisionware, to provide a full-day on site demonstration of their equipment and technology, with each demonstration process attended by key line staff as well as the review committee and other library management, and

WHEREAS, the demonstrations and the question/answer periods included in each demonstration provided invaluable insights into each vendor’s products and offerings and showed that the varying approaches and interdependent technology methods deployed by each vendor would make a “mix and match” approach to product selection problematic,

WHEREAS, based upon its review and a cost analysis pricing both vendors’ offerings, the committee recommends an award to Envisionware as the provider offering the lowest overall cost and best performance, with Bibliotheca as alternate should the Library be unable to negotiate a contract with Envisionware, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library designates the Envisionware proposal as the lowest cost, best performance response, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Library Director and/or his designee(s) is authorized to negotiate and execute the necessary documents to enter into an agreement to provide RFID equipment, supplies and services for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event that contract negotiations with Envisionware do not result in a fully executed agreement, the Director and/or her designee would be authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement with the next lowest responsive responder, Bibliotheca, and be if further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library authorizes the Library Director and/or her designee to prepare the necessary documents and seek all needed approvals, including from the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority, to implement the resulting contract on a timely basis.

Trustee Panty asked if we had dealt with Envisionware before. Mr. Stone replied the print management solution we implement in all our libraries is from Envisionware. They are a Sirsi partner so they interface well with our library automation system. Mr. Stone discussed cost savings benefits such as the ability to install their library automation checkout software on print service stations and the ability to remotely monitor and tune the security gates.

Mr. Buck thanked staff for their hard work and countless hours spent to make this happen.

Trustee Berger referred to the March 2009 Public Access Computer Statistics report that was handed out at the meeting (this report was not available when Board packet information was mailed out prior to the meeting) and questioned why stats were way up for everyone with the exception of the Central Library. Speculation as to the reason was discussed, but the actual answer was not clear.

Agenda Item E.3 - Development Committee. Stanton Hudson would combine this report with his report later in the meeting.

Agenda Item E.4 - Special Collections Committee. Chair Elaine Panty reported the Committee met on March 23, 2009, immediately following the Development Committee meeting. In attendance were Trustees Berger, Connors, Junczewicz, Leary and Horton. Also in attendance were Bridget Quinn-Carey, Peggy Skotnicki and Stanton Hudson. Ms. Skotnicki, Ms. Pickard and the staff were thanked for the wonderful job they did in showcasing the Rare Book Room section and new storage area after the A.C.T. Committee meeting on March 21st. It was decided the title Rare Book Committee should be changed to Special Collections Committee. It was felt this new title was a better reflection and more appealing to prospective donors and future programs and also generates interest in specific areas of our different holdings. Brochures, catalogs and printed material would be updated. Advocacy, promotion and upcoming programs

were discussed. Ms. Skotnicki discussed plans for the future. In addition, seeking individual support from outside the library for special projects where someone in a specific field can be asked to join that particular project was discussed. They would not have to be on the Board but stay with the particular project as needed. Trustee Connors remarked if anyone knew of someone who could be approached in that capacity, they get back to the Director or Stanton Hudson to work this out. Specific goals, evaluations and preservation (internal and external) were discussed. The Director had not heard any news on the Rare Book Committee the County Executive had mentioned but will keep everyone informed on any information she receives. Because the Special Collections, Development and Policy Committees are very closely intertwined and because many of the same members are on each committee, it was felt the Special Collections Committee would not have to meet every month but perhaps four times a year or as needed. Ms. Panty suggested meetings try to be scheduled on same days to make it more convenient and looked forward to feedback on this suggestion.

Agenda Item F - Report of the Director. Ms. Quinn-Carey displayed a framed Certificate of Appreciation to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System received from the Orchard Park Public Library Board of Trustees in recognition of valuable contributions throughout the energy efficient project to the Orchard Park Library. Although she has not seen the improvements, she welcomed trustees to stop in at the Orchard Park Public Library.

Ms. Quinn-Carey shared her thanks and appreciation to all staff that have been doing a fantastic job working on a number of big projects.

Regarding North Park, work in the temporary facility on Hertel Avenue has started and a July 1st opening, if not a little sooner, is hoped for. Both she and Ann Kling recently met informally with the North Buffalo Library Long-Range Planning Group which has representation from all the different block clubs and community groups active in North Buffalo. George Emery, a librarian at Canisius, set up a blog with a lot of information. In addition, someone from Common Council Member Michael LoCurto's office is helping us from the City perspective. She will keep the Board involved as this becomes more formal. The recommendation that came out of the first meeting was that a needs assessment should be done to see what the community wants for its long-term vision.

Project Flight is spearheading the Books for Kids initiative again this month. This was in the Buffalo News and all libraries have a collection box. We are partnering with Channel 2, The Buffalo News and several other project partners

who do this each year. We will have a few minutes of television time next Friday when everyone gathers at Wegmans to drop off their donations.

Ms. Quinn-Carey will be heading to Albany next week for a Regents' Advisory Council meeting for their annual report to the Board of Regents to talk about the state of library systems and how important it is for the Regents to make a push for library system funding at the state level and elevate our status as educational institutions along with what they do for the schools. She has reached out to the new Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Regent Bennett to invite them to library events in the upcoming months.

As mentioned in the Executive Committee report, a letter was sent out to people who expressed concerns about the Kenmore Library. While we have not taken an active role in the planning process, when they have a more formulated plan, it will come before our Building Oversight Committee to work with them on.

Deputy Director Stanton Hudson distributed a handout on the 2008-2006 Direct Mail Comparison and updated trustees on the annual appeal stating as of today we are just under \$52,000 raised and 1,200 donors. He reported a mailing went out to approximately 650 lapsed donors. Between the lapsed donors and Board members who have not yet donated, they are hopeful to meet or exceed \$60,000 for the annual fund this year. Mr. Hudson introduced Anne Conable who will be working on special projects, currently on the Alexander Hamilton exhibit among other things. Brochures regarding the programming for Alexander Hamilton were distributed to trustees and specifics of the exhibit as well as the public relations plan including purchasing of advertising were discussed. One of the highlights of this exhibit is Hamilton author Richard Brookhiser who will be at the Central Library on May 14th at 6 p.m. with an invitation only reception following. Trustees will be receiving an invitation soon.

Mr. Hudson reported the Development Committee met on March 23rd for an initial meeting with the new group. There was a general discussion of where the group saw opportunities, both short-term and long-term. Much of the discussion focused on a fundraiser they are talking about having in October which will be associated with *The Big Read* and this year's title *The Great Gatsby*. Given the theme of the roaring 20's, they hope to throw a party and raise quite a few dollars. Membership and the possibility of adding other non-board community members in the future to the committee was discussed. A meeting on April 23rd has been scheduled to discuss fundraising efforts.

Trustee Summer noticed in the A.C.T. flyer Friends groups are on the agenda and wondered if this would be folded more into Development or some other

aspect of what we do? Ms. Quinn-Carey mentioned this is part of our overall advocacy. Ann Kling has been working with the branches to try and foster Friends groups and this is a way to kick off a discussion with the member library boards about how to encourage Friends groups.

Chair Buck strongly urged those trustees who have not made a donation to the annual fund to do so soon.

The following was submitted by the Director and transmitted to Board members prior to the meeting:

Report of the Director April 16, 2009

The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System is poised to apply for ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding for broadband-related economic stimulus projects and collaborative opportunities with other agencies to provide additional workforce development programs and services. Our staff is very busy preparing proposals for possible funding and monitoring guidelines and submission requirements. We are pursuing collaborative projects for ARRA funding with Erie Community College and discussing partnership opportunities with the State Department of Labor. More information becomes available daily, and we are sifting through the news and updates for as many opportunities as we can to apply for and secure these funds. These are generally programmatic funds; support for capital improvements (facilities) is being administered by municipalities. The County and City of Buffalo have included several library projects on their lists of potential projects, as have at least two other municipalities in the County. We are advising County libraries to contact their municipal office regarding participation and inclusion in any application for capital funding that may be available for their town or village.

I have presented programs about the Library System at a number of speaking engagements in the past month, and am scheduled for another in April. If you have a group that needs a speaker, I would welcome an opportunity to share information about the Library with them. So far, most of my topics have been about the System's direction for the future, our key initiatives (literacy, economic and workforce development, special collections) and how the Library System 'works'; many are unaware of our structure, scope of funding and how we are related to the County. I can do low-tech or high-tech depending on the group, and can tailor the presentation to specific resources and services if desired. This is a good way to reach out to people that may not visit our libraries regularly but are interested in how public libraries help our communities and provide services.

We also have a number of other staff members who regularly present programs at meetings and events – descriptions of which you will see later in this report. As of April 6th, the State Budget had not been signed by the Governor. As it stands today, library systems will suffer a reduction of funding; however the cut is less severe than originally proposed. The Governor’s original budget slashed library system funding 18% -- on top of the two cuts already made in 2008. The cut in the pending State budget reflects an additional 9% cut for library support over 2008. We had already planned for a reduction in state funding in our adopted 2009 budget, so the State’s approval of the 9% cut will only slightly affect our 2009 budget figures. However, this is another example of a disturbing trend that reduces library funding disproportionate to other education-agency funding. We need to continue to advocate for full funding of library systems at the state level as our communities expect libraries to take on a greater role in providing educational, employment, technological and social safety net services for our residents.

The detailed reports that follow will provide a full picture of most recent activities and accomplishments of this energetic library system.

Report of the Chief Operating Officer

Monthly highlights are as follows:

Orchard Park Public Library Wins National Contest: It’s official! “Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie” is the online vote winner of the 2009 StoryTubes contest for group entries grades 7 and up! Teens from the Orchard Park Public Library, with guidance from Librarians **Amy Glende** and **Jude Jacobs**, entered the contest with a cooking demonstration for “dangerous pie,” a key component of the book “Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie” by Jordan Sonninblick. The contest which began in 2008 was designed to encourage children and teens to use various mediums to tell the story of an age appropriate book, without reading directly from the story, thus increasing other children’s interest [in the book]. To view the winning videos, visit http://www.storytubes.com/categories/online_voting.php. The B&ECPL System was the Northern US Region partner. Librarian **Claudia Yates** coordinated the B&ECPL’s participation, which included reviewing and judging entry’s from throughout the Northern US Region.

Library Staff, Friends and Trustees Descend on Albany: The B&ECPL was well represented in Albany for the New York Library Association Legislative Day, March 10, 2009. This writer, along with Library Director **Bridget Quinn-Carey**, Librarians **Dorinda Hayes** and **Peter Lisker**, Assistant Deputy Director **Paula Sandy**, and Amherst Public Library Director **Roseanne Butler-Smith**, actively

participated by visiting all Assembly and Senate members in which B&ECP libraries are located. While news was less than positive for full restoration of state aid, everyone agreed that libraries throughout New York State should only receive cuts at the same level as other agencies. In addition, all indicated they understood the need and importance of libraries in these tough economic times. In addition to attending Legislative Day, Library Director **Quinn-Carey** attended the PULISDO meeting and this writer attended most of the PULISDO meeting and then participated in the Central Library Heads meeting.

Annual Trustee Workshop: The Association of Contract Library Boards (ACT) held their annual workshop, March 21st. The workshop, held in the Central Library's Central Meeting Room began with its annual business meeting. President George Oliver passed the reigns to Suzanne Jacobs, who currently served as Secretary. Keynote speaker, Stephen Abram, Vice Present of Innovation - SirsiDynix, held the crowd of 82 spellbound as he spoke on various factors and traits that will impact libraries in the future. Mr. Abram's presentation, "Next Generation Experiences: Transforming Libraries" will be made available on his blog <http://stephenslighthouse.sirsidynix.com>. B&ECPL Board Member Judy Summer and Library Director **Bridget Quinn-Carey** presented, "Library Policy: Who, What, Where, When and Definitely Why." Lunch was catered by Fables Café. Two tours, "Did you know the Central Library is Actually a 6 Story Building?" and "Visit the Rare Book Room and Ring of Knowledge for an overview or our Black History and Woman's History Month Displays" were offered. Nearly 1/3 of workshop attendees participated in the tours.

B&ECPL a Finalist in "Best Places to Work in Western New York" Contest - B&ECPL was a finalist in the "Best Places to Work in Western New York" contest. Sponsored by Business First and Quantum Research, organizations of similar size are rated in categories such as trust with coworkers, satisfaction with current role, and people practices by their employees. Kaleida Health was the winner in the "super size" category in which B&ECPL was included. An award certificate was presented to Library Director **Bridget Quinn-Carey** at the awards luncheon on March 26th. Administrators **Stone, Woods, Kling** and this writer also attended.

Chemmanur and Covley Selected in Library Reorganization Planning - Two B&ECPL librarians have been tapped to assist Central and Buffalo Branch Administrator **Ann Kling** begin the next chapter in B&ECPL's future. **Patricia Covley** (former Buffalo Branches West Cluster Manager) will focus on day-to-day operations of the Central Library and Buffalo Branches, while **Marguerite Chemmanur** (former Popular Materials Department Manager) will focus on system-wide services such as programming, circulation, outreach and collection

development. The two will work closely to coordinate smooth operation of system-wide services.

Special Collections: Administrator **Peggy Skotnicki** has taken the helm of the Special Collections Division. This “new” division includes the Rare Book Room. Ms. Skotnicki is charged with bringing this area “into the limelight,” through long-term planning, including preservation. It is rewarding to begin work on building the Special Collections Division.

Get Graphic Project: The appearance of celebrated graphic novelist Harvey Pekar at the Central Library on March 28th was a highlight of the grant program. Over 200 avid fans of Mr. Pekar filled the Mason O. Damon auditorium and waited patiently in line during the book signing. Popular Materials Department Librarian **Britt White** and Humanities and Social Sciences Department Librarian **Suzanne Colligan** interviewed Mr. Pekar to the delight of attendees.

Library Provides Materials to Exhibit: The University at Buffalo borrowed material from the Rare Book Room for a special exhibit to welcome Pierre Vimont, the French Ambassador to the United States, on his April 8th visit. John Edens, Director of Technical Services for University Libraries, selected items that demonstrate Buffalo and UB French/Francophone connections. The exhibit is entitled “Marshall, Jones and Park: French History and Culture and the University at Buffalo.” Seven items were borrowed from the B&ECPL, among them *Visit of De La Salle to the Senecas, Made in 1669*, *Narrative of the Expedition of the Marquis de Nonville* (1848), and *On Champlain's Astrolabe*. The UB press release can be found at http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/2009_04_01/french_ambassador.

Donation to Rare Book Room: The Rare Book Room accepted a beautiful botanical publication, *Iconographia Delle Orchidee D'Italia* [Iconography of Italian Orchids], compiled for the Italian government and donated to the Library by Anne Costello. Ms. Costello's sister-in-law, Anne Eldredge Maury, is a botanist in Italy and the illustrator of the set. Ms. Costello wanted to share the work with others and considered the Library the best venue for this. The plan is to include some of the plates in the botanical exhibit scheduled for 2010.

RFID Bid Evaluation: The core evaluation team including: Assistant Deputy Directors **Carol Batt** and **Ann Kling**, IT Administrator **Toni Naumovski**, and Librarian **Kelly Donovan**, have reviewed vendor proposals resulting in two (2) companies being invited to present on-site demonstrations. Representatives from EnvisionWare (3/17) and Bibliotheca (3/24) transformed the Central Meeting Room into a ‘mini-RFID library’ and demonstrated their products. They

provided a hands-on opportunity for staff to see the live conversion and check out processes. An administrative wrap-up afforded the Library the opportunity to ask in depth questions about products and services. These visits proved extremely valuable for the selection process. The team's recommendation will be presented at the April Board meeting.

Programs: Grosvenor Room Librarian **Sue Cutrona** presented a training class for patrons on the Ancestry Library Edition database at the Central Library on March 14th, the Julia B. Reinstein Library on March 19th and the Williamsville Library on March 27th. A total of 36 people attended the sessions.

Tours: Following the March 21st Annual Trustee Workshop, Rare Book Room Librarian **Amy Pickard** conducted a tour for library trustees and directors that included selected treasures of the Rare Book Room and the new rare book storage area. Library Associate **Susan Carson** provided an in depth tour of the Central Library's tiers. All who partook were amazed at the Library's treasures and vast size of both the tiers and the collections housed. Grosvenor Room Librarian **Sue Cutrona** conducted a tour of the Grosvenor Room for a group of West Seneca teachers on March 26th and Grosvenor Room Librarian **Carol Pijacki** conducted 5 short tours for patrons interested in this area.

Cultural Change: This writer and Assistant Deputy Director **Doreen Woods** participated in Erie County's Cultural Change Training. The training focused on the basis of six sigma techniques and the need to change the "culture" within county employment from senior management through part-time employee; it was so energizing, several other library staff members will be participating in April. Sr. Administrators from the County presented a multi-step and multi-faceted approach on how to help employees move through change in a positive fashion. Key initiatives include: staff appreciation, efficiency and effectiveness, training, etc.

Meetings/Conferences: Children's Room Librarian **Kathy Goodrich**, Assistant Deputy Director **Ann Kling**, and this writer met with Nina Longjohn from the City of Buffalo's Community Service Department and Michael Cambria, Library Coordinator Buffalo Public Schools, to finalize cooperative plans for the Mayor's Summer Reading Program. Information Technology Librarians **Maureen McLaughlin**, **Kelly Donovan** and **Jennifer Childs**, along with Assistant Deputy Director **Carol Batt** and a host of others, including this writer, participated in the on-site demonstration of RFID technologies by two vendors, including Envisionware and Bibliotecha March 17th and 24th respectively. This same group met with Julian Terry, SirsiDynix on March 26th. A Managers/ Directors meeting was held March 11, 2009. Librarian **Kelly Donovan** participated in an

informal meeting with NYLINK's Executive Director and Kathleen Gundrum, NYLINK's Director of Member Services, on March 23rd to learn more about NYLINK's membership restructuring plans. Assistant Deputy Director **Doreen Woods** participated in the BlueCross/BlueShield Wellness Initiative on March 27th. Collection Development Librarian **Peggy Errington** participated in the Borrower Account Review Committee, as well as Page Turners. Assistant Deputy Director **Carol Batt** participated in the Tonawanda (Town) Building Advisory Committee meeting on March 25th.

Report of the Chief Financial Officer

Strong Winds and Heavy Rain Generate Leaks at the Dudley Branch:

Inclement weather this past Friday and Saturday resulted in water entering the northeast corner of the library's public area and in the equipment room. Library Maintenance and City staff inspected the damage and took steps to prevent further damage over the weekend. The City brought in a contractor to inspect the roof on Monday. The roof overall was found to be in sound condition. Minor repair work was performed and the situation will continue to be monitored.

Central Library Sidewalk and Fuel Tank Projects Update: The Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority approved both contracts at their meeting on March 25th. Library and County Public Works staff are working with the selected contractors on construction scheduling. Construction should be under way this month, with both projects completed by mid-late June. During this period, access to the small Oak Street parking lot will be limited. Work on the County owned Central Library building would commence in early spring and be concluded prior to June 30th, the deadline date for the grant.

Central Library Public Restroom Renovation Project out to Bid and Ellicott Street Entrance Reconstruction Project Planning Under Way: The project was advertised in the Buffalo News and contractors have picked up specifications and begun asking questions. If all goes smoothly this work could begin later this spring. Preliminary work on the recently awarded state construction grant to reconstruct the Ellicott Street entrance to be ADA accessible is beginning with **Chip Campbell** working with Department of Public Works officials on planning and design issues.

Multiple Library Projects in the Running for Fiscal Stimulus Funding:

Multiple library projects are shown on the recently published list of New York State project proposals potentially eligible for "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" (ARRA also known as the economic stimulus program) funding. The list may be found at:

http://www.recovery.ny.gov/assets/pdf/internet_20090325.pdf. The list is sorted by County and mixes county, city and town projects. Erie County listings start on page 129. Each listing contains a brief project description and estimated cost. Work we undertook in concert with local municipalities back in December to identify library capital needs contributed to the projects below making the list. (NOTE: making the list of potential projects does not mean the project has been approved, just that it is in the running to be considered):

- Crane, Dudley, East Clinton and East Delavan projects, totaling \$1,250,000, are shown on page 129.
- Central Library projects are listed on pg 130 and 137, totaling \$16,850,000.

Projects with some impact on library facilities in Aurora and Newstead are shown on pages 130 and 131 respectively. Suggestions have been provided to contracting libraries that may help allow other projects to make future listings. The main NYS recovery site is located at <http://www.recovery.ny.gov/index.htm>. Staff will continue to monitor developments in this program.

County Capital 2010-2015 Capital Project Requests Due Earlier This Year:

The Library received Erie County Division of Budget, Management and Finance's 2010-2015 Capital Budget preparation forms and instructions in March, with a due date of April 15, 2009 which is prior to the Library Board's April meeting. This schedule is roughly three months earlier than the schedule followed in prior years. This earlier submittal date provides the County with more time to review proposals. However, bonding for projects approved in the 2007, 2008, and 2009 capital budgets has yet to occur and the status of potential federal funding for projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA - also known as the fiscal stimulus program) is not yet known. Recognizing these unknowns, recommendations for the 2010-2015 Erie County Capital Budget focus on extending and updating those projects prioritized in the 2009-2014 plan and those identified for potential funding under ARRA. These recommendations were presented for the Executive Committee's review at their meeting on April 7th with the following projects recommended for submission to Erie County:

FOR THE 2010 FUNDING YEAR

- Central Library Infrastructure Renovations for New Cultural Tourism Exhibit Space - Estimated cost \$2.5 million;

- Infrastructure for a Green building – Central Library Renovation, Asbestos Abatement and Energy Efficiency Improvements – Estimated cost \$3.225 million.
- Escalator Replacement with ADA compliant elevators and Entry for New Cultural Tourism Area – Estimated cost \$2.7 million;
- Shipping Vehicle replacements (2) – Estimated cost \$55,000; and
- Library Replacement Project Incentive Funds (1 proj.) – Estimated cost \$2.5 million.

FOR THE 2011 AND BEYOND FUNDING YEARS

- Infrastructure for a Green building – Central Library Renovation, Asbestos Abatement and Energy Efficiency Improvements – future phases (one project area per year 2011-2013) – Estimated cost \$8.275 million ;
- Shipping Vehicle replacements (2) in 2012 – Estimated cost \$60,000;
- Additional Library Replacement Project Incentive Funds (1 project in 2012 and 1 project in 2014) – Estimated cost \$5 million.

LIST of VISITS and MEETINGS ATTENDED by BRIDGET QUINN-CAREY

March 14, 2009 – April 9, 2009

MARCH

- 16 Meeting with Lynn Marinelli, Erie County Legislature Chair
- 17 WNLO-TV segment, Wake Up!
- 17 News conference HSBC – Walking with Dinosaurs
- 17 Celebrating Art! reception – Central Library
- 18 Meeting with Judy Summer, B&ECPL Trustee
- 18 Speaker/dinner WNY Association Phi Beta Kappa
- 19 Lunch meeting with Steve Stepniak, Public Works Commissioner, and Buffalo Place
- 19 B&ECPL Board meeting
- 20 Arts Council luncheon
- 21 A.C.T. Annual Trustees Workshop
- 23 Speaker/lunch College Club of Buffalo – Georgian Mansion
- 23 B&ECPL Development Committee meeting
- 23 B&ECPL Special Collections Committee meeting
- 24 WNLO-TV segment, Wake Up!
- 24 Lunch meeting with Jack Quinn, Pres. E.C.C. & Anne Leary, B&ECPL Trustee
- 24 Library Foundation meeting
- 25 Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority meeting
- 26 Erie County Commissioners meeting – Rath Building

- 26 Business First's "Best Places to Work in Western New York" luncheon
- 31 WNLO-TV segment, Wake Up!
- 31 Meeting with Helene Kramer, Read to Succeed

APRIL

- 1 Open staff meeting at Niagara Branch Library
- 1 Meeting with George Emery
- 1 Babel author event
- 2 A.C.T. Board meeting - Aurora Town Public Library
- 2 Meeting with Patrick Martin, Esq., Library Counsel
- 3 Institute of Museum and Library Services breakfast roundtable
- 3 Author Talk - Ring of Knowledge
- 7 WNLO-TV segment, Wake Up!
- 7 Lunch meeting with Buffalo News - Books for Kids
- 7 B&ECPL Executive Committee meeting
- 8 Library Managers & Directors meeting - Central Library

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bridget Quinn-Carey, Director
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

FROM: Stanton H. Hudson, Jr., APR, Fellow PRSA
Deputy Director & Chief Development and Communications Officer

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – March 1-March 31, 2009
Development & Communications Office

DATE: April 7, 2009

OVERVIEW

Major activities centered on:

- Annual Fund Appeal
- Integration of development activities with the Library Foundation
- Preparation of National Endowment for the Humanities planning grant
- Alexander Hamilton exhibition (May 1-June 12, 2009)

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES/TASKS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Development

- As of March 31, more than \$50,000 in contributions from more than 1100 donors had been received and acknowledged. (A more detailed report will be distributed at the April Trustee meeting.)
- Plans have begun for a follow-up mailing to Library lapsed donors of any amount and lapsed donors to the Library Foundation (in general, contributions of \$100 and less). The mailing will take place in April.
- A submission is being prepared for a Level I Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant to plan a digital humanities resource exploring the history of the Great Depression and New Deal in Buffalo and the Western New York region. The grant would allow for the integration of digitized primary source collections, artifacts, oral histories, photographs, music, art, and site-specific field documentation in a community-specific multi-media digital resource. The resulting project has the potential to tie the B&ECPL collections to future major community events including the 75th anniversaries of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (2010-11) and the completion of the Milestones of Science Collection (2013). Partners in the grant include representatives of the University of Buffalo associated with the UB Technology Incubator.
- Continued planning for 2009 Hamilton exhibition, May 1-June 12, 2009. A more detailed synopsis is attached.
- With the Director, met with Wendt Foundation Chair Robert Kresse to discuss various library initiatives, including literacy and the Special Collections area.
- Monitored sales from Novel Ideas on a weekly basis-store showed a profit for the month.

Community Contacts

- Attended Buffalo Museum of Science Education Committee meeting (tied to the Branched Out collaboration)
- Attended Graycliff Conservancy Executive Committee and Board meetings
- Attended TR Site marketing committee meeting-discussed future Library/TR collaborations
- Attended Leadership Buffalo Class '09 Community Logic and Diversity Day
- Attended the unveiling of the Darwin Martin Complex's new Greatbatch Visitors' Pavilion, including reception for major donors
- Attended Canisius College DiGamma Dinner
- Attended the Buffalo & Erie County's 23rd Annual Arts Awards reception and luncheon on March 19 and 20. The Library donated Milestones of Science books in exchange for a silver sponsorship. Books contained

- information pertaining to this one-of-a-kind collection as well as material on the Library's Special Collections/Rare Books.
- Attended Western New York Grantmakers Association (WNYGA) board meeting-put forward a proposal to expand the reach of the Library's Foundation Center resource with possible WNYGA funding

Programming/Public Relations/Marketing

- Paula Sandy arranged with WIVB-TV for a weekly segment featuring the Library Director discussing various library topics. The morning show, *Wake Up* (extended), airs on WNLO. The segment is live every Tuesday at 8:45 a.m.
- Arranged for the B&ECPLS to become a sponsor of an HSBC arena event, *Walking with Dinosaurs*, scheduled for June 24-28 (a total of eight performances). The Library will receive print ad and publicity mentions, free tickets for families and underprivileged youth, and various promotional materials (book marks, coloring books, etc.) in exchange for cross-marketing the event in system libraries. With other members of the Administrative Team, including the Director, attended the opening press event. The other major community sponsor is the Buffalo Museum of Science.
- Continued to develop public programs to be offered in conjunction with the Hamilton exhibition.
- The Graphics Department created new signage for the Orchard Park Library's grand re-opening on March 27.
- Ms. Sandy worked with Time Warner Cable's YNN-TV to create a story about library usage that will be used during the inaugural weeks of its new 24-hour news channel.
- Ms. Sandy developed a marketing strategy and promotional plan for the final months Of *Get Graphic*. The marketing activities included brochures, print advertising in the *Buffalo News* and *Artvoice*, and radio and web advertising on KISS-98.5 and STAR 102.5.
- Continued developing media pieces/collateral materials/Ring of Knowledge display concepts to be used in conjunction with the Alexander Hamilton exhibit.
- Ms. Sandy developed a promotion/marketing plan for the final months of the Library's *Get Graphic* project.
- Ms. Sandy coordinated the UNYTS Blood Drive at the Central Library. Blood drives will take place every eight weeks at the Central Library throughout 2009, allowing donors the ability to pre-register for appointments.

B&ECPL Meetings

- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Senior Management meetings
- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Administrative Team meetings

- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Executive Committee meeting
- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Development Committee meeting
- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Rare Book Committee meeting
- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Board of Trustees meeting
- Attended Library Foundation annual meeting
- Attended annual A.C.T. Workshop

HAMILTON UPDATE 4.2.09

Confirmed Public Programs:

- April 16: **Bistro Bookers program @** BECPL - *Founding Brothers* by Joseph J. Ellis
- May 7: Panel program @ BECPL - ***Alexander Hamilton: New Perspectives*** .
Moderator: Walter Sharrow, P.h.D., History Department, Canisius College.
Dr. Gary Marotta, History Department, Buffalo State College
Kate Brown, University at Buffalo
Pending: post-program pub deal at Founding Fathers.
- May 14: Lecture @ BECPL- ***Art in the Age of Alexander Hamilton***.
Mariann Smith, Curator of Education, Albright-Knox Art Gallery
Pending: possible Hamilton College Alumni event.
- May 18: ***“Alexander Hamilton”***– PBS “American Experience” program to be aired on WNED.
--American Experience grant denied for associated website educational competition for middle and high school students.
- May 21: Panel program @ BECPL - ***Sex, Lies and the Smoking Gun: Politics and Journalism***.
Moderator: Lee Coppola, Dean of Journalism, St. Bonaventure University.
Jack Connors, Publisher, Business First
Rich Kellman, former anchor, WGRZ-TV
- May 30, Noon-2 p.m. @ BECPL: ***Colonial Kids’ Day***. Collaboration with Hull House Foundation: children’s games, demonstrations, costumed docents, story readings, and take-home activities illustrating children’s lives during Colonial period.

Proposed Programs to be confirmed:

- Date TBD, lunchtime: ***The Economics of Alexander Hamilton: A Man Ahead of his Time***.
Panel program with economist reps of M&T Bank and Upstate Fed Reserve Committee on the economy and Hamilton context.
- Date TBD, Thursday evening. Reading of ***In Worlds Unknown***, dramatic play by Don Winslow produced by the New-York Historical Society for the exhibition. Working with Drew Kahn and Felix Armfield at Buffalo State College re: BSC theatre students taking this on as a project.
- Schedule TBD for Amy Pickard outreach presentations at selected branches.
- Exploring early June appearance by Hamilton author Richard Brookhiser; date TBD.

Additional Collaborations:

- JP Morgan Chase: transport of loaned pistols; April 30 Opening Reception @ BECPL (invitational)
- Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society: examples of early currency from Hamilton period
- Old Fort Niagara: period arms examples

Student/Group Outreach:

- Following up w/ contacts @ Buffalo Alliance Spring Newsletter, Buffalo News Spring Newspapers in Education guide, WNY Family Magazine

- Letters/brochures distributed to 160 Buffalo Public School History teachers (middle and high schools)
- Grants for buses through Buffalo Alliance for Education & Target

Also in progress:

- Distribution plan for 4,000 Hamilton brochures with BECPL insert
- Media plan: Buffalo News, WNED, WBFO
- DVD modification for Ring of Knowledge kiosk
- Copy for website, advertising and other communications

Meetings:

Walter Sharrow, Hamilton panel
Mariann Smith, Hamilton program
Lee Coppola, Hamilton panel

**Public Services: Buffalo Branch and Central Library
Activity Reports
April 2009**

Crane

The March 9th Wordflight Poetry program, hosted by Ricki Zuckerman, featured "A Passage to India (and Buffalo)". The poetry readings of Jane Adam and Amol Salunkhe were followed by an open reading session. Twenty-six people attended.

Miss Nancy's Thursday morning preschool program had 117 caregivers and children in total in the month of March. Four preschool sessions were held. Five sessions of the Museum of Science's "Branched Out - Young Explorers" drew over 140 attendees and 32 children attended "Branched Out - Afterschool" science programs.

Dudley

On March 2nd, **Dorinda Hayes** visited the Welfare to Work program at the Belmont Shelter. Dorinda explained about library services, obtaining a library card, and accessed the database and Reference Desk of the Library's website to show the students the career resources.

The Rince Na Tiarna Irish Dancers performed traditional Irish dances and dazzled the crowd of 105 on March 19th.

Dorinda Hayes taught the Microsoft Excel Basics class on March 23rd to 7 adults.

Kate Puehn of the Children's Department continues to provide preschool storytime, and also a Family Fun Night. The Museum of Science is continuing the afterschool science programs.

East Clinton

March was a busy month at the East Clinton Branch, circulation hit 5901! The last time East Clinton recorded a number like that was 10 years ago, in 1999!

The library offered programs for every age group in March. Preschool storytime was held Tuesday mornings, presented by **Kate Puehn** from the Children's Department. The older school-age children continue to attend the Branched Out programs presented by The Buffalo Museum of Science, and the teens still enjoy Gaming Nights on Wednesday evenings. Adult Gaming was back in March for 5 weeks. The group spends 2 hours bowling, then when they are tired of that, try their hands at some of the other sports. The sessions, slated for 2 hours, typically go for 3 or 3.5 hours. It seems they just can't get enough of it!

East Clinton is going "Green." The Maintenance Department was out this month to replace all the old light bulbs, both inside and outside the building, with CFL bulbs.

East Delavan

Read To Succeed Buffalo continues to be a strong presence at the East Delavan Library. Plans for book discussion clubs and a summer program for teens involving krumping and poetry are under way.

Computer classes conducted by the Buffalo Public Schools Adult Education Department remain popular.

The Museum of Science is conducting Young Explorers programs which are being attended by several daycare centers.

Merriweather

Circulation was up 13.58% for the month.

On March 28th, **Sandra Williams Bush** gave a tour of the library to 35 Buffalo Public School Social Studies teachers along with an overview of the African American Resource Room and a demonstration of the African American databases.

Patrons are very pleased with the computer classes conducted by Mr. Theron Howard. Mr. Howard has covered Computer Basics and MS Word Basics. The classes filled up quickly and there have been inquiries on when (or if) there will be another series.

Attendance for the Family Movie Matinee series on Sundays is growing every week.

The Guitar Hero qualifying round was held on March 31st. There were 12 participants.

The NYS Commission on Housing Community Renewal held a public meeting on March 19th (Buffalo News article 3/20 & TV news coverage).

The WNY for Obama Focus Group held a public meeting on March 21st to discuss distribution of the President's stimulus plan; Legislators Betty Jean Grant and Maria Whyte, and Councilmember Demone Smith were in attendance.

On March 24th, the County Civil Service Department held a seminar with 72 people attending

On March 25th, a public hearing was held on the WIC program. (Buffalo News article 3/26 & TV news coverage).

Niagara

Circulation increased over 55 percent from last year.

On March 4th, **Tammy Linkowski, Kasey Mack, and Brian Hoth** visited the Belmont Shelter located at the Belle Center to talk to 3 ESL classes. Brian spoke about the many programs at the Niagara Branch, including that the branch is a drop-in center for Literacy Volunteers. The students filled out library card applications for themselves and their children. Forty-five applications were processed.

Kasey Mack and Brian Hoth made their monthly visit to the Headstart school at The Old 1st Ward Community Center on March 18th. Kasey presented a program on Fairytales to the morning and afternoon preschool classes. It was "Bring Your Dad Day" at the school. Both the children and their dads enjoyed the program.

On March 21st, **Kathy Goodrich, Britt White, and Brian Hoth** did a presentation on new books at the SLAWNY Conference. Kathy talked about new j fiction and BookFlix; Britt did a very interesting presentation on graphic novels; and Brian talked about new picture books and readers.

A Job Fair was held on March 16th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Organizations that participated included: Gateway-Longview, Catholic Health Systems, Tops Markets, and the Buffalo Employment and Training Center. Twenty-five people attended, including some students from DaVinci High School.

A new bicycle rack was installed at the front entrance. This was in response to a request submitted last summer for a free bike rack the City was installing for interested parties.

Stephen Carson, Tammy Linkowski and Brian Hoth delivered 7 boxes of donated books to the Friends of the Night People.

North Park

The lease has been signed and work is under way to renovate the temporary space on Hertel Avenue. **Dale Schmid** has been working with **Chip Campbell** to select carpeting, tile, paint, etc. Staff is looking forward to moving into the new location sometime this summer.

Riverside

A chess tournament was held on Friday, March 6th and was well received by all who participated. The Friends of the Library sponsored the \$20 winning prize, 3 trophies, and pizza/refreshments. Twenty children participated with 8 adults watching. Douglas Dubose was the Tournament Director and did an outstanding job coordinating the event. Sam Santora, all of 6-years-old, emerged as the champion. The children played three and a half hours of chess before Sam finally emerged as the overall winner. Trophies were also given out to Nan Zhou and Dylan Ekes-Erckert for second and third place respectively.

The Afterschool Museum program held 4 sessions in March with a total of 21 children.

The PreSchool Storytime, with **Kate Puehn** from the Children's Department, conducted 4 sessions with a total attendance of 54 children and 25 adults. Almost all participants came from the Munchkinland Daycare.

Max Chawki conducted a computer training class for 8 participants using the Cyber Train from Central on March 17th. The class focused on computer basics.

Riverside staff has been blowing out eggs in preparation for the egg decorating contest held on March 28th. The Friends of the Library purchased 6 chocolate rabbits that were given to the top 6 winners. **Leah Brown** created a display using the rabbits to market the egg decorating event. Thirty-three children and adults decorated 48 eggs. The eggs are currently on display in the front lobby. The Library is currently conducting a favorite egg contest which will determine 6 winners who will receive chocolate bunnies.

Mary Ann Budny, from Central Children's Department, held a program for families on March 31st using spring as the theme for crafts, stories and games. Nine children and 2 adults participated.

The AARP conducted 7 tax sessions in March helping 150 people. The Income Tax was set up on Thursday, March 19th and helped 10 people.

Correctional Facility, Holding Center and Home

Monica Mooney conducted 2 Reminisce programs in March; *Remembering School Days* at the Williamsville Library on March 21st and *Remembering the Great Depression, the Home Front, and the Fifties* at Newstead on March 27th. Participants in the first program

at Williamsville brought mementos such as old yearbooks, autograph books, and original "inkwell" pens to the program and shared many memories; the program at Newstead was an introductory Reminisce program, as well as an informational session about Senior Services offered by the B&ECPL. Participants enjoyed the program and look forward to the next one in May.

Central Library:

Borrower Services

As a result of 3 simultaneous projects in March, a total of 3,949 patron records were deleted as well as 171 item records and a total of \$55,895 fines were forgiven.

Sales of the new woven tote bags continue to be brisk. Over 200 bags were sold this month alone!

Business and Science

On March 5th eight members of the Small Business Development Center visited the library. **Dan Caufield** showed them the Business collections and presented a quick overview of ReferenceUSA.

On March 10th, **Dan Caufield** conducted an hour-long class at the Reverend Bennett W. Smith Family Life Center, Buffalo, NY. This class was the fourth of 8 Straight Talk workshops presented by the SBA. Dan spoke about funding for small businesses and presented an overview of the free resources the library provides for the small business owner. Sixty-three people were in attendance and had many good questions.

On March 17th, **Dan Caufield** attended a chapter meeting of Western N.Y. BNI (Business Network International). Last month Dan spoke briefly to members about the library's resources and how the library promotes economic growth in WNY. He was asked to return and this time provided more information on using ReferenceUSA to about 46 members. The talk was well received.

Kevin Wall taught a class for a group of librarians on consumer resources highlighting some of the Library's databases, links on the Reference Desk, and several private and government resources that heighten consumer awareness. Kevin taught a public class on consumer resources similar to the staff version.

Nancy Mueller, Department Head, received a wonderful letter praising the service **Erin Verhoef** had given a patron.

Children's Services

The staff of the Children's Department were on the road a lot in March. A total of 22 story hours were held in the City Branches with an attendance of 236.

At the Central Library, these dedicated staff conducted 6 programs for 105 children and adults, in addition to a tour for 35 students and teachers from the Enterprise Charter School.

Three Saturday movie matinees were held with attendance of 124.

Jack Edson, Hamburg Library Director and artist, has been painting clouds on the walls in the Children's Department. The Department looks wonderful with its new paint colors.

On March 25th, the Youth Services staff conducted the annual Summer Reading workshop. Each staff member did a wonderful job. **Sarah Kelly** and **Kathy Goodrich** wrote the script for the "Summer Short Film". **Britt White** discussed programming for the Young Adults. **Mary Ann Budny**, **Kerra Alessi**, **Gwen Collier** and **Kate Puehn** put together booklists and craft ideas for the contracting and branch libraries. Each demonstrated their craft to other librarians at a craft table.

Humanities and Social Sciences

Suzanne Colligan and **Britt White** interviewed Graphic Novel writer Harvey Pekar as part of the Get Graphic presentation held in the auditorium on March 28th. There was a big audience for the program.

Kathy Galvin hosted a lecture given by Professor Cristanne Miller as part of the Sundays at Central poetry series on March 29th. Dr. Miller's talk on Emily Dickinson's Life and Poetry was well received.

Popular Materials

The Teen Room numbers continue to climb, with numbers for March (1705) up from February (1704). Both the DIY Tuesdays program (crafts) and the TAG meeting were met with enthusiasm. The participants at the TAG meeting offered positive feedback about the Teen Room and provided great suggestions for other activities, some of which have already been implemented.

The "Bring That Beat Back" March program on Graffiti concluded the 5 part series on Hip Hop. All programs were coordinated by YA Librarian **Britt White** and executed by musician and Sr. Page **Jerome Lindberg**. We've laid the groundwork and hope to implement more programs of this type in the future.

Britt White conducted 2 graphic novel presentations, one for Rochester Area school librarians on March 5th and the other for the School Librarians Association of WNY on March 21st.

The POP staff coordinated the presentation of "Free for All" - a free movie Saturday series on March 7th and 14th. The films shown appeal to a teen and older group and run concurrently with the Children's Film series.

Literally Speaking, Central's lunchtime book discussion group, was held on March 17th. Hamburg Director **Jack Edson** led the rousing and often heated discussion of *The Abstinence Teacher* by Tom Perrotta.

On March 28th, Get Graphic! welcomed renowned graphic novelist Harvey Pekar to the Central Library. Pekar, best know for his *American Splendor* series, talked and signed books for over 250 people. To best suit Pekar's style of speaking, the presentation was conducted as an informal interview/conversation and was facilitated by Librarians **Britt White** and **Suzanne Colligan**. A resounding success!

Training Lab

Nineteen classes and 136 patrons were trained in the Computer Lab and through the Cyber Train at Central and various contracting libraries. Topics included e-mail, computer basics, Word basics, Publisher basics, intermediate internet, and Excel.

Sue Cutrona conducted 3 genealogy classes in March at the Central Library, Julia Boyer Reinstein Library and the Williamsville Library. Most students were genealogy beginners who had some computer knowledge. **Sue** used a PowerPoint presentation and provided handouts which were greatly appreciated. The focus of the classes was "Ancestry Library Plus". Sue also touched upon Grosvenor Room resources and Library genealogy pathfinders that are available on the "Reference Desk" web page. Sue briefed patrons on other resources available from home ("Ancestry Library Edition" is a library only resource).

Contracting Library Activity Reports - April 2009

Eden Library - Submitted by Joyce Maguda, Library Director

Eden's monthly circulation and computer usage statistics have risen continuously since 2007. The adult book club, preschool and toddler storytimes remain popular programs. New this year is an evening Lapsit program for children 18-36 months. Local author Jeff Schober's talk about his fiction title *Undercurrent* and the just-released nonfiction *Bike Path Rapist* drew a nice crowd.

The Friends of Eden Library recently purchased a multimedia projector and large screen. Monthly FILM FESTs for both students and adults ran from February through April. Plans for a joint summer "books-to-movies" program with Eden Elementary are in the works.

National Library Week activities include Book Bingo for both students and adults, 2 films and 2 days of Wii gaming.

Community Spirit:

- Thanks to new system HP computers for public workstations, 6 of our old computers were donated to new homes: 1 to the Eden Historical Society for record keeping, and 5 to the Eden Co-op Nursery School - helping them fulfill their goal of establishing a computer lab!

- Since September, the ladies of Eden's Yarn Club have been knitting and crocheting items for our wounded soldiers in Afghanistan, as well as orphans in that country. So far, 314 items have been shipped; these include blankets, helmet liners, sweaters, vests, hats, scarves, and mittens. Baby sweaters, hats and booties were also given to Harvest House. Kudos to Senior Library Clerk **Helga Antonou** and these talented and generous ladies!

- Congratulations to the "Library Ladies" - **Joyce Maguda** (Director), **Pat Smith** (Trustee), and **Pat Nagle** (Clerk) for winning the 2nd Annual Spelling Bee at the Boys & Girls Club of Eden fundraiser! Their winning word was "chalcedony." Erie County Legislator Bob Reynolds served as one of the judges.

- Once again, the Library Director manned the storytime room at Eden Elementary's PARP Night Out for 3rd and 4th graders in March, with 100 students and 54 adults attending.

- In February, Upstate New York Transplant Services hosted a blood drive in the library community room. Additional drives will be held on 4/29, 6/24, 8/26, 10/21 & 12/16.

Looking ahead: Spring Book Sale 4/29-5/2; Children's Book Week and the Magic of Mr. J on 5/16; June computer classes; annual family picnic on 7/15; Christmas in July crafts 7/23; summer reading programs and Battle of the Books.

Grand Island Memorial Library - submitted by Lynn Alan Konovitz, Library Director

The Grand Island Memorial Library has had a very successful first quarter for 2009. Library circulation has shown an increase of 1000 each month with a total increase of almost 3500 for the quarter. Computer usage is also up significantly compared to the same period in 2008. Certainly, the bad economic times have made for good business times at our library.

Children's programs run by Librarian **Anne Slater** have just finished. As always, our two preschool story hours and toddler Lapsit programs are well attended and appreciated. The spring break will allow us to offer different programs such as our Annual Easter Egg Decorating Program on Saturday, April 11 and The Aquarium of Niagara's Touch Tank on Wednesday, April 15. These programs which are generously funded by our Friends of the Grand Island Memorial Library will help us celebrate National Library Week. We know these programs will become big hits as our last special program during winter break featuring "Mr. J" attracted 119 children and adults.

Speaking of adults, our adult computer classes have also resulted in standing room only (actually sitting in the back). Because of their popularity we have had to schedule double sessions, morning and afternoon, to accommodate the demand. As soon as the programs end, we get multiple requests to offer more programs. One woman has even offered to do a "testimonial if it means getting more computer programs." Kudos to **Sara Taylor** and the staff of Network Support for being so accommodating with the wonderful Cyber Train programs.

As mentioned earlier, the Friends of the Grand Island Memorial Library provides us with the additional funding to present programs and buy equipment. The "Friends" get their money from the Grand Island community who generously support their efforts through book sale purchases. Last week's book sale was extremely successful and may have set "a record". Also successful was our first ever plant sale put on by the Cinderella Island Garden Club. The money raised will be used by the garden club to continue their beautification of our grounds.

Coming attractions will include a reconstruction of our parking lot. Our library is extremely grateful to receive a grant as part of the New York State Construction Program. This is the second year Grand Island has been able to participate in this program due to the cooperation of the Town of Grand Island and its willingness to improve and maintain their library. The Board of Trustees of the Grand Island Memorial Library is in the process now of long-range planning. They have recently held 3 public sessions to find out what the residents of Grand Island want and need in their library's future; and, as always, we will do our best to try to accommodate them.

Agenda Item G - Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item H - Unfinished Business. No unfinished business.

Agenda Item I - New Business.

Agenda Item I.1 - Proposal for Collaborative Operations between B&ECPL and Library Foundation. Ms. Quinn-Carey introduced this resolution explaining this is a proposal

which defines a way to continue to build upon our renewed relationship with the Foundation. Their offices have been moved back to Central and we have been working on what is the best way to move forward as far as sharing resources and staffing time for a coordinated development/fundraising/events management system. The proposal that went to the Foundation suggested they consider working out a contract with Stanton Hudson individually to have him serve as their Executive Director. This will enable both organizations to have collaborated coordination of all efforts, mailings, donor solicitations and events, as well as a renewed level of transparency between the two organizations ensuring regular meetings, communications and reporting. This resolution was discussed at the Executive meeting. She pointed out this resolution does not change anything in the currently enforced agreement between the Foundation and the Library, rather it is an enhancement or clarification.

Trustee Berlow stated he was extremely pleased to see this and feels it is a good idea. He asked for clarification on what Mr. Hudson's situation will be. Ms. Quinn-Carey replied many of the details will be worked out between Mr. Hudson and the Foundation. Her understanding was it would be based on a certain number of hours above and beyond what he does at the Library, at whatever rate they come to terms on, and would be in addition to what he does at the Library. Mr. Berlow voiced concern over Mr. Hudson's escalating responsibilities and worried it may become unreasonable for him to carry out all these things as his position becomes increasingly more important including raising funds. Ms. Quinn-Carey has committed to Mr. Hudson that we will work to make sure he has appropriate backup in his department. Trustee Anne Leary clarified this contract is with Mr. Hudson, not a generic position, because of the great respect they have for him professionally. Ms. Horton moved, Ms. Thomas seconded, and approval was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2009-19

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System (B&ECPLS) and the Library Foundation of Buffalo and Erie County work together in a strong, coordinated, and cooperative public/private partnership, to obtain supplemental funding to support the long-term needs of the Library System, and

WHEREAS, since relocating its offices to the Central Library in the fall of 2008, the Library Foundation has been working with B&ECPLS to outline a framework for ongoing coordination of services and administration of programming, events, development campaigns and general operations between the two organizations, and

WHEREAS, the attached Proposal outlines the framework for collaborative development efforts, office administration and professional Library Foundation leadership and ongoing support, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library supports the Proposal outlining a newly defined working relationship between the Library Foundation and B&ECPL.

Ms. Summer mentioned her nephew recently made use of the library while working on his new children's book and after it is published, he will do a children's program for the library.

Mr. Berlow brought and shared an article from the New York Times which led into a discussion of the many recent articles in different medias, reflecting that in economic hard times, libraries are emerging as stronger, busier institutions. Mr. Berlow feels this fits into the appeals we make and thinks this is an important part of our statement to donors, particularly major corporate donors and foundations. The world of libraries has changed and he would like us to use this as a tool.

Mr. Berlow also referred to an article that identified problems with use of fluorescents in going "green" and recommended we look at this now before we get too deep into something that may be a problem.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Summer, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Gist
Secretary