

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 16, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, September 16, 2010, in the Central Library pursuant to due notice to trustees. The following members were present:

Sharon A. Thomas, Chair
Jack Connors, Vice Chair
Frank Gist, Secretary
Sheldon M. Berlow, Treasurer
Richard L. Berger (via Skype)
Anne M. Leary
Rick Lewis
Albert L. Michaels
John G. Schmidt, Jr.
Judith K. Summer
Wayne D. Wisbaum

Absent:

Phyllis Horton
Hormoz Mansouri
Elaine M. Panty

Chair Sharon A. Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. in the Central Meeting Room. Trustee Berger was in attendance via Skype.

Agenda Item B – Agenda/Changes to the Agenda. There were no changes to the proposed agenda.

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meetings of July 15, 2010 and August 18, 2010. On motion by Mr. Wisbaum and a second by Mr. Connors, the July 15th Minutes were approved as mailed. On motion by Ms. Summer with a second by Mr. Berger, the August 18th Minutes were approved as mailed.

Agenda Item D – Report of the Chair. Ms. Thomas announced Judge Mario Rossetti formally resigned from the Board; good wishes were expressed. She attended a productive meeting with Library Consultants Architectural Resources August 15th, a well attended author event with Ira Flatow at the Central Library September 11th and a meeting with the ACT (Association of Contracting Library Trustees) Board September

13th where they expressed support in speaking with one voice concerning the Library's plans going forward.

Agenda Item E – Committee Reports.

Agenda Item E.1 – Executive Committee. Mr. Connors reported the Executive Committee met on September 2nd to review and approve the agenda for the Board meeting and discussed some procedural issues.

Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Amend 2010 Grant Budget: New York Council for the Humanities. Deputy Director Kenneth Stone stated this resolution will amend the 2010 grant budget to accept and implement a National Endowment for the Humanities grant entitled “PastForward Discussion Series” to explore the Great Depression and New Deal in Buffalo and Western New York. On motion by Mr. Gist and a second by Ms. Summer, approval of Resolution 2010-32 was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2010-32

WHEREAS, the New York Council for the Humanities (NYCH) has announced the recipients of its spring 2010 grants, and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System (B&ECPLS) proposed a project to plan three programs collectively entitled the “PastForward Discussion Series” to explore the history of the Great Depression and New Deal in Buffalo and Western New York, and

WHEREAS, the project is directly related to the resources created as a result of a Digital Humanities Start-Up grant awarded in August 2009 by the National Endowment for the Humanities (Res. 2009-41), which includes a digital collection of Depression era-related resources, a platform for interacting with these resources, and a program model enabling the resources to directly support intensive civic discussion and reflection centered in our public libraries throughout the community, exploring the links between this legacy and current challenges, and

WHEREAS, the project, although focused on dimensions of public life impacted substantially by the Depression and the New Deal in WNY, could serve as a model of how digital humanities can help public libraries throughout the country mobilize collections to address the civic purposes central to their missions, and

WHEREAS, the goals of this proposal are consistent with the B&ECPL Five-Year Plan of Service, *Back to Basics...and Beyond*, and would result in a richly documented history and memory of the Great Depression and the legacy of the New Deal woven into the fabric of everyday life in Western New York – in our highways,

bridges, schools, parks, in murals in our post offices and sculptures in our housing projects, and in landmark institutions such as the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buffalo Zoo, and War Memorial Auditorium, and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System has been awarded a New York Council for the Humanities Grant in the amount of \$20,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System establish a "PastForward Discussion Series" grant budget in the following amounts:

Revenue	\$20,000
Grant Program Expenditures	\$20,000

Agenda Item E.2.b – Monthly Financial Report. The monthly financial report for the period ending July 31, 2010 was included in the Board packet for information.

Agenda Item E.3 – Building Oversight Committee. Committee Chair Jack Connors reported the Building Oversight Committee met on September 15th with the Architectural Resources Team to discuss the Library's long range plan for reimagining the Library and to refine the project timeline.

Trustee Schmidt arrived at approximately 4:12 p.m.

The Committee discussed the first stage which is the community engagement process which will begin in November where the public will have the opportunity to offer their opinions on reimagining the Library. There will be a survey online and in print form at library locations, focus groups, community meetings and individual interviews with key stakeholders and influencers in the community.

Agenda Item E.4 – Development Committee. The Committee met on July 26th. Chair Anne Leary reported the Committee is scheduled to meet again September 21st to reassess priorities in light of what is going on with the budget. Discussion will center on how they can increase the annual campaign and work on special events to generate funding. The plan is to report back in October with reassessed priorities.

Agenda Item E.5 – Policy Committee. The Policy Committee met on July 19th. Chair Judy Summer reported the Circulation Policy and Conflict of Interest and Ethics Policy were looked at as part of its schedule to review its policies on a regular basis.

Agenda Item E.5.a – Amend Circulation Policy. Ms. Summer stated most of the changes in the Circulation Policy in front of the Board in Resolution 2010-33 are technical,

making sure the language lines up throughout. Mr. Berger moved for approval, and Mr. Connors seconded. Approval was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2010-33

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System's (B&ECPLS) *Circulation Policy* had not been reviewed since 2005, and

WHEREAS, the B&ECPLS Board Policy Committee has reviewed the current *Circulation Policy*, and makes the noted updates to the *Policy*, and

WHEREAS, B&ECPLS general counsel Patrick E. Martin has reviewed this proposed draft and confirms that it follows nationally approved policies carefully and complies with general principles of State Law, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board's Policy Committee recommends the revised and updated *Circulation Policy* be approved by the full B&ECPL Board of Trustees.

Agenda Item E.5.b – Conflict of Interest and Ethics Policy. Ms. Summer introduced this resolution to adopt a Conflict of Interest and Ethics Policy which complies with the Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State that recommends the adoption of various policies that guide the operation and use of the library, including a formal statement on ethics for library trustees and senior staff. Mr. Berger moved and was seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Approval was unanimous. Ms. Quinn-Carey noted the plan is to have trustees and senior staff execute Conflict of Interest Statements at the start of 2011 with new Board terms. Mr. Schmidt voiced as long as the Board had no information that anyone was in violation of this policy, he did not have a problem with waiting until the beginning of 2011 and trustees present were in unanimous agreement.

RESOLUTION 2010-34

WHEREAS, *The Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State* recommends the adoption of various policies that guide the operation and use of the library, including a formal statement on ethics for library trustees and senior staff, and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) Board Policy Committee has drafted a *Conflict of Interest and Ethics Policy*, and

WHEREAS, B&ECPL general counsel Patrick E. Martin has reviewed this proposed draft and confirms that it follows nationally approved policies carefully and complies with general principles of State Law regarding library trustees and their fiduciary duties, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board's Policy Committee recommends the proposed *Conflict of Interest and Ethics Policy* be approved by the full B&ECPL Board of Trustees.

Agenda Item F – Report of the Director. Ms. Quinn-Carey referred to her large Director's Report distributed prior to the meeting remarking it has been a busy summer with many exciting things happening throughout the Library System. She highlighted the Ira Flatow event September 11th at the Central Library Auditorium which drew in almost a full house, the Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff September 15th and noted the Library is going to be a location for the traveling exhibit *Katyn: Massacre, Politics, Morality* which is being sponsored by the Polish American Congress at the Central Library in September and October.

Ms. Quinn-Carey pointed out they have been meeting with the Architectural Resources Team over the last two days regarding the community engagement process. A schedule with timelines for focus groups, community meetings, surveys and individual interviews will be sent out to trustees. The Library looks forward to hearing what the community would like to see in their libraries for the future.

The Erie-Niagara Tobacco-Free Coalition has requested a letter regarding the smoking policy outside libraries. As directed by the Executive Committee, Ms. Quinn-Carey will be sending out a letter to them stating our policy is to be smoke-free outside library buildings.

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

Report of the Director September 16, 2010

Goal 1:

Ensure that every Library in the System is a key destination for exciting and enriching programs and events

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's *Adult Summer Reading Contest* exceeded expectations. As of the end of August, there were **234** registered participants across the County and **837** book reviews submitted! City and Contracting Member Library Branches distributed the first round of prizes, a beach mat, during the first week of August. The rest of the prizes will be awarded after September 4th including the grand prize, a Nook eReader. Programming and Outreach Librarian **Kara Stock** monitored the reviews for the Library System with assistance from Senior Page **Melissa Kania**.

The *Battle of the Books* team competition took place on Saturday, August 7th. Forty- four teams comprised of over 300 children competed against each other at Erie County Community College - South Campus. The winning team was the City of Tonawanda (Tonawanda - 1) and the runner-up was OPK 2 from the Orchard Park Public Library. This year's *Battle* was one of the largest and it couldn't have been done without the help of library staff and many volunteers. Many of the team members vowed to return in 2011 to compete for the first place spot.

Central Library Children's Room

- Children's summer reading programs ended in August. There were 3 reading programs the children could choose to participate in this summer: *Duck Race*, *Online Summer Reader* and *Read Down Your Fines*. For the *Duck Race* children moved their ducks across the window every third hour they read; this attracted 101 children. For the *Online Summer Reader*, 185 children registered and over 80 children for *Read Down Your Fines*.
- *Hold My Hand Story Hour* ended on August 3rd with a pirate theme. Librarian **Gwen Collier** read stories about pirates and led the children on a treasure hunt. The *Summer Fun Club* also ended on August 3rd also with the pirates theme.
- An *End of Summer* program took place at the Central Library on August 11th and the turnout was excellent - 116 children and 30 adults. Three craft stations were set up in the West Room. A highlight of the program was the Sponge Bob Tic Tac Toe and the Deep Ocean Bean Bag Toss. Librarian **Jamie Smith** was very successful in getting new groups to visit Central for this event. An *End of the Summer Party* is a program that will be added to future summer events!
- On August 28th, Librarian **Kathy Goodrich** with Mary Pachla, a representative from EPIC, presented *Welcome Back to School* for children entering kindergarten. Children listened to stories, played games and made crafts to take home with them. They also received a "goodie bag" containing a library card application, crayons and a bookmark which listed some back to school titles. Ms. Pachla spoke with parents on how to get involved with their child's school and the importance of reading with your child.

As part of the Summer Reading Grant, the Touch Tank of the Niagara Falls Aquarium presented programs at Dudley, East Delavan, North Park and Riverside. This program really did "Make a Splash". Children and adults enjoyed the up close and personal experience with the fish and crustaceans!

Librarian **Mary Ann Budny** presented the always popular pet show at Crane, Dudley, North Park and Riverside Libraries with over 75 attendees and their pets. Each entry received a certificate and a pet appropriate treat. At the Dudley Library, there were 2 dogs, a rabbit, a gerbil, a hamster and 2 corn snakes in attendance. The dogs were very interested in each other. The snakes were very interested in the hamster. The pet show is always a big hit with participants and viewers alike.

Young Explorers and Young Scientists continued to participate in the Buffalo Museum of Science's Branched Out program throughout the summer. At East Delavan, the Young Explorers draw daycare centers and is a very popular event with 119 preschoolers attending during August. At North Park, 92 Young Scientists showed up for the Monday afternoon program.

Crane Library

- *Garden Walk, Preschool Storytime, Wondermakers, and 8 Infringement Festival* programs brought in large crowds throughout the month of July. The branch staff was particularly pleased that a local camp came to visit when the *Skin Color* program was being held. Children got to use a variety of paints on canvas to re-create their unique skin tone and place it on a large frame in the library.

Dudley Library

- On August 10th, Buffalo Urban Outdoor Education presented the *Great Buffalo River Sink-Off*. Kate Mini led hands-on instruction. After learning about the principles of buoyancy, kids constructed their own boats from popsicle sticks, aluminum foil and duct tape. The winning boat held 13 sinkers!
- On August 17th, 20 people attended an ice cream party to celebrate the end of summer reading. Thanks to Library Associate **Paul Guminski**, who was filling in that day, for hosting the program.

East Clinton Library

- On July 21st, Librarian **Matthew Kochan** brought out the Robot Racing Cars for a wild and fun time at the East Clinton Library. Two adults and 13 children participated in the event.
- On Wednesday August 4th, 15 adults and 41 children attended a program with Nickel City Reptiles.
- Nine children attended the *Boogie Woogie Dance* program on August 11th, and 3 adults and 10 children attended the *Summer Reading Party*.

Merriweather Library

- *How Would You Recognize a Real Indian?: The Black/Blended Indian*, presented by Heriberto "Airy" Dixon, SUNY New Paltz Professor Emeritus was held on July 24th. Professor Dixon was presented with a proclamation by Mayor Byron W. Brown. The program was co-sponsored by Ms. E. Overton, Neto...and Eagle Women of the Cherokee Language Cultural Circle of New York City. Attendance: 150
- On July 31st, a book signing and reception for Marcia Tate Arunga, author of the children's book, *The Stolen Ones, and How They Were Missed* was held sponsored by The Links, Incorporated, Buffalo Chapter. Attendance: 85

- The Marcus Garvey Scholarship Award Ceremony sponsored by the Jamaican American Association of Buffalo was held on August 6th. Attendance: 45
- On August 7th, WBLK presented the first *Know Thy Self Symposium*. Attendance: 170 (at least 100 teens were turned away)
- On August 28th, a *Back to School Rally* hosted by Eva M. Doyle and co-sponsored by NYS Senator Antoine Thompson and 7th District Erie County Legislator Betty Jean Grant was attended by 132 kids and caregivers.

Niagara Branch

- By the end of the 7 week summer programming session, 25 programs were presented with a total attendance of 638.
- On Wednesday, July 7th, a kickoff was held to promote the Mayor's Summer Reading Challenge. Mayor Brown spoke to 70 children, parents, and caregivers about the importance of reading over the summer. He also encouraged the children to complete the essay portion of the Challenge. Afterwards, the Mayor signed each of their Recognition Certificates, committing them to reading. Rhonda Bivins, Youth Engagement Coordinator, and Deborah Porter, Community Outreach Coordinator, for Read to Succeed Buffalo hosted the event. In attendance were children from West Side Community Services, Niagara Daycare, YMCA Day Camp, and patrons. Also in attendance were: B&ECPL Director **Bridget Quinn-Carey**, **Linda Rizzo**, **Brian Hoth**, **Patti Foley**, **Sandra Williams-Bush** and **Wendy Prabucki**. The Mayor's Summer Writing Workshop sponsored by Read to Succeed had a total of 39 children participate.
- On Wednesday, July 7th, Explore and More Children's Museum presented a program on Nigerian culture. Jamil Adewale Kasumu from Kasumu International was on hand to teach children about Nigerian customs, dress, and music. He brought several types of drums and other instruments and had the children play. Several of the children tried on clothing from traditional Nigerian dress. Claudia Newton, education coordinator from Explore and More Children's Museum, was on hand to assist.
- A memorial and tree dedication was held on Friday, July 9th, in memory of Tumaini Philbert. In attendance were: **Bridget Quinn-Carey**, **Linda Rizzo**, West District Councilman David Rivera, Melissa Cummings - Chief of Staff for Legislator Maria Whyte, Ann Brittain, Director of Immigration and Refugee Assistance Program - Catholic Charities, Lisa Jaworski, teacher - School 90, Kelly Cooper - Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc., and the Niagara Branch staff. YNN was on hand to report the event.
- On Wednesday, July 14th, Assistant Naturalist Paul Fehringer from Beaver Meadow Audubon Center presented a program entitled, *World of Raptors*. A group of 68 children and adults attended, most from the YMCA Day Camp and Niagara Daycare. Mr. Fehringer brought with him 2 owls and a brown tailed hawk, as well as, 2 bird's claws and an authentic wing. He also demonstrated bird songs.

- Glenn Colton appeared before a group of 49 children and adults on Wednesday, July 21st. In attendance were groups from Niagara Daycare and YMCA Day Camp. Glenn sang and danced as well as told a few jokes. His daughter Elizabeth assisted.
- On Wednesday, July 28th, Carlton van Pryz of Mime International presented a program on all around silliness. Mr. van Pryz dressed as a clown. Fifty-seven children and adults from YMCA Day Camp and Butler-Mitchell Boys and Girls Club watched him juggle and conduct a balloon workshop. He later strolled around the branch acting silly.
- Members from PRONE visited the branch on Friday, July 23rd, to determine if there is paranormal activity present. **Brian Hoth** was available to let them in the building. They conducted tests from 10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. and did find evidence of ghosts. They are scheduled for a second visit on Friday, September 3rd to go over their findings and look for additional activity from the beyond.
- On Wednesday, August 4th, the Annual Summer Picnic was held in Prospect Park for the children who attended summer programming. Sixty-five children and adults, primarily from YMCA Day Camp, enjoyed a hot dog, chips, brownies, and a drink. Afterwards, the children selected prizes from the prize box. Appreciation goes to Jonathon Sanchez, Joe and Ashley Stanton, Emily Wopperer, Brandon Hoth, and the Niagara Branch staff.
- The branch held its Annual Book Sale from Monday, August 16th to Saturday, August 21st with the proceeds going toward future programming. Several young volunteers helped during the week. On Monday, **Brian Hoth**, assisted by his nephew Brandon, grilled hot dogs for the volunteers.
- On Monday, July 12th, Library Associate **Tammy Linkowski** gave a tour to a group of teens from Upward Bound at D'Youville College. She gave a demonstration of the B&ECPL website and catalog. The group registered for the teen on-line reading log. Two youth and 11 adult library card applications were processed.
- On Monday, July 26th, **Brian Hoth** gave a tour to 20 ESL students and their teachers from Lafayette High School. They are attending summer school at Grover Cleveland High School through a program called Jumpstart ESL. Eighteen adult library card applications were processed.
- On Tuesday, August 3rd, **Brian Hoth** gave a tour to members of West Side Youth Literacy Project. They were impressed with the facility and the many programs offered, some saying that this was their first visit to the branch. They especially liked the Teen Room.
- On Monday, August 9th, **Brian Hoth** gave a tour to a class of 20 ESL students from Erie 1 BOCES. Fifteen new library card applications were processed.
- Library Clerk **Stephen Carson** and Senior Page **Eli Mack-Hardiman** took some very nice photos of the special programs the branch held during the month. Stephen posted a streaming video of the Glenn Colton program on the branch's Facebook page.

North Park Branch

- PBS Super Why visited North Park Library on July 8th. He listened to **Sarah Gallien** read stories to the preschoolers who attended NPK's *Hold My Hand Storytime*. He also posed for photographs with the children. (North Park Senior Page **Sarah Barry** graciously stepped (literally) into costume and transformed into Super Why). Attendance: 34 children and 11 adults
- *Hold My Hand Storytime* led by **Sarah Gallien** was held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. throughout the month of July. The Summer Reading theme "Make A Splash" was evident throughout the stories and crafts she presented to the children. Total attendance for the month: 122 children and 44 adults
- Originally, North Park's Friday evening *Summer Craft Club* was meant for children; however, the parents who came participated in making the crafts too. Keeping with this summer's water theme, the groups made sun visors to take to the beach, under the sea and beach scene pictures using multi-media craft materials, sand art bottles and watercolor paintings of fish. Kudos to North Park's resident artist, **Karen Leonard**, in preparing sample crafts of each week's project to inspire the patrons. Sr. Page **James Prabucki** also joined in the fun and let his creativity come out on some of the crafts. Attendance for the month: 50 patrons (children, adults and staff)
- An honest man! One day in early July, a young man was sitting by the front door waiting for the library to open. Another patron left her books and money to pay her fine with him! He handed the books and money to **Dale Schmid** as she came into the library that day. Now that a drop box has been installed, no one will have to depend on the kindness of strangers to return overdue material.

Riverside Library

- The *Soccer World Cup* brought many new patrons from Africa to watch the games on the library's television. The branch staff explained the mission of the Library to the visitors which is not always evident or understood by newcomers from other countries. Some of the viewers are now using the library regularly.
- The Annual Book Sale organized by the Friends of the Riverside Library took place on Thursday August 12th through Saturday August 14th. According to President Elaine Panty, although this year's sale didn't reach the amount achieved last year, a good amount of material was sold.
- Explore and More ran a *Make Your Own Kaleidoscope* program which was attended by 18 children and 6 adults.
- Library Associate **Sean Goodrich** helped kids make a frog craft which was attended by 20 children and 5 adults.

Central Library

Information Services Librarian **Mary Schiffhauer** taught a patron how to use the Foundation Directory Online on August 28th through *Book A Librarian*.

Information Services Manager **Dorinda Darden** attended the *Financial Literacy Workshop* conducted by the Buffalo Urban League at the Clement Hodge Community Center on August 30th. Dorinda gave an overview of B&ECPL programs and services.

An article about the current rare book exhibit *In the Garden: The Art of Botanical Illustration* appeared in the August 26–September 1st issue of *Artvoice*. “Sex and the Single Flower: Botanical art @ the Central Library” by Jack Foran captured the main points of the exhibit in an enthusiastic way and should encourage more visitors. Contrary to the report, the Library owns all the works by Fredonia artist Tim Frerichs. See http://artvoice.com/issues/v9n34/botanical_art.

The Development & Communications Office (DCO) supported logistics for *Gardening Mondays*, a weekly lunchtime series developed by **Anne Conable** to support the *In the Garden* exhibit.

Rare Book Librarian **Amy Pickard** was interviewed by a writer for a gardening e-zine, *Buffalo Niagara Gardening*. The writer had attended a *Gardening Monday* program, viewed the botanical exhibit *In the Garden* and wanted to write an article about the exhibit and botanical illustration.

Grosvenor Room Librarian **Rhonda Konig** presented *Genealogy Resources in the Grosvenor Room* at the August 14th regional meeting of genealogical societies, organized by the Western New York Genealogical Society. The well-attended meeting was held in the Central Library Auditorium. Rhonda was instrumental in coordinating this event.

Grosvenor Room Librarian **Carol Pijacki** presided at the *Literally Speaking Lunchtime Discussion* in July where Grosvenor Room Manager **Suzanne Colligan** led the discussion of *American Eve* by Paula Uruburu. Assistant Deputy Director for Special Collections **Peggy Skotnicki** presided at the August session where Hamburg Library Director **Jack Edson** led the discussion of *That Old Cape Magic* by Richard Russo.

The Development & Communications Office supported planning and logistics for the Buffalo Book Fair (July 10th) and the Colored Musicians’ Club outdoor performance on July 29th.

The Development & Communications Office coordinated details of visiting exhibits from CEPA Gallery (“The Art of War”) and the Western New York Artists Group

(Collage Exhibit) installed in July. They also coordinated the opening reception for WNYAG on July 16th.

Anne Conable of the Development & Communications Office represented the Library System at the July 7th planning meeting for the 2011 conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the July 26th joint National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)/New York Council for the Humanities (NYCH).

The Development & Communications Office held exploratory meetings with Just Buffalo Literary Center for an October 14th collaboration *POE-etry Jam Coffee House* to be held in conjunction with the *2010 Big Read* and on the *2010-11 Babel series* as well as possible collaborations with the Roycroft Campus and WNY Book Arts Center centering around the upcoming fall exhibit on Kelmscott.

Representatives of the Development & Communications Office met with the director of the WNY Heritage Institute to explore future collaborative opportunities.

The Development & Communications Office served as the conduit to bring various Hispanic organizations together to help lay out plans for National Hispanic Heritage Month (September). A kickoff event will be held at the Central Library on September 15th at noon.

The Development & Communications Office coordinated the website and print development/copywriting for *The Big Read* programming (nearly 200 programs in 2010).

The Development & Communications Office is coordinating details of a visiting exhibit "Katyn" and an opening reception on September 28th. The event was offered to the Library System by representatives of the Polish American Congress.

The Development & Communications Office established program schedules for BPOvations music appreciation programs (6 programs each at Central and 2 suburban libraries September-May), the Big Bleed (blood drives in approximately 10 libraries to be held in conjunction with *The Big Read*), and Visiting Nursing Association Flu Shot Clinics (approximately 15 libraries: September-January).

The Development & Communications Office met with representatives to develop events at the Central Library related to National Disability History Month (October).

The Development & Communications Office wrote and distributed news releases on the CEPA and WNYAG exhibitions, *Gardening Mondays* programs, Colored Musicians' Club outdoor concert, and the *Battle of the Books* during July. In August, the D&C Office

distributed releases on appearances in September by Ira Flatow and Dr. Robert Hirst as well as about activities related to *The Big Read*.

Member Libraries:

Cheektowaga Public Library – (Anna Reinstein and Julia Boyer Reinstein (JBR) Libraries) submitted by Salvatore Bordonaro, Director

The Cheektowaga Public Library has just culminated a busy July-August 2010 with activities and programs for our community. Both branches continue to provide a high level of service to their library patrons. In order to be cost effective with programming, the libraries combined to collaborate conducting summer programs for children. The following is a sampling of programs: singer performer extraordinaire Glenn Colton, Nickel City Reptiles & Exotics, Carmen Presti of the local Primate Sanctuary, the Magic of Mr. J., and the Bubbleman. Each of these programs attracted standing room audiences who witnessed exciting and entertaining activities. Attendees all left with smiles on their faces. Kudos to **Yvonne Maute** and **Barbara Stanley**, Children's Librarians, for collaborating on the summer programs.

The more traditional programs like *Toddler Time* and *Story Hour* featuring stories and arts and crafts for ages 2-5 continued to draw capacity audiences. For many of the children, these programs are their first formal educational settings. In fact, these activities prepare the participants for preschool and kindergarten.

The ever popular *Battle of the Books* demonstrated its drawing power with older children by the fact that the JBR Library fielded 2 teams of 8 children, while the Anna Reinstein Library had 1 team. This program has students reading recommended titles and preparing them for the trivia contest held on August 7th at Erie Community College South Campus. The contest draws an audience of several hundred for the finals. A thank you to Deputy Director **Mary Jean Jakubowski** for hosting a lunch for the coaches of *Battle of the Books* after the contest. The JBR teams celebrated their accomplishment with a pizza party on August 12th.

The Town of Cheektowaga Recreation Department along with Youth Engaged in Service (Y.E.S.) used the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library as a base of its extension activities. For 5 weeks 2 programs were presented entitled *Tiny Tots* and *3 to Get Ready* featuring stories and arts and crafts. Y.E.S. featured 2 programs entitled Beach Bingo and Arts and Crafts.

For the second consecutive year the JBR Library hosted the Reinstein Woods featuring 3 week nature series evenings for children and adults. The series presented programs on "Alien Invaders", "Mysterious Mushrooms", and finally "Frogs, Tadpoles, Turtles".

These programs attracted 113 children and 98 adults. Compared to the previous year, this series drew more participants.

Another program of special note took place on July 28th, Buffalo Clown Alley. Each year this group demonstrates clowning techniques, make-up, etc. and conducts a performance to everyone's delight. This year the activity drew 79 children and 63 adults. This program verified that there is a little clown in each of us.

The Anna Reinstein Library was the recipient of a New York State Construction Grant which addressed implementation of a new HVAC system and installation of new lighting and ceiling fans. These issues have made the library a more pleasant and inviting place for our patrons. Also, these energy efficient measures will realize utility savings in the near future. Maintenance Man **Tim Wyzykowski**, installed a new sink and painted the staff lounge making it a more inviting place.

The Julia Boyer Reinstein Library saw its staff lounge renovated by its talented Maintenance Man **William Heitzman**. The remodeling consisted of a new counter top with bistro chairs, shelves, storage cabinet for water containers, two reclining sofas, end tables and flat screen television. The renovation was funded with private funds. The dedicated staff has a relaxing venue to get away from daily job stress and tension.

On July 23, 2010, the New York State Library announced that JBR was 1 of 30 libraries to be awarded a 2009-2010 ARRA Funded Grant Program Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. This is a federal government stimulus effort. The award is for 2 years and funded in the amount of \$244,517. The funds will allow the library to staff a Public Computing Center (PCC) instructing individuals with job searching, resume writing, interviewing, networking, and word processing. A feature component of the grant is the availability of video conferencing equipment for participants, businesses, and organizations. The logistics for the PCC are still in the planning stages. This award truly will benefit the library system and our patrons.

As you can see, the Cheektowaga Public Library is a viable institution that remains relevant in these trying economic times. Information and education for the masses continue to be principles worth disseminating.

North Collins Public Library – submitted by Mary Muscarella, Library Manager

We have had a great summer here at the Town of North Collins Library. Our Summer Reading program was well attended, our Battle of the Books team had a great time, and our special events drew record crowds! This summer, we had Clifford the Big Red Dog visit, the Smudge Fundaes perform, Glenn Colton perform, computer classes facilitated by staff from the Training Lab, and the traveling "Touch Tank" from the Aquarium of Niagara Falls.

Ongoing events at our library include: Toddler/Preschool Storytime on Friday mornings, an American Girls Club, and the "First Edition" Book Club. Our Sunday Café is always a popular place for people to come and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and some treats, watch sporting events and read the Sunday paper. We also have monthly Family Movie Nights and host office hours for Erie County Legislator Lynne Dixon.

Readers of all ages are invited to join the North Collins Library "Frequent Reader" program where they get a sticker for every 3 books they have read, and win a prize once they have collected 10 stickers.

We are fortunate to share our parking lot with Schoolhouse #8 History Center and Museum, which is a one-room schoolhouse that has been meticulously restored to its early-1900's condition. In recognition of this proximity, we have built a special collection of materials regarding one-room schoolhouses, and we have a display case of artifacts on loan from Schoolhouse #8.

Our annual fundraiser, "Celebrate North Collins!" is scheduled for Saturday, October 2nd. The event features a giant Chinese Auction (we typically have 200 baskets and/or gift cards), face-painting, baked goods sale, balloons, pumpkins, and street vendors along Main Street. This year we hope to add a chalk art competition, a pig roast and some live entertainment. We invite everyone to come and enjoy this village-wide event!

Town of Tonawanda Public Library – submitted by Kate Weeks, Director

The Kenmore and Kenilworth Libraries continue to be a vital part of the Ken-Ton community. While circulation has been trending downward in contract libraries, Kenilworth Library saw a 9% increase in circulation over last August and the number of people visiting the Kenilworth Library this August rose 25.4 % over August of 2009.

While the Kenmore Library did not fare so well in August, it has some impressive year-to-date statistics to report. Year-to-date, Kenmore has the second highest number of people walking through its doors in all contract libraries. It also comes in at second place for computer usage outside the Central Library. Finally, outside the Central Library no library has as many sessions per computer as the Kenmore Library.

Both libraries have been given face-lifts this summer as well. Funded by a New York State Construction Grant, the Kenmore parking lot was excavated down to dirt level, graded and given a level concrete parking surface. The old parking lot was not only unlevel, but had more potholes than the NYS Thruway.

Through the same grant, construction began on replacing the roof at Kenilworth right after Labor Day. Once this is completed, the Kenilworth staff and patrons look forward to the first dry winter in many years. Melting snow and rain have leaked into various

parts of the building over time, causing ceiling tiles to fall and doing damage to some materials.

The Town of Tonawanda Libraries were very active with children's programs over the summer. In addition to the NYS *Make a Splash* program, the libraries brought in several outside groups including the Hawk Creek Wildlife Refuge, The Aquarium of Niagara Falls, Pete the Pirate and more. For the first time, a patron volunteered to do a summer program. Mrs. Anzarelli-Brown started a LEGO Club. Literally thousands of legos were donated by the community and there is an effort under way to seek other volunteers to run this program throughout the year.

A grant from Senator Michael Ranzenhofer's office allowed us to spruce up the children's areas in both libraries just in time for the summer programs. New rocking chairs, a rug and bean bag cushions were purchased for Kenilworth.

Kenmore purchased a wooden alligator that stores all the board books. Children are delighted to visit with the alligator while they select the books they want to take home. Through this grant we were also able to buy a new rug, some seating and a SMART Board, which will be used for children's programs.

More adult programs are being added all the time. Over the summer both libraries offered: *Hope with Hospice*, *Auto Tips You Can Use*, *Drum4Health Drum Circle*, *Self-Publishing Seminar*, and *Has Anyone Seen My Identity?* – an identity theft program presented by Consumer Credit Counseling of Buffalo.

A 6 week sign language class was offered by Teacher Amy Crockford. When the program ended in mid-August, many participants wanted Ms. Crockford to offer an intermediate class. She is taking this under consideration.

Of course one of the most popular programs, *Football for Women*, was presented by Ed Adamczyk at both libraries, right after Labor Day. Many women come back for the program every year, and despite the title of the program, men may attend as well. The summer flew by, and was one of our busiest yet. Hopefully, we can do even more next year!

Goal 2:

Build and maintain quality collections, both print and electronic, based on user needs and long-term vision for library collections

The 4 volume double elephant folio of John James Audubon's *Birds of America* is in need of conservation. The bindings are failing after years of improper display and several plates require repair. **Peggy Skotnicki**, **Amy Pickard** and Grosvenor Room Librarians **Rob Alessi** and **Amy Vilz** met with Northeast Document Conservation Center Director

of Paper Conservation Walter Newman on August 25th to study the volumes for a conservation estimate. Mr. Newman also looked at and will provide an estimate for work that should be done to William Smith's *Delineation of the Strata of England and Wales* map ("The Map that Changed the World").

Two of the 8 remaining books, needed to complete the rare book collection of Kelmscott Press publications, were purchased in July. The first title was *The Story of the Glittering Plain* by William Morris (1894) which includes 23 designs by the popular English children's book illustrator Walter Crane. It is 1 of only 250 copies printed on paper, as opposed to vellum. The second title purchased was *The Sundering Flood* by William Morris (1897). It is 1 of only 300 copies printed on paper. Morris wrote 4 prose romances in his final years, and this work was the last. The concluding words of the text were actually dictated to Kelmscott Press Secretary Sydney Cockerell less than a month before Morris died in October 1896. May Morris, William's daughter, supervised the editing and printing of *The Sundering Flood*.

Rob Alessi located a signed copy of *Out of the Deep: Being a Book of Poems* (1944) by Spencer Kellogg, Jr. in the closed stacks. This was the final work, written during the 1920s, by the founder of the Aries Press in Eden, NY. The book was a gift from Kellogg to the Grosvenor Library. He also discovered a second copy of George Catlin's *North American Indian Portfolio* (1845) on the tier. The Rare Book Room has a number of editions of Catlin's works and the *North American Indian Portfolio* is quite valuable. Several Buffalo maps will also be transferred into the rare book collection. Bookbinder Fred Jordan continues conservation work on items in the Milestones of Science collection in the Rare Book Room.

Floating Collections. Audiobooks are the first media type that will be available throughout the B&ECPL System as a "Floating" Collection. The items will no longer be associated with a specific home library. They will be immediately available and get shelved at the most recent discharge location. The benefits include maximized collection use and a greater variety of items available in each library. In addition, there are cost savings associated with streamlined processing and minimized shipping time. An automated collection conversion will take place over several days. The B&ECPL will continue to evaluate materials use.

Practicum Students: Department of Library and Studies (DLIS) student Brigid Manning successfully completed a 120-hour practicum in the Catalog Department. She played a key role in testing and documenting authority control procedures in the Java Client. Using a combination of SirsiDynix reports, manual validation, and MARC record "trickery," Brigid converted thousands of subject headings from "cooking" to the more user-friendly term "cooking." DLIS student Daniel Bradley is a new practicum student working from the list of subject department "standing order" titles, he will identify and resolve a variety of long-standing problems.

Juvenile Paperback Standing Order Plans Implemented. Several libraries and the Children's Room began receiving automatic shipments of popular mass market juvenile paperbacks. Direct ship from the vendor to the library or department eliminates sorting and internal shipping time insuring that the items are available for check-out as soon as possible.

Serials Budgets Trimmed. To remain fiscally responsible in uncertain budget times, libraries and departments worked diligently to evaluate subscriptions and standing order print titles in order to eliminate little-used or no longer pertinent publications. The result is an anticipated 15% target reduction projected for the 2011 Serials portion of the Materials Budget. Technical Services staff coordinated the "drops" program and will work with vendors to cancel the designated subscriptions.

Goal 3:

Create a warm and welcoming approach in all aspects of library service through renovated and expanded facilities and streamlined services that guarantee quality user experiences

Focus: Facilities

Rare Book Room staff are working with Maintenance to obtain quotes on a new lighting system for the exhibit area. Current lighting is insufficient for exhibits, creating darkness in some areas and glare in others.

Miller Enterprises began work on the Dudley Branch Library ceiling on July 15th, beginning a long awaited improvement. Work continued until July 23rd, after which there was a week of inactivity waiting for Frey Electric to come and begin wiring the lights.

At East Delavan the ceiling has been dropped and the building has beautiful new lights as part of a City Capital Project and a New York State Construction Grant.

Work continued on the lighting and ADA lift at the Niagara Library. Lighting was replaced at the very front of the building and has made a big improvement to the appearance of the library.

Reconstruction of the Ellicott Street entrance to the Central Library is now under way. Required minor asbestos abatement work was completed last week by Arric Corporation and main construction began this week with an anticipated completion date of November, 2010.

This New York State Construction Grant project will replace the vintage 1963 entrance that is deteriorated and not American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible with a fully ADA accessible ramp and assisted door entry. Kirst Construction, Inc. is the main

contractor on the project. Overall work on the project is being supervised by the Erie County Department of Public Works. During most of this time, the Ellicott Street entrance will be closed. To minimize the distance patrons and staff will have to detour the Clinton Street Auditorium entrance is now open for public access, with signage placed in key spots to redirect the public to the temporary entrance. The security guard post located at the Ellicott Street entrance has been temporarily relocated to the Auditorium.

Speaking of the New York State Construction Grant program, 6 Contracting Member Libraries submitted grant requests for the 2010-11 funding cycle. Projects at the Boston Free, Cheektowaga's Anna Reinstein, Collins, Tonawanda City, Tonawanda Town's Kenmore and the West Seneca Libraries address a range of basic facility needs including improving energy efficiency in a variety of ways to reconfiguring space for improved public access. Project requests total \$422,134, which under this grant program are eligible for up to \$211,067 (50%) in grant funding, with the local municipality or member library private funds picking up the remaining share.

Focus: Services

Librarian **Glenn Luba** was instrumental in the planning and implementation of the downsizing of the Information Services Desk on the first floor of the Central Library. The change was made to make the desk less intimidating to the public and to facilitate more interaction between the librarians and senior pages.

A third scanner was added to the public workstations at the Central Library! All 3 are now connected to OPAC workstations that can be converted to Internet stations when the scanners are needed. This change eliminates the inconvenience of patrons having to wait for scanning services.

E-Branch Department merged with the Information Services Department on July 31st.

On August 14th, in an effort to consolidate all librarian staff at one service point, Popular Materials Department Librarians **Mary Schiffhauer, Rebecca Pieszala, Alison Farinacci** and **Keri Thomas-Whiteside** were incorporated into the Information Services Department. On August 9th, Public Services Manager **Nancy Mueller** and Library Associates **Karen Kida, Lettie Marinaro** and **Sandy Schamber** met to plan the initial redeployment of library associate and senior page staff to the former Popular Materials desk on the Central Library's first floor. A follow-up meeting was held on August 21st.

Niagara Page **Paul Wie** loves his "Ask Me" button so much he wears it everywhere!

Goal 4:

Key initiatives for 2010-2011

A. Literacy

Literacy Initiative

The Family Place project is progressing on target; two Family Place library sites will launch this fall one at Central Library and the other at the Niagara Branch Library. In concert with Family Place and as a component part of the Ready to Read: Ready to Learn family literacy grant, two early childhood workshops with Buffalo State Professor Maria Ceprano were held on August 4th and were well attended by librarians and library associates from the Buffalo Branches and Contracting Member Libraries. The workshops featured early childhood development and reading skill building.

The Library is participating in the Second Chance Committee project, a multi-agency effort to encourage people to earn a GED. The group, led by Buffalo Adult Education, is planning a Fair in early October that will feature education and literacy related service providers and encourage visitors to sign up for a GED class. The GED class held at the Central Library is under way for the fall, as is the ESOL program; both are sponsored by Buffalo Adult Education. We are working with WNET on their Raise a Reader initiative and continue to develop services and collections to support and promote this valuable initiative.

We continue to work with Literacy Volunteers and Project Flight on collaborative projects and opportunities for partnerships. Both agencies seem to be pleased with their new operations centers at the Central Library.

B. Special Collections

Peggy Skotnicki, Suzanne Colligan and Amy Pickard spent most of August 20th with Preservation Specialist Dyani Feige from the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia. The Library was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant through CCAHA for a preservation needs assessment for Central Library special collections beyond the Rare Book Room. The Library Foundation funded a CCAHA preservation survey for the Rare Book Room in 2005. Ms. Feige surveyed the space and collections of the Grosvenor Room proper, as well as selected collections on Tiers A and B, including maps, newspapers, pamphlets and the Dewey and folio collections. She spent time with Maintenance Supervisor **Chip Campbell** as well as Reference Librarian **Charles Alaimo** who is responsible for the map collection. A report will be issued that will also prove useful for the Central Library space study.

Grosvenor Room Librarian **Sue Cutrona** gave a tour of the local history collection on August 19th to a group of 6 teachers from Medaille College. The group chose to visit the library for their professional development day to learn about the unique resources available for their student projects.

Amy Pickard gave a presentation on botanical illustration and the current exhibit *In the Garden* to approximately 75 members of the 20th Century Club at their Delaware Avenue location on August 18th.

Suzanne Colligan presented "Local History: We're All Connected" on August 17th as part of a 2 day conference "History is Here! Parallels, Perspectives and Primary Sources for WNY Educators," held at Erie 1 BOCES in West Seneca. It was an opportunity to educate teachers about Grosvenor and Rare Book Room resources that can enrich the curriculum.

Rob Alessi and **Amy Vilz** gave a tour of the Rare Book Room on August 17th to a group of 12 senior citizens, focusing on Judaica, the Botanical exhibit, and the Mark Twain Room.

Peggy Skotnicki spoke at the Buffalo Yacht Club on August 12th about "Buffalo and Beyond in 1860." The presentation was part of a weeklong celebration of the 150th anniversary of the yacht club, one of the oldest in the United States. It was enthusiastically received and showcased the resources of the Grosvenor Room.

Peggy Skotnicki, **Stanton Hudson** and **Amy Vilz** met with Dr. Isidor Saslav, former concert master for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, on August 3rd to discuss his large collection of George Bernard Shaw books and ephemera. Dr. Saslav and his wife may return in November to perform a lunchtime concert.

On a variety of days in August, **Carol Pijacki** gave 7 short tours to approximately 18 visiting genealogists from 5 different states. An impromptu talk and showing of the McKinley Scrapbook was also given to 2 adults and 12 children from Edu-Kids in Orchard Park.

Amy Pickard and **Rob Alessi** welcomed Western New York Book Arts Center (WNYBAC) Executive Director Rich Kegler, Dr. Shelley Gruendler, Instructor Tiffany Wardle and 20 students from Type Camp Book Arts to the Rare Book Room on July 19th to view 15 typographical gems from the collection. Mr. Kegler expressed an interest in making the Rare Book Room an annual stop during this summer workshop.

Suzanne Colligan has been communicating with Mark Rogovin, son of famed photographer Milton Rogovin, who initially contacted e-Branch about a proposed exchange of the "Urban Holiness" 33 1/3rd LP for a CD version. The album cover is a famous photo taken by the senior Rogovin. A polite refusal and an e-mail exchange

followed with Mark Rogovin expressing interest in a scan of this important work. The LP has been transferred to a more secure location.

Rob Alessi participated in a recorded conversation/interview with Dinghy Press founder George Greenberger on August 9th. Mr. Greenberger operated the Buffalo-based Dinghy Press starting in the mid-1930s and into the 1940s. The Dinghy Press was a small private press which produced limited edition works. Mr. Greenberger was thrilled to see 1 of 2 copies of a Dinghy Press title, *Alphabet of New York Bookshops* (1940), in the Rare Book Room collection. Rich Kegler, WNYBAC staff member Jessica Lewis and Amy Greenan also participated in the conversation.

A recent Rare Book Room blog entry by **Rob Alessi** resulted in bibliographer Sylvia Peterson contacting the Library about conservator Fred Jordan and his recent rebinding of the Library's copy of the Kelmscott *Chaucer*. Ms. Peterson, who is nearing completion of a complete census of the Kelmscott *Chaucer* with her husband William Peterson, plans to update the Library's entry with information provided by **Amy Pickard** and perhaps include a photograph of the new binding. This will provide the Library with international exposure for its rare book collection.

Rob Alessi posted information on a national rare books listserv about the Library's upcoming exhibition, *The Ideal Book: William Morris and the Kelmscott Press*, as well as *In the Garden: The Art of Botanical Illustration* and provided links to the B&ECPL web pages for additional information. Mark Samuels Lasner, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Delaware Library and William Morris Society Secretary/Treasurer, requested exhibit brochures which he will distribute at the upcoming conference on William Morris jointly sponsored by the University of Delaware, the Winterthur Museum and the Delaware Art Museum. He has also posted exhibit information on the William Morris Society web site (www.morrissociety.org).

The Rare Book Room blog had over 900 views by mid August. The average views per day have increased as well. See <http://grorarebookroom.wordpress.com/> The Genealogy and Local History Blog was mentioned on the Transylvanian Dutch Genealogy Blog "[The Grosvenor Room](#)" (the blog of the Erie/Buffalo Public Library Special Collections) [lists a few places](#) you might go to find your ancestors, other than using City Directories." The blog surpassed 1300 views through August.

C. Public Career Resources and Skill Training

Kara Stock continued to take her "Job Resources at the Library" computer class on the road. Kara taught this workshop at the East Aurora Library (August 2nd), the Audubon Library (August 3rd), the Clearfield Library (August 10th), and The Buffalo Employment and Training Center (August 11th). Participants continue to be amazed at all of the free resources the library has to offer for the unemployed.

A total of 48 public technology training classes were conducted during the past 2 months at the Central Training Lab and 14 branch/suburban libraries using the mobile Cyber Trains. Three hundred twenty-one students participated in the classes, representing a 238% attendance increase over the same time period in 2009. Special emphasis is now being placed on newly integrated Outcome Based Evaluation (OBE) of the programs. Attendee evaluation forms include such questions as 'will the class material be applicable to their daily work/home life' and staff at host libraries are also asked to complete an evaluation form. The evaluations forms are especially valuable for curriculum development.

On Tuesday, July 20th, Niagara Branch practicum student, Emily Wopperer taught an Internet Intermediate class to 5 adults. She spoke about some of the security issues involved. She also demonstrated a Google search.

Goal 5:

Ensure long-term financial sustainability through public and private investments and create a culture of philanthropy within, and on behalf of, the Library System while enhancing the System's image and visibility throughout the County

The Development & Communications Office continued implementation of the work plan for National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Digital Humanities Planning Grant.

The DCO continued implementation of a sales strategy/program to market specialty items related to the new Rare Book Room exhibit *In the Garden*.

The DCO continued discussions with BPO on collaboratively celebrating the Orchestra's 75th Anniversary season (as a major tie-in to the NEH Digital Humanities Grant). Components planned include actual and virtual exhibits, a concert series, and educational programming (BPOvations) in the Central Library and select other library facilities.

Through the efforts of the DCO, the Library System was awarded a \$20,000 New York Council for the Humanities (NYCH) grant tied to the NEH Depression-era grant. It will support 3 programs on arts and culture, labor relations, and segregation in housing which will be held in 2010-2011.

A new Manager of Public Affairs was hired. **Joy Testa-Cinquino** has more than a 20-year career in public relations, marketing, and development. She was most recently Director of Institutional Advancement at the Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

DCO researched/ordered select items/materials to be sold through *Novel Ideas*.

DCO interviewed candidates for open cashier positions in *Novel Ideas*.

DCO organized and will staff a major book sale to be held at the Central Library on September 9th.

In-class training in Buffalo for all appropriate DCO staff took place in August. The new system is planned to be operational by October for use in the next annual appeal campaign.

DCO continued to participate in meetings related to the production of a high-quality, hard cover, limited edition book featuring materials related to Mark Twain's time in Buffalo, NY that would be available for purchase in the fall and coincide with the September 25th program appearance by Dr. Robert Hirst, Director of the Mark Twain Project at UC Berkeley. Rare Book Room staff has been assisting with gathering materials for the book, *Mark Twain in Buffalo*, which will be issued in September. It was written by Dr. Robert Hirst, and attorney Patrick Martin, and produced by William S Hein & Co. Dr. Hirst, Mr. Martin and W.S. Hein & Co. have donated their time and resources so that all proceeds from the sale of the books will go the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

DCO staff continued discussions with representatives of Fables Café/Palate Catering. A contract renewal is pending final review from both parties.

Rob Alessi shared a few items from the rare book collection on August 18th with Brian Dwyer from M&T Bank who was accompanied by **Bridget Quinn-Carey** and **Stanton Hudson**. The Kelmscott *Chaucer*, Roycroft fore-edge painting and leaves from the Otto Ege *Fifty original leaves from medieval manuscripts* were much appreciated.

The B&ECPL remains an active presence using the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter. We now have over 2,000 Facebook fans and over 1,300 Twitter followers. We continue to publicize events and promote library initiatives. Facebook highlights include:

[Buffalo & Erie County Public Library - Central Library](#) Used Book Sale! The Central Library is having a massive Used Book Sale at Novel Ideas on Thursday September 9th from 10am - 3pm. Hundreds of titles \$.25 and up -- fiction, kids' books, technical books, history, travel, VHS tapes, and lots more! [Angela Pierpaoli](#), [Ann Kling](#) and [7 others](#) like this.



[Jennifer Andes Brew](#) What/Where is novel ideas?



[Buffalo & Erie County Public Library - Central Library](#) Novel Ideas/Encore Editions Gifts and Used Books is located on the 1st floor of the Central Library near Fables Cafe. The deals are going to be GREAT!



[Jennifer Andes Brew](#) Wonderful!! Thanks so much!!

And Twitter highlights include:



[euonymous](#)

[@buffalolibrary](#) Moved away from Buffalo many years ago, but I've never forgotten the wonderful library system. Love you guys! 8:52 PM Aug 28th via web

On a more concerning note, the New York State Comptroller recently announced new rates for employer contributions to the State Retirement System. In part due to a change in future investment performance assumptions, the rate for the billing due on February 1, 2012 will increase substantially from an average of 11.9% of salaries due on the February 1, 2011 billing to 16.3% of salaries (a nearly 37 percent increase). While the bill will be due in early 2012, the expense is calculated in large part based upon estimated wages from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 which is the state's fiscal year. As such, a significant portion of this expense will be accrued back to the 2011 budget year. The impact on the Library's 2011 base (current service level) budget estimate, which had already assumed a nearly \$200,000 increase would increase a further \$466,000 to nearly \$1.9 million.

This new development increases the gap between the costs of sustaining current operations in 2011 and estimated available revenue to \$6.8 million (24% of the estimated steady state budget cost). Staff, following feedback provided at the Special Board meeting on August 18th and the Executive Committee meeting of September 2nd, continues to work on multiple budget balancing scenarios for the Board's consideration at their September 16th meeting.

Goal 6:

Streamline workflows and promote system-wide opportunities for improving internal operations

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) initiatives continued throughout the summer months. **Carol Batt** and **Kelly Donovan** worked closely with EnvisionWare Director of Sales Al Coalla, who visited the B&ECPL on August 5th and 6th. Coalla spent time at 3

City Branches, conferring with staff and changing software parameters to improve RFID performance. We also took advantage of the visit to confirm pricing and inventory as we move forward with additional installations. Mobile conversion stations are being established for use in the Orchard Park, West Seneca, Kenmore and East Aurora Libraries as these locations prepare to begin collection conversion.

Technical Services Manager **Jennifer Childs** contacted our top 3 major vendors requesting fewer paper mailings and catalogs be shipped for distribution to libraries and staff. A recent evaluation of the paper catalogs distributed throughout the System revealed that a large number of catalogs end up being recycled each month in addition to the fact that many libraries do not use the catalogs at all. To that end, in an effort to save paper, most catalogs sent to us on a monthly basis were reduced from 75 to 42.

Borrower Services is continuing to work on discarding old applications of patrons with inactive checkouts. During August this purge, combined with the data base project activity, resulted in:

- 45 inactive checkouts being discharged and discarded
- 41 patron records with previously hidden items (inactive checkouts) were deleted once the inactive checkouts were removed from their record
- 1993 additional patron records were deleted for other reasons (i.e., old mail return, patron has a current 13 digit library card, etc.)

Staff Development and Community Involvement

Baker Victory Services Staff Development Coordinator Melissa Eloff trained 25 Central Library and Buffalo Branch staff in “Serving Customers with Mental Health Needs” on August 24th.

In anticipation of updating the Page/Senior Page Orientation Guide, Librarians **Dorinda Hayes** and **Linda Rizzo**, Library Associate **Lettie Marinaro** and Human Resources Officer **Doreen Woods** participated in the *Employee Handbook Boot Camp* webinar from Business and Legal Reports on July 30th.

Rob Alessi and **Amy Vilz** participated in *Online Productivity Tools*, a webinar sponsored by the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) on August 23rd.

Amy Vilz and **Rhonda Konig** attended: *How Records Management and Retention Can Make a Difference at Your Organization* at WNYLRC on July 19th.

Assistant Deputy Director **Carol Batt**, Information Technology Administrator **Toni Naumovski** and several key IT and Technology Support staff members participated in conference calls with SirsiDynix representatives to discuss software upgrade and Oracle server support issues.

Technical Services & Technology Support Manager **Maureen McLaughlin** attended a meeting of the WNYLC Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) at the Jefferson Middle School in Jamestown, NY on July 16th.

Technology Support Manager **Kelly Donovan**, Technical Services Manager **Jennifer Childs** and Processing Department Supervisor **Tom Carloni** attended the final 2010 sessions of the Public Library Administrator's Certificate Program (PLACP) on July 12th and 13th.

Technical Services Manager **Jennifer Childs** attended 2 workshops at WNYLRC. "Best Practices in Lending Gadgets and Electronics" introduced participants to Buffalo State's Equipment Loan Service and the Webreserv online booking system, July 9th. "How Records Management and Retention Can Make a Difference at Your Organization" emphasized the advantages to having a fully supported records management long range strategic plan, July 19th.

Catalog Librarian **Allison Lund** and Library Associate **Diane Doster** attended the Nylink-sponsored webinar *MARC Basics: Books* on August 25th.

Training Lab Coordinator **Sara Taylor** has been charged to work with key public service staff members to develop a curriculum which will support B&ECPL's downloadable eBooks. In addition to standard training classes, alternatives will likely feature screencasts developed with "Camtasia" that staff members can view remotely.

On August 17th, Dudley Branch Manager **Kathryn Galvin** attended a Ready-to-Learn training session presented by WNED to the teaching staff of Dunkirk City Schools and Chautauqua Opportunities Inc. Kathy spoke about the Raising Readers Corner and how it is being used at the B&ECPL. The Dunkirk agencies will be implementing the Ready-to-Learn program in the coming year.

Dudley Page **Nico Tripp** was called upon to fill the PBS characters of Clifford and Super Why on multiple occasions in July. He was so successful as Clifford at Dudley that WNED staff requested his help at the Central Library, Westminster School and the Collins Public Library.

Brian Hoth has been invited to sit on the Board of West Side Community Services.

Information Services Librarian **Andrew Maines** attended the webinar *24/7 Readers' Advisory: Multichannel Delivery of Reading Recommendations* on August 3rd. He also attended the *How to Market Your Brand like the Most Iconic Brand in History* webinar on August 10th and on August 11th attended the *Helping Job Seekers: Using Electronic Tools and Federal Resources* webinar.

Keri Thomas-Whiteside attended the WNYLRC Lunchtime Learning Workshop webinar, *Online Productivity Tools* on August 17th. She also attended the WNY Reference Services Forum Summer Meeting on August 17th. In addition, she attended another workshop presented by Niagara University and Medaille College librarians to create templates for lesson plans for instituting Information Literacy instruction. Keri attended this workshop as co-chair of the WNY Reference Services Forum of which she is now chairperson for the next year.

Information Services Librarian **Angela Pierpaoli** reported on Ning activities for the library; there are now 220 members.

Information Services Senior Page **Barrie MacClellan** has been accepted into Librarian School for Fall 2010!

Chief Development & Communications Officer **Stanton Hudson** attended meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of the Graycliff Conservancy, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee, Erie County United Way Power Team, and the NEH/NYCH reception.

Goal 7:

Enhance Technology Infrastructure

Amy Vilz is working on the implementation of Encoded Archival Descriptions for Rare Book Room finding aids, found on the website. These finding aids make it easier to locate information within and about the Library's rare manuscript collections and archives.

SirsiDynix Symphony Upgrade. A major system software upgrade is scheduled for the Library's ILS (Integrated Library System) Labor Day weekend. There will be system downtime during the actual upgrade, restoration and testing process. The Library's Web 2 Catalog, the My Account feature and eCommerce will be inaccessible certain hours on September 5 - 6, 2010. An alert message will be posted on the Library's website. The upgrade will provide several feature enhancements and position the Library to migrate to a replacement of the current Web 2 online catalog.

Wireless Network Added at Central Library. The Information Technology team has implemented a secure staff wireless access point to improve public service. Careful evaluation for placement of the WAPs (Wireless Access Point) was required to provide uninterrupted signal coverage for the most common public areas in the Central Library. Two Dell Netbooks have been set up and configured to be used by "roaming" Central Library staff members. The Netbooks have 10.1" touch screen and are very light to handle. They are wirelessly and securely connected to our internal network, thus

providing staff with access to anything that they have on their current desktop computers, including Sirsi WorkFlows. It is anticipated that Netbook functionality testing will continue into early September and then the devices will be handed over to public service staff.

Internet Reservation Enhanced at Central Library. Upon excellent suggestions from Central Library staff members to improve public service, a major change has been made on the already very complicated Central's EnvisionWare PC Reservation System. Library Information Technology Administrator **Toni Naumovski** planned and implemented the updates on the main reservation system as well as on every PC associated with that same system. The changes included renaming of the computer areas with a more meaningful name for the public as well as expanding the number of available areas on the reservation stations. Staff and public are very pleased with the changes.

Web Content. In addition to almost daily updates concerning information and programs listed on the Library website, Web Page Master **Terri Dickson** has performed web editing and web pages creation for several major projects which include: Big Read new pages design and web publishing which continues; Evanced Room Reserve System creation for public use; implementation of anti-spam web code to prevent spammers from utilizing our web based forms to distribute spam to B&ECPL e-mail accounts; and a new staff comment form for an internal discussion forum concerning 2011 budget challenges.

Aquabrowser. John Michalek from Serials Solutions visited with Information and Technical Services staff on Friday, August 6th, to demonstrate Aquabrowser, the ILS-independent discovery layer that makes use of simple interface with a single search box. It includes several updated features, including databases search results.

LIST of VISITS and MEETINGS ATTENDED by BRIDGET QUINN-CAREY
July 12, 2010 – September 10, 2010

JULY

- 19 B&ECPL Policy Committee meeting
- 19 Meeting with Cindy Sterner-Kincaide, Carly Hartmans, Stan Lipsey – *Buffalo News*
- 20 Rare Books Commission meeting
- 20 Librarian III interviews
- 21 Librarian III interviews
- 22 Librarian III interviews
- 23 Erie County Commissioners meeting – Rath Building
- 23 Meeting with Peter Lisker, Manager Crane Branch Library

- 26 B&ECPL Development Committee meeting
- 27 Meeting with Sharon Thomas, Chair B&ECPL Board of Trustees
- 27 Aurora Town Public Library Board meeting
- 28 Elma Public Library Tour with Erie County Legislator Dino Fudoli and Bryan Fiume, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at Erie County
- 29 Second Chance Committee meeting - Adult Learning Center
- 29 B&ECPL Building Oversight Committee meeting
- 29 B&ECPL Budget and Finance Committee meeting
- 30 Budget briefing meeting with Contract Member Library Directors/Managers, Buffalo Branch Managers and Central Department Heads

AUGUST

- 12 Meeting with Salvatore Bordonaro, Director Cheektowaga Public Library
- 16 Interview with Charity Vogel, *Buffalo News*
- 17 Meeting with Karen Kwandrans
- 18 Library Managers & Directors meeting - Orchard Park Public Library
- 18 Lunch/Rare Book Room Tour with Brian Dwyer, M&T Bank
- 18 B&ECPL Board of Trustees Special Meeting - Central Library
- 19-20 NY Alliance of Library Systems Retreat - Castleton, NY
- 23 Meeting with Kate Foster, Director of UB's Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth
- 24 Meeting with Paul Hogan, V.P. Oishei Foundation, George DeTitta, Hauptman-Woodward Institute, and Jack Connors, Vice Chair B&ECPL Board of Trustees
- 24 Meeting with Tom Morrissey, President Librarians Association
- 24 Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society Board meeting
- 25 Interview with Ron Plants, WGRZ-TV2
- 26 Second Chance Committee meeting, Buffalo Adult Education
- 26 Meeting with Susan McClaren
- 26 Meeting with Union representatives
- 27 Breakfast meeting with Lee Ainsworth-Mahaney, Director Town of Aurora Public Library
- 27 Erie County Commissioners meeting - Rath Building
- 27 Lunch meeting with Patrick Martin and Peter Grogan
- 30 Lunch meeting with Dennis Benamati, Director of Libraries, JCC - Hultquist Library & Sheryl Knab, Executive Director WNYLRC
- 31 Meeting with Susan McClaren, Esq.
- 31 Meeting with Drs. Betty Cappella and Geraldine Bard, Project Flight

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Staff Forum: Q&A with the Library Director - City of Tonawanda Public Library

- 1 Meeting with Peter Murad, Architectural Resources, and Kenneth Stone, B&ECPL Deputy Director-CFO
- 2 Meeting with Lee Ainsworth-Mahaney, Director Aurora Town Public Library, and B&ECPL Deputy Director Mary Jean Jakubowski and Assistant Deputy Director Ann Kling
- 2 B&ECPL Executive Committee meeting
- 3 Lunch meeting with Victoria Beck-Newman, Rare Books Commission Working Group
- 3 Press conference with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand - Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library
- 7 Meeting with Jack Connors, Vice Chair B&ECPL Board of Trustees, Catherine Schweitzer, Peter Dow and Stanton Hudson
- 8 Library Managers & Directors meeting - Central Library
- 9 Lunch meeting with Chris Gibas, Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo & Erie Co., Inc.,
- 10 Meeting with George Emery - North Buffalo Library Planning Committee

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 - NYS Construction Grant - System Evaluation, Ranking and Recommendations. Mr. Stone noted seven requests were received and are being recommended. He added the \$403,050 balance of the total program grant money available will not be used which largely reflects the state of the economy; municipalities are struggling to meet their finances and a 50% match. Mr. Connors inquired how long the balance is available to us. Mr. Stone replied applications are due on September 24th, it is possible a late application may be entertained, but the ones guaranteed to get this funding are the ones approved and submitted by September 24th. If the Library System is not able to utilize the funds, the money is made available to other library systems in New York State if they have projects available. We have benefited from this in past years where we received additional funding because other library systems were not able to utilize their allocation. Mr. Connors asked if there was a reason the City of Buffalo did not come up with any projects. Mr. Stone remarked we were unable to fully utilize some of the grant funding from a prior grant, we have two outstanding grants that we are working with the City on, and we received a \$250,000 allocation in the City Capital Budget this past year; between all of those things we have irons in the fire with projects at this point. On motion by Ms. Summer and a second by Mr. Gist, approval of Resolution 2010-35 was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2010-35

WHEREAS, up to \$664,117 in New York State Public Library Construction Grant program funding is available to support up to 50% of eligible project costs for projects benefiting the public libraries located within Erie County, and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library in its role as the governing body of Central Library activities must authorize application for NYS Construction grants for the Central Library facility, and

WHEREAS, sufficient funding is available for the \$50,000 local share for the Central Library project within the Library's private funds, and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library in its role as a Library System must evaluate, rank and recommend approval of construction applications submitted by public libraries or public library systems within Erie County, and

WHEREAS, a total of 7 projects were submitted supporting the Central, Anna Reinstein, Boston Free, Collins, Kenmore, Tonawanda City, and West Seneca Libraries, and

WHEREAS, a total of \$261,067 in grant funds have been requested for these projects, and

WHEREAS, since the grant share available for projects supporting the public libraries in Erie County totals \$664,117, sufficient grant funds are available to fund the grant amounts as requested, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, pursuant to the requirements of this grant for the Central Library project, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library assures that:

- 1) It possesses the legal authority to submit this application, including all understandings and assurances contained herein and to direct and authorize the person identified as the construction project manager to act as the official representative of the applicant in connection with this application and to provide such additional information as may be required;
- 2) It fully expects the project will begin construction, or continue construction work in the case of a project that has begun but is not complete as of the date of application, within 180 days after receipt of written notification from the State Education Department that State Aid construction funds have been approved for the project and that the conditions of the funding have been met; and
- 3) Pursuant to the terms of Chapter 768 of New York State Laws of 1953, under which the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library was established, the County-owned Central Library building is a public library operated by the Buffalo and

Erie County Public Library, which the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library fully expects and intends to operate as a public library for the next 20 years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library authorizes the Library Director to submit a NYS Public Library Construction Grant Program Request for the Central Library in the amount of up to \$50,000, which, combined with local share funding of up to \$50,000, would yield a total of up to \$100,000 for improvements at the Central Library, and be it further

RESOLVED, pursuant to the requirements of this grant, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library recommends approval of the requested projects submitted on behalf of the 7 public libraries located within Erie County at the requested funding amounts, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the requested projects shall be ranked and recommended to New York State for approval as shown on the next page:

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Projects Requested for NYS \$14 Million Public Library Construction Grant Program
Project Request Summary - as of 09/09/2010

	Library	Project Description	Local Funds	NYS Const Grant	Total
1	West Seneca Public Library	Replace Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system with new energy efficient system. Existing aging units, rated at 70% efficiency, will be replaced with units achieving 90% efficiency ratings.	\$20,873	\$20,873	\$41,746
2	Boston Free Library	Replace lighting fixtures throughout the building with energy efficient models; and add additional outlets for patron use (laptop computers, etc.)	\$2,542	\$2,541	\$5,083
3	Tonawanda City Library	Renovate all library restrooms with low water and energy saving fixtures. Facilities are original to the 1964 building.	\$15,277	\$15,278	\$30,555
4	Cheektowaga PL - Anna Reinstein Library	Replace all original windows in the 1962 vintage facility with energy efficient windows. Project includes asbestos abatement.	\$92,220	\$92,220	\$184,440
5	Collins Public Library	Install automated assist door openers to main entrance.	\$2,625	\$2,625	\$5,250
6	Town of Tonawanda - Kenmore Library	Reconfigure and renovate 2nd floor public areas to: 1) Separate and enhance the childrens' and public computer areas; 2) move media including CD's/DVDs to the open shelves (vs. current card and staff retrieval system); 3) move periodicals and convert that space to a lounge area for patrons; 4) replace and reposition circulation desk; 5) replace carpeting in reconfigured areas; and replace doors at both 1st floor entrances .	\$77,530	\$77,530	\$155,060
7	Central Library	Electrical and interior improvements to achieve recurring cost/energy savings from operations, better preserve assets and provide more efficient access to library resources including RFID media and computer resources. Board requested approval is for a project cost not to exceed \$100,000 and grant request amount not to exceed \$50,000.	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Grand Total ALL Project Costs:			\$261,067	\$261,067	\$522,134
Total Program Grant \$ Available				\$664,117	
Balance "left on the table"				\$403,050	

, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Director transmit the necessary grant application, forms and documents in time to meet the September 24, 2010 filing deadline.

Agenda Item I.2 – Presentation – 2011 Budget Planning. Members of ACT had been invited for this presentation to begin at 5 p.m. As the Board meeting was running ahead of schedule, at approximately 4:25 p.m. trustees and members of the audience were asked to enjoy refreshments and reconvene at 5 p.m. for the presentation. Mr. Berger's Skype connection was ended with the plan to reconnect at the start of the 2011 Budget Planning presentation. Mr. Berger's Skype reconnection was unsuccessful, thus he was absent for the 2011 Budget presentation and remainder of the meeting.

The presentation began at 5:07 p.m. Chair Thomas thanked everyone for their attendance and shared the following message:

Speaking in One Voice.

- *People are bombarded by various messages every day. How can we make sure our messages are heard, remembered, and effective in persuading those we serve to properly understand the funding challenges our Library System faces in 2011 and beyond? We can increase the visibility and repetition of our messages by "speaking with one voice." We maximize our message impact when all Library staff, System and member library board members, patrons, and friends work together to deliver consistent and accurate messages. Together, we can make a greater difference.*

- *Library Director Bridget Quinn-Carey should serve as the Library System's spokesperson. The Development & Communications Office is actively seeking out opportunities and scheduling media interviews to help all members of the community be more aware and better understand the relevance of and the vital role played by our public library system. Bridget is also meeting on an on-going basis with staff and member library boards to convey messaging to them.*

- *Our message is:*

 - We are one of the greatest assets to this region*

 - We serve everyone in Buffalo and Erie County*

 - We had almost 4 million visits system-wide in 2009*

 - We are reviewing various library scenarios to ensure sustainability of the Library System in 2011 and beyond*

 - Changes will need to be made. The severity of these changes has not yet been determined, however the sheer size of the projected gap in funding makes reductions in hours, services, and staffing a necessity.*

Why the Library System as an institution has chosen an educational approach to its messaging:

Some have asked why we are not banding together to publicly advocate on behalf of the Library System to elected County officials. The national, state and local effects of the economic

downturn have forced organizations of all sizes and purposes, including governmental entities, to reduce their spending. The Library System is no different.

*The Library was not singled out relative to prospective funding reductions. All County departments and funded institutions were given the same directive, based upon financial projections from the County Budget Office. The System Board is most certainly supportive of funding levels adequate to provide high-quality services to our community now and in the future. Making decisions that will, in all likelihood, involve reductions in hours, services, and staffing is something no one relishes. The prospect of losing staff is particularly distressful. However, given the financial and political realities associated with the 2011 County budget, there is a growing consensus among the Board that going on the offensive would not result in either short- or long-term benefit for the Library System. Our goal is to build a better Library System, so that we don't face this situation again next year, or in years to come. To accomplish this, we will need support from all sectors of the community, **including** our member library trustees **and** our elected officials.*

- Our future as a Library System needs to be predicated on a long-range solution that ensures financial sustainability. And, I can assure you, the System and member library Boards, as well as the senior management of our great institution, are working diligently on making our Buffalo & Erie County Library System one that everybody in our community can point to with pride.*

Thank you all for keeping the faith and serving our Library users.

Ms. Quinn-Carey thanked everyone for coming to hear about the scenarios developed for the Board's consideration. She explained the scenarios are based on finding a solution to get the Library through this time of crisis with funding that is available and enables the Library to plan for a future that is sustainable and enables us to provide levels of service that we know we can. Ms. Quinn-Carey shared with the Board and audience a PowerPoint presentation entitled B&ECPLS 2011 Budget Planning which included a financial overview, (reflecting a projected revenue shortfall in 2011 of \$6.8 million dollars), the challenge given the current structure and funding projections, how to maintain library services in Buffalo and Erie County, key outcomes, recommended scenario overviews, Member Library scenarios, City Branch Library models, Central Library footprint and staffing models as well as other proposed savings in materials, utilities, contract services and review of external services. The estimated savings from the scenarios would cover the budget gap.

State standards, variances and minimum hours were discussed. Ms. Quinn-Carey and Deputy Director Mary Jean Jakubowski will visit the Contract Member Libraries to discuss how the scenario models can be adapted for their use.

Ms. Quinn-Carey announced if we realize the projected 2011 budget, we will no longer be able to continue services at the Erie County Home.

Trustee Connors and Mr. Berlow left the meeting at approximately 5:25 p.m. leaving eight directors in attendance.

Ms. Quinn-Carey asked the Board for feedback on the scenarios presented and whether to come back with additional details in October or pursue a different path of scenarios. Discussion among trustees took place on the pros and cons of closing libraries rather than reducing hours at this time. Ms. Quinn-Carey pointed out this is an interim solution which gives the Library time to come up with a long-term plan for structure and funding, noting once you close a library and lose its charter, it would be very difficult to reopen it at a later time if that was decided. Ms. Summer noted if we do a good informational campaign as to what buildings are open at what time, this would be helpful. Ms. Leary feels this is a good plan noting she sees the logic in keeping libraries open as it allows the Library to buy time to be more proactive in a very reactionary situation and plan long-term to find out where we need to go and what is the right size.

Trustee Lewis voiced his concern that while he sees logic in studying this further before the Library commits to an extreme course of action, namely closing branches, he worries that a long-term solution will never come and feels the Library should commit to a schedule for a long-term solution in the reasonable near future. Ms. Quinn-Carey agreed, this is an interim solution and she can incorporate a timetable for the next presentation. Ellen Bach, an attorney from Albany, will visit the Library in October to discuss what the Library's options are legally based on what New York State allows for library system structures, discussions have been had with the Regional Institute, and we would need to work with ACT to schedule times to meet with every board. She believes within the next year we will be well along the path of determining what the Library's options are and how to get there. Ms. Leary mentioned they met with Kate Foster of the UB Regional Institute to talk about models for a new system. As part of the Planning Committee they have been discussing this for awhile and know this system needs to change to be effective. Consultants are looking at benchmarks for what is the right size to adequately serve this community. Mr. Schmidt agreed the presentation was innovative and well thought out and liked the timetable suggestion.

In response to a question by Trustee Wisbaum, Ms. Quinn-Carey discussed layoff procedures and employee seniority rules noting this is a very complex process due to the way the Library is structured. The Library asked the County for a review of the policy of interpreting Civil Service Law and just received the ruling back from County Personnel that it is not subject to County interpretation, it is the way State law works. There are a number of challenges with determining Civil Service seniority issues. Mr. Wisbaum asked if there was any flexibility in that and Ms. Quinn-Carey stated legally we must go by that process.

Ms. Summer inquired why the presentation did not have a piece about increasing the Library's revenues through Development. Ms. Quinn-Carey responded she feels this is a separate piece as there is no way to determine how much of the gap could be filled with development efforts and those are longer term efforts. To the extent that Development efforts are successful, they can offset some of these things. Ms. Leary commended Ms. Quinn-Carey, Ms. Jakubowski and Mr. Stone for their round-the-clock efforts on this.

Ms. Leary asked if open hours will be left up to the contract member libraries. Ms. Quinn-Carey commented the scenarios will show what the System can fund and makes suggestions and recommendations on schedules so they coordinate with other areas. It would be our recommendation, however, they have the ability to change schedules. In addition, if member libraries have other sources of revenue to keep hours open, that is their local option.

Trustee Michaels inquired how many jobs would be lost. Mr. Stone noted approximately 130 FTE (full-time equivalent) positions would be lost which mean many more positions as the System does rely heavily on part-time staff.

Prior to adjournment, Chair Thomas opened up the floor for comments from the public. Public Comment Cards were also available for anyone who wished to write down a comment/question to be viewed at a later time.

Trustee Wisbaum left at approximately 6 p.m.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Summer, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Gist
Secretary