

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 21, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, April 21, 2011, in the Central Library pursuant to due notice to trustees. The following members were present:

Sharon A. Thomas, Chair
Jack Connors, Vice Chair (via conference call)
Amy Alvarez-Perez
Frank Gist
Phyllis A. Horton
Sharon M. Kelly
Hormoz Mansouri
Elaine M. Panty
John G. Schmidt, Jr.
Judith K. Summer

Absent:

Richard L. Berger
Rick Lewis
Anne M. Leary
Albert L. Michaels
Wayne D. Wisbaum

Chair Sharon A. Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in the Joseph B. Rounds Conference Room. Trustee Connors was in attendance via conference call.

Agenda Item B – Approval/Changes to the Agenda. Ms. Thomas informed trustees the agenda required an amendment to add Executive Session at some point during the meeting for the purpose of discussing legal matters and possibly placing a resolution on the agenda to be voted on. Ms. Summer moved and was seconded by Ms. Horton. Approval was unanimous.

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of March 17th and April 12, 2011. On motion by Ms. Horton and a second from Ms. Panty, Minutes of March 17th were approved unanimously. On motion by Ms. Summer, seconded by Mr. Gist, Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 12th were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D - Report of the Nominating Committee. Ms. Thomas explained at the March 17th Board meeting she had asked Ms. Summer, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to gather names for nomination of people to serve as Board Secretary. After reviewing the Bylaws, this step does not need to be done and nominations can come from the floor.

Agenda Item D.1 - Presentation of Nominations for Officer. Ms. Thomas opened the floor for nominations for the office of Board Secretary. Article IV, Section 6 of the Bylaws reads "Vacancies among the officers shall be filled by an election by ballot at a regular meeting or special meeting, and a vote of the majority of the Trustees present shall be necessary to hold an election. No such vacancies shall be filled except after nomination at a preceding regular meeting or special meeting." Ms. Summer nominated Trustee Elaine Panty to serve as Secretary. There being no other nominations, Dr. Mansouri made a motion and Ms. Horton seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, and a vote will be taken at the May Board meeting.

Agenda Item E – Report of the Chair. Ms. Thomas reminded trustees the May Board meeting will take place at the Kenmore Branch Library; directions will be provided in the next Board packet. She invited trustees to save the date and put on their calendars the following events:

- Thursday, June 9th, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Central Library - "Meet and Greet" with final candidates for the next B&ECPL Director. This reception is open to all staff, library trustees and the public.
- Friday, June 10th - all System trustees are invited to attend the interviews of the final candidates. Interviews are expected to begin around 10 a.m.
- Saturday, June 11th at 9 a.m. in the Central Library Auditorium - Staff Forum with the final candidates for the next B&ECPL Director. Staff will have the opportunity to listen to each of the final candidates and ask questions. Separate sessions with each candidate are anticipated which will last approximately 50 minutes per candidate. Further details on the Library Director Staff Forum are forthcoming.

Trustee Schmidt arrived at approximately 4:06 p.m.

After being called on by Ms. Thomas, Trustee Alvarez Perez shared her thoughts on the *Library Obscura* event which she attended.

Agenda Item E.1 – Delayed Opening – Special Event. As stated above, on Saturday, June 11th the Library will hold a Staff Forum with final B&ECPL Director candidates. Chair Thomas conveyed this resolution proposes delaying opening of the Central Library and Buffalo Branches until 1 p.m. on this date so that all staff has the opportunity to participate. Ms. Panty moved for approval and was seconded by Ms. Summer.

Deputy Director Kenneth Stone pointed out this resolution only applies to the Central Library and Buffalo Branches because those are the entities this Board directly sets the operating hours for. Contracting member libraries have the option to do the same, but that would be determined by their individual board of directors.

Mr. Schmidt inquired at the Central and Buffalo Branch Libraries with delayed openings, do the employees that work at those facilities have to go to the Forum, in other words report for work. Mr. Stone replied it would be a delayed opening so staff would be assigned to either their worksite location or report to this location (Central Library) if they have a scheduled shift.

Approval of Resolution 2011-11 was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2011-11

WHEREAS, the position of Library Director/Chief Executive Officer is currently vacant, and

WHEREAS, final candidate interviews are scheduled for June 9 – 11, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Board Chair recognizes the importance of staff participation in the selection of the Library Director/Chief Executive Officer, and

WHEREAS, the staff is invited to participate in a staff forum with the final candidates for Library Director/Chief Executive Officer on Saturday, June 11th from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m., and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the B&ECPL Board of Trustees recommends delaying the opening of the Central Library and Buffalo Branch Libraries for the purposes of allowing staff to participate in the staff forum, and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library authorizes the delay in opening of the Central Library and Buffalo Branches until 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, 2011 for the purposes of allowing staff to attend staff forums with the final Library Director/Chief Executive Officer candidates, and also, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library also recognizes the date of the staff forum is subject to change and if the date should change, the Central Library and Buffalo Branches shall open for regularly scheduled open hours on Saturday, June 11, 2011 and hereby authorizes administration to delay opening the Central Library and Buffalo Branches until 1 p.m. on the date in which the staff forum with the final candidates for Library Director/Chief Executive Officer, will be held.

Agenda Item F – Committee Reports.

Agenda Item F.1 – Executive Committee. Ms. Summer read the following Executive Committee Report on behalf of Jack Connors:

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees
Executive Committee Meeting Report
April 14, 2011

Present: Executive Committee Members Sharon Thomas, Jack Connors, Ann Leary and Judy Summer.

Also Present: Trustee Elaine Panty and Deputy Directors Mary Jean Jakubowski - COO and Kenneth Stone - CFO.

Meeting called to order 4:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

Meeting with County Executive and the Negotiating Team scheduled for 4 p.m. Friday, April 15th.

Agenda for April 21th Board meeting reviewed.

Discussion held regarding proposed resolution pertaining to date change of June Board meeting. Executive Committee determined it best not to change the date. Board meeting will remain as scheduled: Thursday, June 16th at 4 p.m. in the Joseph B. Rounds Board Room at the Central Library. Executive Committee meeting remains as scheduled for Thursday, June 9th at 4 p.m. in the Joseph B. Rounds Board Room at the Central Library.

Discussion held regarding procedures for Nominations for Officer.

Mr. Stone reviewed Resolutions 2011-12, 2011-13 and 2011-14.

Call for Executive Session to discuss potential legal action – Jack Connors, second by Judy Summer 4:25 p.m. Executive Session ended 5:03 p.m. No action was taken in Executive Session.

Discussion regarding meeting agenda followed upon return to open session.

Discussion held regarding Director Search and key dates:

- June 9th 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Final Candidates Reception to be held at Central Library. Trustees, staff and public will be invited to attend.

- June 10th Search Committee will conduct interviews with finalists. Anticipated to be held in a.m.
- June 11th 9:00 a.m. until finished (anticipate 12 noon) Final Candidate Forums for staff and trustees.
- Search Committee will meet following Forums.

Board asked Ms. Jakubowski to develop a resolution recommending the delayed opening of the library on Saturday, June 11th so as to allow staff to attend the Final Candidate Forums for the Library Director Search.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. Motion by Jack Connors, second by Anne Leary.

Agenda Item F.2 – Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Stone suggested handling the first two agenda items under Budget and Finance and then recessing for Executive Session to discuss potential legal action.

Agenda Item F.2.a – Approve New York State Annual Reports. Mr. Stone communicated these reports were e-mailed to trustees prior to the meeting and two hard copies were also available for review at the meeting. Mr. Stone recognized library staff Kathy Smith and Tracy Palicki for their hard work on these reports. Ms. Panty thanked all staff in the System for their dedication. Resolution 2011-12 was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2011-12

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

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

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library files both a Public Library Report and a Library System Report, while each contracting library also files a Public Library Report, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees assures that the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library "Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries – 2010" has been reviewed and accepted and

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

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees assures that the Library System operated under its approved Plan of Service in accordance with the provisions of Education Law and the Regulations of the Commissioner, and assures that this "Annual Report for Library Systems - 2010" has been reviewed and accepted, and be it further

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

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

Agenda Item F.2.b - Regional Bibliographic Database Grant Award. Ms. Panty moved for approval of Resolution 2011-13 and Ms. Horton seconded. Following additional project details by Assistant Deputy Director Peggy Skotnicki, approval of Resolution 2011-13 was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2011-13

WHEREAS, the Library has been awarded a New York State Regional Bibliographic Database grant in the amount of \$14,560 and

WHEREAS, grant proceeds will support and fund digitization of 24 volumes of the Library's Pan American Exposition scrapbooks, and

WHEREAS, a grant budget needs to be established to undertake the program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library establish a Regional Bibliographic Database grant budget in the following amounts:

Revenue	\$14,560
Grant Program Expenditures	\$14,560

At 4:21 p.m. the Chair accepted a motion from Ms. Summer to enter Executive Session. Dr. Mansouri made a second. Approval was unanimous. All members of the staff and public were dismissed from the room with the exception of Deputy Director

Kenneth Stone, Interim Transitional Team members June Garcia and Susan Kent and Library Counsel Patrick Martin. Trustee Schmidt recused himself for the Executive Session and left the room.

When the Library Board reconvened in public session at approximately 4:52 p.m., it was to introduce proposed Resolution 2011-15 which was read by Mr. Stone. He added this preserves the Library's options but does put forward an amicable settlement that also avoids a fair amount of legal expense for the Library. Mr. Gist moved for approval, Ms. Horton seconded. Mr. Schmidt recused himself from the vote while the other nine trustees in attendance voted in favor of approving Resolution 2011-15.

RESOLUTION 2011-15

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, at its Special Meeting of April 14, 2011 considered a legal opinion from its legal counsel Patrick Martin regarding a dispute with the County of Erie over the County's failure to disburse \$750,000 of the BECPL's year 2010 appropriation from the County and the Board was advised of the steps required for legal action to recover said appropriation as set forth in the legal opinion; and

WHEREAS, the Board therefore resolved that Library counsel Patrick Martin should continue to conduct preliminary work to take such legal action, while the Board sought an amicable resolution of the dispute; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees appointed a Committee to meet with the Erie County Executive to seek an amicable resolution of the dispute; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has obtained an amicable resolution of the dispute, including elimination of a year 2010 debt to the County of \$250,000, due and payable from the \$750,000 appropriation; waiver by the County of a claim to annual payments by the BECPL of \$250,000 for 2011 or any future year; provision by the County of an additional \$250,000 in capital funds for renovations to the Central Library, and

WHEREAS, the County Executive will also consider providing capital funds for a significant portion of the BECPL library materials expense for a transition period (an expense totaling approximately 3.5 million dollars annually), and consider use of County capital funds for other BECPL needs; and

WHEREAS, the County is presently pursuing final approval of the capital funds for renovations to the Central Library and the waiver by the County of a claim to annual payments by the BECPL of \$250,000 for 2011 or any future year but has not yet obtained final approval; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public directs Library counsel Patrick Martin to cease preparations for legal action

to recover said \$750,000 from the County of Erie, subject to reconsideration of this issue at the next regular or subsequent meeting of the Board of Trustees, in the event the County efforts to obtain the settlement items mentioned above has not been realized.

Agenda Item F.2.c – Erie County 2012-2017 Capital Project Requests. Mr. Stone introduced this resolution which authorizes the Library to submit a Capital Project Request for the 2012-2017 Capital Planning period. A suggested amendment was distributed to trustees with changes highlighted from the proposed resolution sent out in the Board packet. Mr. Stone explained the changes are to add a project for the 2012 Funding Year consisting of transitional capital funding for library materials – up to \$3.5 million; and for the 2013 and Beyond Funding Years adding in a request for transitional capital funding for library materials – up to \$3.5 million for 2013. He then discussed the remaining items as on the original proposed resolution. Mr. Schmidt asked him to explain the transitional nature of the capital funding in the amendments. Mr. Stone stated while library books are a capitalized asset, this is not a recommended recurring long-term solution. It is transitional in the sense that it allows the Library to transition to some other form of finance or for the County’s revenues to recover as such at a point in time where we can then be funded on a recurrent operating revenue stream. Further discussion ensued regarding the library material budget. Dr. Mansouri asked at what point/cost level would we lose our accreditation. Mr. Stone replied this varies by community because the state charter requirements minimum standards are population based for chartered service areas. Further discussion ensued regarding chartered service areas and library hour needs versus requirements. On motion by Trustee Alvarez Perez and a second by Trustee Summer, the amended Resolution 2011-14 was approved by a vote of eight to one, with Trustee Schmidt casting the dissenting vote and Trustee Mansouri abstaining.

RESOLUTION 2011-14

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

WHEREAS, on March 29th the Library received 2012-2017 Capital Budget preparation forms and instructions, with a due date of April 25, 2011, and

WHEREAS, given that the Central Library Use Analysis Project is not expected to be completed until later this year, amounts for estimated Central Library needs will be subject to significant revision in future years to reflect the results of the study and related collaborative opportunities identified, and

WHEREAS, recognizing these unknowns, recommendations for the 2012-2017 Erie County Capital Budget focus on extending and updating those projects prioritized in the 2011-2016 request and seeking capital funding library materials for a transition period, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library hereby directs the Interim Library Director to prepare, update costs as needed, and submit 2012-2017 Erie County capital project requests prioritized as follows:

FOR THE 2012 FUNDING YEAR

- Transitional capital funding for library materials – up to \$3.5 million;
- Central Library Space Reconfiguration/Infrastructure Renewal/Collaborative Opportunities Phase 1 – Estimated cost \$5.725 million; and

FOR THE 2013 AND BEYOND FUNDING YEARS

- Transitional capital funding for library materials – up to \$3.5 million (2013);
- Central Library Space Reconfiguration/Infrastructure Renewal/Collaborative Opportunities – future phases (one project area per year 2013-2015) – Estimated cost \$8.275 million ;
- Shipping vehicle replacements (2) in 2013 – Estimated cost \$65,000; and
- Additional Library Replacement Project Incentive Funds (1 project in 2013 and 1 project in 2015) – Estimated cost \$5 million, and be it further

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

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

Agenda Item F.2.d – Monthly Financial Report. Due to recent pressing matters, Mr. Stone did not have a Monthly Financial Report available but would send it out. Ms. Summer commented on the wonderful *Library Budget and You* presentation he did at the Audubon Branch Library the prior day.

Trustee Mansouri left the meeting at approximately 5:17 p.m. leaving nine trustees in attendance.

Off topic, Ms. Thomas shared the Library received thank you letters from Senator Michael Ranzenhofer and Assembly Member Dennis Gabryszak for visiting during Library Advocacy Day in Albany. She also noted together with Deputy Directors Jakubowski and Stone, Ms. Thomas accepted a proclamation the Library received from Legislator Lynn Marinelli for National Library Week.

Agenda Item F.3 – Planning Committee. In the absence of Planning Committee Chair Berger, Trustee Summer read the following Planning Committee Report from the April 4th meeting held at the Central Library:

Present: Planning Committee Chair Richard Berger and members Sharon Thomas, Elaine Panty and Judy Summer.

Also present: Kenneth Stone, CFO; Mary Jean Jakubowski, COO; Suzanne Jacobs, President – Association of Contract Trustees/Lancaster Public Library; Dr. Paul Wietig, Amherst Public Library; Peggy Snajczuk, Orchard Park Public Library; Richard Earne, Grand Island Memorial Library; Barbara Birt, Grand Island Memorial Library and Roseanne Butler-Smith, Director – Amherst Public Library.

Absent: Jack Connors and Rick Lewis.

Meeting opened at 4:08 p.m.

2012 Budget Overview conducted. Mr. Berger asked Mr. Stone to review the budget process and information, currently known about the 2012 budget. Mr. Stone provided charts and presented County 4 year plan. \$18.1M earmarked by County Executive for 2012 Library Budget. Ken reminded folks that the \$3M received in 2011 was one time money – the \$3M has been received. Also reminded attendees the \$750K in the 2010 budget was never received, thus compounding the reduction in funding. Mr. Stone also reminded the attendees that the Library has committed to using \$2.6M in fund balance to supplement the 2011 budget.

2012 budget problem is not just the \$3M one time funds received; it is compounded by the \$2.6M fund balance use. With anticipated increase costs in both employee benefits such as health insurance and New York State Retirement, the situation is \$5.6 to \$6M in size.

The question was raised about bridging the budget to beyond 2012. Discussion ensued.

Several suggestions were made - including what Dick Earne framed as “off the wall” suggestions such as selling off rare books to corporations or other entities and then leasing them back. “This could be used to bridge the gap...”

Others mentioned the need to define metrics to influence the decisions made. Suggestion made included reviewing the 19 factors used in the 2005 budget planning process, review of 2010 census numbers, etc. 19 factors remain on B&ECPL website under <http://www.buffalolib.org/AboutTheLibrary/governance1.asp?sec=10>.

Bridging the 2012 budget was further discussed.

Mr. Berger discussed strategic planning – typically beyond 1 year, the Library needs to think along these lines. “The System as it is now is not sustainable.”

Suzanne Jacobs suggested a committee made of contracting library trustees.

Ms. Thomas also suggested sub-committees or breakout groups from this committee to look at specific things.

Dick Earne asked about concepts of the System and mentioned the affiliation with the UB Regional Institute – questioned the purpose for their involvement and subsequently the need to see their report.

Discussion ensued on how to form a committee/sub-committee. Suzanne Jacobs said participants must be willing to participate and representative of the member libraries. She mentioned the April 7th Act Board meeting where ALL contracting library trustees were invited. Ms. Jacobs will ask people to participate.

Discussion conducted on role of Libby Post – Communication Services. She will be asked to work on concepts “what message/strategies” for moving forward. Also, Ms. Post will be asked what has worked in other libraries she has worked with. Ms. Post will be attending the May 7th ACT meeting.

Ms. Jakubowski mentioned the Q&A’s from the Trustee Workshop were sent to Ellen Bach for written response. They will be posted when complete. In addition, Ms. Bach is working on a list of what she feels is and is not included in potential legislation. What would be best in an MOU/MOA (memorandum of understanding/ memorandum of agreement) versus the legislation. Further discussion ensued.

Roseanne Butler-Smith suggested the next meeting be held at a contracting member library and offered to host the meeting at the Eggertsville-Snyder Branch as it is easily accessible.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26th at 5:30 p.m. for refreshment and 6:00 p.m. meeting at the Eggertsville-Snyder Branch Library located at 4622 Main Street, Snyder. Meeting adjourned 6:50 p.m.

Trustee Gist left the Board meeting at approximately 5:21 p.m. leaving eight trustees in attendance.

Agenda Item G – Report of the Director. Interim Transitional Team member Susan Kent reported she and June Garcia have had much communication with Ms. Jakubowski and Mr. Stone over the past month. She remarked this is one of the most complex governance situations in an urban library anywhere. Their plan is to bring a list of items to consider to the next Board meeting. They are considering doing a

mini affirmation of library service priorities for the Library System as a several hour session around the next May Board meeting. She commented all the issues the Library faces are out there in the ether unless you really focus on what the Library should be over the next 3 to 5 years in terms of what is a public library, how is it organized, what are the foci of services; you cannot be everything to everybody - that is not a sustainable future. She commended staff for working very hard through this.

Copies of the Interim Report Re-Imagine the Central Library prepared by Architectural Resources were distributed to trustees. Ms. Kent reviewed information contained in this report. She pointed out since this report, she conducted twelve individual hour-long telephone interviews with key stakeholders in the community and two staff meetings on the Re-Imagine project. A meeting of the Re-Imagine Committee was held April 20th. She discussed possibilities of co-located space for cultural and arts groups who might rent space and added, when she talked to individual interviewees, everyone thought it was a good idea and emphasized the co-location partner should be attractions to help the Library attract people. This process is still ongoing and Ms. Kent stated she was available to answer any questions trustees have about this report.

Trustee Summer commended Carol Pijacki for helping a patron she had referred to the Central Library regarding chamber music items.

June Garcia provided an update on the Director Search. A draft Library Director - Recruitment Timeline was distributed to trustees at the meeting. An electronic brochure has been issued which is on a variety of websites and is getting a lot of attention and attraction. Information on the position has been posted on various listservs and some brief ads on online sites have been done. Applications are due by May 4th but open until filled. A conference call with the Search Committee is planned for early May and, at that point, the Search Committee will have an opportunity to review the documents received and determine which candidates they wish to interview by phone.

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

Monthly Report of Library System Activity April 21, 2011

1. PUBLIC SERVICES

Programs, Learning Opportunities, Outreach and Events

Rare Book Librarian **Amy Pickard** led a tour and discussion of Mark Twain in Buffalo for SUNY Fredonia Professor Emily VanDette's English Senior Seminar students. Subsequently, they enjoyed the rare book exhibit *Travelers and Cosmopolitans*.

Grosvenor Room Librarian **Carol Pijacki** presided at the March 15th Literally Speaking Lunchtime Book Discussion of *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin. Librarian **Kara Stock** led the discussion.

Assistant Deputy Director for Special Collections **Peggy Skotnicki** and **Amy Pickard** provided tours of the Grosvenor Rare Book Room exhibit *Travelers and Cosmopolitans* and the Mark Twain Room to 7 individuals from the March 19th Trustees Workshop. In discussion, it was discovered that one of the contract member library trustees works for Microsoft and provided information about a software platform to enhance the presentation of digitized rare books.

Carol Pijacki provided a tour of Grosvenor Room local history resources for a class from the Maritime Charter School. She also gave 3 tours of Grosvenor Room local history and genealogy resources to adult researchers.

Amy Pickard and Special Collections Librarian **Charles Alaimo** assisted 2 readers studying the Library's facsimile of the manuscript of *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*, the first edition and second printing of the Appleton *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and the first American edition of the same. The 2 ladies will be presenting their study at a Burchfield Penney function.

The Local History/Genealogy blog <http://grogenealogylocalhistory.wordpress.com/>, the Rare Book Room blog <http://grorarebookroom.wordpress.com/> and the blog for the rare book exhibit *Travelers and Cosmopolitans* <http://www.thetourististheotherfellow.blogspot.com/> continue to post informative and interesting information.

March was a very busy month for Training Lab staff. A total of 39 public classes were conducted for 405 attendees at the Central Library Training Lab and community libraries using the mobile Cyber Trains. Participant feedback continues to be extremely positive. The overall average rating was 4.68 (out of a possible 5). The Web 2.0 classes presented using the mobile Cyber Trains received an overall ranking 4.92! Kudos go to

the entire Technology Training Team that includes Training Lab Coordinator **Kara Stock** as well as part-time librarian trainers **Ian Shoff**, **Tom Carloni** and **Andy Aquino**. Central Library Technology Training staff updated the curricula for Computer Basics, Nook & the B&ECPL, Email Intermediate, B&ECPL Web Site, Introduction to Facebook, Internet Intermediate and Introduction to Web 2.0 classes.

A new page has been developed on the Library's website that consolidates the listing of public technology classes being offered at libraries throughout the county. The chronological schedule can be found at <http://bit.ly/13WfCu>.

The Central Library Training Lab was used throughout the month by the Buffalo Public Schools where 8 ESL classes were conducted for 18 students. On March 5th, Parent Network used the Lab for a program with 12 attendees.

Kara Stock has been working with WNYLRC (Western New York Library Resources Council) Training Coordinator Jaclyn McKewan to schedule Web 2.0 classes for area library professionals at the WNYLRC Training Center. B&ECPL staff will be presenting Facebook and Flickr classes on June 22nd.

Technology Trainer **Ian Shoff** is developing a video to assist patrons using RFID (radio frequency identification) self checkout computers. Ian visited the Crane Library on March 8th to examine the self-check process in a 'live' environment in order to generate ideas for the story board that's the basis for the presentation. When complete, the video will be available on all RFID self-check machines.

The Information Technology Team has completed the installation of a new video game-based learning resource for K-12 students, which is now available on all public computers at the Buffalo City Branches and the Central Library. The video game DimensionU" by Tabula Digita can be played by any student that holds a Buffalo Public School ID.

The text and content information was updated for overdue, lost and collection agency notifications that are auto-generated to library cardholders via e-mail. The updates include more accurate terminology and better reflect account status.

Anne Conable, from the Development and Communications Department, coordinated details and support promotion for Central events including:

- "Imagining Buffalo" Lunchtime Series - Marian Deutschman, Buffalo State 3/8 (26 attendees); Gary Costello, Hull Family Home & Farmstead 3/22 (43 attendees)
- Working for Downtown Brown Bag Lunch Series 3/2 - Michael Schmand, Buffalo Place (37 attendees)
- "Women of Forest Lawn" Lunchtime Series - 4 events, (105 attendees)

- Author Talks: Alice Loweecy 3/1 (7 attendees), Douglas Waller 3/7 (37 attendees), Joseph Ritz 3/15 (7 attendees)
- UNYTS blood drive 3/3
- Women's History Month Kickoff 3/3 (125 attendees)
- Lunchtime Program "How Women Won the Civil War" 3/29 (18 attendees)
- Squeaky Wheel "Stories from the Niagara Frontier" Series 3/10 (9 attendees), 3/17 (34 attendees), 3/24 (11 attendees)
- Community Event: Honoring Buffalo Merit Roll Students 3/10 (24 attendees)
- Literacy Volunteers Scrabblefest 3/13 (48 attendees)
- CASH Financial Wellness Fair 3/30 (65 attendees)
- Also, coordinated graphic novels workshop (Apr) and display w/Tapestry Charter School
- Support Programming and Big Read Committees
- Displays: Coordinate WNY Artists Group display at Fables window space; coordinate logistics for BPS Student Art Show installation (late March) and Apr 5 opening reception
- Confirm speakers and date for 5/24 PastForward Discussion Series program

The Graphics Department - **Dawn Stanton** and **Darlene Pennachi** had a busy month, designing things, especially with the moves at Central. Projects included:

- CEN - new Kids' Space decorations, bulletin board, signs
- CEN - Magazine Section signage
- RandForce posters - printed 48
- City Branches - Open House flyers
- Signs for libraries including: ECL, EDL, OPK, CRA, CLA, EGG, CFD, AUD, KNM, GRI, JBR
- Battle of the Books - 2011 poster
- Children's Programming CEN - flyer for April
- CEN - "Information" arrows on floor
- Summer Reading planning
- Other misc. signs, flyers and promotion

The Library System is supporting the *Buffalo News Books for Kids* initiative during the month of April by providing drop-off boxes in all 37 libraries. The *News* held their media announcement about this year's fundraiser at the Central Library.

March began a new era for System children's programming. The Children's Programming Team expanded programming services to include contracting member libraries in addition to Central Library and Buffalo City Branches. Services included weekly sessions of Lapsit, Toddler Time and Preschool Story Hour as well as single highlighted programs for school-age and teen participants. Programs are slated to

continue through the end of May. Children's staff is monitoring program logistics including staff assignments, program times and attendance and craft supplies.

Children's librarians are planning for summer programming experiences. Librarian **Mary Ann Budny** identified and ordered supplies for summer crafts and incentives for the Summer Reading Challenge. Librarian **Sarah Gallien** booked summer performers and spoke with Graphics about summer promotional materials. Librarian **Kasey Mack** created a letter to be sent to schools promoting summer programs and the importance of reading over the summer and soliciting summer reading lists. Kasey, with intern Meg Hepburn, designed and became the administrator of the 2011 Battle of the Books Facebook page.

Librarian **Mary Ann Budny** facilitated a Teacher/Parent Literacy workshop at the Reinstein Library in anticipation of the arrival of Family Place.

Programs - Central

Preschool story hour returned in March on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. **Nancy Smith** and **Sarah Gallien** presented these programs. There were several themes in March which included Ducks, Monsters, Turtles, Favorite Stories, Spring and Pop-Up books. At each story hour children listened to stories and fingerplays and created such crafts as a lion puppet and a duck pond.

On March 5th, Senior Page **Laura Raichel** presented Gaming Saturday. Nineteen children enjoyed playing video games on the Game Cube and Wii. They also like playing the board games and putting together puzzles. On March 19th, **Mary Ann Budny** led the Pizza Lovers' Book club. Nineteen children listened to a booktalk about math books (both fiction and nonfiction) and 5 children shared a book they read. On March 26th, **Kasey Mack** moderated the Lego Club. The Lego Maniacs had a "Tall Tower" competition, to see who could build the tallest Lego tower.

Programs - Branches - City and Contracting

In March, the program team presented 134 programs (including Outreach, class visit story hours, tours, preschool, toddler, Lapsit storytimes, special interest programs, tween and young adult) at the Central Library, Buffalo City Branches and contracting member libraries. Total attendance was over 1,200. The response to these programs has been very positive.

The most popular program offered has been Little Chefs. **Sarah Gallien** shared the Little Chefs program at the following branches: Lancaster, Reinstein, Audubon, Eggertsville, Orchard Park, Kenmore, Clearfield, Newstead, Boston and Clarence. **Mary Ann Budny** presented this program at East Aurora, Lackawanna, JBR and Williamsville Libraries. **Nancy Smith** presented Little Chefs at East Delavan and Crane Branches. **Kerra Alessi** presented Little Chefs at the East Clinton Branch Library. Due

to a scheduling conflict, an outline of the Little Chefs program was provided to North Park and a staff member presented this program at that branch. The Little Chefs program featured understanding basic cooking utensils and offered the children the opportunity to make something from scratch. The children made 3 creations including a "butterfly" made with a carrot stick and apple slices and a lion face. The lion face was created with a bagel, cream cheese and chow mein noodles for whiskers and black olives and celery for a face. The Little Chefs program was designed as either a family or school-age program.

Kerra Alessi and **Matt Kochan** created a "Scratch" program for teens and tweens. Scratch is a programming language that makes it easy to create interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art. As children create Scratch projects, they learn important mathematical and computational skills, while also learning to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively. **Matt Kochan** presented this program at the JBR, Boston, Williamsville, Niagara, Lancaster and Newstead Libraries. The children that attended had nice comments about the program. At Lancaster the teens wanted to know when this program was going to be held again. Niagara had the highest attendance (10) and the teens wanted to learn more about Scratch and have another program. **Kerra Alessi** presented this program at Riverside, East Clinton, Lackawanna and West Seneca Libraries. At Riverside one teen said "usually library programs are lame, but I like this one!" At the Scratch program at East Clinton one child liked the program so much he didn't want to leave!

Along with family, tween and teen programming, there were also traditional story hours. Lapsit, Toddler and Preschool Story Hours were offered with mixed results. At branches where Children's Programming Team story hours were offered in addition to existing branch story hours, attendance was low. However, at branches such as Lackawanna and Riverside where the Children's Programming Team story hour was the only one offered, the attendance was very good. **Kasey Mack** provided story hours at Riverside, Hamburg and Kenilworth Libraries. **Wanda Collins** provided them at Clearfield, Lackawanna, Clarence and Lancaster Libraries. **Mary Ann Budny** presented an evening story hour at Reinstein. **Cyndy Lenzner** presented an evening story hour at JBR. She also presented morning story hours at Newstead, Williamsville and Lakeshore. **Becky Pieszala** presented story hours at Marilla, Boston and Kenmore. **Nancy Smith** presented story hours at North Park, Crane, and East Delavan Libraries.

Although the story hour themes varied, each program included: stories, fingerplays, a craft, activities and fun! The themes in March were: Spring, Robins, Frogs, Wind, Down on the farm, Mud, Colors of Springtime, My Body, Zoo, Ducks, Spring Flowers and Monsters. Lapsit programs (for children 2 and under) also include about 20 minutes of playtime which gives moms or caregivers a chance to socialize. One of the most unusual (as well as fun) crafts this month was done by **Wanda Collins** at her Lackawanna story hour on March 31st. The children marched through the library

singing the “Mud Song” and made a worms in dirt (chocolate) craft ... and ate it! They also made their own mud with instant pudding and milk in baggies for them to squish together. After the program each child got a worm “Dirt” sticker to place on their cups.

Tours:

March 2: Bennett Park Montessori, Attendance: 10 (Story Hour and craft)
March 4: Enterprise Charter School, Attendance: 46 (Story Hour and craft)
March 14: Aspire Group Home, Attendance: 17 (tour and stories)
March 29: Elmwood Village Charter School, Attendance: 38 (tour, stories and craft)
March 31: Drop-In Group - School #45, Attendance: 7 (browsed books and used computers)

- Information Services Librarian **Chuck Alaimo** provided a tour and database training on March 1st for the WNY Maritime Charter School; 12 students and 1 teacher attended.
- **Chuck Alaimo** provided a tour on March 3rd for the Foundations Course students of the Graduate School of Information and Library Science; 10 adult students and 1 teacher attended.
- **Chuck Alaimo** provided a tour on March 7th for the Stanley Falk School; 21 students and 5 adults attended.
- **Chuck Alaimo** provided a tour and reference instruction on March 7th for Baker Victory Services; 16 students and 3 adults attended.

Outreach:

March 1: Librarian **Sarah Gallien** attended Dr. Seuss night at EPIC. Sarah read Dr. Seuss stories and made crafts with children. Attendance: 55

March 2: Librarian **Kerra Alessi** attended Dr. Seuss day at School #90. Kerra read Dr. Seuss stories to the children. After the stories they sang Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss. Attendance: 14

March 10: Librarian **Mary Ann Budny** attended the Adult Education Career Exploration Fair. Mary Ann promoted Family Place and passed out publicity. Attendance: 60

March 19: Librarian **Kathy Goodrich** attended “Project Parenting” at D’Youville College. Kathy manned a library information table that promoted Family Place and library services. She also did a 10 minute presentation to parents about Family Place and library services.

March 30: Children’s programming staff led the Youth Services Group Summer Reading Workshop for System Children’s staff. They shared summer craft ideas and NY State Summer Reading information.

YMCA at the Family Court

March 8: Attendance: 13 **Kathy Goodrich**

March 14: Attendance: 11 **Kathy Goodrich**

March 21: Attendance: 12 **Kasey Mack**

March 29: Attendance: 13 **Kerra Alessi**

*Staff continues to present stories, songs and puppets to the children at City Branches.

In addition to the wonderful programming brought to the City Branches by the Children's Programming Team, the following programs were conducted by the City Branch staff and others:

- Preschool Storyhour has come back to life at the Crane Branch with **Nancy Smith** on Tuesday mornings. The children and parents adore her as well as the staff.
- East Clinton's Young Scientist program for the month had a total of 23 attendees.
- East Clinton Library hosted a Cancer Screening Program on March 21st which had 3 people come in for test kits.
- Lego Club continues at East Delavan Library. Lego Club ran 4 out of 5 Wednesdays in March with a total of 24 participants.
- "Movie Saturday" continued in the East Delavan Library's Children's Area. Four different movies were shown. A total of 52 children and adults attended and they were served popcorn and juice boxes.
- Branched Out Young Explorers ran all month at the East Delavan Library. Thirty-five children and 16 adults attended the 4 programs.
- UNYTS set up a blood drive at the Dudley Branch on March 14th. Ten donors stopped by.
- Rince Na Tierna thrilled Dudley Branch patrons with their award winning Irish dancing to get everyone revved up for St. Patrick's Day! Ninety-two guests were on hand to watch 24 performers on March 8th.
- The Dudley Branch held a party on March 31st to celebrate author R.L. Stine who writes the *Goosebumps* series. Children voted for Stine as their favorite author in February. The Goosebumps Party hosted by Senior Page **Kate Shea** and Page **Chelsea Hausrath** included games, "Monster Blood" punch, snacks, a video and a mask making contest. Twenty-three people were in attendance.
- The Buffalo Museum of Science continued its programs at Dudley Branch during the month of March. Young Explorers held on Saturdays for 3-5 year olds attracted 7 attendees while Young Scientists for ages 6-10 had 28 kids in attendance for the month.

- The Dudley Branch had a coloring contest for the month of March. Children were asked to color a leprechaun finding his way to a pot of gold. Eli Gerde won a chocolate shamrock and some gold foil covered chocolate coins.
- On March 3rd, at the Merriweather Library, the Erie County Cancer Services Program provided a free colon cancer screening kit and information.
- On March 5th, a Special Saturday Story Time was held at the Riverside Branch. Library Associate **Tami Linkowski** read the books *Lynn Was a Cow Who Could Ski* and *Lynn Can Fly* to 6 children and 4 adults.
- The 9th Annual Harriet Tubman Celebration Committee presented “We Are Women Warriors” celebrating Women’s History Month on March 9th at the Merriweather Library. Presenters and performers included Patricia Bozeman, Eva M. Doyle, Pamela Garner, Sharon Holley and Sherry Sherrill. The program was hosted by Legislator Betty Jean Grant.
- The March 12th meeting of the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora, held at the Merriweather Library, featured a presentation by researcher, historian, and author Florence Hargrave Curtis who has written numerous books on her research, church history, and genealogy. Her titles include: *Daughter, Be Somebody*, *Landonia Epps: A Paper Trail of Her Times and Travels*, and *In the Footsteps of Our Forefathers: The Churches Where they Worshipped, The Graves in Which They Slumber*.
- A free Conference and Family Reunion Planning seminar was held on March 15th at the Merriweather Library. It was presented by Dionne Williamson of the Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- In March at the Niagara Branch, substantial time was spent in preparing for the Family Place program which begins in April. Delightful new toys have been arriving. A breakfast meeting was held on March 22nd to introduce local human service and educational agencies to the benefits of the program so that they may refer their clients. Grant Coordinator **Karen Kwandrans** made the presentation. Branch Manager **Kathryn Galvin** also made a brief presentation about Family Place to the attendees of the Community Health Workers Network Chat ‘n Chew meeting at The Belle Center on the afternoon of March 22nd.
- Starting March 10th, the Niagara Branch began offering library patrons free coffee from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. This promotion is designed to draw attention to their new hours on Thursday, because the branch had previously been closed on Thursdays. Participation is light but increasing steadily.
- Library Associate **Paul Guminski** finalized the *Welcome to the Niagara Branch Library* flyer, improving the look and incorporating recent policy changes. This flyer is given to everyone who registers for a card and is freely available for anyone to pick up.
- LA **Sean Goodrich** ran North Park Library’s Wii program on 4 Fridays and 2 Saturdays in February. Children, teens and tweens use it on a walk-in basis.
- North Park’s Craft Crazy Monday program was held 4 Mondays in March. Senior Page **Sarah Barry** and Page **Karen Leonard** created Mardi Gras masks

with the children who attended on March 7th, paper towel roll wind chimes on March 14th, cellophane butterflies on March 21st and painted with bouncy balls on March 28th.

- Senior Page **Katherine Brown** and **Sean Goodrich** ran the Wild Life Rumpus on Saturday, March 19th at the North Park Library. Everyone who attended heard the story *Where the Wild Things Are*, made some monsters, and played a matching game. Patron Ali-Cha Morrison won the grand prize of a stuffed monkey!
- **Sarah Barry** and **Sean Goodrich** ran the Little Chefs program on Wednesday, March 30th, at North Park.
- On March 12th at the Riverside Library, Senior Page **Leah Brown** and Page **Catlin Goodrich** helped 4 kids make Shamrock crowns.
- On March 17th, Riverside Library Page **Brittany Snead** chaperoned a board game of Jenga. In attendance were 10 children.
- Throughout the month of March, TCE- Arp Tax preparation managed by Rida Bross began preparing taxes for Senior Citizens and Low Income Families at the Riverside Branch. It has been a very busy time for staff who has been scheduling appointments. Tax service ends Tuesday, April 12th.
- East Clinton Library hosted an ECC Information Night that had 3 attendees.
- Computer classes at the East Delavan Library continue to be held on Wednesday and Saturday. The classes are taught by the Adult Education Division of the Buffalo Public Schools. This month they served a total of 27 participants.
- "Introduction to Web 2.0" was held on March 3rd at the Dudley Library with 3 patrons in attendance.
- **Sean Goodrich** helped a North Park Library patron set up an e-mail so that he could apply online for a job at Geico. A week later the patron came in and informed Sean that he got his job!

City Branch Outreach

- On Wednesday, March 2nd, Outreach Librarian **Brian Hoth** visited Bethel Head Start (FLARE Center) to participate in "Read Across America" in commemoration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Brian read the book *Ten Apples on Top* to 20 preschool students and their teachers. The children introduced themselves to Mr. Brian and enjoyed listening to the story.
- On Thursday, March 3rd, **Brian Hoth** visited CAO Head Start (Ferry Academy) and read stories to 6 classes of 92 preschool children and their teachers. Four classroom collections totaling 100 books, CDs, and media kits were also dropped off. The teachers and children were happy to see Mr. Brian. His next visit is scheduled for Thursday, March 31st.
- On Thursday, March 10th and Friday, March 11th, **Brian Hoth** visited Bethel Head Start (1485 Jefferson Ave) and read stories to 5 classes of 100 preschool children and their teachers. Four classroom collections totaling 100 books, CDs, and

media kits were also dropped off. The children were happy Mr. Brian came to visit. The teachers were especially appreciative of the classroom collections.

- On Monday, March 14th, **Brian Hoth** made his monthly visit to CAO Head Start at The Old First Ward Community Center where he presented a program on spring to 34 prekindergarten students and their teachers. Brian read stories, did a counting activity, and the children sang songs. Afterwards, they made a kite craft. A classroom collection of 25 items was dropped off as well. Brian's next visit is scheduled for Monday, April 11th.
- On Wednesday, March 30th and Thursday, March 31st, **Brian Hoth** made his monthly visits to CAO Head Start at Ferry Academy. Brian read stories to 197 students and teachers. He also talked to a class about being a librarian as part of a community helpers unit they were doing. Nine classroom collections were dropped off. He also met Scott Reed, the center's incoming director. Brian's next visit is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27th and Thursday, April 28th.
- In the first week of March, Niagara Branch Assistant Librarian **Gwen Collier** presented a library skills program at the Frank Sedita School. Gwen read, discussed book care, and concluded the program with a "Simon Says" library skills game developed by her and **Paul Guminski**.
- **Gwen Collier** took library programming to Niagara Daycare on March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th with themes of Eric Carle, Dinosaurs, Music and Bears. Gwen always enriches her programs with hands-on, literature-based activities.
- **Gwen Collier** took library programming to 3 classes of Gateway-Longview's Therapeutic Pre-K on March 9th and 23rd.
- **Gwen Collier** took library programming to Holy Cross Head Start on Thursday, March 17th. She read stories about music and sang songs accompanied by a tambourine to 7 preschool classes.
- Niagara Branch also delivered classroom collections to Niagara Day Care and Holy Cross Head Start this month.

Adult Programming and Outreach

- March 4th Programming and Outreach Librarian **Dan Caufield** spoke at an advisors meeting at the Small Business Development Center located at Buffalo State Collage. Dan spoke for 40 minutes about the Library's resources with much of the interest revolving around using ReferenceUSA. The talk was well received by the 9 advisors.
- March 8th **Dan Caufield** presented a Business and Marketing resources class for the SBA's Straight Talk series. Straight Talk is a 9 week program designed to match entrepreneurs with essential resources in WNY. Dan spoke for an hour and demonstrated through remote access many of the useful databases available from the Library website. The class was presented at Medaille College and was well received by the 64 potential business men and women in attendance. After

the class Dan also allowed attendees the opportunity to apply for a library card. Fifteen new cards were processed.

- March 10th **Dan Caufield** and **Mary Ann Budny** manned an information table at a Buffalo Board of Education Adult Career/Job Fair. The fair was held at the Buffalo Adult Learning Center on Edward Street and attracted approximately 250 people from the surrounding community. Both Dan and Mary Ann answered questions, promoted library programs/resources and offered attendees the chance to sign up for library cards. The information was well received and 29 new library cards were processed.
- March 16th Programming and Outreach Librarian **Glenn Luba** presented a Foundation Center training class at Canisius College. This hour and a half long class was one of 6 components for individuals working with non-profits in WNY. The presentation was well received by the 18 attendees and focused on materials, services, and electronic resources the library provides to aid non-profits.
- March 22nd **Dan Caufield** helped coordinate and spoke at a SCORE workshop held in the Central Library meeting room. This daylong workshop covered many aspects of starting and running a business and featured speakers from many business development groups and government agencies. The workshop was well received by the 21 potential entrepreneurs attending and 7 new library card applications were processed.
- March 30th **Susan Kriegbaum-Hanks, Glenn Luba, Peter Lisker, Dan Caufield** and Senior Page **Melissa Kania** helped host the Library's table at the Western New York Diversity Job Fair held at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. The staff from Community Connections answered questions, promoted library programs/resources and offered attendees the chance to sign up for library cards. The information was well received by the over 1,200 people in attendance. Thirty new library cards were processed and quite a few attendees were spotted at the Central Library by Community Connections staff using the promoted resources.
- **Dan Caufield** and **Glenn Luba** answered 15 Book a Librarian appointments in March.

Collins Public Library – submitted by Karen McClure, Library Director

April at the Collins Library is a month full of programs. We had local author Steve Paskuly speak to our book group about the research he did and the book he edited, *Death Dealer*, in remembrance of the holocaust. Our seniors enjoyed *Secretariat* at the movies. We quilted on Tuesdays. Story Hour is going strong. We participated in Gowanda Central schools PARP (Parent's As Reading Partners) culminating in a

carnival night on April 1st. **Bethany Kibler** handed out canvas bags that said “One World Many Stories” promoting our summer story time with goodies inside. We are also looking forward to April 23rd when the Easter Bunny will be on the loose again. The hunt will be on in our children’s section and parents can bring cameras to have pictures taken of their children with the Easter Bunny.

West Seneca Public Library – submitted by Cathy Foertch, Library Director

For the last couple of months, West Seneca has been hosting a “Wisdom & Wealth” program on planning for retirement, investing, will-writing, and more. Local accountants, investment counselors, and tax lawyers have shared their expertise with a core group of interested adults. The U.S. Census workers used our meeting room to “tie up loose ends” along with Homeland Security interviewing applicants for jobs. Storyhours, Lapsits, and other children’s programs continue to do well. The “Scratch” program from Central attracted a small, but eager group. We are weeding extensively to prepare for RFID implementation later this year.

Collections: Development and Use

Customized 9xx ordering has been implemented with Brodart’s Bibz2 product. This functionality helps streamline the automated ordering and receiving processes, allowing for quicker receipt of new juvenile and young adult items. Brodart joins 2 other major vendors (Baker & Taylor and Midwest Tape) as being fully functional with the 9xx features that allow the B&ECPL to use the capabilities of our SirsiDynix Integrated Library System (ILS) to facilitate the ordering process.

Technical Services Librarian **Britt White** and Senior Library Clerk **Jeff McChesney** completed a project to convert 55 “second copy” Central Library magazine subscriptions from non-circulating to circulating. The process involved editing and updating holdings information in the Sirsi Serials Module and linking the copies into WorkFlows to allow check-out. In addition, the title serial controls were edited and notes were added to ensure future issues will be checked in appropriately. These changes will help maximize magazine use, providing a larger circulating collection. Senior Computer Operator **Roseann Hausrath** created several Integrated Library Systems (ILS) statistical reports to assess collection usage and analyze circulation statistics. These reports included a percentage of total circulation being processed through the RFID self-check, BookMyne (an iPhone application) item renewal statistics, and a graphic (pie chart) representation of the circulation ratios by Item Type at each library.

The Department of Information and Library Science intern and Senior Page **Ken Wierzbowski**, in continuation of the Rare Book Room WWI poster indexing project,

discovered the rare and iconic James Montgomery Flagg poster, *I Want You for U. S. Army*. It had not been previously identified as part of the collection.

The Central Terminal scrapbook, which had been missing for several years, was recently found. It was scanned by William S. Hein & Company and will be sent with the 24 Pan American scrapbooks to an outside vendor to build the online collection that will be viewed on the www.wnylegacy.org site. Hein will also provide microfilm and bound paper copies of all the scrapbooks. The Library will pay for the work on the Central Terminal scrapbook. The Pan Am scrapbooks will be paid by a grant from the Western New York Library Resources Council.

The digitized 1815 William Smith map, *The Delineation of the Strata of England and Wales with a Part of Scotland* ("The Map that Changed the World") is now in the Library's possession. The oversized map (9' x 6') was scanned for the Library Foundation's exhibition in 2005. Its size made the process difficult so thanks go to Crowley Webb and Associates for providing the scans through the intervention of Public Affairs Manager **Joy Testa Cinquino**.

Collection Development staff responded to 320 patron purchase suggestions in March.

Librarian **Rhonda Konig** wrote a description of Heritage Quest for the Resource of the Month.

The popularity of Freegal Music downloads continues to be strong. In March, 603 patrons downloaded a total of 4,059 titles.

One hundred ninety downloadable eBooks and 157 downloadable audiobooks were added to the Library's collection in March.

2. FUNDING

Fundraising

Development & Communications Department sent 50 Gala sponsorship solicitation letters to local companies with sales volumes of \$100 million +. To date, we have sold 1 table for the November 5, 2011 event.

A catering RFP for the Gala has been developed with the help of Gala Planning Committee members. The RFP will be sent out by April 20th.

Eric Mower & Associates, local marketing and PR agency, has agreed to provide pro bono artwork for the Gala event, thanks to the efforts of Trustee Rick Berger.

Nearly 100 autographed items have been donated for the online fundraising auction through Trustee Judy Summer's efforts. A student intern from Buffalo State College is organizing a database for the donated items.

The next Gala Planning Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4th at 8 a.m. in the West Room at the Central Library. See Trustee **Anne Leary** with questions.

Elizabeth Rooney, the wife of former B&ECPL Director Paul Rooney, died earlier this month and \$1,155 in memorial donations have been received by the Library.

A conference call meeting was held with Blackbaud, provider of our Raiser's Edge Database, to discuss setting up a secure online donation process; attendees were **Ken Stone, Carol Batt, Toni Naumovski, Tracy Palicki, Anne Conable** and **Joy Testa Cinquino**. The Library Foundation purchased the software for our use in 2010.

A discarded books arrangement has been structured with Better World Books.

Anne Conable, liaison to the Library Foundation, reports: a Library Foundation meeting was held on March 2nd. She prepared agenda and minutes and has been reviewing and organizing FDN files, closing out FDN offsite storage unit, Margaret Henry Trust paperwork resolution, and review of financials.

Linda Bohan and **Debra Lawrence** continue to update the System's database, Raiser's Edge with donors, potential donors and members of the Gala Committee.

3. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Technology

The RFID project is moving forward at the East Clinton, East Aurora and Audubon Libraries. Field Engineer **Dave Kozlowski** set up server and client software; created user accounts & permissions; installed antenna pads; and assembled self-check kiosks. Technology Support Manager **Kelly Donovan** provided on-site staff training. Staff members at the 3 libraries are now familiarizing themselves and their users with the new technology. Full implementation will be complete when detection gates are installed; East Clinton is scheduled for April 4th with East Aurora following on April 5th.

The Library continues to work closely with EnvisionWare staff on all aspects of RFID functionality, in support of this major System initiative. Significant staff time was spent testing and troubleshooting recently identified RFID software anomalies. Working closely with EnvisionWare, Inc. staff and developers, the B&ECPL received validation that the programming was accurate and this provided the opportunity for additional staff training to clarify procedures and maximize RFID capabilities. EnvisionWare Sales

Consultant Steve Kraus spent March 29-30 in Buffalo visiting current sites and assisting with the Audubon and East Aurora implementations. Mr. Kraus also met with **Carol Batt** and **Kelly Donovan** to discuss B&ECPL customization of the self-check computers to help maximize the user experience.

The Information Technology Team has completed the upgrade of the Internet bandwidth from 100 Megabit per second to 200 Megabit per second. Technical Support Services Specialist **Johnny Hsu** working together with the Internet Service Provider (ISP) FiberTech Networks, enabled and programmed the associated data networking equipment to support the increased bandwidth throughput. The upgrade downtime was very minimal and did not impact use of the system.

The Information Technology Team has been configuring SirsiDynix e-Library, an online catalog server, to prepare for prime development of the new web catalog. During the setup and testing, many technical challenges were encountered and with a combination of team effort and assistance from the vendor, the problems were resolved. The team is now ready to develop, select features and options and test the online catalog software prior to its public release.

Johnny Hsu and Web Page Master **Terri Dickson** worked together and expeditiously created a new website dedicated to the Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT) March 19th Workshop and information regarding governance alternatives for the Library System. The content of the password-secured website is primarily available to the members of ACT and Library consultants.

The Library has received notification that Year 2 of the LSTA Service Improvement Grant Program will be fully funded. This grant will provide the B&ECPL \$17,400. Funds will be used to replace another dated Cyber Train as well as supplement staff funding to continue Web 2.0 technology classes at libraries throughout the System.

Central Library Reorganization:

The new Kids Space at Central Library is now open! Children's materials and furniture was moved to its new area in the beginning of April. A special thank you goes to Maintenance for preparing the space, Graphics for beautifying the space and Stacks for filling the space. All staff did a great job of making the new area warm and welcoming for the kids. The move was planned and coordinated by Special Projects Coordinator **Meg Cheman** and **Glenn Luba**, who is now the new Director for the City of Tonawanda Public Library.

Staff Development

A Staff Forum was held on April 6th at the Clarence Public Library, **Mary Jean Jakubowski** and **Joy Testa Cinquino** attended. Topics ranged from the director search, 2012 budget, new governance, floating collections, new collections, marketing the System and the System's 175th anniversary events.

One of the objectives of the Library's current Technology Plan is to "train staff to insure skills needed to optimally use the new technologies and electronic resources to maximize staff productivity and respond to public needs." A Technology Survey was recently conducted to assess staff needs. As a result of this survey, **Kara Stock** is developing a series of classes to support core competencies and provide Web 2.0 technology training.

Assistant Deputy Director **Carol Batt**, along with Library Information Technology Administrator **Toni Naumovski** and several key technology support staff members participated in a conference call with newly assigned SirsiDynix Library Relations Manager Vera Maeser, March 3rd.

Kelly Donovan, Technical Services Manager **Jennifer Childs**, Central Library Manager **Nancy Mueller**, e-Branch Manager **Tim Galvin**, **Peter Lisker**, **Kathy Goodrich**, **Kerra Alessi**, and **Kara Stock** attended the Manager's Meeting on March 9th, conducted by **June Garcia** to discuss the search for the next Library Director.

Technical Services staff members, Senior Library Clerk **Jeff McChesney**, Library Clerks **Doreen Sajeki** and **Virginia Fryson**, Book Repairer **John Farah**, and Book Processors **Kathy Alabisi** and **Liane Savage** attended Safety and Ergonomic Training on March 14th.

Technical Services and Technology Support staff and Collection Development staff met with Baker & Taylor, Inc. representatives Frank McDonald and Marne Fellows to discuss their Bibz2 software which supports the Library's item selection and ordering processes on March 15th. As a follow-up to the meeting, **Jennifer Childs** made changes to Title Source 3 (TS3) templates and settings facilitating cart creation and title selection for the Collection Development Team.

Mary Jean Jakubowski, along with **Carol Batt** and **Toni Naumovski**, met with MLS-candidate Ryan Luce, a graduate student at the University of Buffalo, on March 16th to discuss a Directed Study project designed to compare various Integrated Library Systems (ILS). As a follow-up, Information Technology staff members compiled answers to a series of questions about Library's SirsiDynix ILS. Mr. Luce intends to share his findings comparing traditional ILS products to emerging open source software such as Koha.

Carol Batt and **Toni Naumovski** participated in a meeting with Collection Development and Public Services staff to review the PAC on EBSCOhost product, March 16th. This product would supplement the Library's online Web2 Catalog and better-facilitate database searching.

Library Associates **Diane Doster** and **Cynthia Zubler** attended a Library Assistants' Committee meeting at WNYLRC on Wednesday, March 16th.

Jennifer Childs, Carol Batt, Pat Covley, Peter Lisker, Linda Rizzo, Nancy Mueller, Angela Pierpaoli, Meg Cheman, Kathy Smith, Ann Kling and **Maureen McLaughlin** along with B&ECPL staff members from around the System, viewed the March 17th Library Journal webcast "Effective Floating Collections".

Carol Batt, Kelly Donovan and **Maureen McLaughlin** watched the "Social Media, Libraries and the Law" webinar sponsored by Infopeople on March 17th. The 1 hour program discussed online copyright-protected content, public comments, and privacy issues related to children.

Carol Batt and **Toni Naumovski** participated with several other staff members in a telephone conference call March 18th to discuss implementation of the Blackbaud NetCommunity's e-marketing solution Spark.™ This online giving solution provides a powerful and cost-effective way for organizations to complement or expand their existing online fundraising strategies.

On March 18th, **Kelly Donovan, Kara Stock, Suzanne Colligan, Peg Errington, Kathy Galvin, Linda Rizzo** and **Carol Pijacki** attended the "Library Innovation: Thinking Outside the Book" conference sponsored by WNYRLC. Speakers Michael Stephens and Anita Cook were the main speakers, providing information about technology trends and eReaders.

Carol Batt, Ann Kling, Toni Naumovski, Joy Testa Cinquino and **Meg Cheman** attended the ACT Annual Trustee Workshop March 19th.

On March 25th, **Maureen McLaughlin** attended the annual joint meeting of WNYLRC's Regional Advisory (RAC) and Resource Sharing (RSC) Committees

Grosvenor Room Manager **Claudia Yates** attended the Canal Society of New York State's Winter Symposium at Monroe Community College on March 5th.

Carol Pijacki attended the DuPage webinar on "Free Content for Library Collections" on March 11th.

Assistant Deputy Director **Doreen Woods** attended the webinar “George and Joan on Conflict Resolution Techniques” on March 8th.

Kenneth Stone, Doreen Woods and **Doreen Sajecki** participated in the Erie County Safety Committee meeting on March 30th.

Meetings/Conferences:

- Pat Covley participated in the webinar “World Book Goes Digital” .
- On March 2nd, **Linda Rizzo, Pat Covley, Angela Pierpaoli** and **Ann Kling** attended a presentation by a representative from Haines online.
- On March 9th, **Mary Ann Budny** attended the Niagara Branch Family Place meeting.
- **Tim Galvin** attended a conference call along with members of the Resource Sharing Committee on March 16th, after which a discussion was held with a representative of Coutts Publishing, a division of Ingram. The purpose was to explore the possibility of a new Purchase-on-Demand program which would include eBooks. He also attended a follow-up conference call, again with members of the Resource Sharing Committee, on Thursday, March 17th.
- On March 18th, **Becky Pieszala** and **Kerra Alessi** attended the Re-Imagine Staff Forum.
- On March 22nd, **Kathy Goodrich** attended the meeting at the Kenmore Library to discuss Juvenile Collection Development and children’s programming.
- **Kathy Smith** participated in Booklist’s webinar “Scoop on Non-Fiction” on March 22nd and ALA Graphics’ sequel to “Creating Read Posters” on March 24th. Kathy produced Read Posters of the Collection Development staff for the Intranet.
- On March 23rd, **Kathy Goodrich, Peg Errington,** and **Ann Kling** met with **Dawn Stanton, Darlene Pennachi** and **Joy Testa Cinquino** to discuss summer publicity.
- On March 24th, **Kathy Goodrich** attended the Buffalo School Library Council meeting.
- **Ann Kling** and **Peggy Errington** attended the Books for Kids Kick-off event.

- **Tim Galvin** attended a joint Resource Sharing Committee/Regional Advisory Committee meeting on Friday, March 25th at WNYLRC headquarters.
- On March 30th, the Children's Programming Team presented the annual Youth Services summer meeting.
- **Peggy Errington** and **Kerra Alessi** met with the East Aurora Library staff to discuss Juvenile Collection development and children's programming.
- On March 30th, **Linda Rizzo**, Manager Buffalo Branches, attended a meeting of the Buffalo-Cheektowaga Revitalization Task Force Steering Committee.
- On March 31st, **Peggy Errington** and **Kathy Goodrich** attended the System Programming meeting
- **Kasey Mack** renewed her certification for Adult/Child/Infant CPR.
- **Meg Cheman, Jennifer Childs, Nancy Mueller, Britt White, Claudia Yates** and Information Services Librarian **Jamie Smith** attended an all-day workshop on Thursday, March 31st, at WNYLRC on Disaster Planning sponsored by WNYLRC's Preservation Committee. It was presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). The workshop covered the importance of planning for emergency situations by examining 3 of the 4 facets of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, and an introduction to disaster response. Elements of a disaster plan and ways to update current plans are discussed. This workshop will be followed by a disaster recovery workshop in the late spring/early summer.
- Collection Development staff met with librarians at the Alden, Elma, Marilla, Kenilworth, Kenmore, and Eden Libraries to discuss collection priorities at those locations on various dates.
- Librarians **Angela Pierpaoli** and **Pat Covley** and volunteer Carol Ann Strahl each contributed a book review for the *Buffalo Rising* website.
- Information Services Department welcomed Librarian **Patty Pohl** on March 21st to replace Librarian **Charles Alaimo** who will be moving to GRO in April. Patty had been laid off from the Correctional Facility Library as a full-time librarian and this is a recall for her! Welcome Patty!
- We bid farewell and good luck to Community Connections Librarian **Glenn Luba**. He was chosen as the new Director of the City of Tonawanda Public Library and will begin this new job in April. He was also a Guest Librarian on

the Reference Desk and wore many other hats here at the Central Library. Congratulations to Glenn on his promotion.

Facilities

Work on the reconfiguration of the HVAC unit in the rare book storage room is on hold until construction materials that meet the American Society of Archivists requirements are found.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Forty-five patron comments were received via e-mail, hardcopy and phone calls over the past month. Comments ranged from concern regarding moving the Children's Room at Central to questions about overdue fines, approval of the new borrowing procedures and frustration regarding adult content being viewed by patrons using computers. With input from the various departments, most of the comments received responses from **Joy Testa Cinquino**, Public Affairs Manager.

Library 2.0: Facebook.

The Central Library Facebook page currently has **2,429** fans, **1,445** monthly active users and has "likes" totaling **2,433**. March Facebook posts included lots of love for the B&ECPL's anniversary logo and patrons' comments about (and the Library's response to) the 2011 Battle of the Books titles:



[Buffalo & Erie County Public Library - Central Library](#) We're celebrating 175 years of Library service in Buffalo and Erie County! Our new anniversary logo will be used to promote events and programs throughout 2011. It's now featured prominently as the banner on our website <http://bit.ly/9wPX2T>



[Deborah Maggiore](#) hopefully the Erie County gov't will help you kept open for many more!



[Randolph Cole](#) We love our library! We use it every week. The anniversary logo would be great as a car magnet similar to the oval Buffalo Zoo logo magnet!



WE ARE ONE [Steve Neubeck](#) 6 days a week I will be at one of the branch libraries



[Mary Goehring](#) Congratulations! Great logo!



[Jeff Szudzik](#) Renewed my library card today! Another vote for a car magnet or similar implement.

Library 2.0: Twitter.

@buffalolibrary, our System Twitter page, has **1,715** followers, an increase of 72 followers in March. In addition to many RTs (re-tweets) tweets mentioning the Buffalo Library include:



[KaitiBoBati](#) wishes @buffalolibrary had more mac friendly downloads2go because they're awesome



[alsnyder02](#) Can't go wrong w/libraries & hockey :) RT @buffalolibrary Hey @alsnyder02 we love following @prattlibrary and rooting for our @SabresDotCom!



[JennJustReading](#) just taught someone how to use the self checkout at the @buffalolibrary! I love that station!



[jkdegen](#) love @buffalolibrary -- they are 175 this year (to TPL's also excellent 127) - Buffalo: sabres, chicken wings, and the Mark Twain ms room



[freedommary](#) @buffalolibrary Happy Anniversary Buffalo-Erie Library: 175 years and counting! :)

Media Coverage / Media Releases

Press Releases were sent for:

- Library Open Houses – March 31st
- National Library Week – April 8th
- El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) @ Niagara Branch Library – April 15th

Partnerships

Peggy Skotnicki and **Claudia Yates** met with Patricia Forsberg, President of the Western New York Genealogy Society (WNYGS), on April 1st to discuss a proposal to augment the collection in the Grosvenor Room. Different options, print and microfilm, were discussed and will be presented to the WNYGS Board for approval.

Ann Kling and **Joy Testa Cinquino** met with Rich Lee from the Block Club Coalition. Discussion centered on how the Buffalo Branch Libraries can partner with block clubs in an effort to encourage literacy and promote education and reading.

5. SPECIAL PROJECTS

Re-Imagining

Two Forums were held at the Central Library for all library staff on Friday, March 18th. **Susan Kent**, from the Re-Imagine Team and now part of our new Interim Transitional Leadership Team, led the presentation which followed with discussion to get staff input for this project.

Agenda Item H – Report of the Foundation. On behalf of Library Foundation of Buffalo and Erie County President Victor Rice, Anne Conable reported on the Gala project under way. Trustee Anne Leary has put together a wonderful Committee for the November 5th Gala in honor of the 175th anniversary of the Library. The Gala will be staged on the second floor of the Central Library and more information is forthcoming. Support from all trustees is appreciated.

Agenda Item I – Public Comment. Trustee Panty shared a positive patron experience. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item J – Unfinished Business. No unfinished business.

Agenda Item K – New Business. No new business.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Horton , second by Ms. Panty, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon A. Thomas
Chair