



**Cheektowaga Public Libraries  
Directors Report  
March 2024**

**1. PUBLIC SERVICES**

**Programs, Learning Opportunities, Outreach and Events**

**Highlights:**

- Jennifer Schechter, from the Buffalo Museum of Science, offered an all ages program on “What you need to know about Solar Eclipses” at both the Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library (March 2) and the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library (March 28). The program was well received by many patrons and helped everyone learn what to expect during the upcoming total eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

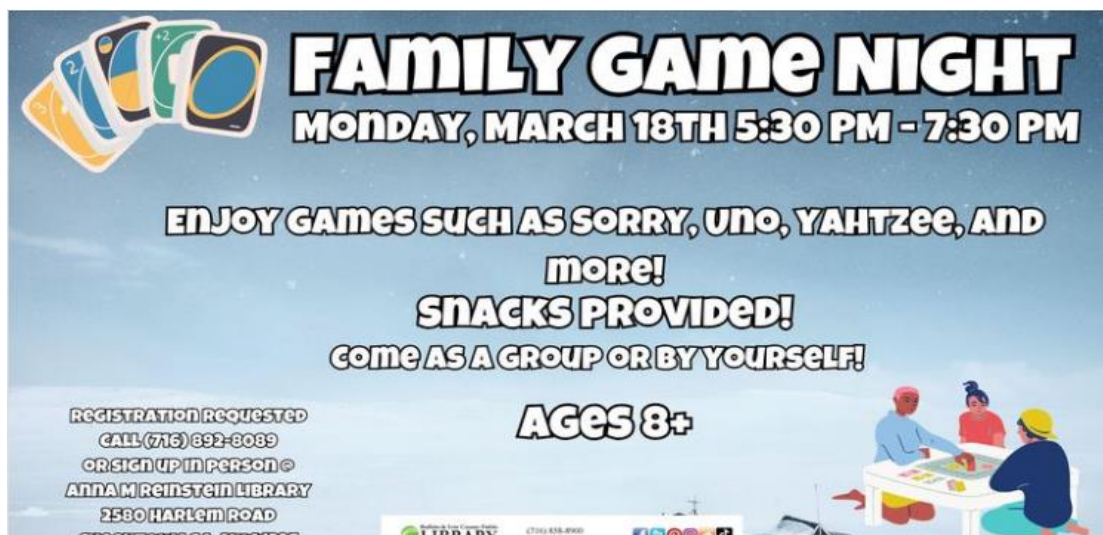


- March 2, the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library co-hosted a small business development workshop with SCORE Buffalo /Niagara. The workshop entitled “Starting and Managing Your Own Business” was an 8 hour overview for entrepreneurs covering strategic planning, marketing, legal aspects of business ownership and how to stand out in an industry. Director Dan Caufield spoke for an hour on Library resources, how to find accurate, timely and free information to help guide their business decisions. Over 40 attendees participated in the daylong workshop, found mentors, and signed up for library cards. The SCORE Buffalo /Niagara mentors truly enjoyed the library’s environment and look forward to more workshops in the future.

- March 16, Librarian Laura Scott hosted a Spring Eggs-travaganza program, featuring an indoor egg hunt, crafts, chick bowling, and prizes for children 12 and under. The program was attended by 95 patrons and conducted with the help of two library volunteers.



- March 18, the Anna M. Reinstein Library hosted a Family Game Night, which allowed families a chance to play Uno, Yahtzee and other classic games and to meet others interested in gaming.

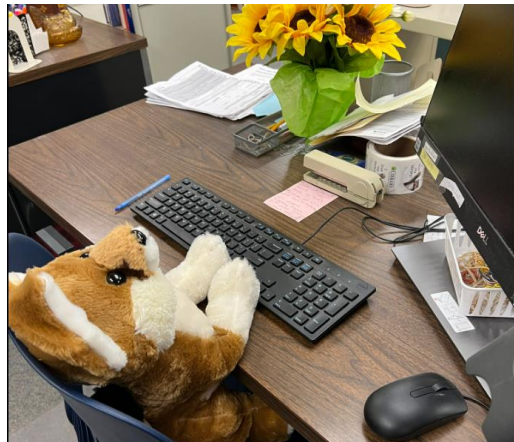


March 20, the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library hosted a “No-Cost Class on Medicare.” Attendees learned what Medicare is, how the benefits work and what you should know before you turn 65. They workshop was presented by Kelly Shark from Sheridan Benefits who stayed and answered many question long after the workshop was done.

- March 25, Librarian Laura Scott and 15 patrons participated in the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library's monthly Adult Craft Hour. March's craft project was floral lanterns, created with mason jars, pressed flowers, and flameless electric candles.



- March 25, Librarian Kathy Goodrich organized a "Stuffed Animal Sleepover" at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. Children brought in their stuffed animals and left them at the Library overnight for a "Sleep Over" Pictures were taken of the animals having fun throughout the Library. Pictures were posted to social media for the children to watch the adventures online at night and printed out for each child to take when they claimed their stuffed animal.



- The Cheektowaga Libraries hosted Jewish Family Services as they offered support to incoming refugees from Ukraine (March 26 at REI and March 28 at JBR). Immigrants who attended these programs met lawyers and through translators, began the process of attaining refugee status. Once this status is granted more services will open up for these new citizens of our country.
- Preschool Story Time (Julia Boyer Reinstein Library) as well as the Night Owl and Early Bird Story Hour (Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library) continue successfully at both Cheektowaga libraries, bringing in dozens of children and their parents to enjoy stories and crafts.

- Throughout March, attendees of the Night Owl and Early Bird Story Times (presented by Librarian Christine Webb) lent their artistic talents to create a crayon on paper collage. Inspired by stories read, children added to the artwork which is now on display at the Anna M. Reinstein Library.

## Night Owl and Early Bird Story Time Various Artists

### *Harold's Journey*, 2024

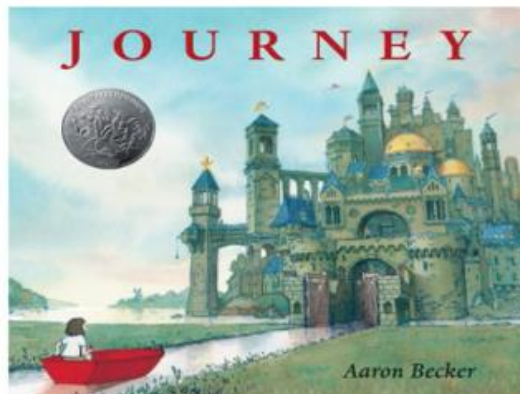
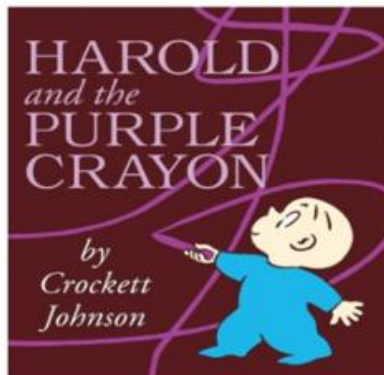
Crayon on paper; collage

Gift of the artists to the Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library Collection

This work was created by the artists in the Night Owl (Wednesdays at 6pm) and Early Bird (Thursdays at 10:30am) Story Time School of Art at the Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library.

The artists worked collaboratively from an aerial viewpoint with the paper on the floor (like Jackson Pollock). If you look closely, you will find references to the two main influences for this piece: *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson, and *Journey* by Aaron Becker. Can you see a Harold's house? The dragon guarding an apple tree? A hungry moose? A boat, or a purple bird?

In the future, the artists may continue this work as a series, knowing that Becker offers two more books in the *Journey* Trilogy (*Quest & Return*) as inspiration for more crayon and mixed media artwork.



- Throughout March, the Cheektowaga YES teen volunteers continue to provide a Lego Night and Craft Night for younger children twice a month at each Cheektowaga Library. These are very popular and the teens running the program are truly invested and engaged with all the younger attendees.

#### **Outreach:**

- Librarian Carol Veach continued her outreach to the schools in Cheektowaga with a visit to Maryvale Primary and Intermediate Schools. Reading stories and providing crafts to over 250 children Carol introduced the idea of Libraries and their resources to many students and teachers. Throughout the month, many of the children she met stopped into the Library with their parents, said hello to her and used their new Library cards.

## **2. Collections: Development and Use**

#### **Highlights:**

*(Weeding, displays, special collections, etc.) Include information about print, AV and digital content here.*

- An extensive weeding of the paperback collection was finished in March with new titles being ordered to replace the shabby and non-circulating titles.

## **3. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **Facilities:**

- Gently use furniture from the Central Library was shipped to the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library increasing the comfortable seating in the Children's space and by the front windows near the fiction collection.

