Buffalo & Erie County Public
LIBRARY

Director's Report for the
Cheektowaga Public Libraries (CPL)
October 2026

1. PUBLIC SERVICES

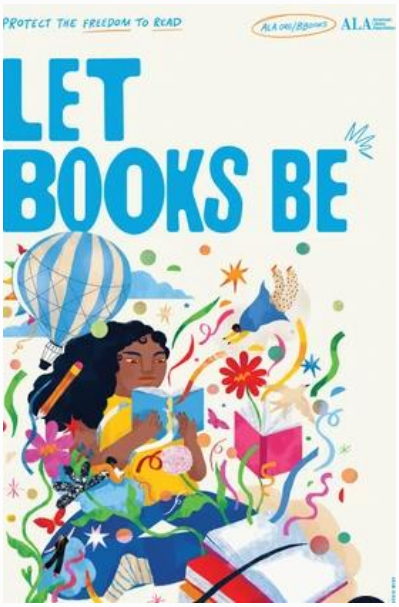
Programs, Learning Opportunities, Outreach and Events

Highlights:

October 4–10 – Banned Books Week - The Cheektowaga Libraries joined libraries across the country in recognizing Banned Books Week. Through displays and lectures, CPL libraries advocated for the freedom to read diverse literature and encouraged discussions about the dangers of book banning and the importance of protecting intellectual freedom. At the invitation of teachers, Director Caufield spoke with students at Cheektowaga Central High School about the history of book banning. Students learned that Banned Books Week is not about suggesting that every book is right for every reader. Rather, books allow readers to encounter new perspectives, develop empathy, and gain a deeper understanding of themselves and others. Removing books limits opportunities for connection, belonging, and personal growth. Banned Books Week is about protecting the rights of readers and families to make their own reading choices and supporting the belief that a healthy society allows ideas to be explored and challenged rather than suppressed.





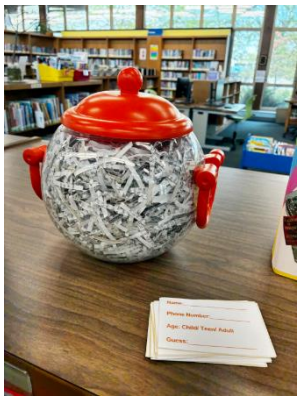


At the Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library, there was a display that showcased information about banned books, how censorship effects the community, and censorship data and statistics from the past years. There were also banned and censored books on display that patrons could check out and browse. A banned book garland displayed even more banned books from years previous and patrons were encouraged to participate in a game that involved guessing the title of the shredded banned book in the container. Thirty options were presented to patrons to help them try to guess, and out of 30 entries into the raffle, 14 participants guessed the correct answer. The shredded banned book was *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Many patrons had positive conversations with staff about censorship and book banning and felt encouraged to read a banned book.













October 1, 8, 15 & 22 – Cheektowaga YES (Youth Engaged in Service)
The Cheektowaga YES (Youth Engaged in Service) continued its partnership with CPL by coordinating several Craft and LEGO Nights at our libraries. These evening programs are organized and led by local teens, who earn volunteer hours toward their high school graduation while providing families and children ages 3–11 with a fun and creative outlet. Naturally, October's activities featured Halloween themes, with plenty of pumpkins, ghosts, and witches being drawn, crafted, and built with LEGO bricks. These programs offer a wonderful opportunity for young volunteers to give back to their community while bringing families together through creativity and fun.

Oct. 3, 17 & 31 – Librarian Laura Scott continued the fall/winter session of the Julia Boyer Reinstein's Teen Dungeons & Dragons programs. Teens come together throughout October to continue their adventures, creating stories and making friends. Many of the teens are trying their hand at running games as Dungeon Master giving them a chance to lead the participants through their decisions and rolls of the dice. These programs are very well received and the parents have spoken very highly about their children love of the game and how they enjoy meeting for the adventures.

Throughout October - Thanks to the Coordination of volunteer instructors Judy Wipij and Linda Wetzel both Cheektowaga Libraries continue to offer knitting/crocheting classes and textile meet ups throughout the month (Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays). These meetings allow a relaxed environment to learn a new skill and a chance to meet and talk to others interested in textile arts. With the forthcoming construction at the Anna M. Reinstein Library all of the textile meetings at this library will move over to the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library.



October 10 – The Julia Boyer Reinstein Library hosted its Yearly Halloween Celebration. Magician Cris Johnson preformed a Spooky Halloween Magic show and after the show, the Lions Club of Cheektowaga helped run multiple craft tables and game stations for the children. Once done with their crafts children also had the chance to Trick or Treat throughout the library receiving candy, small toys and books.




SPOOKY MAGIC








RETURNS





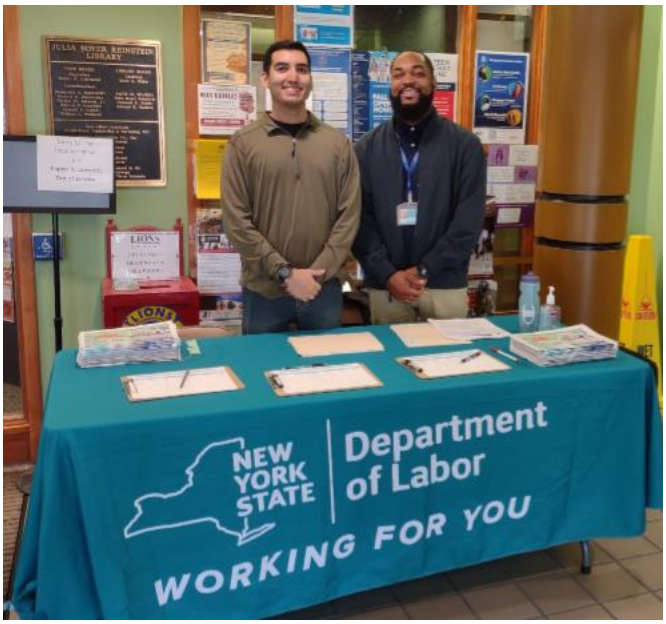


October 19 – The Julia Boyer Reinstein hosted its Library Next Chapter Book Club – Coordinated by Librarian Kathy Goodrich, the Next Chapter book club brings together readers to talk about new and upcoming books. As one book is not being read by all this gives participants a chance to hear what others are reading in different genres and note some potently good books to check out.

October 26 – Librarian Laura Scott coordinated the October Adult Craft Hour, which featured creating seasonal fall wreaths. Once again, the program brought together participants from the Senior Center and family members for an enjoyable afternoon of creativity and socializing. The event provided a welcoming, friendly, and positive opportunity for participants to connect, share ideas, and enjoy crafting together.

October 27 – The Julia Boyer Reinstein Library hosted a Job Fair in partnership with the NYS Department of Labor. Over 30 businesses and government agencies attended looking to hire new employees. In addition to offering the physical space for the Job Fair, Library staff helped attendees rewrite and print their resumes to target specific jobs offered. Hundreds of attendees had the chance to meet representatives, submit resumes and in many cases set interview dates. The NYS Department of Labor has complimented the staff and the location and is looking forward to the next Job Fair in the new year.







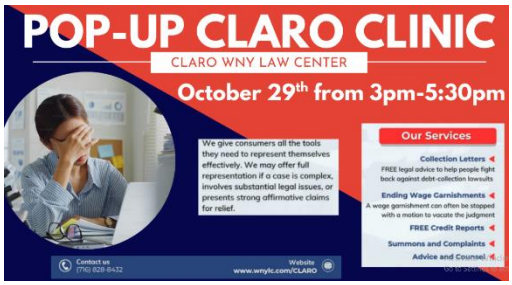

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October 29 – The Anna M. Reinstein Library **- Hosted** a Pop-Up CLARO (Civil Legal Advice Resource Office) providing access to consumer legal assistance for individuals experiencing debt collection and related financial legal issues.



Throughout October, both Cheektowaga Public Library locations continued to offer a variety of programs for children. Librarian Kathy Goodrich coordinated Preschool Story Times at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, while Librarian Heidi Bofinger continued to develop and promote the ***1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*** program. This nationwide early literacy initiative encourages parents and caregivers to read aloud to newborns, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers before they enter kindergarten. Families enroll in the program and keep track of the books they read together. As children reach various milestones, such as completing 100 books, they receive small incentives, including buttons and stickers, to celebrate their progress and encourage continued participation. This wonderful program helps build vocabulary, phonemic awareness, and listening comprehension while developing essential early literacy skills. It also encourages families to establish a shared daily reading routine and connects them with the library's many free resources, programs, and story times.







Outreach:

October 2 – Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) National Conference - Director Caufield attended and presented at the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) National Conference, held this year at the Hyatt Regency in Buffalo, NY. The Association for Library Service to Children is the world's largest organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing library services for children. Through creative programming, best practices, continuing education, and professional networking, ALSC members share knowledge and innovative approaches to children's library services. Director Caufield was invited to speak about his experiences using animals as a motivational tool to encourage children to read. He presented alongside Sarah McLean-Plunkett, a librarian from the Clarence Public Library, delivering a session entitled **"The Role of Therapy Dogs in Public Libraries and Their Supportive Role in Literacy Initiatives."** More than 100 attendees learned how libraries, working in partnership with community organizations, can develop successful Read to a Dog programs. The presentation explored the history of therapy animals and their role in creating a welcoming, engaging, and relaxed environment where children can build confidence and develop their reading skills. The session was very well received, with librarians from across the country contacting Director Caufield after the conference with follow-up questions and requests for additional information. The strong response highlighted the growing interest in innovative literacy initiatives and the valuable role public libraries can play in supporting young readers.

2. Collections: Development and Use

Highlights:

All book and media orders have been submitted the Centralized Collection Development Department for 2026.

Displays

Throughout October, the Cheektowaga Public Libraries honored Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15–October 15) with educational book displays designed to inform patrons about the tremendous contributions of the Hispanic community to the arts, literature, and culture, and its lasting impact on the development of our country and the region we call home.



October – Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Harry Houdini's Death

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of Harry Houdini's death, the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library hosted an exhibit celebrating the magic and mystery of the legendary escape artist. Houdini died on Halloween, October 31, 1926, yet a century later, he remains an iconic figure in the world of magic and entertainment. His remarkable life and career have inspired countless biographies and works of fiction.

The exhibit attracted the attention of many library patrons, who stopped to admire the displays and learn more about Houdini's extraordinary life and accomplishments. To further enhance the experience, a collection of books from the Central Library was made available at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, giving visitors an opportunity to explore Houdini's fascinating history in greater depth.










HOUDINI'S
DEATH DEFYING MYSTERY
Weird Tales
HARRY HOUDINI
PRISON CELL & BARREL MYSTERY
HOUDINI


HOUDINI'S
DEATH DEFYING MYSTERY
Weird Tales
HARRY HOUDINI
PRISON CELL & BARREL MYSTERY
KELLAR


HOUDINI
"THE GRIM GAME"
HOUDINI
THE MAN FROM BEYOND
LOCKS AND ILLUSIONS
Secrets of the Escape Artist
HARRY HOUDIN
THE FILM STAR


HARDEEN
Harry & Bess
The Final Séance

3. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Director Caufield was in communication with the Town of Cheektowaga Engineering Department in preparation for the Roof Replacement at the Anna Reinstein Library. The current date construction is set to begin is November 16th.

The Anna M. Reinstein Library received 5 computer chairs through a Library improvement grant sponsored by the B&ECPL system. These chairs will replace aging computer chairs allowing greater comfort to the public as they use our computers.

a. Technology

NA

4. Partnerships, Meetings / Future Planning / Special Projects.

New B&ECPL Director Christine Schonhart informed CPL that $40,000 in bullet funding will be bestowed to the Cheektowaga Public Libraries. These additional funds come through the efforts of New York State Assemblyman Patrick Chulzinski