

Buffalo & Erie County Public
LIBRARY

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

1. PUBLIC SERVICES

Programs, Learning Opportunities, Outreach and Events

Highlights:

- May 2 - The Julia Boyer Reinstein Library hosted a daylong small business workshop entitled "How to Start and Run a Small Business". Collaborating with SCORE Buffalo/Niagara, attendees learned from experts in business law, marketing, taxes/accounting, web design and what to consider when selling online. Director Caufield spoke to attendees about free industry and marketing data available from the Library that would help them in marketing and researching their individual industries. The workshop was very well received by attendees with many returning for further lessons in using library resources.
- May 6 - The educational animal outreach company Nickel City Reptiles and Exotics visited the Anna Reinstein Memorial Library for an exciting hour with its animal ambassadors. *Nickel City* owner Jeff Musial provided an up-close visit with animals including a Fennec fox, armadillo, baby alligator, big snake, and exotic bugs. This event was a great success with families learning about the animal world up-close and being able to touch some unusual and fascinating creatures.





- May 9 - The Julia Boyer Reinstein Library collaborating with Cheektowaga High School and the Buffalo SPCA hosted an Art-Mart, which promoted and raised money for the SPCA. Cheektowaga High School students created animal themed works of art to be sold in an effort to help the Buffalo SPCA. The SPCA was in attendance with the Adoption van allowing attendees to meet dogs and cats looking for a home.





- May 16 – In cooperation with community member Patricia Reinbold, the Anna Reinstein Memorial Library hosted a “Free Market” event. For this event attendees were asked to bring gently used, like-new items to give, then take home anything from the market that they needed – completely free of charge. These free item events are very popular and helpful to individuals who may not be able to afford additional clothing or home items; we look forward to host more of these programs in the coming months.



FREE MARKET
EVERYTHING IS FREE!
DONORS NEEDED!
BRING YOUR STUFF & GIVE IT AWAY!

REALLY, REALLY FREE MARKET
Saturday, May 16th
from 9 am – 12:30 pm

Bring some items to give away for FREE! Plan to take home some items for FREE! Donors needed! Please bring only clean useable items to give.

What is acceptable: household items, clothes, footwear, toys, books, kitchen items, and more.
Not acceptable: firearms other weapons, medications, smoking supplies, broken items.
Donors: Whatever is not taken, you must take back after the market. Nothing left behind!

Stop in at 2580 Harlem Rd
Cheektowaga, NY 14225 to attend.

- May 20 - The Connect Life Trailer visited the Boyer Reinstein Library for its spring blood drive. The Connect Life Trailer visits twice a year and has found the Reinstein Libraries a wonderful place to meet with the community willing to donate blood and help save lives.



Your blood drive
helped
save the lives of
18
local patients.

Thank you for making an **IMPACT** in so many lives.

Connect Life
Blood & Organ Donor Network

- May – Wednesdays and Thursdays – Children’s Librarian Heidi Bofinger continued her Wednesday Night Owl Family Story Time and her Thursday Early Bird Family Story Time programs at Anna Reinstein Memorial Library. Ms. Bofinger’s story times include stories, songs, and craft activities for young children and their grownups.



- Mondays and Thursdays throughout May – Volunteer Judy Wipij directed the weekly *Twisted Stiches* knitting circle at Anna Reinstein Memorial. On Thursdays in May (at noon), Linda Wetzer coordinated the weekly Hook Needles and Threads the knitting/crochet group at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. During these programs, crafters bring their own supplies and enjoy some friendly conversation while they work on knitting, crocheting, or loom knitting projects.



- May 30 – Syrian artist Nada Odeh lead an Arabic Calligraphy and Vegetal Arts Workshop at Anna Reinstein Memorial Library. Attendees could experience the rich artistic traditions of Arabic calligraphy and Islamic arabesque patterns and motifs through a presentation and a hands-on workshop. Despite there being eleven patron registrations for this event, only one person attended. It is thought the local communities' concurrent Eid al Adha celebrations drew more attention than the workshop. However, we still hope to appeal to our Middle Eastern patrons by inviting Ms. Odeh back to hosting similar workshops in the future.



Outreach:

- May 8 – Librarian Matthew Best presented to students at the St. Gregory the Great School's Career Day. Matthew provided middle school students with information about the role of a librarian, required education, qualities of good librarians, and their average pay. He summarized his professional journey to librarianship and answered questions from the students.



Culture and Creativity

Arts and Expression

Creativity runs deep in Arab American communities. Art, music, literature, and performance serve as powerful forms of storytelling, identity, and activism. From traditional calligraphy and folk music to contemporary filmmaking, fashion, and hip-hop, Arab Americans express their heritage, challenge stereotypes, and shape American culture.

Arab American writers have gained international acclaim, sharing stories of migration, identity, and resilience. Spoken word poetry has become a powerful form of expression, with Arab American poets using their voices to address issues of social justice and identity.

Arab American artists continue to push boundaries, celebrate their heritage, and amplify their voices, proving that art is not just expression—it is history, it is culture, and it is a bridge between the generations.

Arab American musicians draw from centuries-old melodies and embrace modern genres like jazz, hip-hop, and electronic music.

Yet I Am Deeply Rooted Here

Smithsonian Arab American National Museum

Who Am I?

I Am Arab American.

Arab Americans have made remarkable, indelible contributions across every facet of life, from government and the arts to medicine, business, education, and community service.

Across generations, Arab Americans have enriched the United States with their voices, their stories, and their contributions.

What does it really mean to be Arab American? The answer will be different for everyone.

Whether you were born in America or arrived here as an immigrant, whatever your ancestry, how do you embrace your heritage?

"Always be guided by the light of knowledge and wisdom to shape your future, the future of your country, and the future of the world."

"We have to be a nation of compassion."

"For as long as I can remember, all the things we identify as—Arab American, Muslim, Woman—have been under attack."

"To me, it means marrying both cultures, where we're [ethnically] from and (where) we're born and reside. Having both of them here is the integration of the best of both worlds."

Yet I Am Deeply Rooted Here

Smithsonian Arab American National Museum

3. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

a. Facilities:

- May 20 - Facility Care Takers Eric Szymborski and Nicholas Perison attended a daylong conference for custodial staff sponsored by Corr Distributors Inc. Corr Distributors provides many of the cleaning supplies used by B&ECPL custodial staff and once a year they host a conference featuring best practices and uses of products to clean and repair facilities.
- Danforth HVAC has been in throughout May to make sure the change over from winter boilers to Summer AC units works without a problem.
- Throughout May, the Anna M. Reinstein Library has offered access to the roof and outside grounds for contractors ready to bid on the roof and support pillar replacements.

b. Technology

NA

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

- Throughout May – Director Caufield has been in communicated with members of the Town of Cheektowaga Engineering Department and the Town Parks Department in regards to the roof and column replacement at the Anna M. Reinstein Library. The Town has sent the project out to bid and throughout May Caufield and members of the Town Engineering Dept. have met and escorted contractors around the building and roof to review the job. Proposals will be accepted up to June 2 which after, the Town Engineering Department will open and review the bids.
- Throughout May staff at both Libraries have been preparing programming, collections and activities for the 2026 summer read. "Unearth a Story" is the official nationwide theme for the 2026 Summer Reading Program, spearheaded by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). It celebrates the joy of discovery through archaeology, paleontology, and the hidden histories of our communities.