



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

October 2025

1. PUBLIC SERVICES

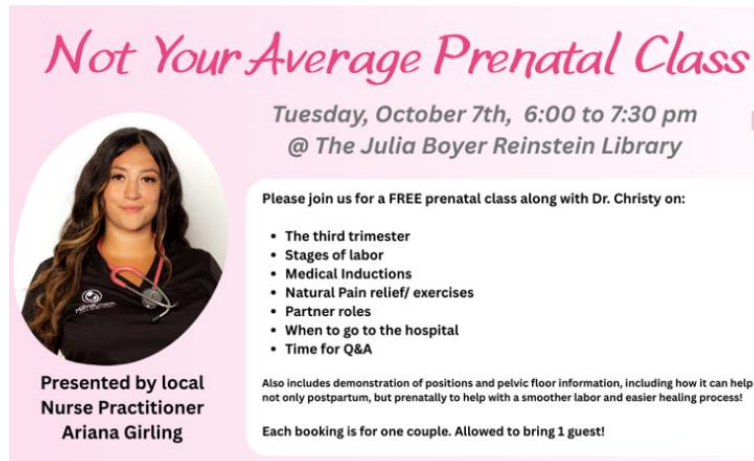
Programs, Learning Opportunities, Outreach and Events

Highlights:

- October 5 – The Western New York Iris Society continue their monthly Sunday Speakers series with a lecture by author and monarch butterfly expert Dave O'Donnell. Mr. O'Donnell spoke about his new children's book, "Davey's Butterfly Farm", and his years of raising and protecting butterflies. Dave O'Donnell is founder of the Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm in Clarence NY. Known around Western New York as the "Butterfly Man", his new children's book explains how he got involved with Monarch Butterflies, how they help the environment and what flowers one could plant to help butterflies thrive in our region.

The poster has a light blue background with a yellow brushstroke effect across the middle. On the left is the book cover for "Davey's Butterfly Farm" by David O'Donnell, showing a boy and a caterpillar. In the center, the text "WESTERN NEWYORK IRIS SOCIETY" is in large, bold, orange letters. Below it, in smaller black text, is "teams up for a Special Presentation by Dave O'Donnell". The date and time "OCTOBER 5, 2025 AT 1:00PM" are in bold purple letters. The location "AT THE JULIA BOYER REINSTEIN LIBRARY" and address "ADDRESS: 1030 LOSSON ROAD, CHEEKTOWAGA, NY" are in blue letters. At the bottom, "Free and Open to Public" is in bold black letters. On the right side, there are three small images: a purple iris flower, a monarch butterfly on a pink flower, and a monarch caterpillar on a leaf.

- October 7 -Nurse Practitioner Ariana Girling offered a prenatal class for woman near the last stages of pregnancy. Many soon to be mothers attended and Ms. Girling was able to instruct them in what expect and exercises that will alleviate pain and lead to a less painful or anxiety filled delivery.



- October 7- Librarian Heidi Bofinger presented a Pumpkin Painting Craft Workshop at Anna Reinstein Memorial Library. During the program, Heidi led a group of adults and children in decorating and painting foam and ceramic pumpkins to keep for the Halloween and fall season.



- October 11 – Buffalo Music Hall of Fame and Three2Go Music Alliance hosted a “Business of Music” workshop at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. Attendees took a deep dive into the business side of music, how artists protect their works with copyright, how to post and market music to audio streaming services and discussions on how much musicians actually make. The workshop ended with speakers listening to and reviewing songs created by attendees. The program provided a wonderful introduction to business law, taxes and marketing while still being creative and inspiring.

- October 13 & October 20 - The American Sewing Guild hosted open programs to learn Inkle Loom weaving (a type of weaving and loom that is used to create straps, tapes, strips, and bands) and painting on fabric. Both taught by textile artist Karen Hull Sienk attendees were able to learn new skills and walkaway with beautiful woven belts and fabric art.



- October 18 – The Cheektowaga Public Libraries celebrated Halloween with its annual Spooky Library Party. Magician Chris Johnson performed at both Libraries (Julia Boyer Reinstein in the morning and Anna M. Reinstein in the afternoon) thrilling children of all ages. Crafts and games were available after the Magic Show with the Cheektowaga Lions club helping to staff activity tables at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library to assist children. Librarian Heidi Bofinger organized a Fall Crafternoon after their Magic Show at the Anna M. Reinstein Library. Patrons of all ages could make a bookmark and a fall wreath. As a tasty bonus, Heidi prepared a sweet treat of boo-berry flavored cotton candy for all who attended.







- October 23 – Wild Ones of Western New York (native plants organization) hosted an "Ask the Native Plant Experts" panel discussion at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. The panel of experts included local nursery professionals Kathleen Contrino, CW Native Plant Farm, Catherine LaMantia, Primeval Forest and Ken Parker, Native Plant Specialist at Masterson's Garden Center. Moderator by Dannielle Larrabee, Communications chair for Wild Ones WNY, attendees could ask any question about caring for their gardens and how to introduce native plants to help the environment.



- October 25 - Volunteer Judy Wipij presented her *Crochet for All* class at the Anna Reinstein Memorial Library. This class teaches participants six basic crochet stitches and then builds on those techniques to suite the age group. Ms. Wipij teaches the classes regularly on the fourth Saturday of the month from September to May.



- October 25, - Anna Reinstein Memorial Library held a free showing of the family Halloween movie *Halloweentown* (1998, rated TV-PG).



- October 31 – Carrying over from September as National Preparedness month, the National Guard and the Department of Homeland Security provided a free workshop to residents discussing how they can prepare for any emergency. This opportunity was provided as part of a NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program funded by the Department of Homeland s
- Security. By attending the workshop, each participant received an emergency “Go Bag” filled with equipment to help in any situation.



Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Citizen Preparedness Corps

SIGN UP FOR A FREE CLASS TO LEARN ABOUT PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to normal conditions. This training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one preparedness kit.

WHERE: Julia Boyer Reinstein Library
1030 Lossos Rd
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

WHEN: Friday, October 31, 2025
1:00 PM

REGISTER:
Registration is required to attend the event.
To register visit www.prepare.ny.gov or scan the QR code





THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY GOVERNOR HOCHUL IN CONJUNCTION WITH:  and Julia Boyer Reinstein Library

- October (11& 25 at JBR 13 & 27 at REI) - Librarian Jeff Matrachisia continued his Dungeons and Dragons game nights for adults 17 and older at the Anna M. Reinstein Library. This program brings together a core group of players and welcomes occasional new players to collaborate in creative adventure game play. Librarian Laura Scott continues to bring Dungeons and Dragons game play for teens to the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. Both libraries have wonderfully dedicated players that welcomes others to join them in their fantasy adventures.



- October - Collaborating with the Cheektowaga Lions Club and the Resurrection Life Food Pantry both Cheektowaga Libraries have become a drop off location for canned soups. While food banks receive donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, the general day-to-day reserves that need no extra preparation do dwindle. That was the idea behind the Soup Drive. If the Libraries can help collect hearty soups that can be used at any time this would support the local food pantries as they continue to provide food outside of the holiday meals. At the end of October, the Cheektowaga Public Libraries donated 111 cans of soup to the Resurrection Life Food Pantry.
- October 2, 9, 16, and 23 - YES Craft Nights and Lego Programs continue at both Cheektowaga Libraries – YES (Youth Engaged in Service) volunteers coordinated the Halloween themed activities to everyone’s enjoyment.

- October – Both Cheektowaga Libraries continue to offer story times for young children 9 and under (Preschool Story Time Wednesdays at JBR and Wednesday's Night Owl Story time and Thursday Early Bird mornings at REI), Librarians Kathy Goodrich and Heidi Bofinger organize these very well attended programs. One particular Preschool Story time to note was Kathy Goodrich's Fairy stories and Fairy hunt on October 1. After stories and crafts with a Fairy themes. Kathy took the children and family members on a Fairy hunt along the back woods of the Library.



Outreach:

- October 14 - From October 14 through October 20, Librarian Carol Vech spent the mornings talking to 14 different classes of pre-k and kindergarteners at Union East Elementary School, with an average of 17 students per class. She read a story, then told them about things they could do in the library and how to obtain a library card. Forty-five library cards were issued to students and family members many of which visited the Cheektowaga Libraries for the first time later in the month.

- October 23 - Carol Vech staffed a Library information and craft table at “Spookdinner” at Maryvale Intermediate School event. The event was hosted by the afterschool program run by the YWCA. A hundred and fifteen parents and children stopped by the table, with the children choosing a craft to do: making a ghost, a flying witch, or a Halloween picture frame. While the children were making their craft, Carol was able to introduce the many programs the Cheektowaga Libraries offer to families. Story hours were a popular topic but the Lego Club was extremely interesting to children and family members alike, so much so that attendance for October noticeably increased.

2. Collections: Development and Use

Highlights:

- Final 2025 orders for audio/video and print materials have been submitted for system processing.

Displays

- October 5-11 - **Freedom to Read Week & Banned Books Week** – The Cheektowaga Libraries celebrated National Freedom to Read Week/Banned Books Week, which celebrates the freedom to read and highlights censorship efforts by drawing attention to the harms of restricting access to books. Through displays and social media, both libraries featured lecturers and events occurring throughout the B&ECPL system. Director Caufield spoke to Students at Cheektowaga Central High School about the history of Book Bans and highlighted the value of free and open access to information that can bring together communities through shared knowledge.





FREEDOM TO READ WEEK OCT. 5-11, 2025

Join us to stand strong against Banning Books

CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

The American Library Association documented another year in an escalating deluge of efforts to censor library material in 2024. Censorship in our schools, libraries, and workplaces is on the rise. In 2024, 5,452 censorship titles were challenged, the highest number ever documented by ALA and significantly exceeding the annual average of 273 since this was the period from 2000-2009.

WHO CHALLENGES BOOKS?

Nearly 75% of censorship attempts in 2024 were initiated by pressure groups and decision makers who have been named by them.

WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?

Public libraries: 55%, Schools: 23%, Higher education: 18%, Other: 4%.

BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 821 censorship attempts in 2024. Topics for challenges:

75% Sex, gender, and gender identity
15% LGBTQ+ issues
10% Religion
8% Race and ethnicity
7% Language
6% Violence
5% Other

CENSORSHIP TRENDS

The frequency of library censorship can be tied to organized campaigns. Pressure groups and the administration have organized a 10% total rise in 2024. From 2000-2009, the censorship attempts to remove an average of 43 titles per year.

Percentage of total titles requested by pressure groups and decision makers, 2007-2024

2007: 10%, 2008: 12%, 2009: 15%, 2010: 18%, 2011: 20%, 2012: 22%, 2013: 25%, 2014: 28%, 2015: 30%, 2016: 32%, 2017: 35%, 2018: 38%, 2019: 40%, 2020: 42%, 2021: 45%, 2022: 48%, 2023: 50%, 2024: 55%.

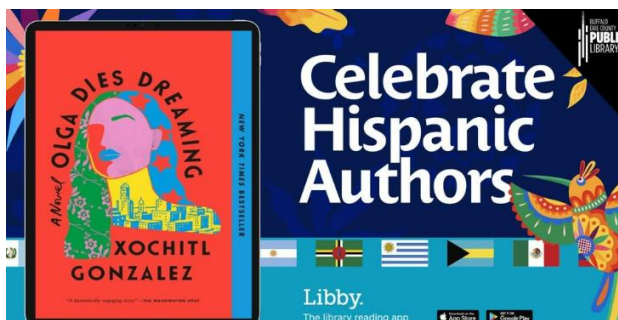
Join us for 3 programs:

Mon., October 6 @ 6 pm at Crane Library

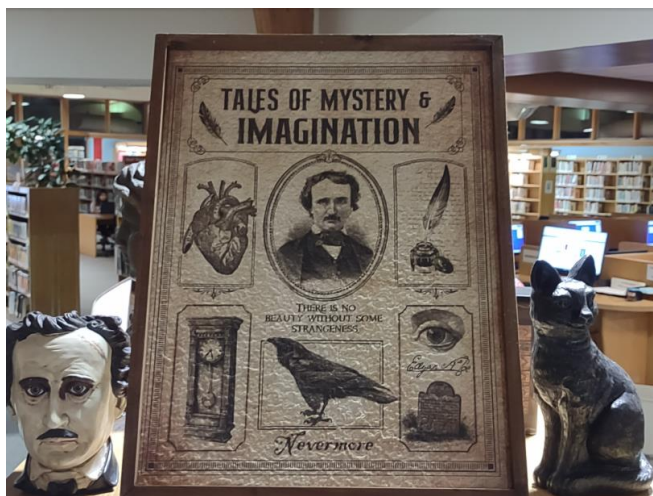
Tue., October 7 @ 6 pm at Kenmore Library

Wed., October 8 @ 6 pm at Merriweather Library

- September 15 to October 15 – Cheektowaga Libraries celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month through displays and suggested reading lists for all ages.



Halloween



3. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

a. Facilities:

- Working with Town of Cheektowaga officials a resolution to pay for the repair the roof HVAC unit at the Anna M. Reinstein Library was passed in October. Parts have been ordered and the unit should be repaired soon. Special thanks to Town Park Crew Chief Mark Mez for his quick coordination on this resolution.

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

- October 29 – Anna Reinstein Memorial Library said goodbye to part-time Librarian Jeff Matrachisia. Jeff is joining the staff at the North Tonawanda branch of the Niagara County Public Library System as a full-time Librarian. Jeff started at our library in 2022. He provided help at the main service desk, assisted with collection management, and hosted game programs for families and adults. We wish Jeff the best luck as he starts on his new professional path!



- The Cheektowaga Lions club has been working with Director Caufield to create a more visible profile to their organization. They have helped in many programs running activity tables and have helped the library become a drop off point for local food pantries. Their energy and enthusiasm is welcomed as we both look to help and better the Cheektowaga community.