

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 15, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, September 15, 2011, in the Central Library pursuant to due notice to trustees. The following members were present:

Sharon A. Thomas, Chair
Jack Connors, Vice Chair
Elaine M. Panty, Secretary
Amy Alvarez-Perez
Richard L. Berger
Frank Gist
Theodore Johnson
Sharon M. Kelly
Anne M. Leary
Judith K. Summer
Wayne D. Wisbaum
Jennifer Zivis

Absent:

Phyllis A. Horton
John G. Schmidt, Jr.

Chair Sharon A. Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Central Meeting Room.

Agenda Item B – Agenda/Changes to the Agenda. Agenda approved as mailed.

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of July 21, 2011. On motion by Ms. Panty and a second by Ms. Summer, the July Minutes were approved as mailed.

Agenda Item D – Nominations for Officer. Ms. Thomas informed trustees that Rick Lewis resigned from the Board leaving the office of Treasurer vacant. Per the bylaws, nominations will take place at this meeting with a vote to be taken at the next October Board meeting. Ms. Thomas opened the floor for nominations for the office of Board Treasurer. Trustee Summer motioned to nominate Frank Gist for Treasurer and Trustee

Panty seconded. Mr. Gist accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, the motion was carried unanimously, and a vote will be taken at the October Board meeting.

Trustee Wisbaum arrived at approximately 4:08 p.m.

Agenda Item E – Report of the Chair. Ms. Thomas introduced 2 new Board members in attendance, Ms. Jennifer Zivis replacing Dr. Albert Michaels who resigned and Mr. Ted Johnson replacing Dr. Hormoz Mansouri whose term expired. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Thomas extended thanks to Mr. Lewis, Dr. Mansouri and Dr. Michaels for their service on the Library Board.

Ms. Thomas reported attending the following meetings: August 13th Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT) meeting where contract member libraries worked on finalizing the version of their resolution; the Association of Supervisors and Mayors meeting held in Eden where Director Mary Jean Jakubowski and CFO Kenneth Stone gave an outstanding presentation regarding the special legislative district public library option; the Quarterly Mayors and Supervisors meeting where County Executive Chris Collins took the opportunity to explain to the group if the Library moves to become a special legislative district public library, the library levy on everyone's tax bill will be moved off; and Amherst Supervisor Barry Weinstein and Village of Williamsville Mayor Brian Kulpa joint meeting, along with Amherst Public Library Board President Jeffrey Voelkl, where Ms. Jakubowski did a presentation on the library special district.

Ms. Thomas called on Trustee Leary to provide an update on the Gala. Ms. Leary reported 31 tables have been sold and invitations have not even gone out. The mailing will be about 800 - 900. She thanked Mr. Ted Johnson from Hadley Exhibits for his help and feels the second floor will be transformed into something magical for the Gala. They are working on the silent auction and live auction. A mailing to 475 businesses to take out program ads was recently done. Ms. Thomas thanked Ms. Leary for her commitment.

Ms. Thomas called on Director Jakubowski to report on the online book auction. The Director noted that because the *Buffalo News Bucks for Books* campaign goes through October 30th, the online book auction (biddingforgood.com site) will be held at a future date to be announced so it can stand by itself. For the 2 new trustees in attendance, Ms. Summer provided information on the online book auction. Ms. Jakubowski thanked Ms. Summer for her work on the online book auction.

Not even 2 full weeks into the *Bucks for Books* campaign, B&ECPL Public Affairs Manager Joy Testa Cinquino reported over 500 donations and about \$56,000 have been received (this figure is before the *Buffalo News* match). Ms. Jakubowski shared some

heartwarming stories from letters received with donations for the *Bucks for Books* campaign. These stories will be shared on the Library website. In response to a question by Mr. Connors, discussion ensued regarding the silent auction and live auction that are to be held at the Gala.

Trustees Alvarez-Perez and Berger arrived at approximately 4:20 p.m.

Agenda Item F – Committee Reports.

Agenda Item F.1 – Executive Committee. Mr. Connors reported on both the August 11th (which met although there was no August Board meeting) and September 8th Executive Committee meetings.

August 11, 2011 Meeting:

The Executive Committee met on August 11, 2011; this was a joint meeting with the Budget and Finance Committee. A quorum of the Executive Committee was present.

Mary Jean Jakubowski briefed the Committee on the schedule for upcoming meetings with local representatives throughout the County. Outcomes of meetings with various legislators were also discussed.

Ms. Jakubowski briefed the Committee on meetings she had with various cultural organizations who have expressed interest in space availability on the 2nd floor of the Central Library. Paul Hogan has been coordinating this with some of the area culturals.

Discussion was held on the contents of the development of a resolution to move forward with a Special Legislative District Public Library. Discussion ensued. Several suggestions in language change will be sent to Attorney Ellen Bach of Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP.

There was discussion on an educational campaign by Libby Post.

The Executive Committee meeting ended and the Budget and Finance Committee met where Deputy Director Kenneth Stone gave an overview of the 2012 budget preparation status.

September 8, 2011 Meeting:

The Executive Committee met on September 8, 2011; a quorum was present.

Mary Jean Jakubowski shared various updates including the New York State Library Association Advisory Opinion on Tax Cap Impact on

Libraries, development of a compare and contrast document of a 414 Municipal Ballot and a Special Legislative District Public Library as well as a Q&A regarding the Special Legislative District Public Library. These documents were shared with member library trustees at the September 10th ACT meeting.

Ms. Jakubowski discussed ongoing meetings with local public officials.

The Committee went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter; no action was taken.

The Committee reviewed and recommended the agenda for the September 15th meeting of the B&ECPL Board of Trustees.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Agenda Item F.2 – Budget and Finance Committee.

Agenda Item F.2.a – Monthly Financial Report. The monthly financial report for the months of June and July 2011 was presented for information. Mr. Stone mentioned one item of note is the Library received its state aid payments, roughly 90% of the total for the year. The Library is operating within its budget. He also explained they are in the process of taking applications for the New York State (NYS) Construction Grants. The State has converted to an entirely online submission process and extended the deadline to October 19, 2011. Recommendations to forward to NYS will probably be brought to the Executive Committee for consideration at its October 13th meeting. The Library is pursuing the possibility of leveraging the \$250,000 that Erie County provided to reconfigure the second floor space with the library construction grant to fully asbestos abate that area before we reconfigure it for other uses. Advantages of this were discussed further. Ms. Panty asked for the status of the escalators. Mr. Stone replied the County issued an RFP for architects to do the design on the elevator project. The plan is to construct the elevators first which will allow the Library to continue to operate the escalators. When the elevators are available, demolition of the escalators can be done. The Department of Public Works is currently reviewing the RFP's which were due on September 13th, which means we will get an architect on board to design it and we can see designs and bids for the elevators out sometime next year and construction perhaps beginning late in 2012. There would then be another opportunity to apply for a state construction grant to help fund it.

Agenda Item F.3 – Planning Committee. Committee Chair Rick Berger referred the report to Ms. Jakubowski. She reported the Committee has been working with the member library trustees on the concept of a regovernance and financial foundation structure. Options have been explored and Ellen Bach of Whiteman Osterman & Hanna

LLP has been engaged who has continued to work with the Association of Contracting Library Trustees; Ms. Bach did a presentation this past weekend on the specific differences between a 414 municipal ballot and a Special Legislative District Public Library. The Committee members from the System Board have been in regular contact with various members of the member library trustees. It has been a very all inclusive process with much time spent exploring and answering questions. Mr. Berger extended an invitation to all trustees to attend the next Planning Committee meeting scheduled for September 27th at 7 p.m. at the Central Library.

Agenda Item G - Report of the Director. In addition to the Director's written report sent out prior to the meeting, Ms. Jakubowski shared a letter (which will also be posted on the staff intranet) from County Executive Chris Collins acknowledging and congratulating the B&ECPL on the 13th Annual Battle of the Books which was held in August.

Official notice was received from the John R. Oishei Foundation that the Library will be receiving the grant as asked, for the development of a master plan and facility assessment. When more information is received, this will be brought to the Board for acceptance of the funds. She thanked Robert Gioia for his efforts in going out to the community to find matching funds.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month and at a media event, Ms. Jakubowski shared the look of the new youth and adult library cards. On hand on get their own new library cards were local sports celebrities - Sabretooth from Buffalo Sabres Hockey, Buster T. Bison from Buffalo Bisons Baseball, and Rax from Buffalo Bandits Lacrosse. Students from Buffalo's Enterprise Charter school also participated.

Ms. Jakubowski also had the honor of kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month; County Executive Chris Collins, Mayor Byron Brown and several other public officials attended this event. She thanked Anne Conable for her efforts in putting this together.

Ms. Jakubowski reported she continues to visit supervisors and mayors regarding the library district and will begin meeting with state legislators next week. She then plans to meet with the City of Buffalo Common Council members and school superintendants. She provided an update on visits to date and noted the meetings have been well received.

Copies of Questions & Answers - Special Legislative District Public Library, New York Library Association Advisory Opinion on Tax Cap Impact on Libraries, and a Comparison between 414 Municipal Ballot and Special Legislative District Public Library handouts were distributed to trustees (these were also previously e-mailed to trustees). This information was shared with ACT at their September 10th meeting.

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

Monthly Report of Library System Activity September 15, 2011

1. PUBLIC SERVICES

Programs, Learning Opportunities, Outreach and Events

Assistant Deputy Director for Special Collections **Peggy Skotnicki** curated the new Gluck exhibit, *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*, to complement the UB grant by the same name. The Gluck Archives contain the manuscripts of a poem and short story by Alcott and the Rare Book Room has many first editions of her books.

Grosvenor Room Librarian **Carol Pijacki** presided at the July 19th Literally Speaking Lunchtime Book Discussion Group for the title *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen and at the August 16th session for the title *The Secret Life of Emily Dickinson* by Jerome Charyn, led by Hamburg Library Director **Jack Edson**.

Grosvenor Room Librarian **Rhonda Konig** attended the July 30th Western New York Genealogical Society Board meeting. Ms. Konig will be the new layout editor of the Society's journal.

Ms. Konig taught Genealogy 101, a course she developed, on August 18th for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at its Buffalo office as part of its Family Heritage and Diversity Month. Attendees were interested in Grosvenor Room staff presenting the program to other community groups with which they have affiliations. The class is available for presentation at libraries throughout the System.

Carol Pijacki provided 6 tours of Grosvenor Room resources for visitors from around the country - Virginia, Michigan, Florida and Gasport, New York.

Carol Pijacki finalized the Buffalo Philharmonic travelling display with **Dawn Stanton** of Graphics. It is now ready for booking along with 7 other exhibits. **Peggy Skotnicki** worked with **Dawn Stanton** and Webmaster **Terri Dickson** to set up online booking of these displays through the Intranet.

<http://becpl4all.buffalolib.org/depts/cr/graphics/ExhibitsTravelling.asp>

The 24 Pan American Exposition scrapbooks and the Central Terminal scrapbook are being uploaded to the New York Heritage website. The WNYLegacy site is being merged into this larger database. Buffalo and Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL)

patrons and people from around the world will have access to this unique material. The digitization was funded by a Regional Bibliographic Data Bases grant from the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC). William S. Hein & Co. scanned all the scrapbooks. The scans were then sent to Backstage Library Works for processing. William S. Hein & Co. will also provide the library with microfilm and print copies of all scrapbooks.

http://www.wnylegacy.org/cdm4/browse_inst.php#BECPL

During the summer months, demand for technology training remained at an all-time high. In July, a total of 33 public classes were held for 350 attendees at 10 different libraries, including the Central Library Training Lab. In August, 32 classes were held for 200 attendees at 10 libraries. Comments included:

- *I highly recommend others to attend this free training.*
- *Found the class very interesting. I'm a real novice (never been on a computer). Was able to follow the instructor and actually able to do what I was supposed to.*
- *Very helpful. Had been computer phobic. Classes small and extremely helpful. Felt comfortable learning & asking basic.*

The Library continues to promote programs and services to our virtual users through popular social networking sites. The e-Community webpage <http://bit.ly/dqOXSN> on the B&ECPL website features photo albums on Flickr (the popular image-hosting site). During August, 178 new photos were posted to the site. Three albums were featured this summer. The Jafarjian family <http://bit.ly/ljmuhO> was highlighted in 'Operation Reading Road Trip' and the album has had 237 views. In August, albums included 'The Battle of the Books' <http://bit.ly/pdyJPT> (937 views) and 'Summer Celebrations at Area Libraries' <http://bit.ly/IIQEy6> (448 views). "All time" photo views totaled 30,373 with 13,543 individual views over the last 30 days.

The e-Community webpage also highlights the Library's YouTube videos. In August a link was added to the Training Lab's YouTube Channel <http://bit.ly/ojDfO9>. This site contains a series of online tutorials which support the Library's databases.

Announcing a new technology training service! Beginning in September, one day each month we will be offering an "open session" in the Central Training Lab. Technology training librarians and technical specialists will be available one-on-one to answer computer-related questions. After the results of this pilot program are evaluated, the sessions may be expanded and/or also offered in community libraries.

Would you like to know more about searching e-Content or downloading e-Books and audiobooks? How about instructions for downloading to an iPad, Nook or SONY e-Reader? The OverDrive Download Training Guides that have recently been used during staff training sessions are now available on the e-Content Page of our public

website <http://bit.ly/bBCMSF>. The following Training Guides were developed by Technology Trainer **Tom Carloni**:

- Searching and browsing e-Content
- Downloading Audiobooks - Getting Started
- Downloading e-Books - Getting Started
- Downloading Audiobooks and e-Books for the iPad

The *Buffalo News* online! Did you know that library cardholders have electronic access to full text articles published by the *Buffalo News* since 1989? You can browse complete issues or search for specific articles. Library Technology Trainer **Andy Aquino** has developed a brief screencast <http://bit.ly/nKRWdc> that provides step-by-step instructions to access the database and search for articles. This is another in a series of B&ECPL-produced programs designed to assist staff members and library users (both in-house and virtual) who may have questions about our electronic products and services.

The curricula for 18 public classes were updated by Training Lab Coordinator Librarian **Kara Stock**. Revised classes include: *Introduction to Web 2.0, e-mail Basics, e-mail Intermediate, MS Excel Basics, MS Power Point Basics, MS Publisher Basics, MS Word Basics, Mail Merge, MSWord Intermediate, File Management, Resume Maker, Introduction to Facebook, Introduction to Flickr, Introduction to YouTube, Introduction to the Library Web Site, Introduction to LinkedIn, Internet Intermediate, and Google Maps & Mashups*. **Kara Stock** and Technology Trainer **Nell Arnoff** updated the *Google It* class. Two new classes were also developed. Kara wrote *MS Excel Intermediate* and Nell wrote an *Introduction to Skype*. Due to patron request, these classes will be offered at the Central Library Training Lab and are available for booking in community libraries.

Central Public Services

- In response to patron interest, Information Services Librarian **Beth Lewitzky** planned a film series for Saturday afternoons in August. Four films by Tim Burton were shown: *Corpse Bride, Alice in Wonderland, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Beetlejuice*.

Buffalo City Branches

- The Infringement Festival held on Elmwood Avenue during the last week in July into the first week of August brought in many patrons!
- Perry Ground captivated the audience at the Crane Library in August. Many turned out for his storytelling. The Museum of Science held a Family Fun Night in August. A crowd of 20 or so had a great deal of fun.
- On July 12th, Dudley Branch Sr. Pages **Kate Shea** and **Chelsea Hausrath** organized a Harry Potter party in celebration of the last Harry Potter film premiere. A total of 23 children were sorted into houses in accordance to the Potter stories and were treated to assorted games based on the books. Kate and Chelsea used their creativity to create many of the games from scratch.

- On July 19th, 29 children and 5 adults attended Dudley Branch's Beach party in the Tim Russert Children's Park. **Kate Shea** and **Chelsea Hausrath** along with Clerk **Denise Sweet** helped kids make sand crafts and a hula hoop contest was held.
- On July 26th, Dudley Library held an I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream party. Twenty-five children and 3 adults were on hand to use a new ice cream maker. It's a ball filled with ice cream mix, ice and rock salt that kids roll to produce a quart of ice cream. Some children tried their hand at making ice cream with the ingredients, plastic bags, and rock salt. **Chelsea Hausrath** and **Kate Shea** helped with the craft and cleanup while Page **Nico Tripp** took photos and video.
- East Clinton Library held 4 sessions of Christmas in July, an adult craft activity with a total of 16 attendees.
- East Clinton Library held 3 sessions of their Kid's Craft Club with a total of 23 in attendance.
- East Clinton Library held *e-mail Basic*, *Intermediate e-mail* and *Word Basic* classes.
- The Museum of Science Family Fun Night at East Clinton Branch had 8 in attendance.
- Lego Club was held for 6 Wednesdays in July and August with a total of 25 participants. The creations are kept on display for at least a week after they are made and pictures of them are posted on the branch Facebook page.
- East Delavan started Wii Saturdays in July. The Wii was out for 8 Saturdays between July and August, with a total of 61 participants. We have had a good reception from the players and adult patrons about this program.
- In cooperation with Read to Succeed Buffalo and WNED, East Delavan Library had a Martha Speaks Book Club for 10 weeks. The program was put together by **Nancy Smith** from the Children's Programming Team and Felicia Santiago from Read To Succeed. The children listened to stories, sang songs, made crafts and had lunch which was provided by Read to Succeed. The July Martha Speaks Book Clubs drew a total of 286 children and 94 adults for 5 programs. The August Book Clubs drew a total of 170 children and adults for the last 2 programs.
- East Delavan's Adult Computer Class resumed on Wednesday July 13th; eleven people attended for the first week, then 10 and 9 for the next 2 classes.
- On July 14th, 21st, and 28th, **Brian Hoth** presented a 6 week preschool program to 2 Gateway-Longview classes at CAO Headstart at Ferry Academy. His themes were colors and letters, gardening, and getting dressed. Mr. Brian read stories and the children sang songs, did an activity, and concluded with a craft. The children made an ice cream cone, planted beans, and created a frog mask. Total attendance for the month was 102 children and adults.
- On August 4th and 18th, **Brian Hoth** visited CAO Head Start at Ferry Academy and presented programs on food and ponds to 40 preschool children and their

teachers. Mr. Brian read stories, did an activity, and the children made crafts, which included a chef's hat and frog.

- On August 9th, Native American storyteller Perry Ground had the full attention of an audience of 30 children and adults as he told stories from the Iroquois culture at the Merriweather Library. The following day, 25 preschoolers from Bethel Headstart enjoyed a visit from the PBS character Super Why.
- Eight children had fun experimenting with the Museum of Science Family Fun Night on August 25th.
- The Niagara Branch Martha Speaks Summer Reading Book Club was held on Monday afternoons in July. Led by Librarian **Gwen Collier** and assisted by page staff, the Martha Speaks Book Club featured reading-based stories, games, activities and prizes. One of the hits was Doggie Bingo, where even a seventh grader said, "I really love this Bingo!" Another hit was "Buried Bones," a scavenger hunt of buried bones hidden around the library's auditorium.
- Clifford the Big Red Dog visited the Niagara Branch Library on July 19th. His visit came courtesy of WNED. This program was a big success with 85 participants, storytelling, picture taking and showing of a Clifford cartoon. All of the children took pictures with the stuffed Clifford, donated by **Linda Rizzo**, alongside the big Clifford.
- Niagara Day Care has been varying their library programming this month. Some weeks they visited the library on their own, while other weeks **Ms. Collier** brought library programming to the day care. Featured themes this month were cars, the circus and the beach. The ice cream cone craft (beach) was a special hit, with glitter serving as sprinkles.
- Toy Time was held every Tuesday and Thursday at Niagara Branch in July. This program is a continuation of the Family Place program minus the community health and education specialists.
- First Hand Learning's TEAM Buffalo held 2 practice sessions at Niagara Branch in early August. The YMCA sent over about 10 kids each day for the high-schoolers to teach. The children and their student/teachers all seemed very engaged in their experiments. Branch staff looks forward to the full program this fall.
- The Buffalo Museum of Science presented a Family Fun Night with messy fun and crazy concoctions. Kids had hands-on experience with static electricity, making silly putty and more. Children of many ages and their parents enjoyed the program.
- North Park's Craft Crazy Monday program was held 3 Mondays in July and 4 Mondays in August. Sr. Page **Sarah Barry** and Page **Karen Leonard** made fun crafts such as jellyfish wind catchers on July 11th, tie-dye t-shirts on July 25th and paper towel rockets on July 18th! In total, 15 children and 9 adults attended the programs. **Sarah Barry** made fun crafts such as tissue box monsters on August 15th, towel roll butterflies on August 22nd and rainbow fish on August 29th! In total, 26 children and 12 adults attended the programs.

- **Sarah Barry** and **Karen Leonard** held a Barbie party on Saturday, July 6th. The children who attended played a game of Barbie bingo, heard a story, took home Barbie coloring books and ate some pretty pink Barbie cupcakes! A total of 20 kids and 6 adults attended the program
- July 27th was a very busy day at North Park. Four p.m. marked the arrival of Clifford the Big Red Dog! The children who came to see Clifford were read a story by Library Associate **Sean Goodrich**, made Clifford puppets out of paper bags with **Sarah Barry**, took pictures with Clifford the Big Red Dog himself and 2 children even got to take home stuffed versions of Clifford! Eight children and 2 adults attended this event.
- Also taking place at 4 p.m. on July 27th was story time with Native American storyteller Perry Ground. He was very animated when he told his audience Native American fables. Four children and 1 adult attended this event.
- Sr. Page **Katherine Brown** quickly put together a Cat in the Hat craft for a group of families who happened to come in at the same time. The children enjoyed making the famous Cat in the Hat, hat and the parents were very appreciative that staff provided a craft on short notice.
- **Sean Goodrich** ran a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle party on Saturday, August 20th. Children who attended the event made Nunchaku out of paper towel rolls and string, were shown how to make their own Ninja Turtles out of toilet paper rolls, watched some cartoons and played a game of find the pizza for prizes!
- Riverside Library held Saturday Sensational Craft programs in July. Attendance was 19 children for each Saturday.
- A Harry Potter Celebration program was held in July; attendance totaled 7. Sr. Page **Leah Brown** helped children make crafts. They viewed *Harry Potter Deathly Hollow, Part 1*.
- Explore and More held a program entitled Mexican Milagros at Riverside Library in July; attendance totaled 11. Children were taught about Mexican Milagros and got to make their own.
- At the Riverside Library, craft tables were made available in July and August; attendance totaled 36 children.
- A Hawaiian party was held at the Riverside Library in August with attendance totaling 25. With the help of **Leah Brown** and Page **Brittney Snead**, Library Associate **Tami Linkowski** provided information about Hawaii – the Hawaiian legend Pig Boy, had a hula contest, made pineapple magnet crafts and ate pizza.

Children's Services and Programming

- During the months of July and August, the Children's Programming Team presented 194 programs at the Central Library and System branches (including Outreach and programs) for 4,489 individuals.

Some highlights from summer programming include -

- Planning and execution of the Annual Battle of the Books trivia contest held at Erie Community College (ECC) South campus. This year's Battle was the biggest event of the summer. Each year the ECC gym is filled to capacity with parents, friends, coaches and volunteers cheering on their favorite team and this year was no exception. On August 6th, 36 teams comprised of more than 250 players competed for the coveted Battle of the Books trophy. This year the Clarence Public Library was very well represented as the final round became the Battle of Clarence with 2 of its teams advancing to the championship. Clarence Library Team #4 took home this trophy for the Clarence Public Library. Although only one team can bring back the trophy, each team player is a winner for participating in the Battle of the Books! The competition was greatly improved this year by the addition of a new buzzer system donated by Kristine Voss (sister of Librarian Claudia Yates).
- The Online Summer Reading Challenge really took off this year! As of July, there were 197 children and 56 teens registered. August statistics are pending. There will be a random drawing for prizes in September. Librarians **Kerra Alessi** and **Sarah Gallien** were responsible for previewing and approving young adult and children's reviews.
- Book-in-Hand programming kits for very young children were introduced this summer with 26 kits available for Lapsit and toddler programs. Librarian **Wanda Collins** was instrumental in identifying and acquiring the books and support materials incorporated into the kits. The kits have already shown themselves to be very popular with System staff.
- The System supported many summer programs funded through the New York State Summer Reading LSTA grant. Included in this slate of programs were visits from Mr. Ducky Wucky himself, Glen Colton, Nickel City Reptiles and the Magic of Mr. J. WNED fan favorites Martha from Martha Speaks, Clifford the Big Red Dog and Super Why also made summer appearances! Also of note, the Children's Programming Team produced and delivered multiple System summer programs including Little Green Thumbs (a HUGE favorite), World Dance Party, Pet Shows (another favorite), and Candy Around the World.
- On August 27th, Librarians **Kasey Mack** and **Matt Kochan** attended Mayor Byron Brown's Summer Reading Awards breakfast at the Buffalo Convention Center. They brought Library Card Sign Up Month promotional materials, library card applications, Wendy's Frosty coupons and Applebee's book club coupons along with fall program flyers.

Adult Programming and Community Connections

- The 2011 Adult Summer Reading Challenge concluded on August 13th and was a great success. One hundred and fifty-seven patrons participated, and a total of 916 reviews were submitted. Summer Reading participants were asked to write brief book reviews, each of which counted as an entry in a prize drawing. The

more book reviews participants submitted the more chances they had to win. The grand prize this year was a color NOOK! There were entries from 32 libraries and each library had 1 winner who received a travel book light, travel water bottle, travel mug, and travel tote bag. The grand prize winner of the color Nook was Jane Liegl. Jane registered from the Orchard Park Public Library and submitted 28 reviews.

- B&ECPL staff also participated in the Summer Reading Challenge and, although not eligible for the Nook, did have the chance to win a Garmin GPS system. The winner of the GPS was **Angela Davis** who submitted 24 reviews. Two participants, **Andi Andrzejewski** from the Lancaster Public Library and **Sheila Long** from the Eggertsville-Snyder Branch Library, submitted 50 reviews each! They were awarded a prize bag for their outstanding participation. Watch for the upcoming Winter Reading Challenge and "Get Wrapped up in a Good Book"!
- On August 13th, Programming and Outreach Librarians **Kenneth Wierzbowski**, **Hadeen Stokes** and Sr. Page **Melissa Kania** participated in the G.I.R.L.S. Sports Foundation's Community Health Fair and Female Slam Jam at Masten Park in Buffalo, New York; over 300 attended and were very interested in library services.
- On August 20th, **Peter Lisker**, **Becky Pieszala**, **Kasey Mack** and **Kenneth Wierzbowski** attended the Wild about Wellness Health Fair at the Buffalo Zoo. Manning 2 information tables they promoted the Library's health and wellness resources and supervised quick crafts to children. Over 900 people were in attendance and very interested in the Library's adult and children's resources.

Anne Conable from Development /Communications coordinated details, and support promotion for:

- Lunchtime programs: Shakespeare in Delaware Park "Shakespeareance" 7/11 (28) and 8/15 (17); Squeaky Wheel Media Arts Center Animation program and Zoetrope workshop 7/15 (35); Shea's Master Class Intern program presentation 7/27 (14); Disability Awareness program w/Camp Peaceprints, Americorps, and WNY Self-Advocacy Assoc. 8/3 (42).
- UNYTS blood drives 7/7, 8/4 and 9/1.
- Research, establish biddingforgood.com online auction presence for Online Book Auction and Gala.
- Coordinate advance prep, logistics, promotion, staffing, and on-site management of 3-day Used Book Sale August 18-20. Coordinate donations to non-profits of leftover materials and packing of remainder for resale by Better World Books.
- Planning meetings: 2012 season collaboration on Babel Writers Series, Just Buffalo.
- Prep for online donations logistics.
- Logistics prep for *Buffalo News* fundraising campaign.

- Fall programming – Programming Committee, Forest Lawn, others.
- Book Auction Talking Leaves preview event 10/17
- Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff 9/15
- Disability History Awareness Month Kick-off 10/19

Alden Ewell Free Library – submitted by Kris Rogers, Manager

The summer of 2011 has been very busy at the Alden Library. We had 87 children sign up to read for minutes in our Reading Challenge. Prizes were given for every 100 minutes that the children read. Seventeen of those children completed 600 minutes or 10 hours of reading. Those children were entered into a drawing for science kits. They also received Beanie Babies for 600 minutes of reading.

Summer Story Time was held 3 times during July. We provided 4 Make and Take craft sessions for school-aged children. Our family programs included storyteller Perry Ground and magician/juggler Nels Creman.

Registration has begun for the fall session of Story Time; Alden holds 2, one on Monday mornings and another on Tuesday evenings. We are looking forward to working with a new batch of preschoolers!

Our next book sale will be held on Sunday, September 11th in conjunction with the Alden Art Club annual show and the Alden Fireman's Chicken Barbeque. Volunteers have set up our sale room with the numerous donations that we have received from our patrons.

Aurora Town Public Library (ATPL) – submitted by Robert Alessi, Director

The new RFID self checkout process has gone over quite well with our patrons. An average of 81% of our circulation during the months of May, June and July has been through the self checkout stations. The entire staff of the ATPL has done an outstanding job engaging and educating patrons on the use of this new technology and are the driving force for making it such a success. Legislator John Mills was duly impressed with this efficient new system during a visit following his 5th Annual Hot Dog Fundraiser to benefit the library.

Summer programming is in full swing at the Aurora Town Public Library. Singer Nan Hoffman performed for more than 50 guests during our Summer Reading kick-off and B&ECPL 175th birthday celebration, and we are now running 2 Summer Reading Club sessions, a Summer Fun Club, Wacky Wednesdays and a Preschool Story Time. The popular LEGO Club has also returned and, based on the overwhelmingly positive response, will continue into the fall with each participant having their creations displayed along with their name around the children's area during the week. We are

also looking forward to having the Central Programming Team back with another session of the "Little Green Thumbs" program after their popular and well attended "Breakfast and Off to Bed" and "Little Chefs" programs earlier this year.

To round out our many weekly programs, we've had a number of special events.

The Roycroft Chamber Music Festival Musicians offered a free performance of *Rapunzel* for 122 guests. Jeff Musial of Nickel City Reptiles, just back from his recent appearance on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, entertained a packed-in and energetic audience of over 200 at the Aurora Town Public Library on July 26th. A lucky participant even got to hold a ball python in front of the whole crowd!

The Friends of the Aurora Town Public Library have generously sponsored some "monkey business" at the library. On August 4th, Carmen Presti of the Primate Sanctuary put on an educational and entertaining performance featuring 5 primates, and once again over 200 children and adults were in attendance! The Friends are also sponsoring a visit at the end of August by the Aquarium of Niagara with their traveling Touch Tank featuring sea stars, snails, octopi and more.

Coming up this fall, in addition to continuing the LEGO Club, we'll be offering 3 story time sessions, a toddler time and a new Book Babies program for children from birth to 20 months of age.

Newstead Public Library – submitted by Kristine Sutton, Director

It seems like we just had our Kick-off to Summer Reading party and now we are looking to the fall! This summer was full of fun programs and lots and lots of reading.

Our summer programs were very popular with the children of Akron and Newstead. With the wonderful staff at Newstead, the support of the Children's Programming Team and our Friends of the Library we had some amazing children's programs. Children from ages 3 to teens were involved in library story time, fun clubs and special events. Some of our special entertainers included the Smudge Fundaes, folk singer Nan Hoffman, cartoonist Tom Fox, and magician, puppeteer Mike Randall.

Children are just finishing up their independent summer reading. Over 100 children participated and we are still counting. Teens read 239 books. Thanks to a friend of the library, we raffled off 3 library fun baskets filled with books, puzzles and games.

Newstead had 2 teams again this year in the Battle of the Books. The kids read some great titles and had fun. Another great Battle year!

Many children took the opportunity to read down their fines. The library was also a destination field trip for the Akron Summer Recreation children. Over 100 children did a scavenger hunt in the library and made a craft.

Summertime is such a wonderful time at the library. The lazy days of summer allow families to relax in the library by reading together or enjoying a game of checkers or chess. The Newstead Library was a summer destination for many!

City of Tonawanda Public Library – submitted by Glenn Luba, Director

What happened to summer? The Tonawanda Library had an active summer ranging from landscape projects to an outside concert. The month started off with our 2 Battle of the Books teams shooting for a fourth consecutive title. The teams performed very well but could not overcome the dominating performance from Clarence. Congratulations Clarence!

Two new gardens have been created outside the library, one as a reflective garden in front of our Memorial Bench to Don Barry and the second one surrounds our flag pole which was repainted this month.

The Tonawanda firemen and their trucks put on a show for over 80 children and parents. The pumper truck was hosing down some while the extension ladder/platform truck took others up about 30 feet for a bird's-eye view of the library. Glenn Colton performed at our end of summer picnic which attracted about 125 people. The local Kiwanis club served up hotdogs for all.

Librarian **Karen Wascieko** has started a Lego Club for kids that met 4 times in August. The kids and parents are so happy with this program that we will be continuing the club through the end of the year.

The Friends of our Library will be sponsoring a concert by the Root 5 Quartet on the evening of September 22nd. Come on down to hear this wonderful women's group.

Collections: Development and Use

The collection in the Magazine Room at the Central Library was increased by 150 subscriptions thanks to the Serials Department staff who did the conversion. This project included modifying and creating serial control records and MARC Holdings. These publications, which were formerly for in-library use only, are now available for browsing and cardholder check-out. Library Clerk **Amy Pieczynski** was assigned primary responsibility for the conversion project.

The digitized Buffalo Criterion became available through a grant from the Western New York Library Resources Council. This valuable record of Buffalo's African American population can now be searched online from date to date.

Grosvenor Room staff created a new publication called *Births, Deaths, and Marriages Found in Select Buffalo and Erie County Publications*. It is especially useful because it includes many vital events which took place before the recording of births, deaths, and marriages was required and enforced by New York State law. **Rhonda Konig** was assisted in this long-term project by Sr. Pages **David Auld** and **Emily Doscher** and by former Sr. Pages **Sarah Gushue**, **Brittany Luongo** and **Tabetha Snyder**.

Assistant Deputy Director **Ann Kling**, **Peggy Skotnicki**, Technical Services & Technology Support Manager **Maureen McLaughlin**, Rare Book Librarian **Amy Pickard** and Catalog Librarian **Allison Lund** met to shift the creation of metadata for future B&ECPL digital projects to the Catalog Department. As future collections are digitized, Allison will work with the project team to complete the metadata template for each, and ensure that the standards required for inclusion in NewYorkHeritage.org are met. As time allows, she is also creating a bibliographic record for each collection. The following documents have been added to the Grosvenor Room Genealogy website: *A Select Index to the Bellringer 1940 to 1945*, *A Select Index to the Curtiss WrightER 1943 to 1944*, *Births Deaths and Marriages Found in Local Publications*, *Death Notices and Obituaries in the Buffalo News 4-22-2009 to 12-31-2009*, *Death Notices and Obituaries in the Buffalo News 2010*, *Marriages and Deaths in the Pierce Arrow Newsletter 1918 to 1922*, *Erie County Civil War Regiments*, *Buffalo Wards by Street 1915 1920 1925*, *Buffalo Churches 1832-1860*, *Buffalo Churches in 1931*, *Genealogy Pamphlets on Microfilm in the Grosvenor Room*, and *Buffalo Street Name Changes*.

Grosvenor Room Librarian **Sue Cutrona** created a guide for the new version of the *Ancestry Library Edition* database; plans include using it for training classes, in-library patron use and as an online resource.

Grosvenor Room Librarian **Charles Alaimo** assisted Parker Agelasto, an affiliate of the University of Virginia, in doing research for a Catalogue Raisonné on local woodcut artist, J. J. Lankes. He kindly pointed out various unique original prints and drawings in the Library's collection.

Carol Pijacki assisted Channel 2, WGRZ news reporter Pete Gallivan, in researching the seaplane launch at LaSalle Park in June 1929 and visiting conductor Raffaele Ponti of Rochester with some of the Toscanini markings and bowings in the NBC Orchestra Collection.

Charles Alaimo assisted remote researcher Dr. Peter Der Manuelian, Professor of Egyptology at Harvard University, in obtaining reproductions from the Rare Book Room's *H. Phelps Clawson Papers*. Dr. Manuelian wanted photographs and documents relating to Egypt from the Clawson archive. From a well-known Buffalo family, Clawson worked for Harvard and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition to Egypt and the Sudan in the late 1920's. He was present for the discovery of the tomb of Queen

Hetepheres, and recorded much of his travels in photographs and writing. His papers were donated to the Library by Thomas D. Mahoney in 1975. Dr. Manuelian may use some of the images for the Giza Archives Project or future publications about those involved in the early excavations. Dr. Manuelian discovered the Clawson archive through the work of former Grosvenor Librarian **Amy Vilz**. Her blog for the rare book exhibit Travelers and Cosmopolitans is still active:

<http://www.thetourististheotherfellow.blogspot.com/>

Charles Alaimo assisted another remote researcher with documents from the Rare Book Room's *Paul McKenna and Harry Persons Taber Papers*, part of the Roycroft collection. Guggenheim Fellowship recipient, Dr. Paul Sorrentino of Virginia Tech, is researching American author Stephen Crane for an upcoming biography to be published by Harvard University Press. He is interested in documents relating to Crane within the collections. Dr. Sorrentino discovered the archive through the work of former Grosvenor Librarian **Amy Vilz**. A trained archivist, Amy developed finding aids for some of the rare book archives and used encoded archival descriptions to make them accessible to web searchers. The finding aids are posted on the Library's Rare Book Room page: <http://www.buffalolib.org/libraries/collections/rbr/FindingAids.asp>

Catalog Librarian **Allison Lund** discovered that a Japanese *Gospel and Epistle of John* belonging to the Rare Book Room may be quite rare. Only one other library has it—Harvard University. The translation appears to be the work of a Dutch missionary/scholar published in Singapore circa 1837.

A student in Boston University's Genealogical Research Program who is pursuing certification through the Board for Certification of Genealogists® visited the Grosvenor Room on August 6th seeking a 19th century manuscript that he could selectively transcribe and then research the genealogy of its author. **Amy Pickard** suggested Chester W. Sternberg's Civil War Diary which he has found very interesting and well-suited for his assignment. He has been back twice to study it and then use the genealogical resources in the Grosvenor Room to learn about Sternberg and his fellow officers.

Selected files from the former BS&T vertical files are now part of the Grosvenor Room Vertical File Collection. They contain information on local businesses.

A mini-bid for "Serials Subscription Purchases" was prepared and issued to 11 vendors qualified under NYS Office of General (OGS) Services contract to provide such services to public libraries. The process was conducted to identify a qualified contractor with the ability to provide library-related publications and supporting technology to meet the needs of the B&ECPL. The bid awarded WT Cox Subscriptions to provide these services for calendar years 2012 and 2013, with extension options. The bid process

insures timely, reliable subscription delivery at the lowest cost, and resulted in a bigger discount pricing structure than the previous vendor provided.

Technical Services Department broke a record during the month of July. Book Processors **Kathy Alabisi** and **Tina Dimario** processed 1,000 books on the new book line on July 28th. This breaks the old record of 995. Kudos for a job well done!

The Catalog Department received its first digitization assignment in August. Because of its small size, the Library's digital exhibit, *War of 1812 Letters from the Young Men's Association*, which can be accessed through NewYorkHeritage.org, will serve as a good test case of digitization principles and procedures. In addition to adding an individual letter and its metadata to the collection, a review and upgrade of the entire collection will be undertaken. WNYLRC's digital services librarian was contacted for assistance with this project.

The process of loading bibliographic records for Overdrive eBooks and eAudiobooks into the SirsiDynix Workflows module was greatly simplified by implementing MarcEdit's new Task Automation Tool feature. The MarcEdit software, with its batch-editing capabilities, has saved countless cataloging hours since the introduction of *Downloads 2 Go*. Large files of records can now be edited and loaded with a mere handful of keystrokes.

Database cleanup projects continued throughout the summer months. Several SirsiDynix home locations were modified, shadowed, or created in support of Central Library collection moves. Media Room items, the Government Documents collection, and materials shifted into the "Popular" area accounted for the majority of changes. In addition, a final sweep of old and improperly applied item types produced a variety of items that were discarded or changed to a more appropriate format.

2. FUNDING

Fundraising

The *Buffalo News* kicked off their *Bucks for Books* campaign on Sunday, September 4th with a full page ad and a 2 page article about the changing Library System. This fundraiser for the Library System runs for the next 8 weeks with ads scheduled to run a few days each week through October 30th. The ads encourage readers to donate money to the Library System's book budget. The campaign suggests a \$50 donation which will go toward the purchase of 1 child and 1 adult hardcover book.

The *Buffalo News* will run names of donors each week in the paper and most exciting – **all donations of \$50 and above are being matched by the News up to \$60,000!!** **Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted.** All donations are 100% tax

deductible and the Library will send acknowledgements to all donors. Donations to the *Bucks for Books* campaign can also be made with credit card through our website. www.buffalolib.org.

While the official campaign ends on Sunday, October 30th, the *Buffalo News* will run their final acknowledgement ad in mid-November. The Library will continue to take donations at anytime, but the *News* will not acknowledge donations that arrive after that date.

At the request of the *News*, the Library must use the funds for the purchase of new BOOKS only (children's and adult) - not for other materials, staffing, etc. For purposes of background, Stanford Lipsey, publisher of the *Buffalo News*, came to us with this fundraising campaign idea. Library System Trustee Anne Leary introduced Mr. Lipsey to the Library and he felt compelled to support our cause. The *News* does not do this often; the last time they ran such a campaign was in 2009 for the Re-Tree effort. It's important to note that the 50+ ads that will run in the paper are being run for the Library at no charge. Mr. Lipsey also reached out to his peers in the business world seeking donations and, to date, \$26,000 has already been gifted. This is a tremendous testament to the work you continue to do - day in and day out, for library users of yesterday, today and those of tomorrow.

The Library website can now take credit card donations.

Amy Pickard and **Peggy Skotnicki** introduced Mr. Lipsey and Carly Hartmans of the *Buffalo News* to items in the Rare Book Room that could be reproduced for sale in the *News*. Director **Mary Jean Jakubowski**, System Board Trustee **Anne Leary** and Public Affairs Manager **Joy Testa Cinquino** accompanied Mr. Lipsey and Ms. Hartmans. In support of a fundraising campaign to augment the Library's 2012 materials budget sponsored by Mr. Lipsey and the *Buffalo News*, **Joy Testa Cinquino**, **Peggy Skotnicki** and **Amy Pickard**, accompanied by Head of Security **Mike Miechowski**, presented the Library's 2012 budget situation and selected treasures/facsimiles from the Rare Book Room to the group of 18 at the Buffalo Club on August 3rd.

Planning for the Library System Gala, A Rare Affair, is moving forward. (Saturday, November 5th from 6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.) Twenty-eight tables have been sold - (280 people). Invitations will be mailed on or around September 20th.

The autographed book (and other items) auction, spearheaded by B&ECPL System Trustee Judy Summer, is scheduled to be live (on-line) beginning October 16th. There are nearly 200 donated items. Talking Leaves bookstore on Main Street will hold an auction party in conjunction with the auction on October 17th. The website is called www.biddingforgood.com/BuffaloLibrary.

Central Library held a “*Huge*” 3 day book sale August 18 – 20 with all items just 25 cents and a full bag for a buck on the last day of the sale. The event was a success with \$5,800 coming in. A significant portion of items that are left – are obsolete, audiobooks on cassette and VHS tapes (older formats that were not of much interest). A dozen or so local not-for profits have been given their choice of the remaining items. Materials that are not taken by the non-profits will either be held for future sales, given to other libraries in the System for their sales or will be sold to Better World Books or recycled (Better World Books, is the world’s largest reseller of used library materials, sold through their website.) We will derive a portion of those proceeds and they also use their portion to support all sorts of global literacy programs.

3. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Technology

The Elma and Orchard Park Libraries joined 13 other B&ECPL libraries with full RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) implementation the week of July 25th. RFID tagging and encoding continues at the Central Library, as well as the Kenmore, City of Tonawanda, West Seneca and Reinstein Libraries. The next scheduled ‘go live’ implementation will take place at the City of Tonawanda location in November, 2011.

Technical Support Services Specialist **Johnny Hsu** modified the main logon page on the Library’s free wireless access system. Previously, the users were required to enter an e-mail address and confirm compliance to the Library’s policy to gain access to the wireless that is available at all 37 Library locations. The new logon page now only requires policy compliance acceptance. This provides easier access for users with ubiquitous hand held devices as well as the laptops.

On August 22nd, the Information Technology Department welcomed new Library IT Administrator **Stephen Hovey**. Mr. Hovey will be assuming the primary network administration role for the Library System. **Toni Naumovski** has been working closely with Stephen to facilitate knowledge transfer. He is spending quality time detailing departmental systems and operations to help insure a smooth administrative transition.

To facilitate e-Library development and implementation, **Toni Naumovski** has configured a new Microsoft Windows 2008 Web server to host the replacement online catalog. **Johnny Hsu** installed and configured the application and transferred all previous configurations to the replacement hardware. **Stephen Hovey’s** expert analysis has improved the underlying code within e-Library software and fixed many problems with the user interface. The e-Library catalog will be made public before the end of the year.

Working together with Librarians **Kelly Donovan** and **Linda Rizzo**, Information Technology Team members have created and implemented new interactive windows for the RFID self checkout computers. The upgraded and refreshed screen “look” provides clearer instructions on how to independently operate the self checkout workstations.

Terri Dickson edited and finalized the new Raiser’s Edge donation pages in a timely manner, to insure live implementation to coincide with the *Buffalo News Bucks for Books* drive.

Central Library Reorganization

The new Media Room opened Monday, July 25th! All DVD, VHS, music CD and audiobook CD and cassettes are now located in their new space. New light reducing shades, as well as a fresh coat of paint and newly waxed floors make the room warm and inviting. A glass partition and fresh graphics will complete the area when we are ready to “go live” with RFID.

Materials are now moving in the Popular Materials area. Fiction books are currently being shifted in order to expand the Kids Space and shelving will be set to move well-used Nonfiction collections forward.

Staff Development

Two Staff Development opportunities were offered during the summer months in conjunction with the culmination of the “Ready to Read, Ready to Learn at the Library” grant funded by New York State. July’s offering, *Early Childhood Literacy Workshop*, featured grant partners from Project Flight, Dr. Elizabeth Cappella and Dr. Geraldine Bard. August’s opportunity featured Nancy Olsen-Harbich, child and family specialist from the Cornell Cooperative Extension – Suffolk County. This *Early Childhood Development Workshop* was very popular and offered participants a peek into the inner working of the mind of a child at varying stages of development. It will be extraordinarily helpful in customizing programs to fit children from infants to pre-schoolers with respect for their points of view. Designing developmentally appropriate programs will also help manage programmer’s expectations and children’s frustrations from birth to age 5.

Amy Pickard completed 4 credit hours of coursework from July 11th to the 22nd at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign to finish the 12 credit hour requirement for the Graduate Certificate in Special Collections. Amy was awarded the certificate in September.

An unsolicited comment from a patron, who has used the library for 25 years, praised Grosvenor Room Senior Page **Franklin Clendening** as "one of the nicest, most helpful gentlemen" she has ever had the pleasure of being helped by in her many years of research. "He is a wonderful asset to our library."

During July and August, 5 technology training sessions were conducted by members of the Technology Training Team for 25 staff members at the Central Library and in community libraries.

On July 5th and August 2nd, Information Technology and Technology Support staff participated in a conference call with SirsiDynix Library Relations Manager Vera Maeser to discuss preliminary server migration issues as well as the costs associated with implementing e-Library (a new online catalog) into the production environment for public use.

Technology Trainers **Nell Aronoff**, **Tom Carloni** and **Kara Stock** attended "Screencasting in your Library" at WNYLRC conducted by UB Librarian Dean Hendrix on July 12th. This session covered the use of the Camtasia software.

On July 15th, **Maureen McLaughlin** attended a meeting of WNYLRC's Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) at Erie Community College's North Campus Library. Assistant Deputy Director **Carol Batt** attended a WebJunction-sponsored webinar "Information Cartographer: Social Media Librarians of the Future" on July 20th. Stephanie Bents, digital services librarian, and Greta Chapman, director of the Rapid City Public Library, discussed how they successfully "operationalized" social media services and actually had fun in the process. Social media applications are impacting library services just like the Internet has and it remains a challenge to make content useful in a social network environment.

The entire Technology Training Team consisting of **Kara Stock**, **Andy Aquino**, **Nell Aronoff** and **Tom Carloni** attended the "Trends in Library Training and Learning" online conference hosted by WebJunction on August 10th and 11th. Highlights included a program from the King County Library System about using video for instruction, tips for staff training from the "Librarian in Black" and training tips from the "Unquiet Librarian."

Members of the Disaster Plan and Preparedness Committee, **Meg Cheman**, **Jennifer Childs**, **Nancy Mueller**, **Claudia Yates** met on August 16th to prepare an Emergency Management presentation for the October Manager's meeting.

In late 2010, **Kara Stock** participated in an interview about Job Outreach services provided by B&ECPL. The information was published August 2011 in a book titled "Small Business & the Public Library: Strategies for a Successful Partnership" by Luise Weiss

and published by the American Library Association (ALA). The B&ECPL reference can be found on page 36 of the book.

Deb Lawrence, Linda Bohan, Anne Conable, Tracy Palicki, Terri Dickson and Joy Testa Cinquino have attended Blackbaud webinars to prepare for online giving to go live (it successfully went live on Friday, September 4th). Online donations at this point are going through the Library Foundation.

Doreen Woods, Human Resources Officer, attended a Hodgson Russ LLP seminar "Employers and the New York State Marriage Equality Act" on Thursday, August 4th.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Media Coverage / Media Releases

Media Releases were sent by **Joy Testa Cinquino** for the following library events and activities:

- Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library updates, re-opening and media event with Mayor Byron Brown (at one point or another all TV stations covered the story, also covered by WEBR, WBFO, The Buffalo Challenger and Buffalo Criterion.)
- Central Library Book Sale (story covered by the Buffalo News, WYNN, Ch. 4)
- Battle of the Books results
- Chess Tournament for Youth at Audubon
- National Library Card Sign-up Month - media event
- An editorial by B&ECPL Board of Trustees Chair Sharon Thomas about the future of the Library System was submitted to and ran in the *Buffalo News*.

Also:

Director **Mary Jean Jakubowski** was interviewed by the *Buffalo News* for a front-cover story that ran on September 4th.

Anne Conable appeared on Ch. 4 "For the People", on July 23rd to discuss the Library anniversary article, "175 Years of Libraries in Buffalo and Erie County," which she wrote for WNY Heritage magazine (published early July).

The Graphics Department provided expertise design and signage for:

- New library cards and signage for new library cards
- Central Library ongoing public service moves
- Events and activities System-wide
- Save the Date postcards for the Gala
- Gala gift-gathering parties
- Book Sale signage
- Return on Investment brochure

- Battle of the Books

“Historical Harmony” appeared on the front page of the Life & Arts section of the Saturday, August 13th *Buffalo News*. Reporter Mary Kunz Goldman highlighted the treasures of the music collection in the Grosvenor and Rare Book Rooms. **Carol Pijacki** and **Peggy Skotnicki** were interviewed by Ms. Goldman over several days prior to publication. As a result of this article, **Carol Pijacki** will be presenting on the B&ECPL music collection at this year’s New York Library Association Conference. Also, David Miller of the U.S. Navy Band requested a scan of the John Quincy Adams Funeral March, referred to in the article, for the band to play at Arlington National Cemetery.

The creator of the blog <http://buffalostreets.wordpress.com/> praised the resources of the Grosvenor Room in one of her entries: *“In Buffalo, we’re lucky to have two wonderful resources involving Buffalo historical research, the Research Library at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS) and the Grosvenor Room at the Central Library. If you’ve never been to either of these locations, I highly recommend stopping by.”* She then goes on to say: *“The librarians in the Grosvenor Room are also wonderful, providing resources and encouragement while I sit and do research. I’ve been spending a lot of time with the Local History File, and the Buffalo History Scrapbooks, full of newspaper clippings, some more than 100 years old!!”*

Forty patron comments were received via the Library website, and hardcopy patron comments forms; topics included: suggestions for new collections, issues with the catalog, serving coffee and beverages in some of the libraries and suggesting a Father Baker display, to name a few.

Library 2.0: Facebook

The Central Library Facebook page has **2,675** fans, an increase of over 100 since June. The average number of monthly active users to the B&ECPL Facebook page is **1,856** with the overall number of “likes” totaling **2,565**. In addition to the usual event announcements, information about the Merriweather Library, Harry Potter and RBR themed posts, July Facebook posts included :



[Buffalo & Erie County Public Library - Central Library](#) Did you know that we offer FREE music downloads? All you need is a valid B&ECPL library card & a PIN! Here’s a video guide <http://bit.ly/9t6OFQ> to the registration and download process. Simply go to the Library’s Homepage <http://bit.ly/9wPX2T> scroll to the bottom of the screen and click on the “freegal” button. It’s free and it’s legal!





[Erica L Obermiller](#) I've been using this program since December! It's so awesome!



[Buffalo & Erie County Public Library - Central Library](#) Erica – We're happy to hear that you are taking advantage of this great service. The website is easy to use, and best of all, downloads are FREE!



[Isaiah Mantoath-Jordan](#) LOVE IT!~~ Also really really am glad for ILL..I get my college books without paying this way...:) TY!!



[Buffalo & Erie County Public Library - Central Library](#) The Central Library boasts one of North America's largest music collections, including treasures that date back centuries. <http://t.co/y0WeFQR> We own a collection of 300,000 songs, organized within a vast card catalog. Treasures date back to Buffalo's old Grosvenor Library (est. 1898), and the public library music department (1922). [Historical harmony at the Central Library](#) www.buffalonews.com [7 people](#) like this.



[Susan Stievater](#) The article in the Buffalo News was excellent. We have such an exceptional treasure in Buffalo at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. It must be fully funded!!

Library 2.0: Twitter

The Library's Twitter account now has over **1975**, an increase of 75 since June. In addition to many RTs (re-tweets) tweets mentioning the Buffalo Library included:



The Lafayette Square exhibit at the [@buffalolib](#) is super nice and well done!



[tomgirl571](#) Kelly Rochford Went to [@buffalolib](#) to renew my card and got some books to read <3



[Laura E Wood](#) Laura Wood @buffalolib the HUGE booksale is amazing! I got 20 books! I love that people waited in line for it to start. Yay book lovers!



[karakane](#) karakane I won the [@buffalolib](#) summer reading challenge for my local branch! Yes yes yes! Reading = fun



[KMCANDERSON](#) KathleenColeAnderson Curling up w/iPad chock full o' books thx to [@buffalolib](#)-if u aren't supporting your local library-what are u waiting for?#FridayReads

Announcements for the position of B&ECPL's Chief Operating Officer were placed on the buffalolib.org website and the websites of the Western New York Library Resources Council, the New York Library Association, the Ontario Library Association, NYLINE, and the American Library Association JobPosting site. Resumes and cover letters will be accepted until September 16, 2011.

Partnerships

The Library has a close working relationship with the Western New York Genealogical Society in addition to housing its collection in the Grosvenor Room. The Society is donating \$10,000 to the Library to replace some of the worn microfilm of the *Buffalo News* and *Courier Express*, housed in the Grosvenor Room. This is a welcome start to a large and expensive project since many newspaper reels are in need of replacement due to heavy use. Unfortunately, the regional master microfilm reels for the newspapers were lost in a fire.

From July 5th through August 5th, the Central Meeting Room at the Central Library became a classroom and a work site for teenagers from the Buffalo Public and Charter Schools. Under the direction of Bill Rogers from First Hand Learning and college students from Canisius College, teens were paid to learn science and to become mentors for younger children. This fall, the teens will be bringing science programs to children at the Merriweather, East Delavan, Niagara and Central Libraries. The program was funded by the Oishei Foundation. **Linda Rizzo, Peg Errington, and Ann Kling** have worked with First Hand Learning to make this program possible.

5. SPECIAL PROJECTS

Re-Imagining

The first of 4 new Re-Imagine meetings will be held in September.

Agenda Item H – Public Comment. Ann Kling, B&ECPL Assistant Deputy Director for Public Services, announced this was the last Board meeting she will be attending as she will be retiring from the B&ECPL after 38 incredible years of service and thanked the Library. On behalf of the Board, Chair Thomas as well as Director Jakubowski thanked Ms. Kling for her service.

Agenda Item I – Unfinished Business.

Agenda Item I.1 – Authorization to Implement Settlement – Personnel Matter. Ms. Jakubowski explained via Resolution 2011-21 (approved by the Executive Committee on June 9, 2011) she was authorized to negotiate a settlement with regard to an employee that had been terminated. The settlement is a total of \$25,000 in back pay and the individual will not be returning to employment at the B&ECPL. Resolution 2011-30 authorizes the payout of these funds. Mr. Berger moved and was seconded by Ms. Panty, whereupon approval of Resolution 2011-30 was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2011-30

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Library terminated an employee for just cause, and

WHEREAS, the case moved to arbitration, and

WHEREAS, the Library's counsel recommended engaging in settlement discussions, and

WHEREAS, The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees authorized the Deputy Director, Chief Operating Officer to enter into settlement discussions via resolution 2011-21 on June 9, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the case has been decided through arbitration, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library authorizes the Director to implement the settlement decision as directed by the arbitrator, and be it further

RESOLVED, that as directed by the arbitrator the employee be awarded back pay in the amount of \$25,000.

Agenda Item I.2 – Creation of a County-Wide Special Legislative District Public Library. The amended resolution which included the figure for the amount of B&ECPL member libraries that have passed resolutions in support of an effort to establish a special legislative district public library was at each trustees place. Chair Thomas read this amended resolution as follows:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2011-31

BACKGROUND:

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) System is currently governed by charter through the New York State Education Department. The governance structure that exists today, 23 governing entities/hiring authorities, was established through special state legislation in the early 1950s.

Unique challenges have been realized under this governance structure, particularly in the area of personnel; whereas civil service law prevents the sharing of personnel between hiring authorities, does not allow employee seniority to carry between hiring authorities under the auspicious of promotions, and there is the loss of economy of scale in personnel operations.

The Library System is funded primarily through Erie County's property tax levy. The B&ECPL and its 22 member libraries have experienced funding reductions in

appropriations made by Erie County and New York State to B&ECPL for the support of library services throughout its history. Presently, the B&ECPL currently can expect to have a shortfall of approximately \$6 million annually.

Since 2005, the System Board of Trustees has explored alternative governance options and funding models. In 2009 with the continued lack of stabilized funding the Board began to further research said alternatives.

Following extensive research on governance and funding options for public libraries in New York State, the completion of the independent study *Book Smart: A Field guide to Library System Organization for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System* by the University at Buffalo's Regional Institute, consultation with the New York State Board of Regents, New York State Division of Library Development, and colleagues and experts on library governance, as well as ongoing work with the 22 Member Library Boards and the Association of Contract (Library) Trustees, the Board of Trustees Planning Committee recommended focus be placed on the Special Legislative District Public Library governance option in an effort to secure long term financial stability.

At its July 21, 2011 B&ECPL Board of Trustees meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed Resolution 2011-28 which instructs the Board of Trustees to bring forth, at its September 2011 meeting, a resolution which formally endorses the creation of a Special Legislative District Public Library in Erie County, New York.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2011-31

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has recognized the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library's (B&ECPL's) current governance structure that includes 23 governing entities/hiring authorities has led to unique challenges and inefficiencies throughout the Library's history; and

WHEREAS, the B&ECPL and its 22 member libraries have experienced reductions in funding from Erie County and New York State to B&ECPL for the support of library services; and

WHEREAS, the B&ECPL currently can expect to have a shortfall of approximately \$6 million annually and cannot expect to adequately fund all of its branch and member libraries with its current resources; and

WHEREAS, the B&ECPL desires to improve the likelihood that all currently operating public library facilities in Erie County can remain open and operational to serve the residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the B&ECPL and its member libraries have explored options for stabilizing funding, increasing accountability to voters and enhancing efficiency in the provision of library services to the residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the option recommended by the New York State Board of Regents to accomplish these purposes is the creation of a special legislative district public library; and

WHEREAS, 15 of the 22 B&ECPL member libraries have passed resolutions in support of an effort to establish a special legislative district public library to serve the residents of Erie County, to achieve these purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL hereby endorses the creation of a special legislative district public library to serve the residents of Erie County, to be governed by a board of trustees elected by the voters of Erie County, and with funding determined by the voters of Erie County; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that, for this purpose, the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL desires to enter into a memorandum of understanding with each member library and its sponsoring municipality, if any, to describe the common expectations in this effort of the B&ECPL, the member library and the sponsoring municipality, and intends to enter into discussions with those parties regarding the appropriate terms of such a memorandum of understanding.

Mr. Connors moved for approval of Resolution 2011-31 as read. Mr. Berger made a second. Mr. Wisbaum questioned the status of the 7 B&ECPL member libraries that did not pass resolutions in support of an effort to establish a special legislative district public library. Ms. Thomas provided the following summary of member libraries' resolutions: 15 passed; 1 the Library is awaiting confirmation on; 4 nays; 1 abstention and 1 library has not responded. In response to further questions from Mr. Wisbaum, Ms. Jakubowski stated in response to several of the nays, there were letters attached to the resolutions why the member library had declined support. Their reasons were such as they would like additional information and/or the formation of memorandums of understanding; none of the nays said they were absolutely not going to participate. They simply said they are looking for additional information and they want to progress with the Library in the process before making any final decisions. Ms. Kelly posed the question what would happen if a library in the end says no. Ms. Jakubowski stated they would have their own charter and the residents in their community would have to find a funding source for their location. They would still be participating in the Erie County component. Mr. Berger pointed out the important fact is that if a library would pull out, the residents are not relieved of their tax burden under the county and incremental taxes could in fact occur; it would be a double tax for those residents. Mr. Gist asked if we could see litigation. Mr. Berger stated his understanding from the attorneys is that it has not been successful in other areas where this might have been attempted. Ms. Jakubowski added it is the legislation creation that forms the district

and therefore if it is all of Erie County, it is a county-wide district. Following this discussion, Resolution 2011-31 as read was unanimously adopted.

Ms. Leary thanked the Planning Committee, as well as Committee Chair Rick Berger, and the contract member library trustees who have helped in this and committed their time; she added they have done a great service to the Library System.

Agenda Item J - New Business. None.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Summer, seconded by Ms. Panty, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Panty
Secretary