

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
May 16, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at the Central Library and remotely pursuant to due notice to trustees. The following members were present:

Kimberly Johnson, Chair  
Carima El-Behairy, Vice Chair  
Joel Moore, Esq., Secretary  
Prof. Christine P. Bartholomew, Esq.  
Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS  
Lucy Candelario\*  
Sharon M. Kelly, Esq.  
Elaine M. Panty  
Christopher Sasiadek, Esq.

\*Trustee Candelario attended the meeting remotely due to extraordinary circumstances; pursuant to the B&ECPL Procedures for Trustee Videoconferencing, she was a full participant.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. A call of the roll was taken. A quorum was present.

Agenda Item B – Approval/Changes to the Agenda. Director John Spears proposed moving Agenda Item F – Report of the Director after Agenda Item I – Public Comment. Director Spears also proposed moving into Executive Session for a portion of the Report of the Director. Trustee Bartholomew made a motion for approval, Trustee El-Behairy seconded, and these changes to the agenda were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of April 18, 2024. Trustee Bucki proposed several grammatical changes to the Minutes of the Meeting of April 18, 2024. Trustee Panty made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Trustee Sasiadek seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Agenda Item D – Report of the Chair. Chair Johnson began her report by initiating a moment of silence for Trustee John Craik’s daughter, Callie Ryan Craik. She stated that if trustees wanted to donate in her honor, donations are being accepted by the Epilepsy Association of Western New York.

Next, Chair Johnson informed the Board that she was a part of a WBFO *What's Next* broadcast pertaining to the May 14, 2022 tragedy. She encouraged the Board to view the recording. She was also a special guest on Councilwomen Zeneta Everhart and Leah Halton-Pope's podcast, *Ladies' First*. Councilwoman Zeneta Everhart also wants to collaborate with the Library on an essay contest for students over the summer.

Following that, Chair Johnson made the Board aware of an upcoming author talk at the Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch Library. Author Natasha S. Alford will be discussing her book *American Negra*. Alford is originally from the Buffalo area and reached out to Chair Johnson to schedule an author talk.

Finally, Chair Johnson shared that Library staff are discussing a potential collaboration with photographer Yves-Richard Blanc on a teen photography project. This project is meant to inspire teens. They will be able to scan a QR code to hear from local talent, entrepreneurs, etc. Chair Johnson also mentioned that she attended the Buffalo Black Caucus and met the creator of Project Mona's House. She suggested that we collaborate with their organization more often in addition to the information tables they do at various libraries. Discussion ensued regarding Project Mona's House.

#### Agenda Item E - Committee Reports.

Agenda Item E.1 - Executive Committee. The Executive Committee met on May 9, 2024. A copy of the written report was included in the Board packet. Trustee El-Behairy briefly summarized the meeting. Trustee Panty moved to have the written report entered into the Minutes, Trustee Bucki seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library  
Board of Trustees - Executive Committee  
May 9, 2024

Present: Executive Committee Chair Kimberly Johnson, Vice Chair Carima El-Behairy, and members Lucy Candelario, Elaine Panty, and Christopher Sasiadek. Also present were Director John Spears, Deputy Director - Chief Operating Officer Jeannine Purtell, Assistant to the Director Caitlin Goodrich, and Manager of Central Adult Services Maria Lowe.

The meeting of the Executive Committee began at 4:04 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

Chair Johnson commenced the meeting by reviewing the proposed agenda for the B&ECPL Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 16. Director Spears stated that there will be no changes to the agenda. Trustee El-Behairy stated that there will be a Report of the Foundation.

For the Report of the Chair, Chair Johnson communicated that she will be a guest on the podcast titled *Ladies First*, hosted by Councilwomen Zeneta Everhart and Leah Halton-Pope. Chair Johnson will be discussing literacy. This podcast will be recorded.

Next, Chair Johnson stated that she has been in contact with an author and is working with Assistant Deputy Director Samantha Purpora on scheduling an author talk at the Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch Library. Trustee El-Behairy asked if a local bookstore will be involved with the author talk. Chair Johnson stated that the author can sell their books at the library, they just have to agree that a percentage of the sales will be given to the library. Director Spears stated that if there is interest in working with a local bookstore, such as Zawadi Books or Burning Books, there just needs to be advanced notice.

Finally, Chair Johnson reminded the Executive Committee that she is working with photographer Yves-Richard Blanc on a project with library teens. This will include local talent and allow teens to scan a QR code to view the exhibit.

Director Spears informed the Executive Committee of the proposed resolution 2024-12 - 2024 Budget Adjustments: Allocating 2023 Year-End Balance. He explained that the Budget and Finance Committee did not have a quorum for their meeting on May 8. The members present did have a discussion, although no action was taken. The discussion was about what to do with the fund balance that the Library has at the end of 2023. Director Spears stated that in the past it was just presented to the Board. Moving forward, Director Spears and Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik would like more feedback from the Board regarding decisions with funds. At the Board meeting scheduled for May 16, 2024, the Board will get a more comprehensive overview of the fund balance for 2023. Some proposed uses for the unassigned fund balance would be security vests and uniforms, postage machine, maintenance contracts, building and grounds, lab and technology, and office equipment. Director Spears continued to explain unassigned fund balance and assigned fund balance. He then mentioned that during the unofficial discussion of the present Budget and Finance Committee members, the question of, “Can Erie County look at the Library’s reserve fund and tell the Library to use that towards the budget?” Director Spears stated that they will review the policies pertaining to finances and propose changes to ensure the language that sets a target for what the fund balance should be. Discussion ensued about operating costs and reserve fund balance. Further discussion ensued regarding sales tax and the budget for 2025. Chair Johnson asked about potentially getting Microsoft 365. Director Spears stated that it was suggested by Library Information Technology Administrator Stephen Hovey to avoid cloud based products for now. Director Spears stated that the Library’s IT department is small and it is a lot work to monitor for cybersecurity. Discussion ensued regarding technology, patron privacy, etc.

For the Report of the Director, Director Spears will make the annual Conflict of Interest Statement stating that the Library received all of the Conflict of Interest Statements for 2024.

## Minutes of the Board of Trustees

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Next, Chair Johnson and Director Spears talked about the ACT Meeting that was held at the Grand Island Memorial Library. Director Spears spoke about the memorial for Richard Earne and how beautiful it was. He also explained how COO Purtell assisted greatly with ACT reworking their contract with the System. Director Spears also spoke about how the videoconferencing aspect of open meetings law will expire in June unless other legislation is passed before then.

Chair Johnson continued through the proposed agenda for the Board meeting scheduled on May 16.

Next, Chair Johnson wanted to make it known that she plans to have a moment of silence during the Board meeting on May 16 for Trustee John Craik's daughter. She explained that a celebration of life was held for her at the Buffalo Club on Saturday, May 4.

Finally, Chair Johnson proposed traveling to other library branches for meetings. Discussion ensued about visiting other libraries.

There being no further business, Trustee Panty motioned to adjourn, and Trustee Sasiadek seconded. The meeting ended at 4:43 p.m.

### Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
Budget and Finance Committee Report  
May 8, 2024

Unofficial Minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting of May 8, 2024 – informational purposes only – no quorum. Director John Spears, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik, Budget and Finance Committee Members Alan Bedenko and Carima El-Beairy were present in the Collections Gallery Conference Room of the Central Library. Budget and Finance Committee Member Lucy Candelario joined the meeting via Zoom, but was not counted for quorum per the Bylaws of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Article II, Section 6. There was no action taken.

Informal discussion began at 5:02 p.m. ADD-Controller Patronik reviewed the proposed Budget and Finance resolution for the May 16 meeting of the Board of Trustees:

#### **Res. 2024-12 – 2024 Budget Adjustments: Allocating 2023 Year-End Balance**

Discussion ended at approximately 6:02 p.m.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Resolution 2024-12 – 2024 Budget Adjustments Allocating 2023 Year-End Balance. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik explained proposed Resolution 2024-12 as presented below. She went on to explain that this is a recurring resolution dependent on when the year-end balance is finalized. ADD-Controller Patronik went on to provide an overview of the fund balance for the Board. She explained that there are four categories that pertain to the fund balance: non-spendable, committed, assigned, and unassigned. Trustee Kelly asked what is the difference between committed and assigned. ADD-Controller Patronik and Library Administrative Manager Tracy Palicki explained that committed is for a specific purpose and assigned is for broader areas such as New York Construction Aid. It is not for one specific library or one specific project but could be for various projects at various libraries. Discussion ensued regarding fund balances. Trustee Kelly wanted to clarify if the Library has \$16,000,000 in actual funds. ADD-Controller Patronik stated that the Library does have those actual funds, but the funds are part of the various categories of fund balance. Director Spears explained that he and ADD-Controller Patronik want to have more discussions with the Budget and Finance Committee regarding fund balances and encourage more input, as the Board is the fiscal authority. Trustee Bartholomew asked about the Board committed contingency fund. ADD-Controller Patronik and Library Administrative Manager Palicki explained that has been raised over time to \$3.25 million. When the funds are available to add to the Board committed contingency fund, they are added. Discussion ensued about the Board committed contingency fund.

ADD-Controller Patronik continued explaining proposed Resolution 2024-12. She is suggesting utilizing \$376,918 of the unassigned fund balance for purchase of security vests and uniforms, a new postage machine that is currently being leased, maintenance contracts, lab and technology, building and grounds, and office equipment. Discussion ensued regarding these suggestions, primarily security vests and maintenance contracts. Trustee Moore asked about maintenance contracts and outsourcing. ADD-Controller Patronik explained that she seeks advice from Supervisor of Building Operations and Maintenance Mark Kross who tries to do as much work in-house as possible. Discussion ensued about routine, preventative, and new maintenance projects.

#### RESOLUTION 2024-12

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting of December 14, 2023, the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library approved Resolution 2023-41 adopting the Library's 2024 budget, and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Board approved Resolutions 2023-9 & 2023-12 authorizing use of fund balance to provide additional Program Equipment & Facility Improvement Supplement funding (\$73,278), and amending the 2023 Operating Budget to increase the use of fund balance revenue line and expenditures by \$475,133, and

WHEREAS, the Library has completed review of the ending position of the 2023 budget, subject to final audit, and

WHEREAS, of the resulting 2023 budgetary savings indicate funding is available to address some of the current needs of the Central Library, Buffalo Branches, and libraries system-wide, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL approves amending the 2024 Operating Budget, increasing the use of fund balance revenue line and expenditures by \$376,918 as detailed in Exhibit 1, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL authorizes the Library Director or designee to transfer funds between the SAP accounts identified in Exhibit 1 as needed to accomplish the work listed in Exhibit 1.

Trustee Bartholomew motioned for approval of Resolution 2024-12, Trustee Panty seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item E.2.b – Monthly Financial Report. ADD-Controller Patronik informed the Board of the monthly financial report ending on March 31, 2024. She informed the Board that New York Construction Aid increased by about \$10 million. Discussion ensued regarding the financial report and the health insurance waiver for employees. Trustee Kelly asked about the total use of fund balance. ADD-Controller Patronik explained the report as presented to the Board and projected savings. Further discussion ensued regarding budgeted positions.

Agenda Item G – Report of the Foundation. Trustee El-Behairy informed the Board that the Foundation has started the strategic planning process. In the last month the Foundation has issued an RFP, received the results, and interviewed various consultants. The Foundation has selected a consultant, and a committee will be forming.

Agenda Item H – The Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT)/Contracting Library Trustee Report. Martha Buyer reported that an ACT meeting was held on May 4 at the Grand Island Memorial Library. Grand Island Memorial Library dedicated a garden to former Board member Richard Earne. Martha went on to summarize the meeting.

Agenda Item H.1 – Contracting Library Liaison Report(s). Trustee Panty visited the City of Tonawanda Public Library. She stated that the library will be getting a garden and is currently navigating a situation regarding their Friends of the Library group which no longer has any members.

Agenda Item I – Public Comment. None. Trustee Panty shared information regarding public comment and budget information in past years. Director Spears shared a letter from Hamburg Middle School history teacher Jason Steinagle praising Rare Book

Curator Heather Gring. Heather assisted with a school project and was extremely helpful with primary resources. Heather also took a personal interest in the students' projects and helped them with writing their thesis statements. Jason Steinagle hopes to continue this collaboration in the future.

Agenda Item F – Report of the Director. Director Spears began his report by reading the annual Conflict of Interest statement. Copies of the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements have been submitted by each system trustee and key employees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library for the year 2024 and have been sent to Alan Bedenko, Chair of the Governance Committee per Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Conflict of Interest Policy Article III. Director Spears went on to discuss having Board meetings at other libraries, which the Board has done in the past. It was mentioned that the Board wanted to visit City of Buffalo library branches this year. A schedule of potential meeting dates will be suggested depending on the capabilities of the Information Technology Department.

Next, Director Spears mentioned to the Board the proposal Trustee Craik spearheaded to create a vision statement for the Library. In meeting with various consultants, Director Spears, Chair Johnson, and Trustee Craik have realized that the scope may need to be expanded. Director Spears went on to discuss next steps.

Finally, Director Spears informed the Board that there will be a formal new trustee board orientation. It will be more robust than it has been. There is going to be more participation from the Library administrative team and other staff members. This will also be available to current Board members and will count toward the annual Trustee Education requirement. Director Spears also notified the Board that the Library has received two Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials. The two requests for reconsideration are children's books by author Lil Hot Mess, and the books are *If You're a Drag Queen and you Know It* and *The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish*. Director Spears reviewed both of the titles and a decision has been sent to the patron. If the patron appeals the decision, it will then go to the Board of Trustees. Director Spears stated that when reviewing challenged Library materials, he always wishes to sincerely applaud the parent or guardian for taking an interest in what their child is reading or viewing.

Trustee Sasiadek wanted to make note that Krystal Testa challenged her friends and family to donate 41 books to the Library and to wish her a happy birthday and a thank you for supporting the Library!

Chair Johnson proposed to move to Executive Session to discuss a person's medical, financial, credit, or employment history. She invited Martha Buyer and Nathaniel Barnes to stay. Trustee Panty made the motion to enter Executive Session, Trustee El-

Behairy seconded, and the Board of Trustees entered into Executive Session at approximately 5:10 p.m.

The Board of Trustees exited Executive Session at 5:20 p.m. on a motion by Trustee Panty and a second by Trustee Sasiadek.

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

### **B&ECPL Monthly Report April 2024**

**Eclipse Day @ Central Library** - To celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event, the Central Library Public Service team, led by Adult Services Manager **Maria Lowe**, provided a full day of programming on April 8. Adult Services Librarian **Leslie Carr** conducted an Eclipse Box Viewer craft for all ages. The event was well attended, and participants used the viewer to watch the eclipse. Launch Pad Manager **Jordan Smith**, Technology Clerks **Amanda Brown** and **Nusrath Ahmed**, and Technology Specialist **Tyler Kasniak** assisted with the Library's Eclipse Viewing Event by providing Launch Pad related activities. Central Children's Manager **Dan Lewandowski** and Children's Librarians **Jennifer Lelinski** and **Erin Burke** coordinated children's events and crafts for young patrons. Teen Services Manager **Taylor Harding**, Librarian **Kelly Woods**, and Library Assistant **Sarah Barry** assisted in face painting. The Central Library welcomed WBLK Radio for four hours of live programming from the Ring of Knowledge. We also greeted visitors from all over the United States who enjoyed the festivities, programming, and music!

**Book Sale @ Central Library** - The Central Library welcomed thousands of visitors during the Central Library Book Sale from Thursday, April 11, through Saturday, April 13. Books, DVDs, CDs, and audio books were offered for sale. Many staff members were involved in setting up and running the book sale, including staff from Central Public Services and Development and Communications. Since the book sale was a huge success, a standing book sale space has been created on Level One across from the Information Desk. Patrons can now purchase materials any time the library is open.

**Autism Awareness Day** - In celebration of *Autism Awareness Month*, System Youth Outreach Services Manager **Chelsey Lonberger**, System Outreach Services Librarian Trainee **Amealia Brousseau**, Children's Room Manager **Dan Lewandowski**, and Children's Room Librarian **Jennifer Lelinski** worked with Rooted Beginnings and Neurodiversity Network of WNY to provide an *Autism Awareness Day* event at the Central Library on April 13. The well-attended event was geared towards children aged five to twelve and their caregivers. The event featured a movement path, sensory bins, a calming space, a community art project, soft block area, and a movement map craft.



**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Career Fair** - System Adult Outreach Services Manager **Carol Kowalik-Happy** assisted with the *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Career Fair* in partnership with Erie County Office for People with Disabilities and Access-VR at the Central Library on April 25. Approximately 250 people visited the 32 employers who were present.

**Kleinhans Music Hall** - Special Collections Manager **Susan Buttaccio** hosted Lauren Becker, Archivist for Kleinhans Music Hall, for a talk on *Producing Diversion and Hope: Kleinhans Music Hall During WWII* on April 20 at the Central Library. Attendees learned about the many concerts, meetings, events, and dances hosted at Kleinhans during the Second World War. An article by Ms. Becker on this topic was featured in the Fall 2023 WNY Heritage Magazine. Rare Book and Map Librarian **Charles Alaimo** also provided a tour of the Grosvenor Room, the Mark Twain Room, and the *Four Centuries of Bookbinding: The Jordan Collection* exhibit to some of the attendees.

**Parolee Orientation Program** - Mobile Services Manager **Andrew Maines** facilitated a new *Parolee Orientation Program* in conjunction with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. Led by Reentry Manager Brianna D'Angelo, recently released people heard from and met with multiple community partners, including Evergreen Health, Buffalo Urban League, Northland Development, Buffalo Employment & Training Center, Community Access Services of Western New York, and the Center for Employment Opportunity at the Central Library on April 24. The community partners connected participants with available resources in an effort to reduce recidivism and provide them with more opportunities for success.

**Separation Anxiety: A One-Year Long Performance by Yao Kahlil Newkirk** - The Special Collections Department, with assistance from Community Engagement Manager **Anne Conable** and the Communications & Development Office, hosted local artist, scholar, and activist Yao Kahlil Newkirk for the culmination of his one-year long performance piece *Separation Anxiety*. Spearheaded by Rare Book Curator **Heather Gring**, Newkirk concluded the final performance of this durational artwork in the Mason O. Damon Auditorium at the Central Library on April 23.

**Solar Eclipse** - Libraries throughout the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System offered eclipse programs over the last few months, including on April 8 during the Total Solar Eclipse. Programs included lectures, performances, story times, and special events, as well as self-directed craft and activity kits for families. In addition, **Carol Kowalik-Happy** coordinated the distribution of over 190,000 solar eclipse glasses to the community throughout the system. Most of these glasses (160,000+) were from the Buffalo Museum of Science, and 30,000 came from the *SEAL* (Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries) program. Libraries also started to receive donations of glasses from around the country, including 400 glasses from the Rosicrucians in San Jose, California. The glasses were distributed through the libraries, correctional facilities, Library by Mail service, and the Bookmobile and at outreach events. After the eclipse was over, **Carol** organized the recycling of the eclipse glasses. The glasses are being vetted by staff in System Borrower Services and will be held in the Raw Space at the Central

Library until needed by **Astronomers Without Borders**. They will pay for them to be shipped to other parts of the world where eclipse glasses will be needed.

## 1. Public Services

### Central Library:

April 15 - **Leslie Carr** started a new program series called *Blue Buffalo*, which addresses ecological and restoration events on western New York waterways, land, and forests. The Western New York Land Conservancy was the first organization to visit and gave a presentation about what they are doing to restore natural resources in the Buffalo area.

April 20 - **Amanda Brown**, with travel assistance from Librarian **Jackie Hovey**, hosted a native tree sapling giveaway to help celebrate Earth Day. Tree types available included Black Cherry, White Pine, Elderberry, Hazelnut, Paw Paw, Sugar Maple, and Dogwood. There were 60 patrons that attended and were happy to receive a sapling to plant at a locale of their choosing.



### System Services:

**El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day)** - **Chelsey Lonberger, Amealia Brousseau, and System Director John Spears** participated in the *Together with Día: Children's Day, Book Day* event at the Clarence Public Library on April 20. The well-attended event featured multicultural stories, arts, crafts, games, music, and free books for children. **Chelsey** and **Amealia** provided three crafts for children aged three to five, and **John** provided a storytime in German.

**Environmental Study Project** - **Heather Gring** and **Susan Buttaccio** welcomed Buffalo State University Art Conservation graduate students for an environmental study project on April 28 at the Central Library. Students choose to analyze the environmental conditions of either the Grosvenor Room or the closed stacks (Tier A) to assess and make recommendations. Students will be presenting their reports and findings in May of 2024.

**Financial Literacy** - **Carol Kowalik-Happy** helped facilitate the 700+ *Credit and Money Management Workshop* presented at the Central Library on April 23 by Blake Vetrone from Operation Hope as part of the FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) grant. After the presentation, two participants requested one-on-one meetings with Mr. Vetrone to help repair their credit. **Carol** has also received several inquiries asking for this program to be held again. She is currently looking into holding it again and

expanding access to the program by possibly offering it via Zoom throughout the B&ECPL System.

**Genealogy Training** – Genealogy Specialist **Rhonda Hoffman** presented genealogy training throughout the month of April that included an *Applying Google Earth Pro to Family History* workshop at the Central Library on April 6, *Cool Tools for Genealogy* and *Anatomy of a Military Pension File* at the Chautauqua Regional Genealogy Conference for genealogists on April 27, and four new, short genealogy videos: *Using the B&ECPL's Online Birth Records*, *Finding Map Overlays in the David Rumsey Online Map Collection*, *Navigating the B&ECPL's Online Erie County Poorhouse Collection*, and *Transcribe Records Quicker*.

**Health and Wellness** – New York State Public Health Corps Graduate Fellow **Sophia Charles** and System Adult Outreach Services Librarian **Jacob Rachwal** coordinated the *Wellness @ Central* tabling event held at the Central Library on April 18. Organizations provided health and wellness resources to patrons that included information on employment, housing, literacy, food assistance, mental health services, and other programs.

**Historic Marker Program and Seal of Civic Readiness** – **Susan Buttaccio** presented to area teachers about the library's Special Collections at the *Historic Marker Program and Seal of Civic Readiness* educator workshop on April 17 at the Central Library. This workshop was offered by Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC). Educators learned about historic resources that may be useful in the classroom from several cultural heritage organizations and repositories, including the University at Buffalo History of Medicine Library, the University at Buffalo Archives, and The Buffalo History Museum.

**Income Tax Assistance** - The TechKnow Lab at the Central Library hosted the last two income tax assistance sessions for the year provided by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance on April 4 and April 11.

**It Takes a Village Action Organization (ITAV) Graduation Ceremony** - **Andrew Maines** continues to work with Dr. Beverly Newkirk, Executive Director of It Takes a Village Action Organization (ITAV). The organization works to find employment for formally incarcerated individuals and other at-risk populations in Buffalo. **Andrew** participated in ITAV's first graduation ceremony of 2024 held at the Central Library on April 25. Operating under Dr. Beverly Newkirk's maxim of 'Transforming Hearts, Changing Lives, and Altering Destinies', ITAV's 12 graduates received certificates of recognition from local, county, and state officials. Phenomenal Ladies of Rhythm provided a musical performance. After the ceremony, graduates, their families, and their friends celebrated with a potluck meal.

**Three well-attended jazz concerts** with the Mark Filsinger Quintet, the Carol McLaughlin Jazz Quartet, and the Dave Schiavone Quintet were hosted at Central in honor of "Jazz Appreciation Month" on April 6, 21, and 27. These concerts were made possible through collaboration with the Music Performance Trust Fund, American

Federation of Musicians Local 92, Buffalo Jazz Collective, and Buffalo Music Coalition. **Anne Conable** handled logistics.

April 20 - **The Inaugural Buffalo Middle School (K-7) Chess Championship** brought 28 young Chess players and their families to Central to compete under the guidance of the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and its USCF Chess Master, Michael McDuffie, a longtime Library partner. **Anne Conable** handled logistics.

### **Buffalo Branches:**

#### **Coles Programming Highlights:**

- The Coles Library hosted the Buffalo Science Museum for their Eclipse educational programming on Friday, April 5. Eight attendees learned about the science behind the celestial event and had their questions answered by eclipse expert Jennifer.
- Coles Library Lego Club, led by Technology Clerk **Cat O'Connell**, met on April 24. Participants created one-of-a-kind Lego creations, which are now on display in our Children's Area. Participants got to take home Polaroid pictures of their work.
- Coles Library ran a "Love Your Library" Month scavenger hunt for kids of all ages and had 22 participants. Kids were asked to find four items on display in the Children's Area and received a library drawstring bag or piece of candy for completing the hunt. All scavenger hunt participants were also entered into a raffle for a grand prize drawn at the end of the month.
- **Cat O'Connell** held three one-on-one Tech Trainer appointments for QR code scanning, online navigation, and word processing.
- Branch Manager **Danielle Ptak** held three Book a Librarian appointments for id.me assistance and online account services navigation.

#### **Crane Programming Highlights:**

- Crane Branch Library continues to host story times on alternating Tuesday mornings with a total of 60 patrons attending
- An April Scavenger Hunt was held with 70 patrons participating in which patrons found nine images hidden throughout the children's section and then picked a prize.
- Drag Storytime was held on April 3 with volunteer performers Freddie Mercury and Justin Timberfake; 25 patrons were in attendance.
- In April, the Crane Branch Library hosted an author talk with Robert Brighton with 12 patrons attending.
- The Tool Library held a Dare to Repair event at the Crane Branch Library on April 6 with 55 patrons attending.
- The Hispanic Heritage Council hosted an event celebrating the Spanish Language in the Crane Branch Library on April 20 with 30 patrons in attendance.

#### **Outreach:**

Mobiles Services staff continue to work with Buffalo Public Schools and Say Yes Buffalo by participating in the *Saturday Academies* throughout the city. This includes

staff bringing library materials from the Library2Go Van into the school during the event that can be borrowed by attendees. Mobile Services Librarian **Jennifer Block** attended the event on April 13 at BPS #3 D'Youville Porter Campus School, and Mobile Services Librarian Trainee **Susan Blake** participated in Saturday Academy at BPS #99 Stanley M. Makowski IB World School and BPS #301 Burgard High School on April 20 and April 27, respectively.

**Jacob Rachwal** attended the monthly meeting for members of the Brant Senior Center on April 3. **Jacob** provided a presentation on library services that are available to patrons, such as Libby, Hoopla, *Library by Mail*, and *Book a Technology Trainer* services. Solar Eclipse glasses were distributed, and **Jacob** also collected library card applications from some of the attendees.

**Carol Kowalik-Happy** presented on Small Business library resources for students attending the *Marketing Strategies for Small Business* session on April 10 at the University at Buffalo School of Management's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

**Jacob Rachwal** attended a meeting of a visually impaired peer group at the WNY Independent Living Center in Buffalo on April 22. **Jacob** provided a presentation on the Assistive Technologies that are available to patrons at the Library with a strong focus on the Assistive Technology Room at the Central Library. He also encouraged the *Book a Librarian* service for one-on-one training and promoted the use of Libby and Hoopla.

**Jacob Rachwal** visited the Pre-K Class at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School in Hamburg on April 23. He spoke to children about being a librarian and then read the book *Don't Forget the Oatmeal!* by B. G. Ford.

**Carol Kowalik-Happy** participated in the Charter School for Applied Technologies *Prepare to Fly* event for their graduating high school seniors on April 24. **Carol** presented on the various library resources that would help them in their future plans, whether it be entering the job market, starting a small business, or attending college.

**Carol Kowalik-Happy** presented at SCORE's *Starting and Managing Your Own Business* day long workshop on April 27. She provided information on library resources available to entrepreneurs.

**Carol Kowalik-Happy** attended the New York State *Interest on Lawyer Account (IOLA) Fund's Justice Infrastructure Project Community Listening Session* at the Northland Workforce Training Center on April 30. The group discussed what the community needed to do so that every New Yorker with a legal issue may have access to timely and affordable legal services.

## 2. Collection Development

### Physical Collections:

Item Adds	Title Adds	Collection Size
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	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Juvenile Print	3,114	11,207	406	1,135	522,672
Young Adult Print	485	2,146	85	368	73,064
Adult Print	4,703	15,108	925	3,007	1,777,419
Media	1,982	9,555	182	977	536,802
Other*	1,964	7,128	21	42	171,637
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,248</b>	<b>45,144</b>	<b>1,619</b>	<b>5,529</b>	<b>3,081,594</b>

\*Includes magazines, generic copies, and other.

**Electronic Collections\*:**

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
eBooks	3,611	20,601	1,448	5,831	127,221
eAudiobooks	9,540	39,399	434	1,600	73,733
Digital Magazines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,240
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13,151</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>1,882</b>	<b>7,431</b>	<b>206,194</b>

\*The B&ECPL also provides access to all *hoopla* eBooks, eAudiobooks, videos, and music albums. These titles are not included in the collection size total, as they are not owned by the B&ECPL.

**All Collections:**

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,399</b>	<b>105,144</b>	<b>3,501</b>	<b>12,960</b>	<b>3,287,788</b>

**Amazon Wish List** - Krystal Testa, a patron turning 41 years old in April, donated 41 titles from the *Amazon Wish List*. She also pledged to donate two books each month going forward.

**Digital Collections** - In the month of April, Rare Book Clerk **Nicole Kondziela** digitized 289 scans of historic documents, including the *Buffalo Sanitary Report, 1854*. This 1854 report was used by Associate Professor of History, Dr. Claire Schen, on a [project with her students at UB](#).

The Rare Book Room has digitized all medieval manuscripts to be included in the Digital Scriptorium project. The [Digital Scriptorium](#) is a national initiative to make information about medieval manuscripts available around the world utilizing the capabilities of Linked Data. Retired Rare Book Curator **Amy Pickard** initiated the Rare Book Room’s involvement on this project, and her vision is close to being realized.

**Local History Collections** - Local History Librarian Trainee **Isaac Johnson** added four major collections to the Special Collections Department’s vertical file, including reporting on the May 14 Massacre, the white supremacist shooting on the Buffalo’s East side that took place in 2022, the Blizzard of 2022, the Solar Eclipse of 2024, and the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Buffalo in the 1920s. These files contain paper copies

of articles printed in local and national newspapers and websites, which may aid future researchers of Buffalo’s history.

Two books of Poetry by Buffalo’s first Poet Laureate, Jillian Hanesworth, were added to the Rare Book Collection.

**Purchase On Demand** - Purchase On Demand titles were expanded this month to include second-tier Adult Fiction consisting mostly of debut authors and beginning series.

### 3. Funding/Fundraising

#### **Funding:**

**New York State Budget** - In April of 2024 it was announced that Library Operating Aid was increased by \$1,725,000 from the Governor’s \$102,127,000 which brings the final total to \$103,852,000. Also to note, Library Construction Aid is at \$44,000,000 a \$10 million increase over the prior year! Another big announcement regarding the Budget is that it includes \$3 million for NOVELny, which will be a cost savings for the B&ECPL regarding databases, newspapers, maps and more. Library Materials Aid for schools still remains at \$6.25 per pupil.

#### **Fundraising:**

Campaign Name	Campaign Dates	Raised to Date
Annual Appeal Total	January 1 – April 30, 2024	\$38,557.93

#### **Highlights:**

The Huge Book Sale at the Central Library was held from April 11 to April 13. The total amount raised from the sale was \$7,912.83. This includes the early bird day, which saw over 450 patrons pay the \$5 donation to get first pick – the highest turnout to date.

The final report for the Sports Equipment Share Program (Grant 1) was submitted to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. This pilot program began at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library in July 2019.

A total of 490 limited edition Library Solar Eclipse t-shirts were sold both online and at the Central Library.

### 4. Facilities

On April 1, Phase 2 construction commenced at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library. Scope of work for this phase includes basement level improvements, such as flooring, ceiling, and lighting; restroom improvements; a new storefront entrance;

parking lot reconstruction; and reconstruction of the storm water/sewage drainage system. Duration of work is estimated at six to seven months, and the building will remain closed over the course of construction.

On April 9, Central Library staff met with the architecture firm Trautman Associates and City of Buffalo Department of Public Works (DPW) staff to discuss the design of the proposed HVAC system replacement in conjunction with the Phase 2 construction work at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library. A follow up meeting was held on April 29 to review design documents and discuss bid timelines, base scope of work, and bid alternates.

On April 10, a meeting was held with Watts Architecture & Engineering, Tremco Roofing, and Central Library staff to discuss the Central Library roof replacement and green roof installation. Tremco staff provided samples of the traditional roofing and vegetative roof material to be used during construction. Specifics of the leak detection system built into the vegetative roof were also discussed.

On April 25, Erie County DPW staff and Central Library staff met to discuss the upcoming interior marble column rehabilitation at the Central Library. This work will include re-stabilizing the shifting marble panels attached to the columns and providing additional support at the base of the columns. Scope of work was discussed, and a timeline of end of May/early June was established to have a complete set of design drawings in order to advertise an RFP.

On April 26, the B&ECPL submitted three 2025 Capital Budget Requests to Erie County. The three requests totaled \$4.7 million and included work such as replacing failing air handlers and rehabilitating the building exterior envelope at Central, maintenance and shipping vehicle replacement, and miscellaneous building and site work.

In April, New York State passed its budget which included \$44 million in library construction aid. This represents a \$10 million increase from recent years. Due to this increase in funding, the B&ECPL System's allocation will see a modest rise from the roughly \$1.5 million for the FY 2024 round of applications.

Library Display Artist **Dawn Stanton** and Assistant Library Display Artist **Darlene Pennachi** completed wall installation designs in the Central Library's Children's Room. Additionally, they produced signage for the following libraries: Kenmore, Kenilworth, Clarence, Dudley, González-Soto, Hamburg, Reinstein, Clearfield, Panty, Grand Island, and Orchard Park.

## 5. Staff Development

*Spring Into Safety Training Series with WNYCOSH* - April marked the beginning of the *Spring Into Safety* staff training series, our annual collaboration with the Western New York Council on Occupational Health and Safety (WNYCOSH) in conjunction with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County. After many weeks of planning,



coordination, and promotion, the series launched on April 9. The inaugural session on *Fire Extinguisher Operation and Safety* was a success, with over 20 participants. The class included a presentation on general fire safety, as well as an opportunity for everyone to have hands-on practice putting out digital flames. Overall, the series has 24 sessions scheduled through the end of June. There are a range of topics, with live training locations at Central and other libraries plus many virtual offerings. April included several timeslots for the fire extinguisher class, as well as a Zoom session on *Gender Diversity in the Workplace through the Lens of Health and Safety* that ran twice and was also well-attended.



*Photo from 4/9 Fire Extinguisher Staff Training*

**Annual Mandatory Compliance and Technology Training Campaign Kicks Off -**

This year's annual compliance training campaign will run from April 1 to June 30. In response to staff feedback that the summer timeframe was not ideal, the campaign was moved up to the spring. Newly added to the Kantola platform was a Cybersecurity module that gives employees the convenience of completing both compliance and technology training all in one place, thus fulfilling both mandatory annual requirements at once. As of the end of April, more than half of all staff have successfully completed all assigned trainings in Kantola.

***Serving Deaf Patrons in the Library ALA Webinar Series*** - Based on a staff suggestion, the library invested in four seats to the two-part ALA webinar series on *Serving Deaf Patrons in the Library* that ran on April 10 and April 11. The series covered how to make your library a more welcoming place for those who are deaf or hard of hearing by gaining a basic understanding of Deaf culture, commonly used library-related signs, and how to better work with interpreters. After the series concluded, all staff participants agreed to collaborate on developing a useful resource based on what they learned to share with other employees who work with the public. The goal of the group is to complete the resources by later this spring.

***Staff Development For You Publication Sees Increased Engagement*** - March kicked off the first issue of *Staff Development For You*, a periodic email publication for employees to learn about learning opportunities. Since then, five issues have been delivered to all staff, two of which went out in April. Included in the first several

issues was a staff survey to gauge interest on general learning topics. The survey had a fun March Madness twist and ran for multiple rounds through the beginning of April. With over 100 responses, the champion of the tournament was the general topic of "Collaboration, Communication and Teamwork." Staff Development will use the insights garnered from this survey to help prioritize future offerings on the top topics of interest.

**Webinars** - Employees participated in a variety of webinars in April, with multiple employees attending the following sessions: *Does Generative AI Infringe Copyright?* (from Capital District Library Council), *Penguin Random House Spring Book & Author Festival* (from School Library Journal), and *Youth Social Emotional Learning* (from Booklist).

### 6. Communications

**Media:**

Type of Communication	Topic	Air Date/Publish Date
Live TV interview with Assistant Deputy Director Joy Testa Cinquino	Eclipse partnership with WBLK Radio, Eclipse day @ the Library	April 5, WIVB TV, Channel 4
Live and taped TV interviews with Assistant Deputy Director Joy Testa Cinquino	Return used eclipse glasses to B&ECPL locations	April 8, WGRZ TV, Channel 2
Live radio show aired from Central Library's Ring of Knowledge	Eclipse, library resources, book sale and more	April 7, Power 94 WBLK Radio
Live and taped radio interviews with Assistant Deputy Director Joy Testa Cinquino	Return used eclipse glasses to B&ECPL locations	April 9, WBEN Radio
Interview with Library Director John Spears and Assistant Deputy Director Samantha Purpora	Tour of the Central Library, new teen space, updates in borrowing, book sale	April 10, The Buffalo News
Live and taped interviews with Library Director John Spears and Assistant Deputy Director Joy Testa Cinquino	Book sale and updates on programming	April 11, WIVB TV, Channel 4
Photo shoot with Grosvenor Room Manager Susan	Tour of the most notable and unique items in the Library's Rare Book Room vault	April 19, The Buffalo News, (photo spread has not been published yet)

Buttaccio and RBR Librarian Charles Alaimo		
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**Social Media:**

	Staff Activity		Public Activity		Followers	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month (New)	Total
<b>Facebook</b>	128	452	5,157	9,185	244	13,604
<b>Flickr</b>	45	118	3,551	19,300	-	61
<b>Google Ads <sup>1</sup></b>	N/A	N/A	2,881	11,256	N/A	N/A
<b>Instagram</b>	21	63	2,943	11,318	276	5,659
<b>Pinterest</b>	46	158	140	400	-3	2,052
<b>X(formerly Twitter)</b>	67	243	593	1,850	-8	10,959
<b>YouTube</b>	8	46	1,498	9,503	10	623
<b>TikTok</b>	-	-	262	738	10	616
<b>Total</b>	315	1,080	17,025	63,550	529	33,574

<sup>1</sup> Google Ads is provided to the Library through a grant. Monthly activity based on public clicks.

**7. Partnerships**

**Erie County Youth Detention Center - Andrew Maines** meet with staff from the Erie County Youth Detention Center on April 16 to discuss the B&ECPL’s ability to provide limited library services to the area’s incarcerated youth.

**Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc. - Andrew Maines** met with Tricia DeFilipps, Chief Attorney of Civil Legal Services at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc., and staff on April 5 to plan a *Clean Slate Information Session* at the Central Library on May 7. The *New York Clean Slate Act* enables eligible people to have conviction records automatically sealed three years from sentencing for misdemeanors and eight years from sentencing for felonies, not including time incarcerated and allows people with conviction records to move forward with their lives and access jobs, housing, and higher education.

**Niagara Frontier Recreation and Parks Society - Chelsey Lonberger** and Orchard Park Librarian **Kathleen (Kasey) Mack** presented at the Orchard Park Public Library on April 18 to the Niagara Frontier Recreation and Parks Society on how libraries can partner with local municipal Parks and Recreation Departments. An overview was

given on loanable material, examples were provided of current working relationships, and ideas were discussed about events and programs. Kasey also created a pamphlet with all of the Library Locations with their Director/Manager's names and Library phone number to encourage collaborations.

**Outreach Coordinators in New York's Public Library Systems - Andrew Maines** attended the *Outreach Coordinators in New York's Public Library Systems* meeting held virtually on April 10. This bi-monthly meeting allows Outreach Coordinators across the state to meet and discuss programming and outreach activities within their Systems and across New York State.

**University at Buffalo Libraries - Heather Gring** attended the closing reception for the University at Buffalo Libraries exhibition *Louise Blanchard Bethune: Every Women Her Own Architect* on April 11. The Rare Book Room loaned materials relating to Bethune's role as a founding member of the Buffalo Women's Wheel and Athletic Club for this exhibition.

**William-Emslie YMCA** - The TechKnow Lab began a new outreach partnership with the William-Emslie YMCA in Buffalo to teach technology classes at their location. Two visits were completed this month.

**SYNERGY Coalition Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino** attended the April meeting at *Community Access Services* and provided attendees with information on distributing their materials in libraries, tabling, and using library meeting spaces. Organizations in attendance included Prenatal/Perinatal Network, Elite Home Health Care, Catholic Charities, Buffalo City Mission, The Restoration Society, Roswell Park, Buffalo Urban League, Endeavor Health Services, Univera Health, and Brightsands Recovery.

## 8. Planning for the Future

The Western New York Library Resources Council's (WNYLRC's) *Intersect Unconference* will be held at the Central Library again this year on October 11. The theme this year is *Innovate or Stagnate: Embracing Necessary Changes in Library Practices*. **Carol Kowalik-Happy** and **Jacob Rachwal** are among the members of WNYLRC's *Continuing Education Committee* who is planning this event.

**Susan Buttaccio, Heather Gring, and Charles Alaimo** met with Walter Hakala and Lisa Berglund, English professors at the University at Buffalo and Buffalo State University, to begin planning an exhibit and events in support of the upcoming *Dictionary Society of North America Biennial Conference*, which will be hosted in Buffalo in 2025.

## 9. Director Activities

### Meetings/Events Attended by Director

April 2024

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Minutes of the Board of Trustees

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Date	Meeting/Event
April 1, 2024	Meeting - Administrative Team
April 1, 2024	Meeting - Emily Patronik
April 1, 2024	Virtual Meeting - NOVELny Committee
April 2, 2024	Conference - Public Library Association
April 3, 2024	Virtual Meeting - NYLA Legislative Committee
April 3, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Prisoners' Right to Read Working Group
April 3, 2024	Event - OCLC Dinner for Public Leaders
April 4, 2024	Conference - Public Library Association
April 4, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Buffalo Cultural Leaders
April 5, 2024	Conference - Public Library Association
April 8, 2024	Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Steering Committee
April 9, 2024	Meeting - Samantha Purpora
April 9, 2024	Interview/Tour - Sandra Tan, Buffalo News
April 9, 2024	Meeting - Emily Patronik
April 10, 2024	Meeting - Managers/Directors
April 10, 2024	Meeting - Rick Smith, Silo City
April 11, 2024	Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Collecting Initiative
April 11, 2024	Meeting - Dorinda Darden, Samantha Purpora
April 11, 2024	Meeting - Jeannine Purtell
April 11, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Public Library System Construction Aid
April 11, 2024	Meeting - Executive Committee
April 12, 2024	Virtual Meeting - City of Buffalo Library Construction Projects w/ Colin McDermid
April 12, 2024	Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Steering Committee
April 15, 2024	Meeting - Administrative Team
April 15, 2024	Virtual Meeting - ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee
April 16, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Library Consultant Interview
April 16, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Library Consultant Interview
April 16, 2024	Virtual Meeting - ErieNet Board of Directors
April 16, 2024	Meeting - Emily Patronik
April 16, 2024	Dinner - Mick Cochrane and Philip Metres
April 16, 2024	Event - Canisius Contemporary Writer Series: Philip Metres
April 17, 2024	Virtual Meeting - WNY Digital Equity Coalition
April 17, 2024	Meeting - Dorinda Darden

April 17, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Amherst Staffing Requests w/ Judy Fachko and Kristi Dougherty
April 18, 2024	Virtual Meeting - MetLib Standing Committee
April 18, 2024	Meeting - Jeannine Purtell
April 20, 2024	Event - Together with Dia at the Clarence Public Library
April 22, 2024	Meeting - Administrative Team
April 22, 2024	Virtual Meeting - NOVELny Committee
April 23, 2024	Event - NYLA Spring on the Hill in Albany
April 23, 2024	Meeting - PULISDO
April 23, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Committee on Professional Ethics
April 24, 2024	Presentation - Buffalo Place Board
April 24, 2024	Meeting - Dorinda Darden
April 24, 2024	Event - State of the County Address at the AKG
April 24, 2024	Event - Just Buffalo Kiese Laymon Reception
April 25, 2024	Virtual Meeting - MetLib 2024 Conference Planning Committee
April 25, 2024	Meeting - Dorinda Darden, Samantha Purpora
April 25, 2024	Meeting - Jeannine Purtell
April 25, 2024	Event - Babel featuring Kiese Laymon
April 26, 2024	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
April 29, 2024	Meeting - Administrative Team
April 29, 2024	Meeting - Judy Fachko
April 30, 2024	Meeting - Samantha Purpora
April 30, 2024	Meeting - County Records w/ Eric Tower and Grosvenor Room Staff
April 30, 2024	Virtual Meeting - WNYLRC Executive Committee
April 30, 2024	Meeting - Emily Patronik

**Appendices**

**A. Monthly Statistics**

**System Programming Statistics:**

Regular/Virtual	Number of Programs		Total Attendance	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
<b>Regular*</b>				
Adults	1336	4232	3789	13115
Children 5 and under	1853	5094	6048	20645
Children 6-11	1482	5936	3092	12538
Intergenerational/Combined	5381	20451	10846	43023
Teens	351	1426	748	2508

<b>Regular Total</b>	<b>10403</b>	<b>37139</b>	<b>24523</b>	<b>91829</b>
<b>Regular Total</b>	<b>10403</b>	<b>37139</b>	<b>24523</b>	<b>91829</b>
<b>Virtual</b>				
<b>Live Virtual</b>				
Adults	16	79	90	956
Children 5 and under	0	1	0	12
Children 6-11	0	3	0	96
Intergenerational/Combined	5	20	72	289
Teens	1	49	1	99
<b>Live Virtual Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>1452</b>
<b>Recorded Virtual</b>				
Adults	3	30	51	496
Children 5 and under	0	0	0	0
Children 6-11	2	8	321	1220
Intergenerational/Combined	16	42	1144	2934
Teens	0	0	0	0
<b>Recorded Virtual Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1516</b>	<b>4650</b>
<b>Virtual Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>1679</b>	<b>6102</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10446</b>	<b>37371</b>	<b>26202</b>	<b>97931</b>

\*Regular programs include group programs, one-on-one programs, and self-directed programs (including individual take & make crafts).

**Other Statistics:**

Consolidated statistics on library visits, website visits, circulation, computer sessions, wifi usage, and program attendance and a summary of open hours can be found at [www.buffalolib.org/about-becpl/monthly-statistics](http://www.buffalolib.org/about-becpl/monthly-statistics).

Detailed reports on circulation, computer sessions, wifi usage, and library visits can be found at <https://www.buffalolib.org/monthly-statistics/2024-circulation-public-access-computer-wifi-and-library-visits-detail>.

**B. Contracting Library Activity Reports**

**West Seneca Public Library** – submitted by Robert Alessi, Director

**Mario Day** – On March 9, Children’s Librarian Trainee **Emily Sieg** and Librarian **Jordan Roeder** organized our very first National Mario Day celebration. Approximately 200 people participated in Mario-themed crafts, games (including both live action AND video game versions of Mario Kart), photo ops and more.



**Computer Training** – In partnership with Mission Ignite, the West Seneca Public Library began hosting both Digital Navigator one-on-one computer training and Tech360 computer basics classes. Attendees that complete both of the four-hour Tech360 sessions also receive a free computer at the end of the second session. After just the first two weeks of classes, six people had already gained introductory computer skills (with the help of Trainer Ruben) and completed the full 8-hour training to earn a computer!

**Library Out and About** – The library will be present at the West Seneca Farmer’s Market on May 30, the Community Days Parade on June 22 and several stops by the West Seneca Schools Reading Rover at area events and parks this summer!

**Library Discards Book Sale** – From Wednesday, June 26 through Tuesday, July 9, the West Seneca Public Library will be having a library discards book sale. Individual items will be \$0.25 each while a bag of materials will cost only \$1.

**Bookmark Design Contest** – Organized by Library Assistant **Rowan Narvaez**, from Saturday, June 29 to Wednesday, July 31 we will be holding a bookmark design contest for students entering preschool through 12th grade. Students can submit as many bookmark designs as they would like, but only one winning design and one runner-up will be chosen from each grade. Winners will receive a prize and a large posterboard version of their design, and we will be distributing printed copies of the thirteen winning designs at our circulation desk while supplies last.

**Citizen Science Kits** – Following a patron suggestion (and some helpful information from John Benzee at the Lancaster Library), Library Assistant **Rowan Narvaez** has assembled three circulating citizen science kits to date – Observing Pollinators, Exploring Biodiversity and, brand new to the collection, Assessing Indoor Air Quality – with everything someone would need to collect data and contribute to a citizen science project.



Agenda Item J - Unfinished Business. None.

Agenda Item K - New Business. None.

Agenda Item L - Adjournment. There being no further business, on a motion by Trustee Panty with a second by Trustee Candelario, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Moore  
Secretary