



Director's Report for the
Cheektowaga Public Libraries (CPL)
February 2025

1. PUBLIC SERVICES

Programs, Learning Opportunities, Outreach and Events

Highlights:

- February 1 - The Julia Boyer Reinstein Library celebrated "Take Your Child to the Library Day" with crafts activities and stories read by Librarian Kathy Goodrich. Dozens of children came to the Library and enjoyed the stories and activities which were "Pete the Cat" themed.



- February 2 - The Western New York Iris Society's Sunday speaker series continued with a lecture featuring the Siberian Iris. Discussed were how these elegant flowers enhance the beauty of any Iris garden along with practical "how-to" information such as planting and care. The Western New York Iris Society's speaker's meet once a month at the Julia Boyer Reinstein (JBR) Library to discuss Iris and flower growing with the public in anticipation of their big Iris and Flower show set for May 31 at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library.



- Throughout February at both Cheektowaga Libraries children's story hour programs drew in many families for reading and crafts. Librarian Heidi Bofinger facilitated the Wednesday Night Owl and Thursday Early Bird Story Times at the Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library while Librarian Kathy Goodrich led the Wednesday Preschool Story times at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. These story times are very popular and well received by children, parents and grandparents attending.
- February 3 - Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library hosted a free candlelight violin concert of romantic music with Sally Schaefer. Ms. Schaefer treated the audience with renditions of romantic folk and blues ballads for Valentine's Day. Sally Schaefer is a Buffalo-based ethnomusicologist, archivist, and multi-instrumental folk musician best known for her work as a violinist in genres as diverse as Americana, Celtic music, rock, hip-hop, polka, and punk.



- February 6 - Best Self Behavioral Health representative Nicholas Reeve staffed a table in the lobby of the Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library where he provided information about substance abuse and support services. While at the table, Mr. Reeve also distributed Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips and Narcan Naloxone nasal spray. Since September 2024, the library has hosted Mr. Reeve in our lobby one or two times a month. Additionally, he provides the library with extra test strips and Narcan for public distribution.
- February 6 & 20 (JBR) and 3 & 13 (REI) - The Cheektowaga YES group (Youth Engagement Services) moderated the monthly LEGO Clubs and Craft Nights at both the Cheektowaga Libraries. This wonderful partnership between the Library and the Town of Cheektowaga's Youth & Recreational Services Department allows teens to volunteer and help provide activities for younger children.

- February 22 – The Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library hosted a free drum workshop lead by a teaching artist from the Buffalo African-American Cultural Center’s Dance & Drum Performance Company. Child and adult participants learned the fundamentals of traditional West African drumming, basic African drumming technique, and its connection to modern music. It was a fun opportunity for developing self-confidence, cultural awareness and creative expression. Anna Reinstein Memorial Library presented this event in conjunction with B&ECPL’s Black History Month programs.



Outreach:

- February 7 - Librarian Carol Veach visited classrooms at Theodore Franklin Elementary School. Carol read books, passed out library applications and led students in making colored bookmarks and an owl puppet. Dozens of new library cardholders were registered with many visiting the Library for the first time to check out their favorite books.
- February 26 - Director Caufield presented a workshop for individuals writing and revising their resumes entitled “How to Write and Optimize a Resume” at the Calspan Career and Technical Education Center. Many of the participants needed to update their resumes and learn to post to online sites like LinkedIn and Google Docs so they could access and send the resume to hopeful employers at any time.

2. Collections: Development and Use

Highlights:

- All Librarians are weeding and ordering from available checklists

Displays:



3. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

a. Facilities:

February 11 - Engineers from TRAIN Heating and Cooling conducted inspection of the boilers at both Libraries. Both systems are operating within normal parameters, and will be ready to switch from heating to air-conditioning this spring.

b. Technology

NA

6. Partnerships, Meetings / Future Planning / Special Projects

- Cheektowaga Libraries helped promote Erie County's Read to Succeed Partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program. Working together, both agencies are providing free reading materials to children ranging in age from birth to 5 years old. Once registered, children will receive a free picture book each month through the mail helping to create a home library.

Dozens of Cheektowaga families have signed up for this free program with the first books arriving to children this April.



- Partnering with Cleveland Hill Middle School the Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library hosted an exhibit of art work by students who competed in the International Peace poster contest. The poster exhibit was on view throughout February with many family members and fellow students visiting the library to see the art works.

