

By: Timothy Baird

Dept. Adult Services

Subject: Monthly Report – November 2020

Date: December 2, 2020

Administrative

- Attended the Mayor's Youth Board monthly meeting.
- Met with Director Kenney, Assistant Director Degyansky, Head of Systems Lolis to discuss the possibility of implementing a laptop loaning program.
- Attended a Planning Department Focus Group on resources for the most vulnerable residents and challenges related to housing, homelessness and hunger as a result of the ongoing pandemic.
- Several meetings to discuss how to handle holds during the Grab & Go service.
- Meeting to discuss the change in service to the public as we transition from in-Library service to Grab & Go only.
- Worked with Librarian Perez on guides to local Food Pantries and local Covid testing sites.

Staff Activities - *Thanks to librarians Sharon Rothman, Mariel Perez, Kristen Thornton-De Stafeno, Kristy Bauman and Austin Duffy who contributed to this report.*

- Librarian Duffy attended the webinar "Be Your Community's Career Development Anchor" and attended WLS's Chat on the Digital Divide.
- Librarian Rothman attended: "Bite Size Books" new releases from a number of publishers; PLA "150 Million New Technology Jobs and the Skills Needed to Get Them"; "NWS Forthcoming Titles"; "Reading Group Guides"; Monthly ALA Codes Cookbook meeting; Gale "Be Your Community's Career Development Anchor", Tutor.com "Understanding Cover Letters and Resumes"; WLS Chat on the Digital Divide.
- Librarian Bauman attended a number of program and budget meeting. Toured the Cable TV Studio. She worked on preparation for Black History month programs and Spring 2021 programs.
- Librarian De Stafeno worked with staff in all Departments on content for many blog posts. She created the December virtual calendar. Created Library signage for building closure and did a press release that the library was suspending browsing. She completed the Youth Mental First Aid pre-course work and certification exam. She attended the 2020 NYLA Online Conference. Attended "Promoting Your Digital Library During the Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond" from Overdrive. "Who Are We Designing For and Why" service design techniques for responsive libraries webinar.
- Librarian Perez worked on weeding the Spanish book collection and ordering new materials. She translated the Grab & Go information into Spanish for the website. Perez attended the WLS Adult

Services discussion on online programming at the different libraries. She was trained on being a Zoom Host and will start hosting her own meetings in December.

Customer Service:

- Librarian Duffy responded to seven Local History queries, most via email.
- Digital Media Specialist Olney created videos for setting up AcornTV on a SmartTV.
- Started a program of Grab & Go Kits for Adults.
- Librarian Bauman has been working with WLS ILL to get a copy of a particular bound edition of Gramophone. This has been ongoing since October.

Community Outreach:

- Please see the Community Outreach report.
- Librarian Bauman was involved with the Stamped book discussion group with middle school and high school students.
- Library program with Gilda's Club Westchester, book discussion group called Red Door Readers.

Programs:

- Barbara Wenglin's short-story group met once in November with more than 30 spirited participants discussing two selections from the series anthology, *100 Years of the Best American Short Stories*. Following the fall theme of romantic relationships in many forms, a story by Tobias Wolff focused on the controversial "Don't Ask Don't Tell" former policy of gays in the military, while the second by Nancy Hale dealt with the effects of the Holocaust on a survivor's relationships.
- A new program for ESOL students "Curt's ESL Pharmacy" made it's debut in November. Curt has been a regular leader of the library's English Conversation Group.
- Three English Conversation Groups this month.
- What to Read Next with Carol Fitzgerald hosted by Librarians Rothman and Bauman.
- Librarian Rothman hosted the Foundation program "How to Write a Will".
- Tech programs by Digital Media Specialist Olney: "Telepresence and Video Conferencing"; "Virtual Tech Help"; "iPhone and iPad Basics".
- Librarian Bauman hosted "Quick'n Easy Tabletop Display" program.
- Book Discussion Groups included: Future is Female, Book'em Mystery Group, Slow Reading, One Book, One White Plains, Red Door Readers at Gilda's Club.
- Spanish for Beginners continued with 10 active students.
- Wellness programs included: Lunchtime Meditation, The Science Behind Mindfulness Practices, Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters [Alzheimer's program], Immunizations 101.
- Pause and Reflect Again writing workshop.
- Common Ground met with the topic of Covid 19 and Hunger. Common Ground is a partnership of The League of Women Voters of White Plains, the YWCA, and the Library.