Programs
Josh hosted The Roots of Black Music in America in the evening of June 1 - the last of our major events connected to the Harriet Tubman statue - Journey to Freedom - series of events. Josh notes, “While there were some technical difficulties, it was a phenomenal program. NYC musician Karlus Trapp is super talented and able to change musical genres and styles with ease - he began with old spirituals and continued right through the 1970s soul, funk and rock. Attendees young and old all seemed to enjoy the program (many were seen singing along!) and asked some great questions at the end.”

Storytimes for Ages 2-6 are really feeling more like pre-pandemic programs now that we are hosting them outside and on the first Saturday each month. Attendance keeps growing and we are seeing more and more kids spending time in the Trove before and after storytime, as well, especially with the LEGOs and MagnaTiles available to play with. Caroline reported, “On June 14 I led a very successful storytime. I read a few books from the summer display and sang songs such as The Banana song and the popcorn song. The kids were very engaged and the parents were participating. This storytime seemed more engaging, interactive, and interesting than some of the others. I think it was the most successful storytime; I had over twenty people. In the end, I counted about twenty kids and ten adults. It felt like it was a Trove Time experience.”
Local authors Jade Greene-Grant & Barbara Magnotta presented a **Special Author Storytime** on June 29th. The authors read their book, *Animals Eating the Alphabet*, and gave out drawing materials afterwards encouraging the young participants to draw their favorite foods. Raquel organized the event and commented “A fun time was had by all!”
Austin held sessions of several youth STEAM programs. These included the virtual programs Create a Minecraft World, Engineering Time for Youth, and Game Design for Youth; the in-person Rocket League for Teens, and the brand new in-person Youth Tech Tutoring.

**Professional Development, Displays, Staffing Changes, Outreach and Other**

All Library staff attended one of the two training sessions offered by We Need 2 Talk. These important sessions covered understanding terminology related to gender/sexuality, race, ethnicity, and more, as well as the “Courageous Conversations Compass” and “The RIR (Recognize, Interrupt, Repair) Protocol” for dealing with microaggressions and bias. As part of the training, each staff member received a copy of Let’s Talk About Race (and Other Hard Things) by Nancy Dome, EdD, from which the RIR Protocol comes from. Raquel commented, “The session was excellent! The presenters were welcoming and informative. Learning about RIR and the resources from the workshop were particularly helpful.”
The training sessions were followed by **staff discussion sessions** facilitated by Caroline, Kristen and Raquel. These discussions involved gathering recommendations for further EDI workshops, getting input from staff as to their thoughts about the training, and going over practicing the RIR Protocol through some scenarios. Raquel noted that, “Some good suggestions for further training included requests for LGBTQ+ gender equity training on learning and practicing pronoun usage, and training on anti-sexism techniques for the workplace.” These trainings and discussions are the first in a series of events related to the Library’s EDI Strategic Plan goal. Moving forward, we will offer additional training programs on a variety of topics.

In addition, our EDI Committee will continue working with We Need 2 Talk to develop a **Library Equity Plan** over the next several months.

Caroline began working on a **common questions Spanish cheat sheet** for staff. She noted the project came about because she “realized that even though my Spanish is decent, there are a lot of words that I still don’t know, and realized that some of the staff know less than I do. I decided to come up with a “cheat sheet” to translate for The Trove. I came up with common questions such as do you have tutors? How can I learn more about ESL, what programs do you have? Mariel also added some suggestions. This will be translated soon into Spanish for The Trove Staff (and the adults if they want one as well.)”

Josh, Caroline and Kristen **interviewed candidates** for Librarian I in Youth Services to replace Ashley.

Raquel hosted two **Mamaroneck Avenue School special education classes in the Trove** for storytime and a tour. She commented, “The groups greatly enjoyed the stories and songs, and were a delight to host here at the Library! The students also received library cards - some were able to get their cards on the day of the visit, and the rest I was able to drop off at the school shortly after their visit.”

Raquel and Caroline attended the Youth Bureau’s Summer **Youth Worker Job Fair** and interviewed candidates. We will have two teens working for several weeks over the summer in the Trove beginning July 5. Raquel commented that “We interviewed many talented White Plains youth that afternoon. It was nice to see that so many had such good memories of the Library!”

Raquel conducted **outreach to United Preschool** and performed three storytimes to their six special education preschoolers. She reported, “The preschoolers were engaged and happily listened to stories and sang songs - it was a treat to visit them!”

Josh, Raquel and Erik took part in a meeting discussing a **Banned Books Initiative** for the Library - a series of programs and events to take place over the course of a year celebrating and
encouraging the reading of banned and censored books. Ideas include author visits, “live” reading events, book groups, and culminating Banned Books Festival.

Trove Displays and Exhibits
Included: Commemorating the Anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act - July 2nd, 1964; Enjoying the Great Outdoors; Summer Treats; Happy July 4th; International Friendship Day - July 30th; Summer Books; Summer Reading 2022 Prizes and Exhibits
Staffing Changes
Erik Carlson has resigned from his position as Librarian II in Youth Services. His last day will be Friday, July 8. He will be missed. He was integral to the establishment and success of the Edge and has been a vital part of not just the YS staff, but the Library as a whole. We wish him all the best in his new role as Director of Dobbs Ferry Public Library.