

# Branch Highlights: January 2024

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## Branch Statistics

Visitors	23,248
Circulation	37,014
Computer Use	3,242
Reference	3,518
Programs	112
Program Attendance	1,020

## Services & Collection

### Special Winter Displays

- ❖ **Snow Who? @ Hazard** — There were 15 snowmen dressed up as characters from books posted on the teen bulletin board, and patrons of all ages had a laugh trying to guess who each snowman was supposed to be.
- ❖ **Adult Winter Book Display @ Hazard** — The *Blizzard of Books* monthly adult fiction display was especially popular in January. Each book featured either a snowstorm or winter as an important setting or plot element. Many books were checked out and the display needed to be refilled several times.
- ❖ **Winter Blues @ Paine** — This month several book displays were highlighted throughout the library, including a “Winter Blues” themed display and librarian recommended books for middle grade readers. Celeste also highlighted the most popular adult fiction, large print and non-fiction books among Paine readers.
- ❖ **New Year, New Knowledge @ Petit** — Emily organized a 4-week passive program with an eye-catching display, drawing 86 participants throughout January in a special trivia contest.



# Programs

## For Children & Teens

- ❖ **CNY Robotics @ Betts** – Pat arranged for the group to do a program that attracted a great crowd of 10 kids, 2 teens, and 8 adults to enjoy a fun lesson in robotics.
- ❖ **Build a Bird Feeder @ Mundy** – Young patrons built bird feeders out of popsicle sticks and read about the importance of the Great Backyard Bird Count as well as several species in *The Big Book of Birds*.
- ❖ **Pancake Poppers @ Mundy** – Kids practiced reading a recipe and safe food preparation skills while learning to make a baked mini pancake. They also read *Curious George Makes Pancakes* and *Mr. Wolf's Pancakes*.
- ❖ **Storytime @ Northeast** – Tamice has teamed up with the Catholic Charities Pre-K program to provide children's storytimes and programs at SNCC and Our Lady of Pompeii.
- ❖ **Storytime @ Paine**: Miss Sue conducted two storytimes at Paine this month, as well as two special park storytimes at Sunnycrest Lodge.
- ❖ **Decorate the Library @ Paine** – Participants could add special Pete the Cat-themed art to Paine Branch, creating positivity with images and messages from the grooviest cat of all during the dark month of January.
- ❖ **Drop-In Activities @ Petit** – At the beginning of the month, kids made penguins from black cardstock and white chalk, and in the second half of the month they went on a scavenger hunt to look for silver snowflakes in the children's area.
- ❖ **Storytime @ Petit** – The branch hosted 5 storytimes in January, and Quinn also visited a local private daycare for two additional storytimes.
- ❖ **Young Naturalists @ Petit** – This month, the group talked about what animals do in winter and how they survive the harsh temperatures.
- ❖ **Gingerbread Houses @ White** – Tamice hosted a special gingerbread house making program over winter break using graham crackers, frosting, and candy decorations.

## For Teens

- ❖ **Resume Workshop @ Beauchamp** – Beauchamp welcomed teens to a special program where they got tips for creating resumes.
- ❖ **Teen Game Night @ Hazard**: Teens enjoyed an evening of playing board games and video games while having light refreshments.

## For Adults

- ❖ **Cabin Fever Quilt Show @ Betts** – This was the library's 43<sup>rd</sup> annual quilt show, featuring 75 quilts from 24 artists. Aran spent the last week of January organizing and prepping the quilts, and staff from Facilities were instrumental in getting the quilts hung up around the library.
- ❖ **Keyna Hora Klezmer Band @ Betts** – The concert was lively and audience members joined in the dancing and had some social time with donuts and cider after the performance.
- ❖ **Quick Bites @ Hazard** – Participants included several familiar faces as well as a lot of new friends who enjoyed making chocolate mug cakes.

- ❖ **Craft Café @ Hazard:** During this month's adult crafting program, participants made reusable monthly calendars from picture frames and paint chips.
- ❖ **Mushroom Growing @ Petit** – Hannah presented a popular oyster mushroom growing class in January. The group had great discussions about growing mediums, indoors vs. outdoors, and temperature parameters, and Hannah received a standing ovation at the end of the program!
- ❖ **Westcott Readers @ Petit** – The adult book discussion group met in January to discuss *The Ninth Hour* by Alice McDermott, with a mix of in-person and Zoom attendees.
- ❖ **Candy Sushi @ Soule** – This program involved candy sushi-making and mini self-portrait painting at Soule on a cold, snowy afternoon. First the group made candy sushi from Rice Crispy Treats, Swedish Fish, and fruit ribbons, and afterwards there was a basic lesson in face drawing with the aid of small mirror compacts.
- ❖ **Life Skills @ Soule** – In January, adult patrons chose from a variety of activities to learn new skills including Tai Chi, painting mini figurines, and learning life-saving skills with Narcan and Stop the Bleed training.
- ❖ **Virtual Knit Together @ White** – Anna took over hosting the program in January and has been enjoying getting to know the knitters and helping with tips and tricks in the fiber world.

### *For All Ages*

- ❖ **Family Activities @ Beauchamp** – The library hosted several regular events for families to enjoy, including Craft Nights, Family Game Nights, and Kids @ Play & Crafts in the library. These programs attracted 18 kids, 3 teens, and 8 adults for fun and games as a family.
- ❖ **Family ICEperiments @ Hazard** – Families performed a hands-on science experiment to figure out how to melt ice cubes the fastest using salt, sugar, sand, and water. Once families figured out the quickest method for melting the ice, they were able to use what they learned to rescue toy bunnies which had been frozen in an ice cube.
- ❖ **Winter Watercolor Paint and Sip @ Hazard** – Aspiring artists of all ages were invited on a snowy Saturday for a family-friendly paint and sip. Patrons painted winter scenes using watercolors while sipping hot chocolate and tea.

### *Free Tax Prep @ OCPL*

- ❖ **Beauchamp** – Tax Prep service through PEACE on Fridays. Patrons can call PEACE or book an appointment on their website.
- ❖ **Betts** – AARP/VITA Tax Prep Tuesdays and Thursdays. Patrons can call the library at 315-435-1940 to book an appointment.
- ❖ **Central** – Tax Prep service through PEACE on 2/16 and 3/1. Patrons can call PEACE or the library to book an appointment.
- ❖ **Mundy** – Tax Prep on Saturdays by a volunteer preparer. Patrons can call 315-246-4181 to book an appointment.
- ❖ **White** – Tax drop-off service on Thursdays. Patrons can call 211 to book an appointment.

## *Staff*

- ❖ Paine Branch welcomed two new staff members this month: Lynn Osterman as a Page, and McKenna DiCamillo as a Librarian Assistant. Lynn started in Mid-January and is an Eastwood

resident and former local businesswoman, and McKenna has a background in libraries and customer service and will be helping with teen services and social media. In other staff news at Paine, Children's Librarian Sue wrote a book review of the cat book *How to Train Your Human* for the lifestyle supplement in *Library Journal*.

## Outreach & Collaboration

- ❖ I attended a Memory Café program at the Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church in DeWitt. They were celebrating 7 years of the program, and I was able to get some great feedback from volunteers and participants to help inform our OCPL Memory Café program. At the end of January, our group met to discuss locations and potential performers for our programs, and we are in great shape to start the OCPL Memory Café in the spring.
- ❖ Jackie and I met with staff from SOFSA and the American Heart Association in mid-January to discuss the possibility of a Ben Snow Foundation Grant to fund a fridge and other equipment for a community nutrition station at White Branch. The American Heart Association is planning to submit a grant proposal in the next few weeks so they can help us purchase the fridge, some shelving or a display rack, and books about healthy eating.

### Southside

- ❖ Library staff from **Beauchamp Branch** visited the Boys & Girls Club and the Dunbar Center in January, to read stories, create crafts, and help kids learn to use library resources.

### Westside

- ❖ For an outreach storytime at All Saints Elementary, Shauna from **Hazard Branch** read books about dragons to classrooms in kindergarten—4th grade. During storytime with the older children, she read a non-fiction book while they used watercolors to create their own dragon eggs.
- ❖ **Mundy Branch** Librarian Charlie joined Outreach Librarian Maggie Foster at the Roberts Elementary Reading Challenge kickoff. Charlie also volunteered to help with OCPL Crunch Day and made his monthly visit to Providence House for library checkouts.

### Eastside

- ❖ **Petit Branch** Librarian Simcha met with the housing supervisor and case manager at VanKeuren Square to find out how the library can better serve its residents. VanKeuren Square is a collaboration between Housing Visions and the Syracuse VA Medical Center offering a full range of services to homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk of being homeless. At the meeting, they decided to have a rotating collection of large print books housed at VanKeuren Square, in order to bring materials directly to residents and circumvent any transportation issues. Simcha and Hannah also made an outreach visit to VanKeuren Square to bring books and offer library card sign-up to residents.
- ❖ Librarians from **Soule Branch** connected with students of all ages in January. At Children's Librarian Margaret's visit to the Eastside Boys & Girls Club, the kids enjoyed the book *One Chicken Nugget* (an updated version of the classic folktale *One Grain of Rice*) and then jumped up and down with glee and surprise as she quizzed them from the library's *Totally Random Questions* book. Margaret also attended Ed Smith Elementary's Pre-K—8th grade Winter Literacy event where she played the ukulele and sang "If it's snowy and you know it clap your paws!" Also

in January, Soule's Adult Services Librarian Sarah talked with SU professor Dr. Farzana Rahman about a partnership to disseminate information about her forthcoming web-based platform RESET, which will be a hub of resources for women in career-break so they can up-skill/re-skill into IT or similar professions.

### *Northside*

- ❖ Tamice and Kaley from **White Branch** tabled at Family Engagement Night at Dr. Weeks School, where they chatted with families about library services and made fun buttons. Jackie and Sean attended the Bob's School and spoke with students about White Branch, and the City of Syracuse hosted their community meeting at White to talk about the goals of the Proud Places Project.

## *Stories & Highlights*

- ❖ **Petit Branch:** Simcha arranged to have a neighbor of Petit, local artist Andrea Buckvold, display her art in January, which features beautiful quilt patterns in colorful painted squares. The SU *Daily Orange* published a nice story about the display, which is posted on their website: <http://www.w.dailyorange.com/2024/01/cozy-creative-buckvolds-color-stories/>
- ❖ **Soule Branch:** A family reporting their 4-year-old's 200 Books Before Kindergarten thanked the library for helping their daughter learn to read. Last summer at Soule's book sale, they bought a "teach your child to read" fairytale book and, paired with Soule's collection of Wonderbooks and Bob Books, they were able to help their daughter learn to sound out words and increase her love of reading. Now she is reading early readers and picture books all by herself and getting closer and closer to reaching 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten!