

# Central Library Monthly Report

November 2023



**Kimberly Lighton**  
Library Manager

## Statistics

- ❖ **Visitors: 5732**
- ❖ **Computer use: 1302**
- ❖ **Overall Circulation: 7046** (not including Family Search stats)
- ❖ **Reference Questions: 1434**

## Services & Collection

- ❖ **Local History & Genealogy**
  - LH/G sent 23 email replies in November, about one third fewer than in October. There was a total of 89 questions under the LH/G category, about 65% more than last month. This also appears to be an increase over the questions received in November 2022 by 40%. Phone call queries were again about the same as last month but there were 92 walk-in questions, an increase of 75% over October.
  - A patron from Washington, D.C. visited the library and donated two notebooks of minutes from the Adelphean Society, a Central High School sorority during the 'teens and 'twenties. He also spent several hours with the LH/G collection tracing his Syracuse ancestors.
- ❖ **Genrefying Teen Fiction:** The cataloging staff have completed the relabeling of the Teen Fiction. They hope to have the collection in genre categories in January.



# Programs

## *For Children*

- ❖ **Ihsan School of Excellence** – Laura hosted the school visit to the Central Library (pre-K through 12th graders). With much help from Kim and Nan, the students were divided into groups, and we each facilitated a station that they rotated through. LaShonda and Nancy did an excellent job getting the kids their library cards. Laura read a story to the younger kids, and then they had some time to participate in the collaborative coloring page for the school as well as create with Lego and disc building. (attendance=96)
- ❖ Nancy did a creative Thanksgiving themed craft of marbled paper that was hit for all who participated. The kids used shaving cream and food coloring to create a marbled pattern, then applied their shaving cream creation to Thanksgiving themed stencils. (attendance =12)
- ❖ We also hosted a visit from **Peace, Inc.'s HeadStart** program, with providers, parents and kids. Laura did a Storytime for them focusing on easy songs and rhymes for parents to use at home. Everyone enjoyed themselves while building social-emotional play experiences important for both child and parent.
- ❖ Laura hosted two storytimes in November. (attendance=34)

## *For Teens*

- ❖ **Ihsan School of Excellence Visit 11/19:** Ihsan is a K-12 school, and we had all of the students and teachers attend the visit from 10am-12pm. The high school class (6) requested in advance to use our computers and databases for a report. Nan reserved the Teen computers for them and helped them to navigate to our databases. The middle school students (15) browsed the collection and selected materials.

## *For Adults*

- ❖ **Snowman Signs 11/16:** Patrons enjoyed designing and painting their wooden signs. Following the session, Trudi hot glued some twine to the back to hang the sign. At the next session on December 7, we'll be adding finishing touches and the words "Let It Snow" cut out with the Cricut on adhesive vinyl. (Attendance = 5)
- ❖ **Weekly programs w/Arc of Onondaga, Wednesdays at 9:30** – Every other week, Arc groups visit Trudi at Central. This month, the group decorated leaf cut outs with positive sayings produced with the Cricut. (Attendance = 7)



- ❖ **Drop-In Tech Help** – Patrons can get help from staff 5 days a week with all their technology questions, including personal tablets and phones. (Attendance = 75)
- ❖ **Community Health Resources** – Health organizations provide regular twice-monthly tabling events at the library. Organizations include The Prevention Network, Helio Health, Syracuse Healthy Start, F.A.C.E.S., Syracuse Surge Initiative, Planned Parenthood, and the Onondaga County Health Department. (Attendance=11)

### *Local History & Genealogy*

- ❖ **Discovering Ancestral Heroes: OCPL's Military Archives & Fold3 Research Guide**, November 17<sup>th</sup>, Presenters: Celeste Moore & Kate Kisselstein (Attendance = 56)
- ❖ **Gateways to the New World: Beyond Ellis Island**, November 8<sup>th</sup> – This was held for the Niagara Mohawk Retirees' Association of Oswego, at Tavern on the Lock in Fulton, NY. (Attendance = 41)
- ❖ **Preserving Family Recipes & Building an Inclusive Family Tree**, November 8<sup>th</sup> – This presentation was held at the NOPL Cicero library. (Attendance = 3)
- ❖ **Navigating Onondaga County Public Libraries' Genealogy Databases**, November 10, this presentation was held as part of the Baldwinsville Public Library staff development day (Attendance= 12)
- ❖ Dan had fifteen high school students and two teachers from the Syracuse School of Technology visit LH/G on November 6<sup>th</sup> to research primary source materials on Central High School in preparation for a historical marker at the school. The school is in the process of renovation and is home to the School of Technology.

### *In the MakerSpace*

- ❖ There were three MakerSpace programs in November: **Giving Thanks w. Acrylic Pour Rock Painting (parts I and II) & Come in and Color in the Makerspace** (Attendance= 19)
- ❖ Saptarshi is looking at Makerspace inventories prepared by previous and current employees. He is taking stock of actual inventory, following up on computer passwords, taking stock of tech functionality, and tracking future purchases to replace tech/instruments that are too old or don't work anymore.

### *Outreach & Collaboration*

- ❖ Saptarshi has initiated a number of community connections this month, including: visiting the Delavan Center with information and handouts about the MakerSpace; speaking with the Syracuse Gaymers about a program using the 3D printers to print D&D Minifigs; speaking with CNY Eating Local about potential collaboration; and meeting with Avalon Gupta-VerWiebe at Syracuse-Onondaga Food Security Alliance (SOFSA), a group that works on urban food justice issues.
- ❖ Trudi did some Digital Navigator training with Todd and Lydia from Literacy CNY, showing them how to access our computers and use the print release station and fax machine
- ❖ Family Resources event at Dunbar Center: Trudi & Kate tabled the event and learned about Dunbar Center's New Executive Director, and Syracuse City School District resources (attendance= 14)

## Stories & Highlights

- ❖ Deb Terpening was given a Christmas card from a patron. Below is the note inside the card. ☺

11/20/23  
Deborah,  
I love the Central  
Library more than  
life itself, and  
have spent many  
happy hours there.

Thank you for  
your friendship  
and not judging  
me. I appreciate  
it! Happy  
Holidays and  
Peace Always.

- ❖ Trudi Provided Braille printing of song lyrics for a visually impaired choir member.
- ❖ Yam spent some time helping a new patron who was looking for a civil service study title. OCPL didn't have the print version, but Yam found it in our online resources. When the person said they didn't have a library card yet, Yam got him signed up & got the new patron logged in to the resource he needed, as well as showing him how to find related titles on Libby.