

Soule Branch Library, May 2023

Stats

Manga circulation has **tripled** after implementing the CLRC New Initiatives Anime Club program! (comparing 2021-2022 school year to 2022-2023)

Programs

From Karl (Adult Services): "Scam, Spam and Flim-Flams" program had a few people stop in and learn how to reduce spam, be aware of scams (and how to get out of them), and how to avoid being Flim-Flammed.

From Amy (LA): Created a front window display in honor of Shakespeare's birthday in April (which also coincided with Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park coming to Soule to announce their 21st season on Saturday, April 22). Books and DVDs of many of his works were featured. Evan brought back his enormously popular country home murder mystery display, accompanied by a selection of mysteries. Patty & Cindy created an equestrian display in the display case, alongside adult fiction and non-fiction books featuring horses.

From Margaret (Youth Services): Our tweens and teens had a wonderful experience learning to draw anime-style faces from local artist Andrew Skinner. He started by demonstrating some step-by-step drawing techniques on our meeting room white board, then we all got to try our hands at penciling our own creations. By the end, the youth were asking when Skinner could return and teach them more anime and Pokemon drawing techniques.

About 15 minutes after my PJ storytime, a Soule regular – an elderly woman – approached my desk with a reference question. But before she posed her query, she said, "I was sitting over at the computers and I heard this lovely singing from the children's section. Who was that?" I told her it was me for PJ storytime, and she offered her compliments, saying, "It's so good to see children in here! You didn't used to!"

Patrons

From Margaret: During our 6 days of National Library Week, we signed up over 20 youth patrons for library cards, gifting them with free tickets to Wonderworks. One of those new cardholders was the daughter of Syracuse Common Counselor Michael Greene, while nearly a dozen of them were Upward Bound high schoolers brought over from the Le Moyne campus. I gave the teens a tour of the library and its online offerings including Drivers License practice exams and ACT/SAT prep via the Brainfuse platform, and they were very appreciative.

From Amy: A patron came in looking for specific tax forms that we did not have readily on-hand. As I was printing the forms for her, she began telling me about how much she loves this library, and what a gift it was to her and her family when they moved to the neighborhood many years ago. She said it was the very first stop they made the day after they moved into their home so that they could all sign up for library cards. She remarked how kind and helpful all of the staff were and went on to say that her daughter is now an archivist at a library in New York City, her choice of career being enormously influenced by the positive impact the library staff had on her when she was young. She also said that niece has been dancer on Broadway for many years, and that Cynthia Bishop (Soule's children's librarian

at the time) was the first to give her a performing opportunity, arranging for a small dance concert in the reading lounge when her niece was around eight-years-old. I thanked her profusely for sharing her stories; it is so heartwarming to know that this library has always had a deep and lasting impact on this neighborhood and community!

Assisted two patrons who were attempting to set up an ID.me account to verify one of the individual's identities for tax information purposes. When the recommended method for verifying his identity was denied, we set up a laptop and webcam upstairs and I facilitated a webchat with a representative to present his documentation for approval. It was a complicated process, but we were ultimately successful and he was able to obtain an ID.me account and gain access to the desired information.

Community

From Karl: Promoted electronics recycling event at Destiny. Registered patrons and collected e-trash (2x microwaves, 2x laptops, children's electronic games, coffee maker, masses of pc parts and general electronics) from staff before delivering it to the event.



Monthly, 15 students on campus receive a ECC TREK BOX from Soule Library. Participants completed a survey and receive a borrowed book, souvenir and treats! We also were excited to bring: [redacted] to the Soule Library Anime Bingo and Blue Slime Event! Participating youth won Asian snacks and made blue slime relating to the Anime series, "That Time I Reincarnated As Blue Slime." We had a blast talking about our favorite anime and shouting BINGO!

(Library Card Sign-up, Anime drawing, Elmcrest newsletter)