

Director's Report

December is time to review trustee terms and committee assignments. Please review the committee assignment spreadsheet, which also lists terms and officers.

The legal advice we received about the updated open meetings law is that if a library has a “regularly and routinely updated” website, such as one with an events calendar, then we are required to make any documents slated to be discussed at the board meeting onto our website in advance of the meeting, and not simply to fall back on having them available on demand.

Thank you to everyone who has already returned your conflict of interest paperwork. If you have not yet done so, please remember to submit your signed paperwork in advance of the December board meeting.

In case you were curious, our Kanopy usage for November landed exactly at the previous usage cap.

Programming

Donald Partelow, Adult Program Coordinator

Theater and Film of the 1920's and '30's As Seen By My Dad – NY theater illustrator and cartoonist Harold K. Simon

“This was part of history I was so enamored of. To hear it come from you, first hand, reminiscing about your father, it came to life - because he contributed to it. You telling it made it very exciting for me.” These kind words were spoken by a gentleman who had attended an online presentation celebrating the Pawling Library’s 100-year anniversary. The person he praised was our presenter, the esteemed actor, director Roger Hendricks Simon. Mr. Simon’s program Theater and Film of the 1920’s and ’30’s As Seen By My Dad – NY theater illustrator and cartoonist Harold K. Simon took place on the evening of November 16th and drew many people from coast to coast. Mr. Simon gave a fascinating talk on the gifted career of his multi-talented father and how he interpreted theatre & film through his art during the 1920s and 30s. Throughout the presentation the audience viewed numerous examples of his father’s artwork. The talk was followed by an equally compelling discussion.

At the turn of the 20th century, artist Harold K. Simon created a variety of works of art for Broadway and the famed Radio City Music Hall in the form of theatrical cartoons, posters, playbills, newspaper and magazine illustrations. He also worked for the film industry, working for a period of time with Walt Disney, and Screen Gems motion picture company. At the time, Screen Gems was in charge of doing much of the artwork and publicity for both Hollywood and Broadway.

Mr. Hendricks spoke of his father’s connection to the evolving performing arts of the 1920s and 30s. "My dad really loved the theater and that was his heart", said Mr. Simon. He was in the theater every night of the year covering the Broadway scene.

Theater productions declined because of the economy in the depression, but interestingly enough in the 1930s the quality was getting better, becoming more polished, and thought provoking. The

acting was also changing. The overblown and heavy emoting was ending and replaced by acting that was much more in the realistic realm, which suited the writing of the more serious plays. It was a big change; a style that was finally being realized in the 1930s. The theater of the 30s went from one extreme to another. It should have been a decade of loss because of the depression, but instead, for the artistic theater, it was a period of great transitions and growth. “In a time of pain - the depression, and the 2nd world war - that may be when artists are the most creative, and develop the most exciting periods of creating art,” said Mr. Simon.

At times Mr. Simon was brought to tears during his very moving presentation about a brilliant and complex man - for he was talking not only about a theater legend, but about Harold K. Simon, his dad.

“A wonderful history of the American theater. It really is exquisite,” said one person from the audience. Another person commented, “It was such a beautiful tribute to your dad; you captured the soul of the man.”

Marlon Bridgman, Interim Young Adult Program Coordinator

This month, we hosted 3 digital events as part of the teen MHLS mini-grant. All three presentations were wonderful. Both presenters graciously and unexpectedly shared recordings of their programs so that patrons who were not able to attend the live program could watch after the fact, which helps boost the value of our spending.

Nobody came to any of the other programs we offered in November. We do have some confirmed registrations for December events.

Neena McBaer, Children’s Program Coordinator

Programming breakdown by type: There were 3 weeks of programs in November, including our last outdoor storytimes of the year.

- All: 8 kit programs (134 attendees); 0 live programs (0 attendees) and 12 in person (86 attendees)
- Parent/Caregiver Early Literacy: 2 kits (27 attendees), 0 live, and 8 in person (58 attendees)
- Early Literacy: 2 kit (19 attendees), 0 live (0 attendees), and 4 in person (28 attendees)
- School Age Programming: 4 kits (88 attendees), 0 live (0 attendees), and 0 in person (0 attendee)

On 11/08, I resumed my in-person visits to Wish Upon a Star Daycare, where 12 children and 4 staff members participated in an onsite storytime. Throughout 2021, I have continued to provide the school a curated bin of books once a month to support their classroom learning, but they are very excited about resuming in-person storytimes to supplement their curriculum.

On 11/05, I finally was able to install our Adirondack Mountain Club grant funded StoryWalk at Lakeside Park. From 11/05 - 11/24, the story was *Hiking Day* by Anne Rockwell. During this period, we had 55 visitors who logged their visits in our book (not reflected in official department stats reported to the state). The book included families with young children, seniors

out for walks, and even older elementary students. Several left kind messages in our book including “Thank you-Very Enjoyable!” and “Second time. We loved it just as much with Gramma and Grandad.” On 11/24, we switched to a winter story, *There was a Cold Lady who Swallowed Some Snow* by Lucille Colandro and plan to leave the project up until the first big snow of the season. After that, the StoryWalk will be stored until a more seasonable time.

A big thank you goes out to volunteers Jess and Julian P. who have been checking on the StoryWalk project and adjusting fallen signs several times a week for us. They also put together some no-registration-required take-and-make activity kits for kids who stopped in over the Thanksgiving school break. These were really popular; all were claimed in just 4 days!



Tom Clemmons, Circulation Manager / Homebound Delivery Services Coordinator

There are currently 9 active Homebound Services patrons. In November, I selected materials (books, magazines, or audio books) according to reading preferences and made 10 Homebound Service delivery/pickups – 2 trips to Deerfield Ponds, 1 trip to The Hamlet, 2 trips to the King’s Apartments, 3 trips to the Village, 1 trip to Quaker Hill, and 1 trip to The Grand including a donation from the PFL book sorters of one bag of magazines for The Grand’s Book Cart.

Buildings and Grounds

B&E Paving & Sealcoating came and filled the pothole in front of the library annex.

Ed Hauser has contacted both of the low bidders on the oil tank removal and bathroom installation project. As soon as Dutchess County reviews our proposed contract terms we will establish project timelines with the contractors.

Personnel

We received thirteen applications for the full-time Young Adult Program Coordinator position.

Programming and Circ Stats



