

City Library Report: May 2024

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Branch Libraries

May Recap

- Our programs have been getting a lot of press attention lately. For the Memory Café, I was interviewed by Mary Beth Roach for the July issue of 55 Plus magazine, Kate and I participated in an episode of "Bridge Street" on June 6, and FOCL interviewed me for a piece about the Memory Café in their fall newsletter. In addition, Paine's program on creating a charcuterie board caught the attention of the American Library Association's American Libraries staff, and they contacted Celeste with some questions about the program for a write-up in their next issue.
- ❖ Betts Branch Manager Laura was asked by a member of the local NY State Teachers Retirement Association to attend their quarterly meeting as a guest speaker. Laura spoke to 17 retired teachers about initiatives, materials, and assistance available at OCPL. She even got to help one retired teacher celebrate her 99th birthday! The group was very interested in all the libraries have to offer, and thanked Laura for the presentation and the packet of information she brought.
- ❖ With the weather warming up, many branches have started sprucing up the grounds and hosting gardening programs. Hazard partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension for a program on container gardening, which is perfect for small spaces such as the city lots on the Westside and Tipperary Hill. Over on the Near Westside, Mundy partnered with the Onondaga Audubon group for an Urban Bird Walk at Woodland Reservoir on June 8, as well as planning twice-weekly gardening days in partnership with the Syracuse Land Bank. In July, Teen Librarian Charlie will host gardening-related programs including leaf painting, watercolor, stepping stones, and clay gnomes.

Coming Up

- ❖ We had a great meeting about introducing a new Mental Health Backpack initiative. A group of librarians is helping me research and put together backpacks for children, teens, and adults to check out at any branch. In June, we are meeting with Tyler from the Health Department for advice on topics and additional resources for further exploration.
- ❖ It's time once again for Soule's annual Strawberry Social! This event will take place on June 25 from 5:30-7:00pm on the library lawn. In addition to strawberries and ice cream, there will be a used book sale, sidewalk chalk art, live music from R&B group The Meditations, and registration for the Summer Reading Program.
- ❖ We are heading into another busy Summer Reading Program. Central and all the city branches are preparing programs on this year's theme of "Adventure Begins at Your Library". For example, Petit is offering lots of great events for children and teens including Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae, Summer Slime Party, Animal Myths Busted with the Zoo, Mini Glow-in-the-Dark Paintings, and Sewing Stuffed Mushrooms. Find out about these and all of our events at https://www.onlib.org

Branch Statistics*

2023	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	18524	17284	24266	24657	22743	28434	27133	28914	25278	27486	24079	19856	288654
Total Circulation	33525	30659	36735	31211	32308	34145	36366	37279	32904	34147	30811	33298	403388
Physical Circulation	27684	25339	31028	25477	26297	28054	29706	30529	26397	26792	23745	25485	326533
Digital Circulation	5841	5320	5707	5734	6011	6091	6660	6750	6507	7355	7066	7813	76855
Computer Use	2943	2135	3588	3999	3276	3846	4146	4009	3439	3932	2707	2741	40761
Reference	4810	4471	5987	5210	4804	4904	4526	4660	3423	3895	2294	2354	51338
Programs	134	125	156	178	147	144	212	174	126	152	126	124	1798
Program Attendance	872	1130	1642	1870	1474	2448	2372	1862	1119	1672	1152	786	18399
2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	23248	25113	22406	32312	27630								130709
Total Circulation	37014	32428	35141	33633	35338								173554
Physical Circulation	28606	23299	27062	25901	27233								132101
Digital Circulation	8408	9129	8079	7732	8105								41453
Computer Use	3242	2751	3583	4222	3910								17708
Reference	3518	5201	7178	5856	5420								27173
Programs	112	130	182	235	177								836
Program Attendance	1020	1263	1670	2326	1719								7998
% Change 2023-2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	26%	45%	-8%	31%	21%								
Total Circulation	10%	6%	-4%	8%	9%								
Physical Circulation	3%	-8%	-13%	2%	4%								
Digital Circulation	44%	72%	42%	35%	35%								
Computer Use	10%	29%	0%	6%	19%								
Reference	-27%	16%	20%	12%	13%								
Programs	-16%	4%	17%	32%	20%								
Program Attendance	17%	12%	2%	24%	17%								

*Due to a discrepancy in the way some of the program numbers were counted in the early months of last year, there were inaccuracies in my reporting. These numbers have been corrected to reflect an accurate count of in-house programs and attendance at branch libraries.







Central Library May Recap

- On May 5th, Nan and Saptarshi set up a booth at the Syracuse MakerFaire at the NYS Fairgrounds. During their visit, 181 people visited their table to get information about the MakerSpace and make special buttons to take home.
- ❖ Dan was able to help two sisters from Tully search for newspaper photos of their 94-year-old mother when she was a State Fair Queen contestant in 1949. The sisters had copies of the photos from the database version of the paper but were looking for better quality prints. Dan was able to make sharper copies from the microfilm in the Local History Department. In addition, Dan, Kate, and Kim all helped a couple from New Zealand who were on a genealogy vacation tracing their Upstate New York ancestors.
- ❖ At the end of May, two groups of 4th graders from Dr. King Elementary School came for a tour of Central. The students are creating a brochure on historical, fun, and interesting locations in downtown Syracuse to hand out at school and share with their families.

Central Statistics

2023	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	5642	5423	6459	5388	5500	5585	5898	6225	5421	5732	5732	5349	68354
Total Circulation	13854	12553	13395	12187	12701	12662	12933	13665			13804		
Physical Circulation	7464	7474	8051	7100	7320	7357	7612					8601	
Digital Circulation	5390	5079	5344	5087	5831	5305	5321	5446			6002	6118	
Computer Use	1733	1495	1772	1565	1428	1771	2070			1523	1600		
Reference	1218	984	1445	1057	1198	1161	1697	1495	1307	1238	1434	1186	15420
Programs	23	26	25	29	29	34	26	28	21	22	15	18	296
Program Attendance	361	454	383	309	378	398	436	651	314	254	332	193	4463
2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	6010	5525	6127	6502	5615								29779
Total Circulation	15712	14137	14518	14908	13196								72471
Physical Circulation	8966	7892	8121	8849	7097								40925
Digital Circulation	6746	6245	6397	6059	6099								31546
Computer Use	1424	1317	1453	1687	1460								7341
Reference	1468	1610	1183	1237	792								6290
Programs	25	29	28	35	34								151
Program Attendance	473	305	460	410	425								2073
% Change 2023-2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	7%	2%	-5%	21%	2%								
Total Circulation	13%	13%	8%	22%	4%								
Physical Circulation	20%	6%	1%	25%	-3%								
Digital Circulation	25%	23%	20%	19%	5%								
Computer Use	-18%	-12%	-18%	8%	2%								
Reference	21%	64%	-18%	17%	-34%								
Programs	9%	12%	12%	21%	17%								
Program Attendance	31%	-33%	20%	33%	12%								

Board Support

- ❖ Attend a library program at least once this year. We have some great programs coming up that are large annual offerings at our branches, such as Soule's Strawberry Social, Petit's big book sale during the Westcott Cultural Fair, and the Light a Candle for Literacy event that kicks off from Beauchamp Branch Library. Attending events gives you the opportunity to see the branch and meet some of the staff. You can find these and other great programs on our website at http://www.onlib.org
- Check out a book by a FOCL author. The 2024/25 series features book selections for every taste, including National Book Award Winner Justin Torres's *Blackouts*; crime writer William Kent Krueger; and Young Adult author Angie Thomas, whose debut novel *The Hate You Give* was made into a feature film in 2018.
- Library advocacy isn't just reserved for special days it can happen in every day conversations. Help us spread the word about our resources, like recommending an upcoming program or encouraging your friends to check out our collection before they opt to buy the latest bestseller. Thank you for all you do to support our work!





