

**Library Association of Rockland County (LARC) Adult Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 6, 2015
New City Library**

Present: Brian Jennings (New City), James Cassetta (Pearl River), Anya Berg (Palisades), Ashley Maraffino (Valley Cottage), Sean Antonucci (Valley Cottage), Carol Connell Cannon (Suffern), Veronica Reynolds (New City), Amy LaRocca (Suffern), Richard Morbeth (Finklestein), Jessica Bowen (Piermont), Elyse Stoller (Finklestein)

Meeting began at 10am.

Election of Adult Services Committee Chair, Secretary

Veronica Reynolds made a motion to nominate Brian Jennings as committee chair; seconded by Jim Cassetta. Brian Jennings elected as committee chair.

Ashley Maraffino volunteered and was elected secretary.

Rockland County Book of the Year Award

1. Veronica Reynolds proposed the formation of a committee to create a Book of the Year award to be awarded to a Rockland County author at the LARC annual meeting starting in 2017.
2. Committee will be made up of 5 or 6 LARC members who will create the rules for submitting entries to the contest. A rough timeline was given: getting the committee going this winter, choosing a submission date for possibly late April or early summer, reading submissions, choosing 3 finalists by next fall with the winner announced at the 2017 annual meeting. Questions raised for the committee to consider: Accepting fiction and nonfiction books? Are children's books included?
3. Prizes mentioned: LARC purchasing 17 copies of the winning book for each Rockland library; a gold seal indicating award winner to be placed on the books.

Update on LARC Funding

1. Carol Connell Cannon discussed LARC's decrease in funding from the County and mentioned a survey to be sent out with membership renewals asking members what they want to get out of LARC.

Oral History Program for Rockland County

1. Brian Jennings spoke about the oral history project he conducted. Brian wrote a grant for equipment and training for volunteers to conduct oral history interviews of Rockland County senior residents. To date, 50 interviews have been conducted.
2. Outreach included: listening programs based around themes; posting oral histories to Hudson River Valley Heritage site and New City Library web site; creation of a CD of oral histories for each library in Rockland County (funded by LARC).
3. Brian will send out an email with information for libraries interested in participating in an oral history program. He has a list of 20-30 people, in different service areas, who still need to be interviewed.
4. Brian created an "Interviewer Handbook." He would like to set up training opportunities in the spring for volunteers to learn how to operate recording equipment and conduct interviews.

Ideas from Around the Table

Meeting attendees discussed happenings at their library.

1. Jim Cassetta – discussed the local history department at Pearl River, collection of portraits, a gallery talk given, and the digitization of the local history collection.
2. Jessica Bowen - local author book fair recently held at Piermont Library.
3. Elyse Stoller – Finklestein children's room being renovated. Holocaust Center moved to Rockland Community College.
4. Amy LaRocca/Carol Connell Cannon – discussed upcoming program at Suffern Library about obtaining grants through the Foundation Center.
5. Ashley Maraffino/Sean Antonucci (Valley Cottage) – discussed new Cookbook Club program; upcoming Holiday Boutique on Dec. 5.
6. Anya Berg – discussed Palisades Library's upcoming 125th year anniversary. Conducting a 'Come Write In' program on Nov. 30 in honor of National Novel Writing Month.
7. Richard Morbeth – spoke about a document he created for services for Haitian-Americans. Discussed Friends of the Library presentation on the history of Finklestein Library.
8. Veronica Reynolds – gave a Break the Box update: 28 libraries have signed up to put on programs during National Library Week in April. New City Library is having a 'Bake Off' program in February. Recently purchased a 3D printer.

Tentative date for next meeting: Friday, January 15, 2016 at Finkelstein Library. To be confirmed.