This edition of the E-newsletter covers:

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Get Help at Home!
The Mid-Hudson Valley region has many agencies that are available to help small businesses with general business concerns, as well as provide assistance with problems specific to recovery from issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. See this list of Small Business Resources, compiled by reference staff, for help.

**Community Action Awareness Month**

New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) was created in 1987 to provide community agencies with information, professional development, and technical assistance to enhance the capacity of agencies to serve as effective, responsive community resources. These agencies are federally designated frontline resources for people living in poverty, providing direct services and support for education, employment, and family support services for low income families. With a network of 49 organizations located throughout New York, Community Action Agencies that connect individuals and families to the services they need to achieve economic security. For more than 50 years, NYSCAA has been leading the way to eliminate the causes and effects of poverty. Some of these agencies include Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, RECAP, and Ulster County Community Action, Inc.

**Meet Our Librarians**

**Beth- Head of Adult Services**

Beth is a Hudson Valley native. She has been with the Newburgh Free Library for over 6 years, having first started here in the Youth Services Department as the Early Childhood Librarian in 2014. Beth obtained her Master of Library and Information Science
Degree from Simmons University in Boston, MA, and started her career as a cataloger/indexer in the corporate world before returning to the Hudson Valley. Here Beth changed focus to become a public librarian at the Poughkeepsie Public Library District and worked her way up to become the Head of Youth & Teen Services. Presently, as the Head of Adult Services at the Newburgh Free Library, Beth oversees adult reference, collections, and programming. Her expertise is in personnel and process management, where Beth ensures activities and services for adults are run seamlessly by finding each staff person’s strengths and providing the necessary tools to ensure success. During the COVID-19 health crisis, the Library’s focus had to change from in-person to virtual services with little turnover time. Beth found that these challenging circumstances also provided an opportunity to utilize staff members’ strengths to ensure that the community continued to be served through online programming, live tech support and reference help by phone, and an increase of the Library’s digital collections. Beth said, “I am very proud of how staff was able to quickly react and proactively try to meet the changing needs of our patrons,” and knows her staff will tirelessly continue to do so.

Lisa- Head of Youth Services

My very early childhood years were spent on Long Island, no doubt leading to my love of the ocean and being at the beach. When I was 5, my family moved to New Paltz. I attended the University of Pennsylvania with a major in American Civilization and a minor in Folklore and Material Culture to take advantage of studying under several professors that I greatly admired.

After a few years living in California, I returned to the Hudson Valley and was working at the Senate House Historic Site in Kingston when I decided to go to library school. At SUNY-Albany, my library studies focused on Special Collections & Archives. I took a job as an assistant to Ristiina Wigg, a long-serving youth services consultant for the Mid-Hudson Library System, and through her I was introduced to children’s literature and youth services in public libraries. I worked at Adriance Library in Poughkeepsie, initially as a Children’s Librarian, but soon became the Local History Librarian. After a few years, the opportunity to return to Youth Services at Newburgh Free Library presented itself and I took the position with no hesitation.

My second day on the job at Newburgh was 9/11. Experiencing the
events as they unfolded that day alongside my work colleagues and the wider Newburgh community, along with providing services through the subsequent weeks and months, solidified my commitment to serving the youth in this community. I am honored to still be at Newburgh Free Library, serving the youngest members of our community by providing opportunities that lead them to dream, to discover who they are, to imagine what they might become, and to find their place in the world as our community experiences yet another challenging and unprecedented time in history.

From the Local History Room

St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing 1893-1964

The nurses’ residence as it appeared in 1924

The need for St. Luke’s School of Nursing was made painfully obvious in 1893 after a West Shore Railroad wreck that sent 20 victims to St. Luke’s Hospital. Doctors insisted hospital workers receive professional nurses’ training - a curriculum that was patterned after Florence Nightingale’s School of Nursing in London, England, and founded in 1860. Recruits for the program were found immediately. Nurse Rhuema Polhamus, was in the first graduating class of St. Luke’s Hospital Nursing School in 1895 and described the rigors of the profession before the days of wheeled devices to move patients. Nurses carried patients on canvas stretchers throughout the hospital. “I was tall enough and strong enough to pass the test,” Polhamus stated years later. After caring for patients during their twelve hour workday, nurses attended lectures and classroom studies. “The hospital looked after us in those days,” Polhamus continued, “they insisted we get at least four hours rest…each 24 hours.”

The nursing school continued to serve the community for seventy years. Today, the former nurses’ residence is providing family transitional services through Project L.I.F.E.

Resources for Children, Teens, and Families
Parents/Caregivers, are you feeling overwhelmed and need some professional advice, support, and suggestions of things you can do to help your children? The Children's Museum of Manhattan have started a new series of talks with experts in child development, psychology, health, and more called Parenting In Place.

The Eric Carle Museum has created it's first Virtual Exhibition, ART in PLACE: Social Distancing in the Studio, featuring 21 picture book artists who share their most recent work. Enjoy a glimpse into the creative space and minds' of these wonderful artists. Did you know Dan Gutman, author of My Weird School series, is reading his books Monday through Friday at 2 PM live on Facebook? He says he's going to do it until the kids go back to school. How weird is that?

The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk(CT) has a live Q & A session at 3 p.m. about all kinds of different animals that live at the Aquarium.

Virtual Programs for all Ages

See our Virtual Program Guide and e-calendar for these and many more virtual programs for youth and adults. We will be adding videos and other online content on a regular basis, so check back here.
Youth Services Program Videos

Bonnie Bites 8

Virtual Tour of Parenting Resources

Adult Services Program Videos

DIY Paper Flower

Sew a Pillowcase Using the Burrito Roll Technique

Get Help at Home

Connect to Live Help Monday-Friday
from 9 am to 5 pm with our new Google Voice numbers!

**Ask-a-Librarian**
For help during our closure, contact us at 845-391-0672 or nflref@rcls.org.

**Tech Support**
For Android or Kindle devices, call Wayne at 845-391-3724; For Apple devices, call Sue at 845-293-0950; For laptops, call Frank at 845-391-0995. OR email suescott@rcls.org with a description of the problem, device, product (app), and any error messages.

**NEW:** Visit our You Tube Channel for new series of videos called 2 Minute Tech Support.

**Free Resume Review**
Send a copy of your resume in Microsoft Word to Beth at bzambito@rcls.org for review and suggested improvements. Expect a response within 24 hours.

**COME TO YOUR CENSUS, NEWBURGH!**

"It takes just 10 minutes to effect your next 10 years...." If you haven't yet be sure to complete your census form! Help secure funding and representation in government for your community! Click here: 2020census.gov
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