In February, staff from Cuba Library joined other librarians from the Southern Tier to advocate in Albany for library funding. Last month the legislature approved the 2019/2020 budget. I am sorry to inform you advocacy efforts were not fully realized. Operating aid will remain flat and capital aid was cut by 143%. Both the senate and assembly overturned the governor’s 5% cut in operational funds. This means state aid received by members will be the same as 2018/2019.

Furthermore, aid that funds nearly 60% of STLS’ operating budget will stay flat. STLS has experienced a 1% increase in state funding over the last three years. This is certainly not ideal. Additionally, central book aid, which is used to subsidize our system-wide electronic collections and non-fiction materials will not be increased. Overall, NYS funding for libraries sadly sits at 2006 levels.

The most disheartening impact on member libraries is capital aid. NYS public library construction grants have been reduced to 2016 levels. This means our system will receive roughly $365,000 for member projects versus $886,551. Our libraries have more than 16 million dollars in construction needs.

Please take the time to contact your representatives and express your support for full funding of libraries in New York State.

Thoughts From Tina...

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Our big topics for both Humpty Dumpty and Lap Sit storytimes for April were Kites, Worms, and Easter. We made kites with keys at the end and talked a little bit about electricity. We made “bookworms” with letters from each child’s name and used some craft books to decorate them for the worms to eat. The highlight of the month for both Lap Sit and Humpty Dumpty Storytimes was the Easter Egg Hunt. Each child brought eggs to share and while we read some Easter/Springtime themed stories, Janet and Tina hid them for us upstairs. After school, we read several stories, had an airplane building competition, but the biggest event was our Modified Egg Drop Experiment. Instead of spending days or weeks building a contraption to protect the egg, groups had limited materials to choose from. These materials would go into a quart-sized Ziploc bag and the egg (in another Ziploc bag for added mess-free protection) would go inside the materials in the bag. Supplies offered included brown paper, stale cheerios, a plastic cup, flour, cotton balls, and aluminum foil. Two supplies were the clear winners. If you really want to know what worked best, find an After School Explorer; (hopefully) they’ll remember.

Tweens had STEAM club this month. Following up on our previous airplane competition, we made gliders out of straws and paper circles. They were not sure how far they would actually fly but once we tested them, they couldn’t stop. Most of them flew further than their regular airplanes. For Tween Cooking Club, we hard boiled eggs (always a good skill to have) then used temporary tattoos to decorate them. Tween journaling was tasked with writing a letter of encouragement to their future selves. The big event for teens was Taste of Independence in partnership with the Youth Development Coalition. The teens in attendance spent nearly 2 hours “adulting.” They paid for groceries, apartments, transportation, etc. Some of them even received surprise babies. All the teens had positive things to say about the experience.

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New Books

FICTION
David Baldacci, Redemption
Alafair Burke, The Better Sister
Marc Cameron, Tom Clancy Oath of Office
Tara Conklin, The Last Romantics
Charles Egan, Cold is the Dawn
Charles Egan, The Exile Breed
Charles Egan, The Killing Snows
Nina George, The Book of Dreams
Olga Grjashowa, City of Jasmine
Rachel Hauck, The Memory House
E.L. James, The Mister
J.A. Jance, The A List
Martha Hall Kelly, Lost Roses
Karen Kingsbury, When We Were Young
Essie Lang, Trouble on the Books
Alexander McCall-Smith, The Department of Sensitive Crimes
Ann McCauley, Mother Love
Ann McCauley, Pressure Cooker Christmas
Ann McCauley, Runaway Grandma
Catriona McPherson, Scot & Soda
Ian McEwan, Machines Like Me
Jojo Moyes, The Peacock Emporium
Phaedra Patrick, The Library of Lost and Found
James Patterson, The 18th Abduction
James Patterson, Miracle at St. Andrews
James Patterson, 13-Minute Murder
S.C. Perkins, Murder Once Removed
Anne Perry, Triple Jeopardy
Tiffany Reisz, The Rose
Sally Rooney, Normal People
Ann B Ross, Miss Julia Takes the Wheel
John Sandford, Neon Prey
Lisa Scottoline, Someone Knows
RaeAnne Thayne, The Cliff House

PAPERBACK FICTION
Peter Brandvold, Blood at Sundown
Grace Burrowes, When a Duchess Says I Do
Jamie Pope, One Warm Winter

AUDIOBOOKS
David Baldacci, Redemption
Candice Fox, Crimson Lake
Sherry Jones, Josephine Baker’s Last Dance
James Patterson, 13-Minute Murder
Diane Setterfield, Once Upon a River
Jessica Shattuck, The Women in the Castle

LARGE PRINT
The Amish Sweet Shop
Jeffrey Archer, Heads You Win
Wanda Brunstetter, The Forgiving

NONFICTION
Mark Bittman, Dinner for Everyone
Emma Block, The Joy of Watercolor
Frans de Waal, Mama’s Last Hug
Alan Derchowitz, The Case Against Impeaching Trump
Beth Dooley, Sweet Nature
Henry Louis Gates Jr, Stony the Road
Miranda Gates, The Moment of Lift
Dan Jones, The Templars
Sarah Kendzior, The View From Flyover Country
Jessie Morgan-Owens, Girl in Black & White
James Patterson, Murder, Interrupted
Cara Robertson, The Trial of Lizzie Borden
Scott Sampson, How to Raise a Wild Child
Philipp Scott, The Accidental Veterinarian
John Seymour, The Self-Sufficient Life & How to Live It
David Wallace-Wells, Uninhabitable Earth

Know Your History: DNA, Genealogy & You
Monday, May 20 @ 6:30 pm @ Cuba Library

Memorials For April...
Memorials were received in honor of Lee Desmond by Ernest & Ginger Mahon; Steve Mahon by Ernest & Ginger Mahon; John Ringleberg by John & Ruth Doyle; and a donation was received from the Friends of the Cuba Historical Society in honor of those Irish Immigrants who contributed so much to our community.

Friends of the Cuba Library, Inc.
Annual Spring Tea
Wednesday, May 15 @ 2:00 pm @ Cuba Library
Please call to register.