DIRECTOR'S REPORT April 2017

Important Dates: All libraries are closed April 6 and April 16.

The Library:

Memory Minders launch: The Library has introduced a unique resource to the collections at Roseville and Shoreview—*Memory Minders: A Kit for Caregivers.* Memory Minders are created for caregivers of people experiencing memory loss. The materials in these kits are selected to spark memories, create conversation and provide positive and engaging interactions between people with Alzheimer's and Dementia and their care partners.

Each Memory Minder Kit is unique and features an activity for use with those with memory loss (such as a puzzle, bingo, games or conversation cards), a book with colorful illustrations, a music CD, and *A Caregiver's Guide to Dementia* by Laura Gitlin.

Carol Jackson created this project in partnership with Roseville Alzheimer's & Dementia Community Action Team, and sponsorships by Cherrywood Pointe, Lyngblomsten, Sunrise Senior Living, New Perspectives Senior Living, and the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries.

KSTP profiled the kits on March 14, and the Library was immediately swamped by phone calls and eager patrons checking out the kits. These are obviously meeting a big need in the community!

Programs Recap: The Library has recently hosted stellar program series. In March, Carol Jackson organized screenings of the three-part film, *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, and facilitated post-screening conversations with 210 participants over three weeks. In February, Judy Woodward hosted ten history programs that drew an impressive 904 attendees. Topics included Islam and the West, African-American history, the Civil Rights era, the Making of Asian America, American conservatism, metro segregation, and more.

Exhibit Preview: Keep your eyes out for the summer exhibit, *Green Card Voices*, which will be on view at Roseville Library in June; at Maplewood in July; and at Shoreview in August. *Green Card Voices* features 20 Twin Cities' immigrants' stories, including photos, biographical information and a QR code that links to a video. The library will also host panel discussions at each library during the exhibit.

Federal budget proposal:
We are closely monitoring federal proposals to eliminate or defund programs that support libraries. The administration has proposed to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and cut more than $210 million in funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) programs.

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The administration has also proposed cutting the Corporation for National and Community Service. One of its programs is AmeriCorps, which places skilled volunteers in libraries, schools, and other organizations. RCL hires (at low cost) three AmeriCorps Vista staff each year to teach digital literacy in our labs and classes.

State budget:
There are a number of requests from the library community under consideration at the state legislature. One of the key issues we pushed for was an increase in Regional Public Library Basic System Support (RLBSS) in the 2018-19 state budget. This funding supports MELSA, and in turn supports RCL. However, bills in process show RLBSS funding unchanged from current levels. We are also very interested in Legacy funding for libraries. Bills in process show funding levels that are consistent with the last biennial allocation.

Ramsey County:
Library staff are working toward the April 10 deadline to deliver a target 2018-2019 budget to the Ramsey County Manager and the Finance Department.

The Ramsey County Communications consolidation process is moving ahead as planned. Library Communications staff, Kristi Saksvig and Pa Na Lor, will be transferred to the County Communications division beginning on April 8. Both staff will continue to work at the Shoreview Library office. An additional Communications Associate with primary responsibilities for Parks and Recreation will begin working intermittently at the Shoreview Library office and will report to Kristi Saksvig.

MELSA:
I had previously reported that the MELSA Advisory Board (made up of library directors) was reviewing the formulas used to distribute $1,500,000 annually to member libraries. In March, the Advisory Board approved continuing with the existing formula factors. RCL will experience no change in MELSA support as a result of this decision.