

Directors Report

November 2022



Event Protest - On October 28th the library event “Teen Halloween Taro” was held. Prior to the event a number of calls and emails were received objecting to the use of Taro cards at a library program. Just prior to the event 2 adult females members of our community came to interfere in the holding of the event. When I was informed of this I proceeded to the event and introduced myself. The individuals continued to ask that we not hold the event and informed us that we would be judged by God for this. I asked them to leave the building and they refused to do so. I then called the police. I and the protesters waited in the hallway for the police to arrive. When the police arrived a few minutes later, they asked them if they had been asked to leave. They said that I had and had refused to do so. The police then escorted them from the building. Apparently another individual who objected was upstairs, the police checked in upstairs and that individual left on their own.

In a recent staff meeting this situation was discussed briefly, as was censorship in general. These are difficult experiences for library staff and cause us to examine our purposes and the support of the community which is desired. The feeling that came forward in the staff meeting is that the community is supportive of the library and staff, an example cited was the recent banned books display which caused a variety of the public to ask questions about different titles and why someone objected. I reintroduced an old but reasonable axiom of library collections, “if we don’t have something that everyone can object to we aren’t doing our job”. We are to help whomever is asking for the materials they are looking for without judgement.

Drug Use in the Restroom - Staff have also reported a regular visitor to our male restroom who is smoking fentanyl there. As the residue or lingering smoke can be dangerous we have locked the room to protect the public. To deter the individual engaged in this use we are now locking the restrooms, and have posted signs directing them to the circulation desk to request a key for entry. We are continuing to work on this process to get it as smooth as possible for both the staff and public.

Home Schoolers – A request has come to the library to offer use of the meeting room for the use of those involved in home schooling. This may require a rewrite of our current meeting room policy. I've attached a copy for your review prior to our meeting to consider the changes that might be needed if this is a group we would like to better serve.

WiFi Hotspot Circulation – Staff have had a number of difficult situations with those interested in using the 3 WiFi hotspots we circulate. I have asked staff to collect usage information so that we can present you a clearer picture of the use and benefit to our community. I plan to have a report ready for review no later than our February meeting.

UCLD Director Change – At their last board meeting staff were authorized to extend an offer to a new director for the District. As a contract is in place I expect that will guide a good deal of our future relationship. I will continue to update as needed. The current director recently announced her retirement at the end of this year.