

Explore, Discover, Connect...

for a lifetime of education

2012
Annual Report

Providence Public Library
Providence Public Library Foundation



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On the cover
One of our young readers knew just what to do at the new **Chace Children's Discovery Library** on Opening Day.

Mission

Providence Public Library inspires lifelong education among all Rhode Islanders, fostering personal fulfillment and enhanced quality of life for an informed, enlightened and engaged citizenry.

Vision

The Library is both a physical and virtual presence and is the premiere free, personal learning institution in Rhode Island. All ages and backgrounds engage in robust and vigorous lifelong learning, which occurs in ways from delightfully serendipitous to intensely purposeful.

The Library is a committed partner with each individual in meeting their intellectual and cultural goals and with the broader community of learners to achieve an informed, enlightened, and engaged citizenry.



Providence Public Library is a non-profit organization established in 1875 to provide free, public library service to the people of Providence and all Rhode Island. The Library depends primarily on generous private support from individuals, corporations and foundations to achieve our mission.

From Our Chair and Director

Pursuing innovative collaborations...

Sharing our assets and resources...

For decades, Providence Public Library has engaged in partnerships and pursued innovative and collaborative endeavors in order to create and expand upon our vital services for all Rhode Islanders.

This year we achieved successes in each of our primary service areas by initiating new and maintaining ongoing partnerships and collaborations. Moreover, we recognize that our success is attained through the achievements of those who turn to us in pursuit of lifelong learning. In this report, we are proud to showcase a number of accomplishments through our collaborative efforts to better serve our patrons.

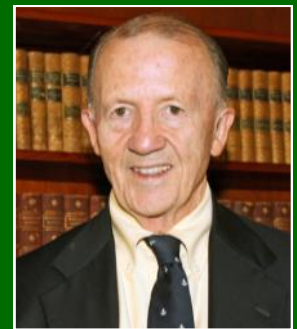
We've had much to celebrate this year! Working with Providence Children's Museum to create and open our new **Chace Children's Discovery Library**, we have welcomed thousands of young children and their families to their special library for the first time and watched as they took their initial steps together on a path to lifelong learning.

Through our ongoing relationship with the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative and a perennial partnership with Rhode Island Service Corps of Retired Executives, we continued to meet the needs of adult learners and those seeking career and **economic advancement** opportunities.

And, as always, those who turned to our Library for enriching **lifelong learning** experiences were not disappointed! Among our unique assets and resources are our outstanding Special Collections. This year, we were fortunate to work both with individuals and community organizations on multiple projects and presentations to preserve and share these wonderful and historic collections. Similarly, we successfully delivered a wide array of quality lifelong learning opportunities in conjunction with fellow public libraries and educational institutions. These enriching programs and series included lectures, discussions, exhibits, films, author presentations and more.

Finally, we are pleased to report significant progress in a new area — sharing with all Rhode Islanders one of our prime assets, our historic Renaissance building and its unique spaces. Through a new partnership with Russell Morin Hospitality Solutions, we will proudly be “opening our doors” to all who wish to hold their personal celebrations at our grand library in the coming year.

...Achieving our service goals



William S. Simmons
Chair



Dale Thompson
Director

Explore



The design and creation of our new **Chace Children's Discovery Library** was made possible with funding from the Chace Family and the PPL Foundation. Individuals and families are invited to support the Library's ongoing operation by "adopting" leaves in our Donor Forest (above), which greets visitors as they enter our lobby. **Top** — Mayor Taveras had plenty of help cutting the ribbon! **Center** — Malcolm Chace spoke.

Right
Crosby Van Zandt made our Library one of his first stops as a new Providence resident.



Working Together to Build a Destination Learning Place for Young Children and Families

With the help of hundreds of guests, Mayor Angel Taveras, and donor Malcolm Chace, our **Chace Children's Discovery Library** — *The story starts here* officially opened January 28, 2012. It was the culmination of a year-long collaboration between the Library and **Providence Children's Museum** to plan and build a one-of-a-kind destination learning place for young children and families. We can say our new destination children's library has been years in the making, as the enriching place for early learners features the Library's premiere Children's Collection of more than 60,000 items! Coupled with our expert staff, and wonderfully engaging environment and activities — including an enchanting silvery birch Forest — it has become a "must" for Rhode Island's young children and families.

Early Childhood Learning

While several hundred guests came for our new Library's opening day, during the few months after more than 2,000 visitors attended our regular programs and activities and countless more simply came to see and explore their new *Chace Children's Discovery Library*. A direct result of the new library has been an increase in the number of early care and pre-school groups that have visited us. Also, through the exceptional outreach efforts of Americorps volunteer Kate Leszkowicz, we visited an incredible number of early care agencies reading and sharing a total of 847 books and countless invitations to visit!



By the numbers...

4,906 Books Loaned to Teachers and Care Givers

4,503 Attended Children & Family Programs

1,776 Books Read

1,193 Children from Schools and Agencies Visited Us

237 Learning Programs

202 Bulk Loans to Schools and Agencies

171 Library Visits to Early Care Agencies

102 LARK (Learning & Reading Kits) Borrowed

79 Schools and Child Care Agencies Visited the Library

60 Attended Programs for Parents of Young Children



Our popular year-round programs for young children and families include:

Lapsits for children under 1 year old

Cradle to Crayons for ages 1 to 3

Evening Story Hour for ages 4 and up

Family Learning Sundays

Summer Reading Program

Throughout the year, we present several programs specifically for parents of young children.



Discover

In March, the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI) based at PPL received word from Better World Books and the National Center for Family Literacy that the Library would receive a **\$10,000** Libraries and Families award to implement an innovative new program that would enable selected adult students in RIFLI's ESL program to become Discover Guides in our new **Chace Children's Discovery Library**.

In addition to providing valuable work experience to RIFLI adult learners, this grant is helping us promote a love of reading in young children and giving immigrant parents the tools they need to help their children become successful readers and learners.

With the introduction of our four new Discovery Guides, PPL's staff language skills expanded three-fold; our guides speak Spanish, Chinese and Korean and are helping us to greet and assist immigrant families in the **Chace Children's Discovery Library**, as well as aiding with critical outreach to our varied immigrant communities.

Pictured (l - r) Myungsook Ji, a native of Korea; Eubalda Coates, a native of Guatemala; Tina Fang, a native of China; Yesicca Cranshaw, a native of Colombia.

Right — Yesicca with Library visitors Wendy and Ryan Vitek.

Children's Discovery Library

The story starts here...



Ongoing Partnerships Enable Innovative Initiatives and Quality Learning Experiences

Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative — Striving for Success

The Libraries and Families award that enabled the hiring of four Discovery Guides is just one example of the innovative undertakings and ongoing successes achieved through the joint efforts of the **Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative** (RIFLI) and the Library. RIFLI continually seeks new community partnerships and explores different avenues to meet and exceed its goals for educating the ESL adult learners in its program and helping them to achieve their individual economic advancement objectives. RIFLI's ongoing collaborations include its five public library partners (in Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket and Providence), **Healthcentric Advisors, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Citizenship Consortium** and **Gordon School**.

This year, RIFLI pursued a partnership with **URI Feinstein Providence** campus' LOOK and LEAP programs — college transitional programs that offer reading, writing, math instruction and help with study skills, applying for financial aid, and time management — all designed to help students succeed in college. Learners who complete the LEAP program also qualify for a scholarship for their first for-credit URI course. Ten or more RIFLI students will enroll in this program in the coming year. These one-semester programs offer the literacy help and close guidance that non-traditional college students often need in order to succeed. This was part of a College Access and Success Grant from the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education.

Pen Pal Project — A New Way to Share Languages, Experiences

When **Gordon School** Spanish teacher **Tricia Kelly** was looking for a willing partner for her language sharing idea, she didn't have to ask RIFLI instructor **Larry Britt** twice. He agreed her "pen pal" project made for a great collaborative learning opportunity for all and put the wheels in motion. Soon, eighth grade Gordon School Spanish and French language students were paired with and sharing communications with RIFLI adult ESL students, each writing in their "target" language. After several exchanges, all 41 Gordon students and 22 RIFLI students met at the Library and shared a final learning experience — a tour of the Library. The Gordon School students created the project's culminating product — a book of photos and biographies of the participants written in either Spanish or French and translated into English. All agreed the project was a success and encouraged that it be continued.

Professional Support for Small Business Entrepreneurs

Through our ongoing partnership with **RI SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives)**, the Library again offered its twice-a-year *Starting a Small Business* workshop series for more than 60 individuals seeking to begin their own small businesses. Over five weeks, these popular programs give participants the basics

needed to plan and begin the process of establishing themselves in business and are augmented by the Library's business and workforce resources and librarian research support.



RIFLI and Gordon School Pen Pals (l - r) Luke, Suzanne, August and Najwa.

RIFLI offers all levels of ESL, Citizenship Preparation, pre-CNA, computer-based distance learning and family literacy. A high school external diploma program is also under way.

This year, RIFLI served **270** adults and **40** children. Still, 100 students are on a wait list.

The program met all state and national performance targets for improving two or more reading levels in a year, receiving a performance bonus from the RI Department of Education.

42 RIFLI students became U.S. Citizens, **29** got jobs, and **6** successfully enrolled in a college transition program.



Connect

Lifelong Learning

Nearly **200,000** patrons walked through our doors this year, many receiving direct expert service from our Children's, Reference and Circulation staffs, the Special Collection librarian, or through their attendance at programs such as films, author talks and lectures. Close to **250,000** items were loaned to patrons statewide and beyond. About **3,000** adults attended **120** varied learning programs and activities.



Louisa May Alcott as portrayed by actress **Marianne Donnelly**.

Partnerships Yield Diverse Adult Learning Programs and Audiences

This year, we offered three popular program series, two of which were supported by NEH/ALA public program funds: *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women* and *In a Nutshell — The Life and Work of Maurice Sendak*. The third series was offered in connection with the **Rhode Island Center for the Book's** *Reading Across Rhode Island* selection for 2012, *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks.

Each of the series featured varying elements: lectures, films, live performances, exhibits, and even a field trip to Louisa May Alcott's home in Concord, Massachusetts. The programs drew attendance from many quarters, thanks to outreach afforded by our partner organizations, including **The Providence Athenaeum, Rhode Island Historical Society, Rhode Island College, Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design** and the **University of Rhode Island**. Also, through *Living Literature*, a local readers' theater troupe, we welcomed many new faces for two performances.



Living Literature's **Barry Press and Tanya Anderson** perform a scene from *Louisa May Alcott's Life Sketches*.

We continued our relationships with several community partners, offering space and staff support for long-running events at the Library. The **African Alliance of Rhode Island** held their day-long symposium in October. Members of the African community and **Bryant University** students participated in workshops, a lecture on African immigration, and a musical performance by the Senegalese Sabar group led by Lamine Toure.

The **Rhode Island Black Storytellers** held their 14th annual Funda Fest Family FUNDay storytelling workshop and public performance in January. And, once again we hosted the **Rhode Island International Film Festival's** and **Horror Fest's** free screenings in our auditorium.



Special Collections — Collaborating to Preserve and Share Our Treasures

With contributions from numerous volunteers logging 603 hours, we had a tremendously busy and productive year in Special Collections. Highlighting cataloging efforts, 468 books in our Edith Wetmore Children's Collection and more than 1,000 items from the Percival Magic Collection were added to our online catalog. In addition, 14 Collection Guides were produced and made available through our Web site and the Archive-Grid repository. Collections organized or processed, included:

- ◊ Acts of the Rhode Island General Assembly
- ◊ The Arnold Family Papers
- ◊ Harris Civil War and Slavery Collection Ephemera
- ◊ Updike Autograph Collection
- ◊ Updike Ephemera Collection
- ◊ World War II Ephemera

Multiple physical and online exhibits, as well as varied supporting digital image galleries, were also mounted on our Web site.

A Time for Wonder

An extremely successful collaborative effort this year was the multi-dimensional **Wonder Show**. Artist volunteers **Carolyn Gennari** and **Anya Ventura** dedicated several months mining our glass plate negative collection to create magic lantern slides, conducting community writing workshops at our Library and elsewhere to produce a script, and working with local actors to prepare and deliver the show to standing-room only crowds. Thanks also to their efforts, we mounted **Sympathetic Magic**, physical and online exhibits on the history of optical entertainments and the process they went through in creating and delivering a magic lantern show in Providence.

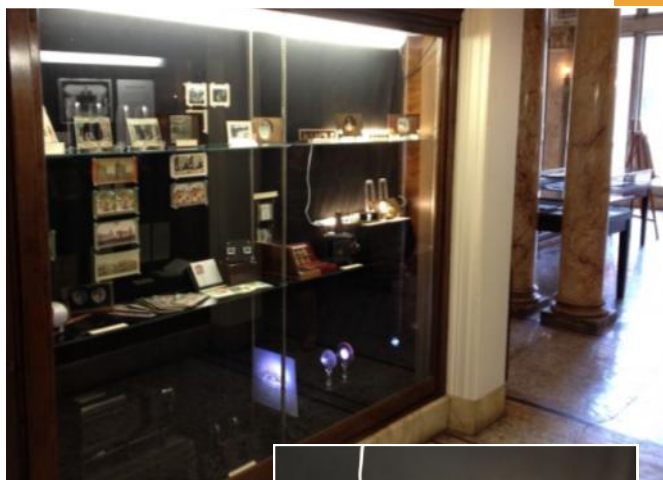
Updike Autograph Collection Is Now Open for Use

The processing of our previously uncatalogued Daniel Berkeley Updike Autograph Collection of over 800 important and wide-ranging manuscript items is complete and now available to researchers, through the terrific volunteer efforts of **Ramon Cartwright**, a RISD graduate. In addition to Ramon's work documenting and producing a finding aid in order to fully list the collection online, conservation efforts to preserve the collection are also well under way.

Getting Their Hands Dirty, and Loving It

Thanks entirely to funds contributed by generous subscribers to our quarterly **Occasional Nuggets** and the ongoing efforts of long-time volunteer

Patricia Loan, the entire Updike Autograph Collection is being re-housed in new acid-free containers. Patricia, along with her husband **James Loan**, came the Library in 2009 offering their volunteer services. Since then, they have tackled a range of projects in Special Collections, never shying away from jobs where they had to get their hands dirty!



More than **500** researchers and visitors called upon our Special Collections Department, including **11** classes of students and instructors from AS220, Brown University, Providence College, Rhode Island College, and Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

We mounted **5** physical and online exhibitions and our materials were loaned to **4** external exhibitions.

Left

Patricia Loan carefully worked on re-housing the Updike Autograph Collection over several months.

Fiscal Year 2012

Statement of Revenue & Expenses from Operations July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012 (unaudited)

REVENUE

Public Funds

| | |
|---|------------|
| State of RI – Reference Resource Center | \$ 402,535 |
| State of RI – Grant in Aid | 478,002 |

Private Funds

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Contribution from Endowment | 1,753,506 |
| Program Grants & Donations (Restricted) | 1,261,692 |
| Fees, Fines & Other | 96,350 |
| Donations (Unrestricted) | 64,923 |
| Subtotal Income | \$ 4,057,008 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries | \$ 1,882,497 |
| Benefits | 712,047 |
| Books, Databases & Materials | 120,285 |
| Library Supplies | 223,261 |
| Facility Maintenance | 363,575 |
| General & Administrative | 388,631 |
| Utilities | 134,709 |
| Security Services | 4,702 |
| Subtotal Expenses | \$ 3,829,707 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | \$ 227,301 |

Note: Library Revenue Program Grants includes \$206,589 and Other includes \$39,338 of previously reported revenue reserved and expended during FY2012. Library Revenue Program Grants also includes \$484,451 of revenue reserved for FY 2013.

Volunteer Services

Our library benefits greatly each year from the varied services of many volunteers. This includes time and talents contributed by our PPL and PPL Foundation trustees, numerous committee members, and a diverse group of dedicated individuals who together have helped us with countless achievements in all areas. This year, volunteers contributed **4,130** hours.

Information Services

Our librarians helped **33,485** patrons with reference questions.

Visitors came to our Web site **275,452** times and viewed **626,724** pages.

Our Special Collections blog received **15,937** visits.

We welcomed **1,136** participants in **221** computer training classes.

Patrons used our **46** public computer workstations **43,272** times.



On their Library tour, Gordon School and RIFLI students got to see and hear about a few rare items in our Special Collections from librarian **Jordan Goffin**.



Opening Doors — Sharing Our Spaces

While the Library's programs and services are focused on early childhood, economic advancement and lifelong learning, with our *Opening Doors* campaign we add a fourth focus: sharing our spaces. We want to:

- ◇ Preserve our historically significant building for the future
- ◇ Make our architecturally beautiful spaces available for use by the broader Rhode Island community
- ◇ Increase awareness about our valuable institution and what we offer
- ◇ Generate new revenue and new supporters to further our library services
- ◇ Promote the value of our building as an economic driver for the city and state

Key to our success will be our business partnership with **Russell Morin Hospitality Solutions**. In addition to welcoming people into our wonderful spaces for personal and special occasions, we are recreating a traditional research room — the **Providence Journal Rhode Island Room**, aided by a new full-time Rhode Island Collection librarian — enabling us to shine the spotlight on and more fully share our rich and unique Rhode Island Collection, as well as our other outstanding Special Collections.

Our partnership with Russell Morin Hospitality Solutions was formally announced on February 24.

Top — Library Director Dale Thompson and Russell Morin made it official.

Above — The Library's Atrium Chandelier will remain as a centerpiece in the newly renovated Grand Hall and Garden Courtyard.

PHOTO CREDIT

Left — Erin McGinn for Bliss Publications

Providence Public Library Foundation

Mission

Providence Public Library Foundation seeks to ensure continued excellence in library services for the Providence Public Library community by providing private funding to enhance programs and services.

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From Our Chair

Without doubt we continue to experience extremely challenging times. However, it is during these times when it becomes clear just how important our library’s role is in our community. Further, we realize that we must find new ways to guarantee that our unmatched assets and unique resources are plentiful and accessible to all. Indeed, we must continue to embrace innovative opportunities to ensure that we thrive as the critical statewide center for lifelong learning that Rhode Islanders have depended on for 137 years.



Robert K. Taylor

We have reported numerous successful collaborations this year in our commitment to our mission, vision and services. In the PPL Foundation, where we are focused on providing the private support necessary to ensure our library’s continued excellence, we have taken a similar approach to help preserve our institution and all that distinguishes it, including our historic Renaissance building.

We are excited that, through our new business partnership with Russell Morin Hospitality Solutions, we will be able to offer our spaces to individuals and groups for special personal and other occasions. With this venture and our \$4 million “Opening Doors” campaign, we will not only gain important revenue to support our mission, but we are looking forward to sharing our exquisite library and all that it offers in new ways and with those who may not ordinarily experience it.

Fiscal Year 2012

PPL Foundation Sources of Philanthropy Revenues July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012 (unaudited)

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Program Grants & Donations (Restricted) | \$ 1,052,750 |
| Annual Appeal (Unrestricted) | 239,904 |
| Endowment Funds & Bequests | 11,330 |
| TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED | \$ 1,303,984 |

NOTE: The Providence Public Library Foundation’s endowment contributed \$1,753,506 to Providence Public Library’s FY 2012 operating budget.

Support

Each year countless volunteers, donors and organizations collaborate with and contribute their invaluable time and talent to the Library and their community. The Providence Public Library Foundation and Providence Public Library recognize and thank these and all Fiscal Year 2012 supporters and donors whose contributions ensure that the Library continues in its mission as a vibrant and vital resource providing lifelong learning opportunities to all Rhode Island residents.

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* Reflects giving over 5 or more consecutive years.

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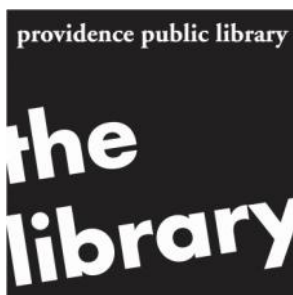
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