

What's in....

The Stacks

November 2018

A Message from Jack Martin

Year-end greetings – and what a year we've had! I can't thank you all enough for everything you've done to help PPL achieve so much in 2018. Your support *truly* makes all the difference. As you know, our physical transformation is well underway, and the work is very much on track. There's amazing progress each week and I encourage you to contact me to arrange a private hard hat tour so you can see library history in the making!

In addition, we are moving full steam ahead with our THINK AGAIN programming and capital campaign. We've acquired and opened new collections and continue to work with our many partners to develop our unique children's and teen initiatives, as well as to expand our innovative workforce development programs.

Further, I am thrilled to tell you that we've been awarded a **\$500,000 grant from the Champlin Foundation** in support of our building transformation. We are sincerely grateful for the Foundation's continued investment in PPL! We also recently received \$4.2 million in New Markets Tax Credits equity and \$1.6 million in C-PACE financing, both significant sources of funding toward our \$25 million project goal.

I am also excited to share that PPL recently received an Innovations Initiative Honorable Mention from the Urban Libraries Council in the category of Workforce and Economic Development for our Rhode Coders and Data Navigators programs. And, just this month, we heard from the Rhode Island Foundation that PPL has received its 2018 Nonprofit Best Practice Award for Board/Staff Leadership! Finally, please join me in congratulating Trustee Dr. Kathleen Hittner who received a Partner in Philanthropy Award

Conservator Society

Did You Know...

PPL has the bloody collar worn by Major Sullivan Ballou of the 2nd Rhode Island Infantry Regiment when he died in the First Battle of Bull Run during the U.S. Civil War?

from AFP-RI last week for her work on behalf of PPL; also hats off to another PPL Trustee, Dr. Joseph Chazan, who was awarded Outstanding Philanthropic Citizen!

None of the above would be possible without **you**. As Conservator Society members, you are the backbone of this institution – our most passionate supporters and greatest cheerleaders. We simply could not do what we do without you. *Thank you.*

Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season from everyone here at PPL! We are grateful that you are part of our family.

Upcoming Events...

SAVE THE DATE !

Thursday, February 7, 2019

6 - 8 pm

Join us as we welcome one of the most prolific heart surgeons in American history, **Arun K. Singh, MD**, to speak about his soon to be released book *Your Heart, My Hands*.

Look for your invitation in the mail soon and please feel free to invite a friend!



2019 Wine Gala...May 10

SAVOR the Story
Save the Date
May 10, 2019

Mark your calendar for our fourth annual *Savor The Story* Wine Gala, where we are thrilled to be honoring **Senator Jack Reed** with PPL's highest honor — The Enlightenment

Award. We will celebrate Senator Reed's major accomplishments as a national champion of libraries by taking a journey through the vineyards of America.

For sponsorship opportunities or to reserve your table early, please contact Erica Busillo Adams at ebusilloadams@provlib.org or 732-742-7757.



PPL Alum Spotlight

Thanks to your generosity as a Conservator, individuals from all walks of life have experiences at PPL that exemplify the difference the Library makes in our community. We are thrilled to share these stories of success and achievement and to demonstrate the incredible impact you are making as a member of the Conservator Society. You have made these alum stories possible!

Deloris Thompson — On a New Journey

A year ago I was working 15 hours a week making minimum wage and trying to figure out how to fix that and now I'm working full time in a career that feels like the best dream. I am so grateful to Don Gregory (Technology Instructor) and PPL for starting me down this fantastic new journey in my life and helping me change almost everything.

I've always loved computers since the summer I got to build my own computer through a Rhode Island Children's Crusade program. I never knew how I could actually get into the field. Then I heard about the Library. It has opened doors I never expected!



"I came to PPL for HTML and CSS classes and found that being a software developer was the right path for me." — Deloris Thompson

Don saw something in me that I never knew existed and encouraged me to push myself. When he suggested I try Tech Force and take more classes I questioned whether I could break into a field dominated by young males. But after attending Tech Force I

was able to get into Launch Academy, a very intense tech boot camp that requires over 40 hours a week from students. Don continued to encourage me along the way. Not only did I graduate earlier than expected, but I managed to do it while taking care of my family and working part time!

Now I am working as a software developer at The Mullings Group in Providence and loving where I am. I get to work with so many great people in diverse industries, developing software to help them in their businesses. There is so much more I want to learn and I am continuing to push myself...something I know I can do now thanks to the Library and my past experiences.

Welcome New Conservators!

Welcome to our newest Conservators Dr. Roberta Feather and Dr. Paul Vanzuiden!

Meet our Head Curator of Collections Jordan Goffin



While you may have already met Jordan Goffin, our Head Curator of Collections since 2015, we'd like to officially introduce you. Jordan joined PPL in 2011 as our Special Collections Librarian after two years at the Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS). His work there included studying the early history of printing in the state and producing an Atlas of the Rhode Island Book Trade in the 18th Century.

Prior to RIHS, Jordan spent time at University of Montana after completing his MLS at Indiana University. In addition to working with PPL collection staff to provide the best possible collection to our patrons, Jordan spends time acquiring new Special Collections material; assisting researchers on-site and around the world; hosting classes and community groups; working with staff curating exhibitions and planning digitization projects and interesting events; and working on how Special Collections will operate in its new post-renovation space! Contact Jordan at jgoffin@provlib.org or 455-8021.

Fundraising News...

Thank you to **Best Buy Foundation** for **\$7,500** and **TD Charitable Foundation** for **\$5,000** (PPL's first grants from both!) in support of our teen education and workforce development initiatives. These grants will support the continued momentum and expansion of these high-impact programs, including the delivery of our new Data Navigators Teen Squad and development of new partnerships and mentoring opportunities for participating youth. A portion of Best Buy's grant will support a partnership with **pathidi**, a new platform that connects teens with mentors to help guide them along education and career pathways. A portion of both grants will also be dedicated to crucial student supports like food and transportation aid and work stipends.

Thank you to **RI Council for the Humanities** for a **\$2,000 Mini Grant** supporting our 2019 special exhibition and program series *Year of the City: The Providence Project*. Through this unprecedented citywide, collaborative project, participants will explore the unseen stories behind Providence's visible surface. A joint calendar, website, closing symposium, and reciprocal marketing will amplify individual efforts, telling a broader and deeper story about life in the city we call home. PPL is one of three core organizations initiating and organizing this collaboration. Stay tuned for more!