

What's in....

The Stacks

November 2020

A Message from Billy Kepner, PPL Development Committee Chair

Dear PPL Conservators — Happy Holidays!

As we approach the end of another year, I think that we can all agree we are ready to say goodbye to 2020.

Providence Public Library has had a transformative year during a time when the world seemed to stand still. When the Library was closed due to the pandemic, the staff pivoted and ensured that essential services and classes could be offered on-line. Now that PPL has been able to reopen its ground floor, our staff are frontline workers serving the public. They continue to exemplify our mission — even under the constraints of plastic shields, face masks, and copious amounts of hand sanitizer.

If I have learned anything in 2020, it's that PPL — like so many of you — is resilient.

It's because of Library staff and leadership that we have been able to carry out our mission to provide Rhode Islanders access to extraordinary experiences, resources, and ideas. As the Development Committee Chair, I would be neglecting my duties if I didn't ask you to consider making a year-end gift to PPL. Your gift will allow our amazing staff to continue offering the essential and world-class services that our patrons urgently need.

During this season of thanks, I want to THANK YOU for your continued support of Providence Public Library. You have sustained us during these uncertain times, and we are grateful for your generosity. From my family to yours, we wish you much happiness, joy, and good health for the year to come.

Be well,
Billy Kepner

Conservator Society

Did You Know...

So far PPL has digitized nearly 10,000 pages, and 34,000 more pages are in process, as part of the Library of Congress' ongoing historic digital newspaper project.* *This project is funded by the NEH.

Upcoming Events...

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Mark your calendar for a Mardi Gras-themed Conservator event! *Laissez les bon temps roulez!*

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED...stay tuned!

Virtual Time Capsule 2.0 — Dedication & Sealing

We had hoped to hold this event virtually by year's end, but will announce something in the New Year!

Great Holiday Gift-giving Ideas

Looking for some great holiday gift ideas...while also supporting your favorite nonprofit organization? We've got you covered!

Celebrate your loved one with a seat plaque (\$250) in PPL's newly and beautifully renovated Donald J. Farish Auditorium. You can even choose the seat! Learn more: www.provlib.org/auditorium-seats/.

Similarly, we offer bookplates (\$100) that can be put into new books being added to our continually growing collection. Choose a genre or subject area; we'll do the rest and let you know the title. Please email Kilian at kwebster@provlib.org for more information.

Virtual Learning Lounge Serves Hundreds this Summer Alone

From the moment the Library closed in March, PPL's Workforce Development Coordinator Lina Bravo went into overdrive transitioning to and providing virtual/remote career coaching and technology support to the many adults who count on our Learning Lounge for help. The need has continued. From June — September alone, 221 individuals used the service for a total of 1114 visits. Top reasons for using the Lounge include learning basic computer skills (28%), academic support (22%), ESL practice (17%), and employment services—resume, job search and application, etc. (12%).

Lina's work has not gone unnoticed! We are pleased to report that she has been accepted, along with 40 others, to the RI Governor's Coaching Corps, an annual (eight-month) leadership program for workforce development professionals who advise under- and unemployed job seekers and students in the state.



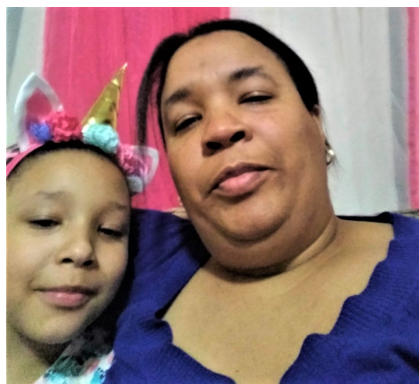
PPL Alum Spotlight

*Because of YOUR generosity, individuals from all walks of life have transformative experiences at PPL. We're thrilled to share these stories of success and achievement with you to demonstrate **the incredible impact you are making** when you support the Library. **You** really do make these alum stories possible!*

Tatiana DeCepeda: Following Her Dream and Achieving Her Goals

I came to PPL to learn English.

In addition, I have learned a lot about the history of this country in the Library's Citizenship class. I have managed to learn English and how to handle the different pages on the computer a bit, and I also learned to use Zoom with a class that I took recently.



"I came to PPL to learn English...and have had such a good experience."

I have had such a good experience because I came to this country without knowing anything about what I have learned up to today and my experience has been so great. I feel satisfied with what I have

learned by taking classes in the Library and with the teachers who have been so good at teaching.

I would like to say that if you have a goal or dream you want to achieve, do not give up the fight for what you want and you will achieve it successfully.

Want to share your Library story? Become an Alum at:
<http://prov.pub/PPLAlum>

Welcome New Conservators!

Welcome to our newest Conservators: Charles Otto and Carol Grant, Alex Rempis, Debby Rempis, Bob and Cathi Sloan, Jillian Siqueland, Michael and Anne Szostak.

We would love to have email addresses and birthdays for all our Conservators. Enclosed you will find a return slip and envelope. Please consider providing us with this information to help us stay in better touch!

Meet Alex Rempis, PPL's New Major Gifts Officer

Alex Rempis joined PPL in October as Major Gifts Officer. He grew up going to his town library every night with his father and brother and has a mom who ran the children's sections of local independent bookstores for years. Alex has officially worked in fundraising and communications for the past two years at CCRI and a Providence-based nonprofit, but has been doing board work (for Sophia Academy, the Gordon School, and a child life center in western Kenya); telling important stories about transformational work; and raising money for mission-based causes for more than 25 years. Prior to his career shift, he taught middle school humanities in Providence and Central Falls for 15 years, and, before that, in Boston. Before teaching, Alex worked in the editorial departments of *The New Yorker* and two research firms in Cambridge. Alex has a master's in teaching from Tufts University; an AB with honors in English, religion, and art history from Vassar College; and a certificate in modern Greek language and poetry from the Aegean Institute in Crete. In his spare time, he loves traveling, writing long emails, cooking and cookbooks, photography, reading and basketball. His daughters; his Providence community; and his sprawling, Big Fat Greek family are the center of his universe and the lights of his increasingly middle-aged life.



Passage

MAUREEN LEVY KRASNOW

We are saddened to let you know that a long-time friend and former PPL Development Director, Maureen Krasnow, passed away on November 4. She was 75.

Maureen lived in Providence and Warwick her entire life. A 1962 graduate of Classical High School and a 1966 graduate of Pembroke College (Brown University), she was an active and proud alumna of both and even served as a Grand Marshal during her 25th reunion from Brown. She was a passionate and talented fundraising professional for more than 30 years, working at PPL from 1999 - 2006. After retiring, she continued to share her talent as a volunteer at Providence's Hamilton House and with Temple Sinai, Cranston. She most recently resided downtown at the Regency Plaza, enjoying her close proximity to PPL, visiting friends and taking part in cultural programs. For memorial information and online condolences, please visit ShalomMemorialChapel.com.

