

What's in....

# The Stacks

February 2021

## A Message from Chris Bourret, PPL Education Director

March 13, 2020, is a date firmly entrenched in my memory. As our state and the whole world was shutting down due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our Education Department programs came to a screeching halt. We were faced with what seemed an insurmountable challenge – how do we keep going without the ability to teach or meet patrons in person?

Now I look back on the past year with pride and amazement at how our teachers and staff worked hard to learn new technologies and serve learners online. Through virtual story times and videos for young children and families; teen workforce programs like *Rhode Coders* and *Data Navigators* (data analytics through Excel and Tableau); along with ESOL, GED, U.S. Citizenship preparation, digital literacy, Tech Pathway workforce classes, and career services for adults, we are as busy as ever. Even more remarkable, we were able to create totally new online programs like our Behavioral Health Career Pathway class, which helps adults gain skills and knowledge to work in area non-profits and other agencies. And, other successful first-time ventures are leading to even more new program ideas.

Our staff went above and beyond in assisting people to participate online, lending tech kits (laptop, hotspot, and Internet access), to teens and adults in our workforce classes, and spending countless hours helping learners navigate this new virtual landscape.

Through their screens, teachers see the positive impacts of helping people find jobs, become citizens, earn high school credit/credentials, and become engaged and life-long learners. It has been a light of success and meaning for many, despite a dark, challenging year. We look forward to the day we can return to in-person classes and utilize the great new spaces at PPL, but we also will retain important components of virtual learning as we look to provide as much access to as many people as possible in the future.

Your support makes all this possible.  
Thank you!

## Conservator Society

## Did You Know...

We have 46 PPL Alum — library users and lovers of all ages, from many walks of life — who've had such extraordinary experiences at the Library that they've agreed to let us share their stories. See them at [www.provlib.org/support-us/ppl-alum/](http://www.provlib.org/support-us/ppl-alum/) and consider telling us YOUR PPL Alum story!

## Upcoming Events...

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021 | 5 - 6 pm**

Join in a virtual literary discussion of the bestselling *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett with Professor Kevin Quashie, Brown University. RSVP [arempis@provlib.org](mailto:arempis@provlib.org) by March 8.

**Wednesday, March 18, 2021 | 6 - 8 pm**

*Climate Change: How to Make a Difference* (Part 2) Virtual Workshop presented by PPL & Youth in Action's Outdoor Equity youth group. Register at: <https://provlib.libcal.com/event/7336169>

**Monday, March 25, 2021 | 7:30 pm**

Continuing *America Too: Reckoning and Resilience* online series presented by Trinity Rep & PPL. Register at: [trinityrep.com/americatoo2021](http://trinityrep.com/americatoo2021) (Future dates; April 22 & May 27)

**Friday, May 21, 2021 | 5 pm**

Save the Date for PPL's 2021 virtual *Savor the Story* — Come on a holiday with us! Get info at: [www.provlib.org/savor-story-2021/](http://www.provlib.org/savor-story-2021/)

SAVOR the  
Story



## Passages



### DR. CHARLES J. MCDONALD

We are saddened by the passing of long-time friend and PPL Trustee Emeritus Dr. Charles McDonald on January 10. He was 89. He leaves his devoted wife of 40 years, Maureen, four children and many grand- and great-grandchildren.

Dr. McDonald's lifelong passion for helping others succeed led to a life of achievement. As an internationally recognized dermatologist/oncologist, he distinguished himself as a clinician, researcher and educator — and as a leader in his own community and well beyond.

A pioneer in translational research, bringing proven research advances from the laboratory to application, he was recognized in *Best Doctors in America* and



# 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!*

## Cherai DiMeo: Achieving Her Goals, Making an Impact

I wanted to visualize data and use Excel better, and I needed to update my resume.

With the help from people at the Library, I've found the career that brings me joy and will help me make the biggest impact on my community. I gained a raise at my previous position and then found a home at my current job. I'm currently the Relationship and Systems Coordinator at Sophia Academy, where I use the Excel and data viz tools learned to maintain our fundraising database, build tracking systems for campaigns, help explain Sophia's impact, learn donor interests, and accurately report development funds.



*"I have a deep appreciation for PPL and its role in my professional development."*

Don, Chris and the data/comp science language team are so kind and understanding. They're able to teach in a way that allows anyone to understand and the classes are fun. The valuable help with resume and career services I received was so insightful; both were instrumental in me finding my current position.

I would not be where I am without PPL and everyone there.

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

## Welcome New Conservators!

Welcome to our newest Conservators: Nick Autiello and Eric Rietveld, Kathy Bullard, Rosie Busiakiewicz, Eli Dunn, Mr. & Mrs. Aram G. Garabedian, Sally Lapides, Kasandra Larsen, Olivia B. McCullough, Mr. & Mrs. David Odeh, Rene Payne, Kevin Quashie, David Rempis, Abby Test, and Stephen Wagner.

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! Or, feel free to email [arempis@provlb.org](mailto:arempis@provlb.org). *Thanks!*

## Meet Sherry Lehane, PPL's Training Specialist

Sherry Lehane's career as a Training Specialist at PPL began in 1999 as an instructor to English language learners. She has an M.Ed. in Instructional Design with an emphasis on technology. Sherry is passionate about adult learning and the impact that technology has on education, and personal and professional development.



Sherry currently leads two projects that promote and support technology-enabled learning: The RI Tech Hub for Adult Education — the professional development provider for the state's adult education staff; and a national library leadership project called Propagating Promising Practices for Literacy & Workforce Development (P3), which is funded by the IMLS.

As coordinator of the RI Tech Hub, Sherry plans and develops learning opportunities that support effective uses of technology for teaching and learning. Meanwhile, the goal of P3 is to expand technology-supported learning practices that position public libraries nationwide as effective hubs for lifelong learning, digital inclusion, and economic empowerment.

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## Passages, cont.

*America's Top Doctors* for two decades. Among many professional associations and accomplishments, Dr. McDonald was active in the American Cancer Society for three decades, becoming national president in 1998, the only dermatologist ever to hold that post. Dr. McDonald had been a member of the PPL Corporation since 1979 and served on the PPL Board of Trustees from 1987 until 2001 in a number of positions.

## ROBERT R. FAULKNER

We are also saddened by the passing of long-time PPL Conservator and Trustee Emeritus Robert Faulkner on February 1. He was 87. Bob was married for 57 years to his wife Pamela. He loved life and his famed fedoras!



Bob had a 60-year career in finance, following service in the U.S. Army. He and Pam raised three children in Barrington, where the family was active with St. John's Episcopal Church and Bob served as a member of the vestry. Bob hailed from Attleboro, Mass., where he kept close with friends, relatives and business associates. In addition to his years of support of PPL, Bob served as a director at Amica Mutual Insurance, president of Friends of the Barrington Senior Center, and a board member at St. Andrew's School.