

What's in....

The Stacks

May 2018

A Message from Aaron Peterman

This is a momentous time for PPL! Over the past three years, staff and Trustees have been working on transformative renovation plans for our 1953 Empire facing wing and construction is now slated to begin in August. We want to give our Conservators a “sneak peak” of what you can expect from the new Library.

The designs and renderings call for a library full of open spaces, flooded with natural light from expanded windows and reopened skylights. A new Grand Staircase and Atrium will ascend through three floors connecting a new Lobby and Lounge at the bottom to the refurbished Auditorium at the top. A 3,000 square foot “Workshop” will be the new epicenter for our educational and workforce development programs. Directly off the Lobby, patrons of all ages will be able to easily find and take part in classes, workshops and other hands-on activities. On past visits, you may have had trouble actually locating the stacks! With this renovation, drywall and plaster will give way to glass partitions providing clear and open views and easier access at each floor to the materials in the book stacks.

PPL has engaged BOND as our construction manager and we are currently (and anxiously) awaiting the return of the bids for the project, which will be the final step in defining the scope and scale of the renovation. This is not nearly enough space to share the full project with you, so please join us on **Monday, June 4 at 10 am** for our news conference to learn about all the exciting details and how you can participate in this once-in-a-generation transformation! And *thank you*. Your passionate support of PPL has helped to make this dream a reality.

Conservator Society

Did You Know...

PPL's Rhode Island Collection has recently digitized more than 12,500 photographs and images and made them freely available online at ProvLib-Digital? Visit and search more than 14,500 items!

Upcoming Events...

A Conversation with PPL's 2018 Creative Fellow Becci Davis

Thursday, May 31 | 6 - 8 pm
at the home of Timothy and Colleen Coggins
42 Kensington Road, Cranston

An interdisciplinary artist, Ms. Davis will speak about her current work inspired by material in the Library's Special Collections in conjunction with the *HairBrained* Exhibition.

RSVP to Nancy at nponte
@provlib.org or call 455-8003 by May 25.



A Visit with Author Joanne Lipman

Tuesday, June 19 | 5:30 - 8 pm
at PPL, 3rd Floor

Mark your calendars! We're pleased to welcome best-selling author Joanne Lipman to speak about her new book *That's What She Said*.

Join us for a **special Conservator Cocktail Reception: 5:30 - 6:30 pm**
in PPL Trustee Room

Talk & Book Signing: 6:30 - 8 pm



Have You Seen *HairBrained* Yet?

We're happy to share that our *HairBrained* Exhibition has been a wonderful success, attracting local, national and even international visitors! Here's what some from the United Kingdom had to say:

I really like the idea of this exhibition. I never knew there was so much to know about hair!

What a brilliant exhibition — wonderful interpretation!
Thank You!

There's still time to visit yourself. *HairBrained* will be up through June 30.



PPL Alum Spotlight

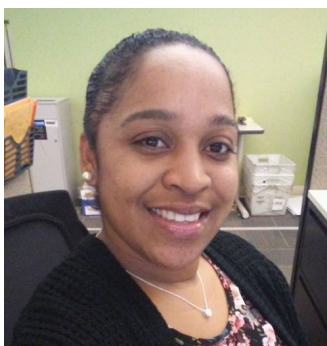
Thanks to your generosity as a Conservator, individuals from all walks of life have experiences at PPL that exemplify the difference the Library makes in our community. We are thrilled to share these stories of success and achievement and to demonstrate the incredible impact you are making as a member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

Achieving her dream...Marilyn Figueroa

I came to Providence Public Library looking for more information on how to pursue my High School Diploma and I was able to accomplish and achieve my DREAM and my GOAL...to earn my High School Diploma!!

My experience with Ms. Sherry Lehane (Training Specialist) has been the most memorable and special to me.

She's smart, understanding, passionate, resourceful, helpful, inspiring, patient, wonderful and a caring teacher. She knew I was determined and committed to earning my diploma. Ms. Lehane definitely went above and beyond. I can't express how much I appreciated her!



Long story short, I earned my diploma in less than a year. While attending classes and working a third shift job, I

found out I was a few weeks pregnant. My life has changed in so many ways. I never thought I could succeed, but with the help and support of my fiancé, and most of all, believing in myself, I did it. I know that if I can do this, anyone can. It's all about changing your mindset

and that was the biggest step I had to take through this process. I started thinking positive.

I remember Ms. Lehane saying the NEDP program is not the same as GED. It's more intense, but that wasn't stopping me. I needed to be challenged. I needed to see what she was talking about. And she was RIGHT. The first time I saw what was going to be expected from me, I was nervous and scared. Again it didn't stop me! I used many online study materials and studied nearly everywhere to make sure I had it. Getting my diploma helped me land my dream job. I am now an Administrative Assistant at Neighborhood Health Plan of RI. My life changed tremendously in just less than a year because I decided it was time that I started a future for my two beautiful kids....my daughter Harmonie Justine and son Jayce Justin. Truly Blessed!

"At PPL I was able to accomplish my DREAM and my GOAL... to earn my High School Diploma!"
— Marilyn Figueroa

Meet Our New Programs & Exhibitions Director

We're pleased to introduce PPL's new Programs & Exhibitions Director **Christina Bevilacqua**, whom you may already know from the Providence Athenaeum Salon Series, which she founded and produced for over a decade.



Christina is thrilled to now work with PPL's innovative curatorial staff to create programming that is inspired by our wide-ranging collections and gives context to our thought-provoking exhibitions, and she looks forward to curating lively discussions through collaborative, humanities-based programming with Providence's many exciting cultural creators. She is Trinity Rep's Conversationalist-in-Residence; a member of the board of the RI Council for the Humanities, which awarded her the 2013 Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities; and a Community Fellow at Brown University's John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage.

We are excited that Christina is bringing her unique program vision to PPL! You can connect directly with Christina at cbevilacqua@provlib.org or 455-8134.

Fundraising News...

PPL, in partnership with Chicago and Los Angeles public libraries and World Education, Inc., has won a **\$553,649 federal IMLS grant** to test and disseminate innovative adult education and workforce development library practices. This project will build upon and expand programs and practices already in place at the partner libraries (Learning Lounges; Mobile Learning; and Learning Circles). The three partners and six pilot libraries will implement one or two new approaches and study how these practices can be implemented and combined in different library settings. The partners will match the federal funding with \$678,870.

Our third **Savor the Story Wine Gala** held April 27 was our most successful yet with a sell-out crowd of 165 and raising over \$70,000 to date! Thank you to all who came out and/or sponsored the event. We were also pleased to honor long-time library supporter Rosalyn Sinclair with PPL's Enlightenment Award, announcing her \$1 million leadership gift toward our *Think Again* Capital Campaign for our 1950s Building Transformation.



Do you have an email address to share with us?

This newsletter is just one way that we hope to keep you abreast of everything that's going on at PPL. Exciting programs and events happen weekly at the Library. We want to make sure you are fully in the know and are receiving our regular Program & Events e-newsletter, as well as other special announcements and news sent regularly through email.

If you have not been getting any "e-news" from us, we probably don't have a current email address for you! **Would you please take a moment to send Nancy Ponte your email address at nponte@provlib.org or call her at 455-8003 so she can add you to our e-lists.**

THANKS!

Conservator
Society



Do you have an email address to share with us?

This newsletter is just one way that we hope to keep you abreast of everything that's going on at PPL. Exciting programs and events happen weekly at the Library. We want to make sure you are fully in the know and are receiving our regular Program & Events e-newsletter, as well as other special announcements and news sent regularly through email.

If you have not been getting any "e-news" from us, we probably don't have a current email address for you! **Would you please take a moment to send Nancy Ponte your email address at nponte@provlib.org or call her at 455-8003 so she can add you to our e-lists.**

THANKS!

Conservator
Society



Do you have an email address to share with us?

This newsletter is just one way that we hope to keep you abreast of everything that's going on at PPL. Exciting programs and events happen weekly at the Library. We want to make sure you are fully in the know and are receiving our regular Program & Events e-newsletter, as well as other special announcements and news sent regularly through email.

If you have not been getting any "e-news" from us, we probably don't have a current email address for you! **Would you please take a moment to send Nancy Ponte your email address at nponte@provlib.org or call her at 455-8003 so she can add you to our e-lists.**

THANKS!

Conservator
Society