

What's in....

The Stacks

August 2019

A Message from PPL's Head Curator of Collections Jordan Goffin

Dear PPL Conservators — many of you have long expressed interest in the library's Special Collections and support of our work and we truly appreciate that! I want you all to be among the first to know that we have achieved a critical milestone this month in our overall renovation plan and, specifically, with our goal to vastly improve the security and preservation of our most valuable collections for decades to come!

I'm thrilled to let you know that by September 6 we will have successfully moved all of our collections, including our Rhode Island Collection, from their various locations throughout the Library to their new, permanent home in the renovated, environmentally controlled, and secure 3rd and 4th floors of our stack building.

What does this mean? It means that all of our rarest materials will be stored at precise temperature and humidity levels year-round and no longer subject to the kinds of fluctuations that are so destructive to books and manuscripts. Also, these stack floors have been outfitted with improved security and monitoring that make it a state of the art collections facility.

This transformation would not have been possible without a lot of hard work by our dedicated Special Collections staff, Kate Wells and Angela DiVeglia, as well as additional support during the collections move by Janaya Kizzie and Mike Broussard. All told, we relocated more than 50,000 items, most of which have been in their previous storage areas for decades.

The books and manuscripts weren't the only things to move: Our special collections staff is now also located (temporarily) in the former Barnard Room. Once everything is finished and we're in our new offices, this space will become the dedicated Special Collections Reading Room.

Lastly, once we are settled, I invite you to get a first-hand look at our new Special Collections storage. Please feel free to contact me directly at jgoffin@provlib.org with questions for progress updates or to set up a time to visit. **Thanks again for your continued support!**

Conservator Society



Did You Know...

PPL has a Planned Giving Society? Those who choose to remember the Library through a bequest, or gift through their will, become members of the Lyra Brown Nickerson Society. To learn more about this and other ways to support PPL through planned giving, please contact Erica at 401-455-8073 or ebusilloadams@provlib.org.

Upcoming Events...

Looking Ahead to September & October — Save these Dates!

Thursday, September 19, 6 — 8 pm

The Last Good Heist with Tim White at the Bonded Vault (Hudson Furs) - Look for your invitation in the mail!

Thursday, September 26, 6 — 8 pm

Your Heart, My Hands talk with Dr. Arun Singh at PPL (open to the public). *If we missed you at our February Conservator event, we hope to see you!*

Thursday, October 24, 6 — 8 pm

The Future of Media & The First Amendment Panel

Friday, April 24, 2020 — Save the Date! Savor

The Story 2020 - Grand Reopening Edition!

Would YOU Like to Host an Upcoming Conservator Event?

Members hosting events in their homes (or summer homes!) is a time-honored Conservator Society tradition! Are you interested in hosting a



Conservator Society event in 2020? Please let Erica know (ebusilloadams@provlib.org) and she will reach out to you about future opportunities. Or, interested in sponsoring a Conservator Society event in 2020? Erica would be happy to chat with you about this as well. Remember, this is *your* Conservator Society. If you have an idea for an amazing Conservator event, let us know! Your input will help to ensure that every Conservator Society gathering is one you simply can't miss!

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 achievement and to demonstrate the incredible impact you are making as a member of the Conservator Society. You make these alum stories possible!

PPL Alum Fared Al Haddad Grateful for his Library Experience

I am from Syria and have a diploma in Statistics from Damascus University and a certificate in Administrative Management from the Institute of International Research. I've attended both RIFLI English and Citizenship classes at William Hall Library in Cranston. I heard about the class from my sister and her husband who were already attending. I joined the classes for many reasons: to improve my English by learning it from expert teachers; to get familiar with U.S. history in preparation for the U.S. citizenship exam; and for networking.



"I want to thank you all for all your support and efforts to walk us step by step through our dreams and being a part of the community."

The classes were great! They were very useful to me, very informative and I enjoyed every moment. The new resume we did impacted my search for employment positively, and I was hired in June 2018. Overall it was a great experience.

My teachers became my friends, and we had a few social events in class where we all participated in activities that improved our communication skills. I've met classmates from different parts of the world, including my home country.

I understand that most of us simply want to open our eyes in the morning and find our dreams have come true. Unfortunately, this is not how it works. To learn English and get American citizenship means a lot of patience, especially when you are a certain age. The library teachers and staff were very aware of how hard it is on people like us who were forced to leave our countries and start all over again from scratch. I want to thank the state officials for supporting these programs, as it has an unbelievable impact on every student. I know that from my own and my family's experience.

God bless you all.

Meet our Learning & Career Coach, Lina Bravo!

Lina's relationship with PPL started in 2016 with an informal conversation with Education Director, Karisa Tashjian. This led to work as a contractor teaching Spanish classes to a management team at a Central Falls company and to library patrons in Pawtucket. Lina subsequently began work with the Library full time in November 2018 as our Learning Lounge Coordinator.



An electrical engineer who moved to Rhode Island nine years ago, she has a passion for workforce development and community outreach, which she combines whole-heartedly with fierce communication skills in her new role as PPL's Learning & Career Coach. When asked, Lina will tell you she is a natural born learner who believes that education is key to achieving professional goals and loves her job making a positive impact in peoples' lives.

Development Update...

Thanks to all of you, we are thrilled to report that we surpassed our FY 2019 fundraising goal, finishing the year strong at \$550,000 — \$25,000 over goal. This was, in part, due to the success of our inaugural **#PPLGiveDay** in June. Not only did we meet our \$10,000 Match Challenge goal, we surpassed it by \$2,000, raising \$22,000 in a single day for PPL! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

NEW! CatalogPPL Launching

We're excited to announce that PPL will be launching our first-ever monthly giving program this fall: **CatalogPPL!** In addition to perks like bookmarks, pins, stickers, **and your very own card in a vintage library card catalog**, CatalogPPL will feature a variety of levels — from \$5 per month to \$50 per month — to ensure that giving to the Library is accessible to everyone. As a Conservator, you will automatically receive a card in the card catalog (to be displayed in the Library after our grand reopening!) Also, Conservators can give monthly too! Contact Kilian at kwebster@provlib.org if you are interested.

Welcome New Conservators !

Welcome to our newest Conservators: Jo DuBiel, Pat Igoe, Clark Schoettle, Shideh Shafie and Ateesh Chanda, and Maureen Taylor and Dexter Strong.