

What's in....

The Stacks

August 2020

A Message from Mary Olenn

Dear PPL Conservators —
I hope this message finds you and yours healthy. But, in the immortal words of Joan Rivers...*Can We Talk?*

Specifically, I'd like to talk LEGACY! Have you thought about yours? What kind of lasting impact would you like to have in your community?

During the ongoing events of this historic year, I have been thinking more and more about my own legacy, and I know others have also. It's not an easy subject, but it is an important one!

As you may know, at PPL we are fortunate to boast a truly unparalleled gift by an incredibly generous young woman: **Lyra Brown Nickerson, whose bequest of \$2.5 million to PPL in 1916 shaped the Library's future and continues to shape it today!** Miss Nickerson — who was *only 30* at the time of her death — fortified her place in PPL and Rhode Island history with what remains the largest-ever individual gift made to the Library. Lyra's father, Edward I. Nickerson, was a Providence architect who served PPL from its beginnings in 1878 until his death in 1908. Lyra, a lifelong learner and library lover in her own right, chose to commemorate their shared legacy of support for PPL — and their shared belief in free and open access to knowledge for all — through this gift.

In 1997, PPL established the **Lyra Brown Nickerson (LBN) Society** to recognize Library supporters who have included PPL in their will. Through their long-term commitment to the Library, LBN Society members ensure that PPL will continue to be at the center of lifelong learning in Rhode Island for generations to come.

I ask ... do you want your legacy to demonstrate the values most significant to you? Do you want to make certain an organiza-

LEGACY continued on back

Conservator Society

Did You Know...

Lyra Brown Nickerson's bequest of \$2.5 million to PPL in 1916 would be worth \$59,426,835 today?

Upcoming Events...

Virtual Ribbon Cutting Event — September 21

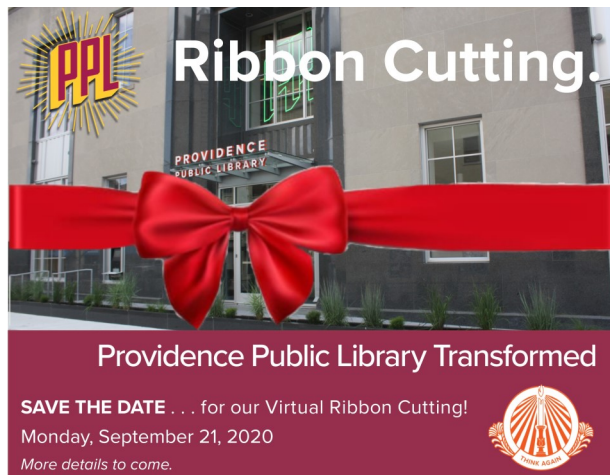
2020 Savor the Story—Grand Reopening Edition
Our Grand Reopening Gala has officially been rescheduled... virtually! Join us for this *free* virtual celebration of the completion of the largest Library renovation in Rhode Island history, including a virtual wine tasting, messages from our PPL community, and a surprise opening performance!

Register to virtually attend the Gala on Friday, September 25 at 6 pm via Zoom!

www.provlib.org/virtual-gala-registration/

2020 Exhibition & Program Series Opening — October 1

Details coming soon about "The King is Dead*" — exploring the theme of Journalism — and how you can participate and get to see the exhibition.



What Our Patrons Are Saying...

"The Library's open and that means a lot to me. I was looking forward to the reopening and then the pandemic hit. While the Library was closed, I bought a lot of online subscriptions to book review periodicals like NY Review of Books. What I missed most was being able to read about books, go into the catalog, and have them sent to PPL. It's such a great boon. It gives me access to millions of dollars of books for free. It's just an incredible institution."

Ed McIlvane

"For me, the week starts when the Library opens."

Eugene Solonchuk



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!*

Elizabeth Kroll: A Longtime Love of Libraries

My parents were avid readers and took us to the libraries often. Since I grew up in Warwick before the Warwick Public Library was built (I remember when it opened), we used to go to the William Hall Library in Cranston and the PPL Washington Park branch (now a part of PCL) quite often.

I worked at PPL during the summer of 1965. I was 15 years old. It was my first real paying job (60 cents/hour!). I took the bus from Warwick where I



"I worked at PPL during the summer of 1965. I was 15 years old."

lived with my family. My job was to go into the stacks and get reference books for patrons; they had filled out a slip of paper with a book request on it. It was a great experience and I have used libraries wherever I have lived, from Colorado to New York City to Rhode Island and more. I am now

of the South Kingstown Public Library.

When the library fully reopens, I look forward to coming for a visit to PPL to see the renovations. I try to visit all the branches in Rhode Island and am always so pleased to see even a small library.

Want to share your Library story? Become an Alum at:
bit.ly/PPLAlum

Welcome New Conservators!

Welcome to our newest Conservators: Leon and Karen Boghossian, David and Susan Kertzer, Melinda Mailhot, and Arun and Barbara Singh.

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 Donna Snead, PPL's Info Commons Senior Specialist

Donna Snead, PPL's Information Commons Senior Specialist, was still in high school when she first came to work part time at the Library. Her jobs included re-shelving books and working in the mailroom. She ultimately graduated (1974) and began working as a full time clerk in the Library's Circulation Department. Over her long career at PPL, she has held various positions, assuming more and more responsibility through the years, until becoming Head of Circulation and someone to turn to who "remembers when." Her latest role reflects the Library's institution of the new Information Commons, which includes circulation and information services functions. The latest changes don't faze Donna; for her, the Library has always felt like a quiet but busy place and somewhere to learn many life lessons. "My fellow staff members here have always made me feel respected. And, many, many patrons over the years have made my job rewarding."



When not at PPL working, Donna loves to read and loves being with her family. She also enjoys swimming, cooking and sometimes, just sitting and taking it all in.

LEGACY...continued

-tion dear to you can continue to carry on a mission you truly believe in? Perhaps the time has come to make a statement . . . to proclaim your passion for and commitment to PPL, as Lyra did in 1916.

As an LBN Society member, Trustee Emerita, former Board Chair, and long-time PPL champion, I can attest to the lasting impact that those benefactors who we honor in our Nickerson Society have made and what their legacy has meant to the Library's ability to carry out its vital work in our community for almost 145 years.

You will be hearing more from PPL about legacy giving in the coming months, but I invite and encourage you to reach out to Erica Busillo Adams at ebusilloadams@provlib.org at any time for more information.

Please consider learning more about PPL's Lyra Brown Nickerson Society and how you can become a part of it...for all time!