

# The Stacks

August 2021

## A Message from Eric Taylor



I have a great job – I get paid to live and breathe, be amongst, and talk about wine, beer and spirits for a living. I'm lucky to share the notion with my co-workers that we help

people celebrate a life well lived and through the items we sell, in a tacit way, we get to be a part of your lives – of your celebrations, meals, triumphs, rites of passage. We get to be a part of your dinner tables filled with joy and those who are most important to you. I like to think of the things we sell as an instrument that helps create community – a community of those who we get to share our home, our towns, our time and lives with.

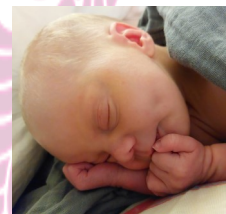
As a new PPL Conservator and member of the Conservator Committee, I also see that our community is a tacit but meaningful part of so many people's lives. Through our support, we sit invisible alongside the people the library supports through its programs and services. Our support is an instrument of learning, growing, improvement, and enrichment for any person who chooses to connect themselves to the Library. We Conservators share common goals, interests, values, and beliefs of inclusion, education, and leaving things better than we found them.

I'm honored to be a part of a rich and diverse group of people connected by a common goal: supporting one of the region's crown jewels. I've met many of you virtually and I know that we are all eager to spend more time with each other in-person. But as we have been kept from seeing each other in person, one thing has remained the same – the connection to each other via our support of this transformative and important institution. Join me in growing our community of Conservators by inviting and encouraging those in your community to join us.

## Conservator Society

## Did You Know...

**PPL has two new babies!!**  
**Ironically, they were both born this month and share the same first name! Meet John "Jack" Burlington (top), born August 6, 6 lbs, 12 oz., and John Franklin Busillo Adams "Little John, Baby Jack Jack," (bottom) born August 20, 7 lbs., 7 oz. to "The Circle of Life" song. Babies and mothers (Cate Burlington and Erica Busillo Adams) are all healthy and doing well!**



## Upcoming Events...

### State of Covid-19 in Rhode Island Tuesday, November 2 | 6 - 7:15 pm

The Conservator Committee will host a conversation on the state of Covid-19 in Rhode Island with Dr. Philip Chan, consultant medical director, RI Department of Health (RIDOH), and associate professor, Brown University Department of Medicine, and Dr. James McDonald, medical director, RIDOH.

### On Exhibit at PPL

Please visit and take in our *History of PPL* exhibition currently on display in our Providence Journal Rhode Island Room, 1st floor, and ongoing *Documenting Place as Witness* and the *Yesterday Recording Station*, by Creative Fellow Kelly Eriksen Perez, both in the Lobby.

Coming in September, we will have an exhibition in the Rhode Island Room in collaboration with the Providence Waterways project and City of Providence Archives that will display artifacts and history related to Providence's waterways.

Stay tuned for news of a new in-person and virtual Exhibit in our Joan T. Boghossian Gallery in October!

## Fundraising Update & Other News...

We'd like to highlight some awesome recent fundraising and other developments!

**New IMLS grant:** PPL received a new Institute of Museum & Library Services grant of \$532,380 to support the expansion of our "Data for Good" data visualization, analysis, and programming initiative for youth and adults, and including funding for PPL to partner with libraries nationwide to teach data skills.

**New NDNP grant:** PPL and RI Historical Society have received a new \$199,579 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue the ongoing efforts to digitize historic newspapers.

**DEI work funded:** An anonymous donor has awarded PPL \$250,000 for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion work

*Continued on back*



# 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!*

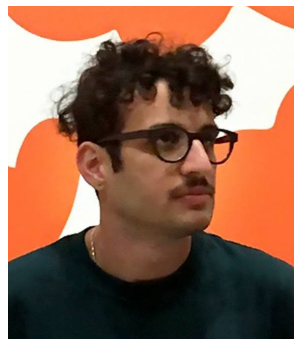
## Cem Eskinazi: PPL a Central Hub

I am a practicing type designer. I have visited PPL numerous times in order to support my research on type design through attending many wonderful design lectures and most importantly through many visits to the Updike Collection.

I was able to utilize the Updike Collection not only for inspiration for my own designs but to support my research about Eastern European and Central Asian scripts, as well as various historical printing and type drawing techniques.

I have been mainly working with Jordan Goffin, who had been guiding me through the Updike Collection.

He is able to pull together a selection of specimens curated exactly for the purpose of my visit. Jordan is always very enthusiastic about the material in hand as well as PPL's latest acquisitions. In each visit, there is always something new to be discovered, either a book



*"My discoveries during visits directly impacted my professional work as a practicing designer."*

that I haven't had a chance to see yet, or a document that arrived a week ago! It is remarkable how the visitors can directly engage and sit down with the books: in most cases you are allowed to hold the books, turn and feel the pages for yourself.

PPL has been a central hub for practicing and student type designers in Providence. When I was a student, I participated in the Updike Prize competition, which was a great motivator to push my design further. Thanks to the collection and events at PPL, I also had the chance to meet up and spend some time with many visiting designers, including Paul Shaw, Fiona Ross, Paul Barnes, Tobias Frere-Jones and Nina Stössinger.

My discoveries during visits directly impacted my professional work as a practicing designer. I am thankful to be living in a city where I have easy and free access to such an amazing resource!

## Conservator Feature: Meet Rene Payne

As a RISD diversity fellow, designer Rene Payne is contributing her wide-ranging talents by supporting a number of Social Equity and Inclusion initiatives, including developing collateral for the Martin Luther King, Jr. series and designing an award-winning, large-format book to share the visual stories generated through the long-standing **RISDiversity** community narratives project. She is also the founder and director of graphic design firm FAVOR and has worked in the field for over 25 years. She earned her BFA in Graphic Design from RISD.



*I recently started to support PPL, recognizing my own personal commitment in helping to advance the foundational social infrastructure that the Library offers as a cornerstone in the Providence community. It's meaningful to me because PPL offers so many viable opportunities and resources for people, both physically and online. Many don't even know so much exists at PPL.*

*There are a number of things I love about PPL, like the fact that PPL is one of the public spaces in Providence where people of all ages, races, economic backgrounds, and interests can come together, have access to a wealth of information, and learn and exchange points of view in person or remotely.*

*I wish more people knew how deeply vested PPL and extended contributors have been in making the Library a safe and resourceful experience for the community through this COVID pandemic and beyond.*

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### Fundraising Update & Other News, continued

outlined in our strategic plan, including funding for staff, consultants, professional development, and library materials!

**CHOP Launch:** We were thrilled to celebrate with the Genesis Center's Culinary Hub of Providence (CHOP) as they formally introduced their plans for developing Providence's newest culinary hub at PPL!

**Climate research:** FM Global awarded PPL with \$450,000 for collaborative climate research utilizing our Nicholson Whaling Collection logbooks.

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### Welcome New Conservators!

Welcome to Hope Alswang & Henry Joyce, Karen Davidson, Esq., Professor Peter Heywood & Professor Nancy Jacobs, Noni Thomas López & Rodney Eric López, and Jane & Linton Moulding. Welcome back to Suzanne & Ira Magaziner and Barbara Sokoloff.

We'd love to have email addresses and birthdays for all our Conservators. Please call Alex at 401-575-6478 or email [arempis@provlb](mailto:arempis@provlb) to help us stay in better touch!