

What's in....

# The Stacks

November 2021

## A Message from Our New Conservator Society Co-chairs

As members of the PPL Board of Trustees, we greet you as the newly inducted co-chairs of the Conservator Society Committee and wish to begin with a hearty **THANK YOU** for joining as Conservators and supporting PPL in such a meaningful way. We also want to congratulate all of you, our Conservators, for attending virtually in robust numbers – did you know that our Conservator Society membership has more than doubled over the past year? And this is despite our not being able to gather in person. The silver lining of this awful pandemic is the limitless creativity and energy that flowed out of nonprofit cultural institutions everywhere. We all have been the beneficiaries of this virtual engagement and inspiration, and the PPL team certainly did its admirable share of engaging and inspiring not only our Conservators, but our entire community.

With the pandemic still consuming our daily lives, we are presenting Conservator Society programs that feature leading doctors and public health officials. But we will always seek programming inspiration from our vast and varied Special Collections as well as delve into the social, environmental, cultural, and economic issues of our time. After all, PPL's stated vision is "All Rhode Islanders are engaged, informed, enriched, and thriving. Libraries across our state are viewed as essential catalysts in increasing opportunities for all." As Conservators, you help us realize this vision that is reflected in all of our programming. But we have fun, too.

From a full-on master-chef-led cooking demo to celebrate Mardi Gras (*"Laissez les*

**Conservator Society**



## Did You Know...

*The weather data contained within PPL's 800 digitized whaling logbooks in the Nicholson Whaling Collection are informing a climate change research study being conducted by scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.*

## Upcoming Events...

### Updike Prize for Student Type Design Awards Wednesday, December 8 | 7 pm via Zoom

Join us for PPL's 2021 Updike Prize Awards presentation, including a virtual talk/tour by Dartmouth College Library's Book Arts Workshop Program Manager Sarah M. Smith. Register at [www.provlib.org/calendar](http://www.provlib.org/calendar).

### On Exhibit at PPL

There's still time to take in *Providence Waterways: Excavating the Layers of Fields Point*, an exhibition continuing **through December 20** in the Rhode Island Room, in collaboration with the Providence Waterways project and City of Providence Archives.

Also, *Rewilding: Alive in the Churn*, our fall exhibit taking place in person and virtually in our Joan T. Boghossian Gallery, continues **through December 17!**

*bon temps rouler!*" February 16, 2021), to a thoughtful discussion about racial identity ("*The Vanishing Half: A Conservator Conversation with Brown University Professor Kevin Quashie*," March 10, 2021), and a journey into the minds of cats and dogs with "cat whisperer" veterinarian Dr. Cathy Lund and dog trainer "extraordinaire" Angela Aurelio ("*Yappy Hour: An Evening of Pet-Working!*" August 11, 2021), PPL's Conservator Society takes us down many pathways of inquiry and interests, and we strive to keep these pathways well worth traveling! And, it goes without saying, that keeping these pathways open and interesting cannot happen without your continuing support; we hope that as the holiday season approaches, you will include PPL in your giving priorities.

The Conservator Society website is regularly updated and new-member names have been added (and are also included in this newsletter). If you would like to invite friends, family, and colleagues to join our group, please let us know! Contact Alex Rempis, [arempis@provlib.org](mailto:arempis@provlib.org) or **401-575-6478**.

Thank you again for all that you do. Please enjoy this newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming Conservator Society events both online and in-person. Be well in the meantime!

Adriana I. Dawson and Maia Farish  
Co-chairs, PPL Conservator Society  
Members, PPL Board of Trustees



# 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!*

## Melanie Anaya: Valuable Lessons Learned at PPL

I was matched with Providence Public Library through the Brown University Bonner Community Program and worked with Chris Bourret until I graduated!

My favorite accomplishment was leading my own Citizenship class. Actually being in charge of my own class and having two hours to take my mind off my classwork was essential, especially once COVID hit.

*From the back seat of the car, I heard a gravelly voice from the radio detailing the Civil War. My mom, in the driver's seat, listened intently in preparation for her citizenship exam. I hung onto every word too because, at eight, it was I who taught her. Every night, after completing my homework, I rushed over to read to her about the history of the United States and quiz her on tricky questions while she cooked dinner. Before, my teaching revolved around helping her with English in the doctor's office or official documents. Now, we were accomplishing a tangible goal together while I learned about my own country.*



*"I want to practice medicine the same way PPL and Chris taught me to teach — with the person in the center."*

It was these moments from my childhood that formed my love for teaching. Ever since, I have yearned to make a difference in others' lives. That's why I was especially drawn to the Library's Citizenship program and, as a future physician, I knew I had to teach my patients and find new methods to learn and teach. I was lucky to meet Chris, who is the best mentor, friend, and boss a girl could ever ask for.

I learned an incredible amount about teaching, but also about people, their lives, and dreams. As a current medical student, these values are very dear to me because physicians often don't have the time to let patients speak their stories. However, I want to practice medicine the same way PPL and Chris taught me to teach — with the person in the center. I could write essays about how important this experience has been to me, but those would never be enough to show my gratitude. Though I am no longer the young girl, sitting in the back seat of a car teaching her mother English, the same desire to connect and build community through teaching fuels me.

## Program Feature

## PPL Helping Seniors Bridge the Digital Divide

Keeping their senior residents mentally healthy and socially connected has been a priority throughout the pandemic at NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley, but bridging the digital gap for residents has been an additional adventure.



Now, thanks to funding from Rhode Island Housing's Bridging the Digital Divide program and a partnership with PPL, the Library's Learning & Career Coach & Workforce Development Coordinator Lina Bravo is helping the Meadow's 88 residents — who had previously received Amazon Fire tablets through a partnership with Verizon — to gain the skills needed to utilize their tablets to their fullest potential.

"COVID-19 negatively impacted the lives of senior citizens who were ready to enjoy their retirement and free time with their loved ones after working hard and growing their families," Lina said. "They found themselves isolated with little to no access to a digital world — which is new and scary for many of them. I'm pleased that PPL is able to help these seniors develop digital skills and fully enjoy the advantages of using technology in their lives."

## Catch Our Talk with the Docs on YouTube!

We had a wonderful event on Nov. 2 with Dr. James McDonald and Dr. Philip Chan on the state of the pandemic in Rhode Island. It was informative, thoughtful, and reassuring in many ways. We are grateful to be led by such gifted public health practitioners — who are incredibly eloquent, accessible speakers and teachers — in our little state.

To view the video of the evening, please check it out on PPL's YouTube: <https://youtu.be/mjinkw0xyp8>

## Welcome New Conservators!

Welcome to Patricia Andreu and Sergio Gonzalez, Dr. Philip Chan, Tom Nicholson, Jen and Jeremy Sherer, Dr. James McDonald, and Mag Livingston Willard.

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

# PPL Conservators

Mr. Tom Ahern  
Hope Alswang and Henry Joyce  
Patricia Andreu and Sergio Gonzalez  
Angela Ankoma  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ashworth  
Mr. Eric Rietveld and  
Mr. Nicholas Autiello  
Ms. Christina Bevilacqua  
Mr. Leon and Mrs. Karen Boghossian  
James Brayton Hall  
Tammy Brown  
Ms. Kathy Bullard  
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Buonanno  
Ms. Joan M. Caine  
Mr. Arnold B. Chace, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Chaffee  
Dr. Philip Chan  
Ms. Catherine Channell  
Dr. Joseph A. Chazan  
Ms. Lisa Churchville and  
Mr. Alex Carlin  
Mr. Samuel C. Coale  
Joel Cohen and Andrea Toon  
Michael Costa  
Dr. Laina Crowthers  
Ms. Karen Davidson  
Nick Debs  
Ms. Elizabeth A. Debs  
Ms. Lisa DeCubellis  
Ms. Karen G. DeLPonte  
Ms. Lizzy Desibia  
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Dimeo  
Bob and Rena DiMuccio  
Jim Doogan and Denise Ogilvie  
Ms. Jo Dubiel  
Eli Dunn  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Edwards, Jr.  
Ryan and Sandra Ellis  
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Fain  
Mrs. Maia Farish  
Mrs. Pam Faulkner

Dr. Roberta Feather and  
Mr. James Hackett  
Ms. Janet A. Feyler  
Ms. Nancy J. Fritz  
David and Ellen Galkin  
Mr. and Mrs. Aram G. Garabedian  
Louis Goldman  
Mr. Joseph R. Miller and  
Ms. Maria Goncalves  
Ellen Gordon Reeves  
Ms. Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow and  
Mr. Jim Krupanski  
Mr. Scott Guthery and Ms. Mary Cronin  
Mrs. Katharine Hazard Flynn and  
Mr. Larry Flynn  
Dr. Melvin Hershkowitz  
Kathleen Hittner, M.D. and Mr. Barry Hittner  
Ms. Pat Igoe  
Mr. Peter Heywood and Ms. Nancy Jacobs  
Susan Jaffe Tane  
Dr. Ashish Jha  
Dr. Mark Kelley  
Mr. Billy Kepner and Mr. Joe Zappala  
Mr. and Mrs. David Kertzer  
Ms. Sally Lapidés  
Ms. Kasandra Larsen  
Ms. Sharon Lloyd Clark  
Mr. Guy Lombardo  
Fran Loosen  
Mr. Rodney Eric López and  
Dr. Noni Thomas López  
Dr. Catherine Lund  
Mr. Brian MacCracken  
Mr. and Mrs. Ira C. Magaziner  
Ms. Melinda Mailhot  
Mr. Winn Major and  
Mrs. Susan E. Starkweather  
Ms. Lianne Marshall  
Mr. Jack Martin and Mr. James Murdock  
Mr. Fred L. Mason, Jr. and  
Mrs. Tonia Mason



**Conservator  
Society**

# PPL Conservators

Mrs. Dorothy R. McCulloch  
Ms. Hope McCulloch  
Ms. Olivia B. McCullough  
Dr. James McDonald  
Mrs. Maureen McDonald  
Ms. Amy Migdal  
Jane and Linton Moulding  
Ms. Ruth K. Mullen  
Mr. Tom Nicholson and  
Mrs. Catherine Nicholson  
Ms. Jane O'Farrell and  
Mr. Richard A. Sherman  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerard O'Halloran  
Mr. and Mrs. David Odeh  
Mrs. Mary B. Olenn  
Mr. and Ms. Ken Orenstein  
Mr. Charles Otto and Ms. Carol Grant  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Parsons  
Kinnari and Jaymin Patel  
Ms. Rene Payne  
Mr. Edward Levine and  
Ms. Isabella Porter  
Professor Kevin Quashie  
Alexander Rempis and Jason Viveiros  
Mr. David Rempis  
Mrs. Deborah T. Rempis  
Ms. Joan Ress Reeves  
Ms. Dawn A. Robertson  
Micah Salkind and Ted McGuire  
Ms. Leni Salkind  
Mrs. Jacqueline Savoie and  
Dr. Dennis McCool  
Larry and Barbara Schoenfeld  
Mr. Clark Schoettle  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Sharpe, Jr.  
Jen and Jeremy Sherer  
Tamar Sherer and Chris Cooper  
Mr. Edwin F. Sherman and  
Ms. Sheryl Ash  
Dr. Meera Simoes

Ms. Rosalyn Sinclair  
Dr. and Mrs. Arun Singh  
Ms. Jillian Siqueland  
Mr. Robert Sloan, Jr. and  
Mrs. Catherine Sloan  
Ms. Barbara Sokoloff and  
Dr. Herb Rakatansky  
Mrs. Mary and Mr. Alfred Speare  
Mr. and Mrs. Joel N. Stark  
Mr. Christopher Stevens  
Mr. Zachary Stolz  
Ms. Sally Strachan  
Mr. Shivan and Mrs. Jyothi Subramaniam  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Sweitzer  
Mrs. Anne Szostak and  
Mr. Michael Szostak  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Taylor  
Nate and Emily Taylor  
Mr. Eric Taylor and Dr. Jennifer Barredo  
Maureen Taylor and Dexter Strong  
William and Donna Templeton  
Ms. Abigail B. Test  
Ms. Dale Thompson and  
Mr. Frederick Buhler  
Lisa Tortolani  
Dr. Paul Van Zuiden  
Ellen A. Wagner  
Stephen Wagner  
Mag Livingston Willard  
Mr. Raymond L. Willis, III and  
Mrs. Sally P. McDonald Willis  
Dr. Jacqueline Wilson and  
Jonathan Keattch  
Marilyn Woloohojian  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin L. Zurier  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Zurier

