

PTPL Library Director's February Report for January 2020  
Library Director's Video Link <https://animoto.com/play/rUk465w4C9LiRD0KIUN6w>

Our new year and decade began on January 2nd with the first Vitalant Blood Drive of the year to help with meeting the demands of holiday blood shortages. We collected 35 units of whole blood plus two units of platelets. This was five more than their goal of 32 units and will in turn help 111 individuals.



And the brand new year was the perfect time to host our first "Best Books for Babies Shower". Each year since 2000 a panel of Pittsburgh librarians and child development experts have curated a list of books perfect for sharing with the very littlest listeners. Ms. Patty and Ms. Linda presented this list to 37 parents-to-be, parents of babies, and babies from birth to 18 months. Together, they



discovered the newest titles and enjoyed cake, songs and games while learning about the value of reading and early literacy. Every family went home with a new book from the list for their little one.

Our 2020 Census Field Rep spent time on three evenings in our lobby this month to answer questions about the upcoming census and to recruit needed census takers. Library Board member, Kay McEvoy, took advantage of our nice January weather and refreshed our Little Free Libraries along the Arrowhead Trail and The PTPL Evening Book Club discussed, "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover which has been on the NYT bestseller list for 102 weeks!



We partnered with the McMurray Rotary to launch a new program that will meet twice a month called, "Afternoon Tunes". Harry Funk and Pam Linnon-Flinn lead this lively sing along and share old-time favorites from Neil Diamond to John Denver to the Beatles. We had 24 singers in attendance for our first event. It was an opportunity to enjoy the warmth that music can bring to these cold wintry days where members of our community spend a lot of time alone and indoors.

We also implemented our first PTPL Staff In-Service Day for professional development on Martin Luther King Day. Staff and professional speakers alike shared their areas of expertise on topics ranging from mental health, improving organizational skills, to customer service, embroidery machine and Cricut crafting to library policies and confidentiality.

We hosted Jill Yesko and her team to present, "Get Organized for Good" to an audience of 100+. Thanks to volunteers from Peters Township Community Television, Jill's presentation was videotaped and is available on YouTube, Comcast Channel 7 and Verizon Channel 38. Our follow-up survey indicated that those in attendance wanted more programs in the future about life-hacks and shortcuts to make life more efficient.



What else is new? We installed our new laptop bar on our first floor with a lovely outdoor view and plenty of light. This accessible spot is a great place to study or to catch up on work between on-the-go appointments.

As a member of PT Character Counts, we are participating in the 2020 PT Year of Kindness with programs and displays. We are also serving as a



donation drop-off site for various collections throughout the year. This month coats, hats, gloves and mittens were collected for The City Mission of Washington County.



We are encouraging our 5th graders to start their reading engines in preparation for the upcoming "Battle of the Books" in March at McMurray Elementary. Our display has multiple copies of the featured titles and members of our Youth Services staff are assisting Mrs. Owens, McMurray librarian, by creating quiz questions and will serve as judges.

We partnered with neighboring Upper St. Clair Township Library to host local sports writer, Jim O'Brien, at the USC Library. He discussed his newest book, "Franco, Rocky and Friends - It Pays to be a Good Guy" prior to Super Bowl Sunday. We also partnered with our area preschools for our annual Preschool-a-Palooza to give parents a chance to meet with our local preschool educators to answer questions and find the right program for their children.

Libraries across the country like us were thrilled with the recent news that according to a recent Gallup poll and report by Justin McCarthy: *"Visiting the library remains the most common cultural activity Americans engage in, by far. The average 10.5 trips to the library U.S. adults report taking in 2019 exceeds their participation in eight other common leisure activities. Americans attend live music or theatrical events and visit national or historic parks roughly four times a year on average and visit museums and gambling casinos 2.5 times annually. Trips to amusement or theme parks (1.5) and zoos (.9) are the least common activities among this list."*

With that in mind, I completed our Annual Report for 2019 this month and chose the theme, *How Do You Library?* In my mind, "to library" means to create, discuss, examine, practice, read, think, analyze, design, evaluate, debate, sing, play, explore and so much more.

We offer hundreds of opportunities for our community "to library" every single day of the year. Who "libraries" with us? Everyone from babies, preschoolers, tweens, teens and parents to readers and makers of all ages. We completed our 2019 Annual Report this month and it is now posted to our website. After reviewing, I know you'll agree that our library is not only a very important place and proper noun but also a strong action verb.

