

Peters Township Public Library TRANSFORMS



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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From the American Library Association "Libraries Transform" campaign

Peters Township Public Library
616 East McMurray Road
McMurray, PA 15317
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www.ptlibrary.org



A message from the Library Board and Staff



Peters Township Public Library Board members
Front row (left to right) Pier M. Lee, Director Emerita
and Myra R. Oleynik, Library Director

Back row (left to right) Mark R. McFarlin, Carol Adler, Vice-President; Margaret A. Verlato, Treasurer; Kathleen McEvoy, Richard F. Easton, President; Judith Adler-McNutt, Secretary; and Frank Danyo. Not pictured: Scott Beinhauer.



2015 was a landmark year for the library. Pier M. Lee, Library Director for nearly 40 years, retired in July, 2015, and Myra R. Oleynik, a teacher and librarian with 36 years of service to the Peters Township School District, retired in June and assumed her new role of Peters Township Public Library Director on July 20, 2015.

Mrs. Lee was instrumental in the growth of the library from a small room at the Peters Township High School in 1957 to the 28,000 sq. ft. facility that has garnered local and national praise as one of the best public libraries in the United States serving populations of 10,000 – 24,000 (HAPLR Survey). Her sterling leadership and commitment to public service helped to create a warm, welcoming facility equipped with state-of-the-art technology, print and electronic resources, and programs for patrons of all ages. Some of her final contributions in 2015 include the creation of a Library Café (Café Lee!) on the 2nd floor, the installation of a new circulation desk, renovation of the existing 2nd floor Computer Lab, and installation of new flooring in the lobby, Meeting Room, and grand staircase.

Mrs. Oleynik continues Mrs. Lee's efforts to maintain and grow the library while **transforming** it to meet our community's ever-changing needs. Her strong connection to the community through her years of living and teaching in the Township has fostered a robust network of new contacts and new ideas. Some of these initiatives include seeking out new ways to partner with the Peters Township School District, providing positive customer service, expanding our presence on social media, and **transforming** into our new role as the community's living room where we will expand our focus on what we can do **for** and **with** those who enter our doors seven days a week and virtually 24/7.



Reference Department



We continue to benefit from our community partnerships with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, Veterans of Foreign Wars POST 764, PA Forward, University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center, Peters Township School District, Peters Township Chamber of Commerce, Cornerstone Care, AARP, and other non-profit agencies. Through our partnership efforts we hosted close to 1000 persons in programs or special events.

Highlights include hosting with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh Thomas M. Sanderson, Director and Senior Fellow, Transnational Threats Project for the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Through a grant by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History we offered a two-part series of World War II programs for teens. Kenneth Serfass, Civil War Reenactor and Impressionist entertained over 150 persons at *Ulysses S. Grant in Living History*. Margaret Deitzer represented the library at the 2015 Annual State Library Conference - PA Forward *Cream of the Crop* Programs as a panel member. Our nominee, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) POST 764, was selected for an Outstanding Community Service 2015 award by the League of Women Voters in Washington County.

A transition from Access PA Interlibrary Loan (VDX) System to Access PA SHAREit created a time consuming demand for several months. We look forward to processing Interlibrary Loan in the new system with increased and improved searching options.

We are pleased to share our electronic resources with our patrons by providing online access to Consumer Reports, Flipster, Freegal Music, Ancestry Library Edition and other electronic databases and resources.

During 2015, the library in general, and the Reference Department specifically, benefitted from contributions from volunteers. Our 14 adults volunteered 1,015.5 hours and our 11 young adults volunteered 383.25 hours of service.

Information Technology offered 65 classes to 399 adults from word processing to 3D Design in 2015. To acquaint our patrons with our Makerspace area, we featured 10 programs to demonstrate how to use our 3D Printers with 76 persons attending the first demo. Many of these patrons returned to use the 3D Printers for a total of 352 hours to print their own objects.



Youth Services Department



With the introduction of new programs and the continuation of many successful events, the Youth Services Department, which serves toddlers through teens, attracted many young faces and their families. We established new relationships with local organizations and expanded on past partnerships.

In February we once again celebrated National Take Your Child to the Library Day by hosting a day full of fun events. We welcomed back local musical duo “Josh and Gab” to perform for the day. Children and families completed fun crafts and attended a meet and greet with Josh and Gab. The library welcomed many other “celebrities” to our programs throughout the year. In April the Easter Bunny joined in the fun at our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Patrons who visited the library’s booth at Community Day even had the opportunity to meet Batman. John Lege, also known as “That Guy With the Birds,” performed with his birds as part of our Summer Reading Program Kick-Off and talked about how to be a hero for animals, connecting to our summer theme of “Every Hero Has a Story.” The department had 391 students in grades kindergarten through twelve register and participate in this year’s summer reading challenge.

“Meet the School Librarians Night” was a new event this year in August and provided an opportunity for students and parents to meet their new K-6 elementary school librarians before the school year began. The Children’s Department and the Reference Staff also provided a tour for the new teachers to the District and highlighted our many resources.

It is our goal to continue to develop new partnerships every year as well as expand on ones already established. In 2015 we continued our partnership with WQED by working with them to develop our very successful Wild Kratts program. We hosted our second WQED Writing program for student writers in kindergarten through third grade. In September we partnered with the Children’s Museum by hosting a week full of Eric Carle programs and activities. One lucky family won four passes to see the Eric Carle exhibit at the Children’s Museum donated by the museum. We also celebrated International Dot Day where we encouraged our youngest patrons to “Make their Mark.” Finally, we were excited to partner with MedExpress for our first ever “Teddy Bear Clinic” program. Children and parents learned the importance of health and wellness at this fun and interactive program.



Youth Services Department



The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) saw some changes in 2015. YAC now has officers voted on by our student patrons - a president, a vice president, a secretary, a public relations advisor, and a media advisor. These students work together with other teens to help plan programs. YAC runs a monthly teen book club with a student selected to lead the discussion. These changes have attracted new members interested in leadership opportunities.

The Youth Services Department offers daily activities for teens including Crafternoons, Ping Pong Challenge, Gamers' Unite, and a Trading Card and Anime Club. On Sunday afternoons, several students meet to play the popular Dungeons and Dragons game.

In addition to our monthly visits to the elementary schools and visits to the high school and middle school, two Life Skills Classes from local high schools came to the library for a field trip. Students toured the building and our Department ran a special program just for them based on the life of Dr. Seuss. Local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops also visited us for special "green" programs to help them earn additional badges.

In September the Youth Services Department was excited to host our third annual Animal Fair. This program welcomed nineteen local animal organizations and over 500 people to our library. Patrons enjoyed a read aloud by Mrs. Oleynik of the newly-released Dr. Seuss book, "What Pet Should I Get," a trick dog presentation, and met some wonderful animals! Because of this program's great success, we plan to make it an annual event.

The Youth Services Department also continued its partnership with Peters Township Community Television as we film our monthly show "Book Buzz." We also partnered with the high school to host a release party for the school's annual literary magazine. Student authors and artists - and their families - came together to celebrate their talents.

Our World War II Discussion Group provided a new experience for our Middle School students this year by inviting them to attend an interactive Pearl Harbor Day Exhibit after school in the Community Room. Students asked questions and interacted with our senior citizens and their various displays while learning more about this important part of history. Plans are underway to organize another mixed-age WWII program in 2016.



Grants and Donations

We acknowledge our generous donors for their support on the Washington County Community Foundation Day of Giving on September 9, 2015.

Campbell Insurance Associates
Carol and Jon Adler
Judith Adler-McNutt
Lisa Briegel
Ruth B. Brosky
Judith F. Caplan
Michael and Natalie Chaido
Frank T. Danyo
Joel and Carol Davis
Harry and Margaret Deitzer
Gustave and Emma Diamond
Robert and Harriet Dilly
The Eckert Family
Wendy and Ken Edgar
John H. and Linda J. Fetchen
Jennifer Garrett and Chris Umbel
Jozica and Robert Gorman
Vera W. Hancher
Steve and Linda Henderson
The Hrabik Family
Mr. and Mrs. H.F. Jones
Carolee and Dan Ketelaar
Charles and Heather Lawton
Pier M. Lee
Jeff and Linda Lengwin
Jacqueline A. Lescott
Bill and Monica Merrell
Charles and Nancy Morreale
Charles and Denise Morrison
Celeste and Richard Nalwasky
John and Lori Obel
Myra and John Oleynik
Myra Oleynik
Cristi Parks
Joe and Paula Phillis
Lions Club of McMurray
Rachel Marie Roney
Stanley and Tanis B. Rososinski
Roumbaksi Family
Karl and Cathy Schmieder
Dylan Shaw
Gregory Sheldon
Tom and Amy Shope
Michael A. Silvestri
Meg, Ken and Joyce Simpson
The Sites Family
Brian and Sherri Smith
William and Nanette Stevens
Cathy and Ed Vargo
Margaret Verlato
William and Angelyn Wahl
Rick and Carrie Weaver
Gary and Cookie White

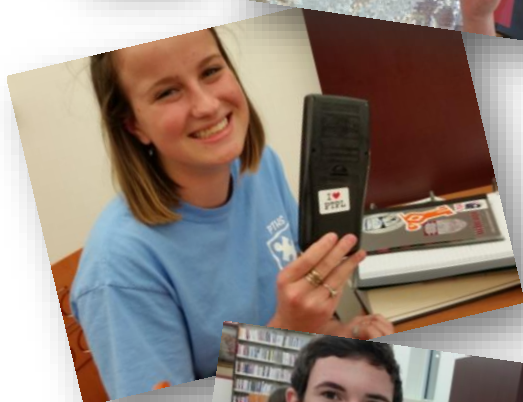
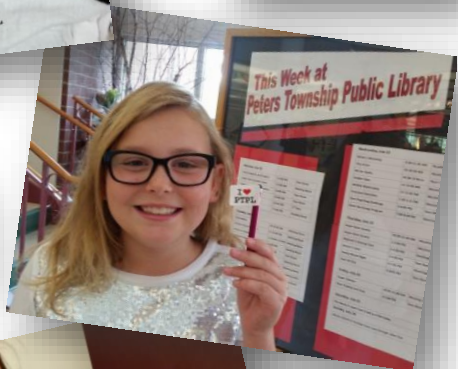
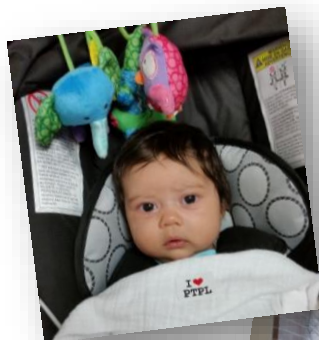
Taste of the Township fundraiser_____	\$37,845
Dr. John and Kathy McNay_____	\$10,000
in memory of Marguerite McNay	
WCCF Day of Giving_____	\$7,512
Ernest Q. Johnson for Charity Trust_____	\$1,100
McMurray Rotary Club_____	\$1,000
BNY Mellon Community Partnership_____	\$1,000
(designated by Mark McFarlin)	
Giant Oaks Garden Club_____	\$700
BNY Mellon Community Partnership_____	\$500
(designated by Linda Rastogi)	
Lexington Court Garden Club_____	\$407
Memorial Park Post 764 VFW_____	\$400
Gilder Lehrman Institute _____	\$400
of American History	
Peters Township Duplicate Bridge Club__	\$330
Peters Township Marathon Bridge Club__	\$300
Beinhauer Family Foundation_____	\$250
Max & Erma's fundraiser_____	\$212

During a revitalization campaign in the last quarter of 2015, we welcomed 38 new individuals and families as members to the Friends of the Peters Township Public Library.

Judith Adler-McNutt	Diane Allen
Bernadette Berestecky	Carol Bookmiller
Beth and Ronald Burr	Karen Buzzatto
Joan Curran	Margaret Deitzer
Samanth & Aanya Duwuru	Richard Easton
Jennifer Garrett	Denise Gordon
Linda Grimm	Judi Heaps
Linda Henderson	Hillary Hindman
The Hullihan Family	Lucy Johnson
The Maher Family	The Manzari Family
The Merrell Family	The Obel Family
Myra & John Oleynik	Barbara & Ed Peresie
Nancy Rabold	The Rodgers Family
Barb Schnabel	Mary Stewart
Mary Ellen Ulicny	Chris Umbel
Mary Ann Wesolowski	Bev White
The Wysocki Family	Linda Yonek



Looking Ahead to 2016



The library became an official Township department on July 1, 2015. This change in status means that much of the administrative work once performed by library staff is now handled by township administration, allowing library staff to focus on continuing to provide outstanding library programs, resources and services for the community. To that end, one of the goals for 2016 is the design and launch of a new library website. The new site will be simple and easy to navigate, and will highlight our collections, provide a platform to easily schedule programs, and prominently offer e-learning databases.

From February 14 – 21 the library will offer, for the first time ever, a week of “Fine Amnesty” during Random Acts of Kindness Week. All fines for overdue PTPL materials returned that week will be waived. In addition, fines on PTPL materials previously returned but not paid for will also be waived if a patron visits, e-mails, or calls to clear their late fees and update their record. Patrons will also be offered a 50% discount on lost or damaged items and lost WAGGIN cards will be replaced free of charge.

Mrs. Oleynik reported that she will be collaborating regularly with the Peters Township School Librarians to promote the materials and services that we offer to their students free of charge.

Also coming in 2016...

- A partnership with the Southwest PA Literacy Council
- “Anytime Learning” online videos to feature various databases
- Enhanced Children’s Makerspace
- Vending machine installed in café.
- Two “Square Register Stands” to allow payments via credit card will be installed at the front desk.
- New lobby lighting and indoor directional signage throughout the library
- Mounted flat screen monitors above the circulation desk will inform visitors of upcoming events, programs and resources



126,049

Total Collection

**That's almost 6 items
for every resident!**



359,981

Total Circulation

**Patrons saved \$5 million+
by borrowing from us!**



184,896

Visitors to Library

**We would fill Heinz Field
to capacity nearly 3 times!**



24,468

**Library
Cardholders**

73,620

**Visits to
Library Website**

21,838

**Patrons used
Library Computers**

16,440

**Questions
answered**

2,964

**Patrons used
study rooms**



20,901

**Children attended
630 programs**



2,156

**Teens attended
379 programs**



4,283

**Adults attended
331 programs**

Stay connected! Follow us:

