

**BECAUSE OVER
211,000 PEOPLE
CAME THROUGH
OUR DOORS
IN 2018.**



**LIBRARIES
TRANSFORM**
AN INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAN
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**2018
Annual
Report**





2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

MORE THAN
\$5.5 million
dollars

Value of services and resources
provided to the community

211,299



Visitors to the library
with most days serving
over 500 people



1632
New cards
this year!

19,571
registered users

336,025

items borrowed



3,537
volunteer hours



2,107

teens attended
385 programs



8,684

adults attended
729 programs



22,511

children attended
941 programs



20,000+
questions answered



database searches

6,151



persons used
study rooms

BECAUSE
TEAMWORK MAKES
THE DREAM WORK.



As a PA Forward Gold Star Library, we were proud to continue opening books, doors, and minds for our 61st year in Peters Township. *Do libraries still matter?* At their best, libraries have the ability to transform lives and add value to their communities. In this report, “Because” statements have been included to show some of the many reasons the Peters Township Public Library has continued to thrive as a center for lifelong learning in 2018. The “Because” statements are an essential reminder of the ever-increasing, valuable role libraries play in a changing world.

Dedicated assistant director Sue Miller, our hard-working Peters Township Library staff, loyal Peters Township Library Board, energetic members of The Peters Township Library Foundation, and committed Peters Township Library volunteers are each an essential part of the “PTPL Dream Team.” Working together, we were able to offer library patrons access to over 15 different library-sponsored clubs each month on a variety of interests – from the popular book clubs to a Stamp Club to a World War II Discussion Group. From hosting nationally-acclaimed author Tim O’Brien to creating impressive videos featuring local residents sharing their Vietnam and Senior Memories, it is clear that teamwork is essential and part of who we are.

This “PTPL Dream Team” collaborated with other Peters Township municipal departments, the Peter Township School District, Peter Township Character Counts, Peters Township Chamber of Commerce, McMurray Art League, McMurray Rotary Club, Lexington Court Garden Club, Giant Oaks Garden Club, PA Forward, WQED, Still Remembered, the Veterans Breakfast Club, Washington County Commissioners, Washington County Tourism, the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, area preschools, local authors, and neighboring businesses to offer 729 adult programs, 385 young adult programs and 941 programs for children in the past year.



My current e-mail signature includes a quote from T. S. Eliot that reads, “Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.” I hope, as you review this past year with me, you will agree and see that together everyone does achieve more.

Best,

Myra

Myra R. Oleynik
Library Director

**BECAUSE A FORUM
CAN EXIST OUTSIDE
OF ROME.**

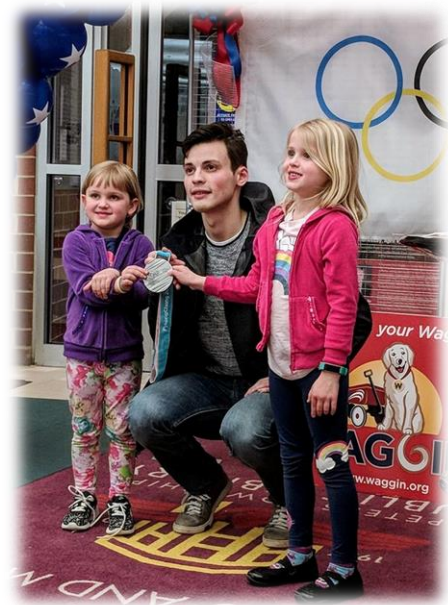


LIBRARIES TRANSFORM

Last year, we welcomed over 211,000 adults, teens, and children through our doors with the mission to understand and meet their needs and to present opportunities that would positively impact their lives. Whether browsing a new book display, participating in a discussion or doing research, our goal was to be a forum for knowledge, awareness, and personal growth.

With the rising suicide rate in Pennsylvania – a 30% increase since 1999 – the Chair of the Board of Directors for Prevent Suicide PA shared three steps to help prevent suicide at the first *Question. Persuade. Respond* public library program in the state. Nearly everyone in attendance had lost someone they knew or loved to suicide.

Inspiring an audience of over 250 adults and children, 2018 Olympic Silver Medalist speed skater and hometown hero, John Henry Krueger, shared his account of hard work and family support resulting in his athletic achievements at our “Welcome Home” celebration. It was a joy to witness the community pride and many smiles that surrounded him as he patiently signed autographs and posed for countless photos.



In partnership with Vitalant, the library hosted four blood drives and provided 402 blood products to local hospitals. *“In western Pennsylvania, we must collect blood from 450 donors each day to supply patients’ needs, but we fall short of that goal, forcing us to import blood from centers outside our area,”* says Alice Bonim, Donor Recruitment

Representative at Vitalant (formerly Central Blood Bank). *“By hosting regular blood drives, the Peters Township Public Library helps us establish a solid base of donors and encourages new donors to give it a try.”*



Helping to integrate adults with special needs, we welcomed our friends from Achieva twice a week to enjoy activities with us like gardening, crafts, special projects, and reading, of course! Erin, the Community Integration Specialist for Achieva

commented, *“We feel respected, loved, and appreciated for who we are when we visit the library. When someone says ‘Hi!’, that’s such a plus for us!”*

As millennials struggled with the transition to adulthood, our Adulting 101 series offered expert help with tasks like budgeting, meal preparation, communication and interview preparation, and clothing care basics. A participant shared, *"It made me aware of how my verbal and non-verbal communications are two of the most important aspects of my personality."*



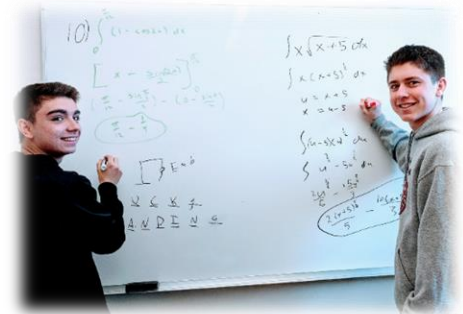
The library was the site of the first School Safety Public Roundtable in PA for local lawmakers, police chiefs and school superintendents. Senator David G. Argall, Chairman, Senate Majority Policy Committee, facilitated the roundtable discussion along with Senator Guy Reschenthaler, Senator Camera Bartolotta, and Senator Mike Regan. The Roundtable featured a brief summary of recently passed legislation, pending proposals that are awaiting action by the General Assembly, and a focus on new ideas and school safety solutions from local participants.



We went out to our community with pop-up tents and smiling faces to share library resources at the 2018 Senior Games, Community Day, and the Peters Township Farmer's Market. Volunteers delivered library materials to area assisted living facilities and homebound readers.

Over 6,000 people used our study rooms to collaborate, memorize, cram for exams, take conference calls, hold small group meetings, practice English language skills, take online classes, prepare for interviews, receive assistance with tax forms, and so much more.

We are hopeful that by intentionally planning and providing for these and many other opportunities we served as catalysts for personal change.



BECAUSE TEXT IS FINE, BUT, SERIOUSLY, PEOPLE ALSO NEED TO USE REAL SENTENCES.



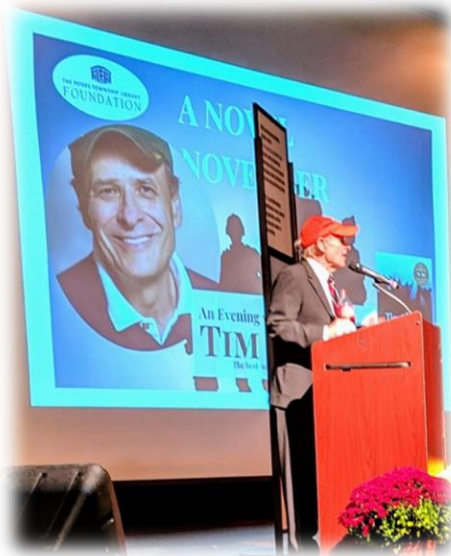
The year also brought many fresh opportunities for book lovers of all ages to engage in reading. We began in January with the 2018 Reader Harder Challenge created by Book Riot. Presented with 24 different reading challenges, our staff and community members stretched their comfort zones with new topics, titles, authors, and genres. In addition, our readers voted from a list of 100 nominees for the best-loved novel in America during the PBS *Great American Read*. Our local winning choice was *Gone with the Wind*, and the national winner was *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

In June, we gathered 20 local authors to share their talents at

Read Local/Eat Local. Designed to encourage reading books by authors from southwestern Pennsylvania, more than 400 persons attended the event and spoke with authors, purchased books, and enjoyed lunch at three different food trucks. We are already organizing Read Local 2019 featuring Marie Benedict, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Only Woman in the Room*, to kick off the day's events.



The Peters Township Library Foundation's 2nd Novel November welcomed a crowd of over 500



to Peters Township High School auditorium to hear Tim O'Brien speak about his body of work, including *The Things They Carried*, named by *The New York Times* as one of the twenty-two best books of the last quarter century. A veteran attending the event commented, "Twenty-four years in the Marines with five deployments, I wasn't sure what to expect, but what a wonderful event last night... we are so fortunate! Not an easy topic and often just not discussed, but I appreciated how Tim weaved "humanity" into his stories. Thank you so much, and please keep up the great work!" The Foundation is preparing to host Pulitzer-prize winning author, Anna Quindlen, for the 3rd Novel November on Thursday, November 7, 2019.

Three library-sponsored book clubs met monthly and provided readers with lively discussion and thought-provoking debate. To help us learn more about what the community was reading, volunteers from The Peters Township Library Foundation created and maintained the Area Book Club display on the first floor. Browsers can view the reading lists from 25 local book clubs for help in choosing what book to read next.

Drawing inspiration from bookstores that present books face-out, a new display wall on the first floor highlights recently published fiction and non-fiction. It has become a popular area for book browsing. More than 8000 new items became part of our library collection in 2018 including bestsellers, award winners, and popular requests.



Our volunteers organized the Daily Used Book Sale in the lobby which put hundreds of gently loved books into the hands of readers of all ages at bargain prices year-round.

Teens had their own version of the Read Harder Challenge for the year, and we provided them with easy access to their assigned PTHS Summer Reading Lists with hard copies, pre-loaded Kindles, audio and eBook versions of their required reading.

Using their free WAGGIN cards, library visitors checked out 238,157 books, audiobooks, magazines, and digital items in 2018 –an 8.67% increase over the previous year.



The Peters Township Public Library recognizes that reading builds empathy, exercises the imagination and gives readers the freedom to meet new people and navigate the world and beyond.

Whether holding a book in hand or downloading a digital version, Peters Township continues to thrive as a community of readers, and the library supplied them with materials in whatever format they liked best.



Libraries today are so much more than books, and the Peters Township Public Library continues to promote learning in many unique ways. Following the popular trend of adventure games, the Youth Services Department created a Harry Potter-themed escape room in July. Teens worked in teams to search for clues to breakout of the Teen Room based on their knowledge of the Harry Potter novels by J.K.



Rowling. After the popular success of that event, the Youth Services Department created another escape room for Hogwarts fans over the age of 21 in January 2019.



The national “buzz” about the musical, *Hamilton*, prompted audition workshops at the library, Hamilton programming, and our very own PTPL Hamiltweens onstage performance of “Hamiltunes,” a community sing-along, in the Peters Township Amphitheater on Community Day.

The library continues to rival the larger venues in downtown Pittsburgh with a reputation for outstanding educational and entertaining events.

Over the past 12 months the library hosted programming featuring senior officers from the Army War College, a former German Defense Minister, the Swedish Ambassador, an Olympic medalist, historians, professors, and even a Town Hall event with representatives of the German Embassy with industry leaders of the Pittsburgh region. Topics ranged from Transnational Security Threats, the Vietnam War, and Alexander Hamilton to the local history of the Whiskey Rebellion.



For the culturally inclined, we offered musical performances by the “Acoustic Shadows of the Blue and Gray”, Josh and Gab, the Jubilee Ringers from Trinity United Methodist Church, and Val Williams with the Abbey Players. the McMurray Art League and the Western PA Lensshooters provided displays of their work, and the annual “The Gallery” exhibition featuring photographs from Peters Township High School students, attracted large crowds of students, parents, and residents of the area.

The library is a space to create, converse, clip, and collect. Our 3D printers hummed for over 450 hours, and our sewing and embroidery machines prepared costumes, towels, and even a quilt. The Spanish Conversation Circle and German Meet-Up shared stories with native speakers or those curious to practice a new language. The Coupon Club volunteers met twice monthly to gather coupons, and the Stamp Club poured over collections from around the world.

Our Youth Services Department was completely repainted and bright new carpeting was installed. Children gathered in the Family Activity Center to enjoy child-friendly furniture, educational toys, and an Everbright Light Board. In addition to lots of story times, WQED family nights, and special holiday events, families received help in choosing a preschool at our annual Preschool-A-Palooza, played together at our Play-K table, attended Paws for Reading programs to read to a therapy dog, and learned about caring for their own pets at our annual



Fall Animal Fair. Parents joined us for an evening with Dr. Kristin Mary Hannibal from UPMC Children’s Hospital to learn more about crossing the bridge from home to pre-school to kindergarten. Our “Libraries Rock” Summer Quest took kids, tweens, and teens on adventures beyond books and into the world of music and sounds. New programs like Pop’N Tots explored stories, finger plays, rhythm, and the five senses.

Who would expect to visit the library to register to vote, get your blood pressure checked, or to play miniature golf in a 9-hole indoor course amidst the book stacks? Yes, it all happened here at your library...your community’s living room.

During tax season, a steady supply of state and federal tax forms was maintained by reference staff and volunteers, and staff at the Circulation Desk fielded calls for AARP tax-prep appointments. Nearly 200 tax returns were completed in 2018 by AARP volunteers with the library serving as an official Tax-Aide Program location. Cindy, a volunteer with the AARP, commented, *“I just know some of them are so grateful... I see their income and wonder how they make ends meet. I can’t imagine how they would afford paying a tax preparer.”*

Our wi-fi network reached 21,407 mobile devices in the library where visitors can access the *Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal* online within the building. Others visited the library website to download over 25,000 songs from Freegal. Movie fans borrowed DVDs or streamed classic and indie films through Kanopy for a staggering total of over 64,000 checkouts! So, whether you are on-the-go or able to linger, the Peters Township Public Library is truly a venue for learning, a civic anchor and a welcoming place to grow in our community.

**BECAUSE
LIBRARIANS HAVE
BEEN HELPING
PEOPLE
FACT-CHECK SINCE
FOREVER.**

**LIBRARIES
TRANSFORMSM**
AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM.ORG

The library was open for a total of 340 days this year, served 500+ people on 230 days, and loaned 500+ items on 294 days. We take our role of helping others seriously - library staff answered over 8000 reference questions and nearly 13,000 information inquiries. We welcomed 1632 new card holders, bringing our current number of registered patrons to 19,571. Our new "Book-a-Librarian" service offers one-hour one-on-one assistance with tech questions both large and small.



Because learning happens anytime, we offered four new online resources this year: Science Flix, Novelist, Niche Academy tutorials, and a unique digital streaming movie platform called Kanopy where new content is added weekly ranging from popular films to documentaries and thoughtful entertainment for children.

We shared pertinent information with our 8098 e-newsletter subscribers, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram users, IN Peters Magazine readers, and visitors to our responsive/mobile-friendly library website. Our e-resources were available free with a WAGGIN library card 24/7 and resulted in over 45,000 sessions.

We remain committed to providing information and programming that relate to the five basic literacies of the Pennsylvania Library Association's 21st Century Literacy Initiative, PA Forward.



Looking ahead to 2019

We are looking forward to two Capital Improvement projects in 2019. Our first floor restrooms will be updated in the spring and a new library roof will be installed later this summer. Other library projects will include updating our website, improving our interior sound system, new lounge furniture and lighting in the Teen Room, new furniture and shelving in the Tween Area, a new reference desk on the second floor, and new directional signage throughout our Youth Services Department.



Upcoming events for 2019

Visit ptlibrary.org for our complete program schedule.

CIVIC AND SOCIAL LITERACY

Global Challenges and U.S. National Security - February 14
The Gallery Photography Exhibit - March 7 thru March 21
9/11 and the Heroes of Flight 93 - April 11
Chernobyl: The World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster - April 25
Hitler and the Hapsburgs - May 30
75th Anniversary of D-Day Exhibit - June 6

HEALTH LITERACY

Vitalant Blood Drive - March 15
Family Meal Planning - March 26

INFORMATION LITERACY

Backyard Wilderness Interactive Exhibit - February through April
Backyard Wilderness Bio Blitz (with PT Parks/Rec) - April 14

FINANCIAL LITERACY

AARP Tax-Aide Site and Federal Tax Display
Money Smart Week - April 1 to 6

BASIC LITERACY

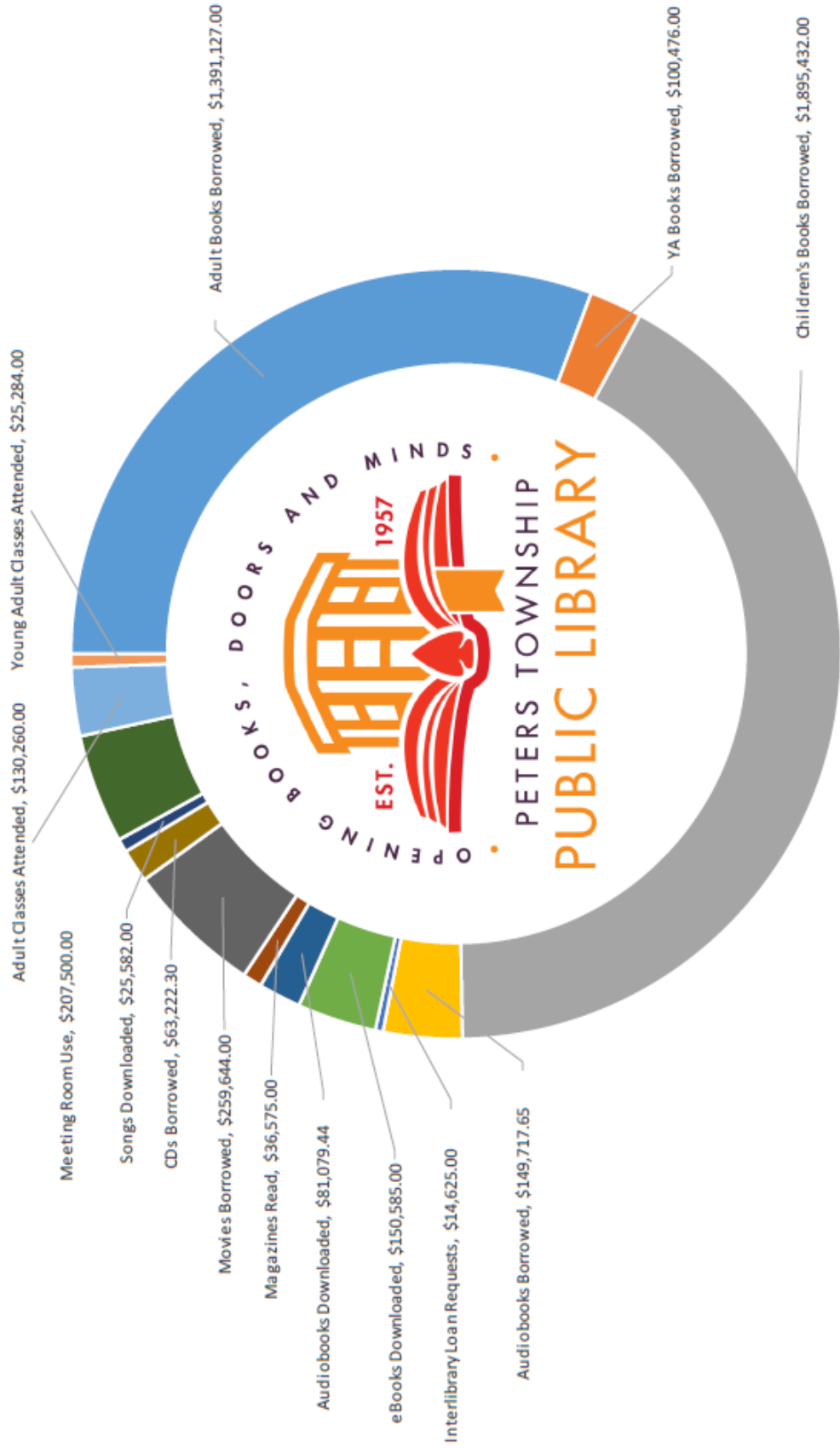
2nd Read Local/Eat Local with Marie Benedict - June 22
3rd Novel November with Anna Quindlen - November 7

“When we moved here and didn’t know a soul the library became our comfort zone.” ~ Nancy



Value of Library Services to the Peters Township Community

- 2018 -
\$5,506,016.09



The Value of Library Services was created through the use of the American Library Association's Library Value Calculator. More information, including explanations of the values, are available at: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/advocacyuniversity/toolkit/makingthecase/library_calculator.