

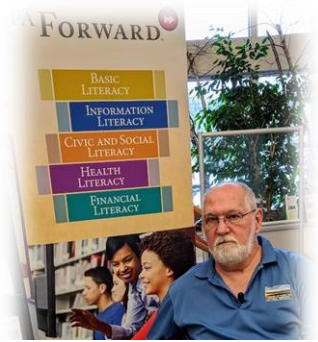
PTPL May Library Director's Report for April 2019

Library Director's Video Link <https://animoto.com/play/0sSrl81nqppprozAWQzi5A>

The 2019 theme of National Library Week was Libraries = Strong Communities and we couldn't agree more. We proudly celebrated that week and month with



thought-provoking programs and fun opportunities for our community to win prize baskets just for using their library cards. Two lucky winners each enjoyed snazzy book socks, an LED rechargeable book light, book magnets, and reading journal. Our special program that week held on 4/11 with flight controller, Mahlon Fuller, highlighted the Heroes of Flight 93 and his firsthand experiences in the Pittsburgh Air Traffic Control



Mahlon Fuller – Heroes of Flight 93

Tower on 9/11. We arranged for him to also speak the following day to the 8th graders at Peters Township Middle School. Opeka Auto and CFS Bank were our generous community sponsors. The following week, local resident and professional photographer, Michael Haritan shared stories and memorabilia from his two visits to Chernobyl. This equally interesting evening gathered an audience of 123 on the 33rd anniversary (April 26, 1986) of the world's worst nuclear disaster. Both programs brought these events directly to our community with touching personal accounts that fostered new understanding.



Michael Haritan – Chernobyl Disaster



Speaking of Libraries = Strong Communities, we thanked our community of library volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation Week in April for their countless hours of service to the library with a delicious luncheon provided by Girl Friday Catering. The event was co-hosted by the Peters Township Library Foundation whose tireless volunteer efforts also provide us with financial support and special programming for our community.

To promote Civic & Social Literacy in our community, we welcomed a member of the 2020 Census Team to our lobby to interact with the public and provide information on upcoming job opportunities for the 2020 Census. We are scheduled to become a training site for 2020 Census



5th Grade Battle of the Books Night

workers later this year. We also provided a table staffed with helpful volunteers this month to assist eligible voters with voter registration procedures. And for the youngest members of our community, our Youth Services Department provided early literacy visits to Bambinos, Bowers School, and Tender Shepherd pre-schools along with after-school visits to Bower Hill and Pleasant Valley K-Plus classrooms. And speaking of our school community, we were thrilled to partner again with Meg Owens, library media specialist at McMurray Elementary School for her 5th Grade Battle of the Books. Ms. Patty, Ms. Linda and I served as judges and our entire Youth Services Department assisted Mrs. Owens in creating lots of trivia questions for this year's title selections.



And speaking of our school community, we were thrilled to partner again with Meg Owens, library media specialist at McMurray Elementary School for her 5th Grade Battle of the Books. Ms. Patty, Ms. Linda and I served as judges and our entire Youth Services Department assisted Mrs. Owens in creating lots of trivia questions for this year's title selections.

The 100th Anniversary of Children’s Book Week began in April in Youth Services with a special visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog, Skyping with children’s author, Lori Degman, pen-pal writing with author, Jim O’Brien, and cooking giant pancakes with Miss Linda and her Book Cooks. Two huge Easter Egg Hunts and even a magical Unicorn Party were also part of our April celebrations.



Author, Jim O'Brien, offering writing tips



Our Bioblitz Adventure in Peterswood Park

Our Bioblitz hosted by Ms. Sydney and Ms. Shannon connected families to our PT Community Rec Center and Arrowhead Trail for a Sunday afternoon on April 14 of family fun to explore local plants, flowers and wildlife. This concluded our 12-week Backyard Wilderness programming and introduced those in attendance to the iNaturalist app and how to become citizen scientists in our community.

Speaking of scientists, our PTHS Spark student-led April program introduced young girls to viewing plant cells under the microscope. Our PTPL neighbors at Studio Make also visited us with an activity for creative printing fun inspired by the popular book, *The Dot*, by Peter Reynolds.



PTHS SPARK Club

Our monthly Spanish Conversation Circle gathered 12 members of our community to brush up on their Spanish while engaging in conversation with Jenny Greiff, our resident facilitator and native speaker who was born in Colombia. Earth Day celebrations brought Make & Take Succulent Terrariums, free sunflower seeds and the return of our annual Jigsaw Puzzle Swap.



Studio Make



Noreen Balach with her Character Counts Award

We were delighted to congratulate Noreen Balach, our caring custodian, who received well-deserved special recognition at the Spring PT Character Counts Awards Ceremony. Thank you for all you do Noreen to keep our PTPL in great shape year-round! We’re looking forward to our new restrooms and new roof construction coming in May.

National Library Workers Day celebrated all library professionals on April 9th for their expertise and leadership skills in transforming lives and communities. This day also reminds the public that library workers serve as community compasses on the path of lifelong learning. Libraries work because we love our work.

