

December Library Director's Report for November 2019

Library Director's Video Report Link <https://animoto.com/play/BDnN2Sbyu2oPyu6znNdGhg>

Oh, what a night! We welcomed best-selling author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Anna Quindlen, to our 3rd Novel November at our off-site location at Peters Township High School on November 7th. We were thrilled to welcome an



Local area book club members

audience of nearly 500 people this year. It's funny how reading is a solitary activity that connects you to so many others. The PT Library Foundation was very appreciative of the support of the PTPL staff who sold tickets, answered questions, helped with VIP book choices and so much more. Special thanks to Carrie Weaver once again for designing our first-class marketing materials and press-releases that reached far beyond Peters Township. The PT Library Foundation and our Novel November team of volunteers tended to every detail to create an extraordinary event for our community. Our Public Works Department also helped greatly by transporting many items for our stage décor both to and from the high school. Anna also visited the PT Library prior to her evening event and

was impressed by its beauty and charmed by Gizmo, our library turtle. Anna then visited with our VIP guests in the PTHS cafeteria who were treated to passed hors d'oeuvres by chef, Garnett Livingston, and the acoustic guitar music of Dan Baker.



Maura Kelly and Anna Quindlen



VIP Reception Volunteers

After a moving performance by Room 100, Anna was interviewed by Maura Kelly, president of the Peters Township Library Foundation. She shared her wit and wisdom on writing and wove stories from her many novels into the evening's conversation. Anna Quindlen also underscored the importance of local government and that having a strong library contributes to a strong community. We also wish to thank our generous sponsors, our community of readers and local area book clubs who gathered to make this Novel November one to remember!

We launched a new library-sponsored club this month with the debut of our PTPL French Conversation Club. C'est magnifique! They will meet the second Thursday evening of the month and now join our German and Spanish Conversation Clubs in providing opportunities to brush up on foreign languages through casual conversations with native speakers. We also welcomed the robotics team, Titanium Titans, who shared a series of STEM-related programs for those who love to tinker.



Titanium Titans

November also hailed plenty of local good news. Did you know that for every dollar you spend to "shop small," approximately 67 cents stay in the local community? For this reason and to promote our local library neighborhood businesses, we partnered with them on Small Business Saturday, November 30th, by offering raffle tickets to shoppers who showed us their receipts from participating businesses at the Library Services Desk to win a PLAY LOCAL prize basket. We thank our local sponsors who also offered contributions to our two generous prize baskets.



Librarians love cardigans and to honor local hero, Mister Rogers, and World Kindness Day we wore ours. In the spirit of #PT4Kindness and #RachelsChallengePT,

we also collected extra Halloween candy, Toys for Tots, PT Food Pantry items, and gently used clothing and toys for Washington County charities. We thank our generous community for donating to these local giving projects.



“Sadness is big when you’re small,” and November was also Children’s Grief Awareness Month. We featured resources from our Scarlett’s Sunshine Section in addition to online resources to support those in need during these difficult times. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 1 out of every 20 children age 15 and younger will suffer the loss of one or both parents.



Our partnership with WQED provided us with a visit from Pittsburgh Puppet Theater for a special “Tales to Tunes” puppet show. We had 58 people in attendance and later inspired our youngest visitors to put on their own puppet shows in our new wooden puppet theater donated by Ms. Linda Esposito. Our new Block Party Corner has also prompted lots of new creative play among parents and their children.



In other news from Youth Services, we hosted our 2nd annual indoor PTPL Mini-Golf Course with 166 participants this year. Ms. Sydney coordinated 9 holes of fabulous family-friendly competition. We were honored to have Mr. Paul Lauer join in the fun with his “Taming the Dragon” hole which by the way was a flaming favorite! Our staff used their creativity to design the other 8 holes from Star Wars to Recycle-Mania.

Our November Jigsaw Puzzle Swap had 51 participants who dropped off 269+ puzzles! They’re looking forward to keeping busy this winter and can’t wait for spring when they’ll be ready to trade for more.



The McMurray Art League showcased their vast artwork collection for one week in our lobby and sponsored an Artisan’s Saturday Market with hand-crafted items for sale on our second floor. Their membership consists of 100 talented local artists.

In our efforts to preserve local Peters Township history, Margaret Deitzer continues to work diligently with a team of volunteers and an archivist to organize the collections in our Local History Room. She arranged for a visit this month with long-term residents who grew up in the village of nearby Hackett to share their memories. It was a truly an enjoyable morning listening to their stories of the good old days. The Peters Township Library Foundation plans to

coordinate the recording of some of these stories to add to our growing oral local history collection of Senior Memories.

The “Hackett Boys” shared priceless family memories of Hackett School, the Eclipse Mine, McConnaughey Company Store of Venetia and the John Telban Store. Can you picture these gentlemen as boys piled atop the broken hoods of old cars sled-riding down the hillsides of Hackett? They sure did and we heard all about it!

Pictured around the table from left to right: George Leach, Charles (Chuck) Telban, Tony Mikec, his brother, Tom Mikec, Sam Cushey, Ron Griffith, and Jim Leslie.

