

2011 Annual Report



TECHNOLOGY • PERFORMING ARTS • SENIORS • BOOKS AND READING • LOCAL AUTHORS • GREEN LIVING • TEENS • PLAYAWAYS



eREADERS • BOOKS CLUBS • WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL • KEENAGE KORNER • UNIVERSAL CLASS COURSES • FRIENDS OF LIBRARY



PA HUMANITIES COUNCIL • TASTE OF THE TOWNSHIP • TECHNOLOGY THURSDAYS • PATRONS • CHILDREN • SUMMER READING



BUILDING CONNECTIONS

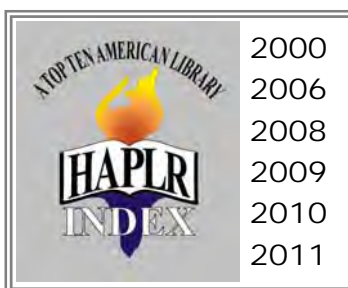
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724.941.9430 • <http://www.ptlibrary.org>



Peters Township Public Library Board Members

(L to R) 1st row: Judith Adler-McNutt, Secretary; Pier M. Lee, Library Director; Carol M. Adler-Vice Chairman; Margaret A. Verlato, Treasurer.

2nd row: Richard F. Easton, Chairman; Mark R. McFarlin, Myra Oleynik, and George Dvorznak.



Dear Friends,

With a theme of “Building Connections” for this year’s Annual Report, we plan to highlight for you the many ways the Peters Township Public Library connects with our patrons and our world.

New technology helped us to connect with our library users 24/7, including our expanding collection of eBook readers, more electronic titles available through our digital collection, free downloadable music, new online sites for all ages, Facebook and Twitter accounts, and other electronic resources. Equally important were traditional library connections made with books, magazines, story-times for children and programs for all ages. The challenge in 2011 was to strike a balance between supporting the multitude of new technologies available while also sustaining the core resources library users rely on daily. By maintaining this balance, the library continues to offer something for everyone.

We are thrilled that the library has once again received national recognition by being included in the “Top 100 libraries” list from the Hennen’s American Public Library Ratings, making this the sixth year the library has received this honor.

The entire Library Board and Staff offer their sincere thanks to Peters Township Council, a very supportive community of library patrons, and our dedicated volunteers and donors for another successful year of growth and service.

*The Peters Township Public Library
Board and Staff*

Mission Statement

In support of an informed citizenry, Peters Township Public Library provides printed and recorded materials, programs, equipment, and staff services to meet the community's educational, professional, and recreational needs. The library strives to enrich and empower every patron by fostering a love of learning.

CONNECTING WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

A New Year, New Gear

Technology Fair held in January featured demonstrations of the latest tools in the library.



Staff in the Children's Department demonstrated LeapFrog Tag books, Interactive Books, and the online BookFlix literary resource. In the Young Adult Department, newly acquired devices such as the iPod Touch, iPad, and Sony eReader were available for attendees to sample, and Reference Department staff offered demonstrations of Kindles, Pandigital eReaders and the online Universal Class Courses.



The **Listen While You Walk** program encouraged patrons to check out selections from our PLAYAWAY Collection, all-in-one audiobooks. Each Thursday morning, staff and volunteers led a group of walkers on the Arrowhead Trail. Participants learned the options for listening to PLAYAWAYS while walking, running, exercising at a gym or just working around their homes.



Patrons experienced reading electronic books by using one of the **20 Pandigital** or **12 Kindle eReaders** available for check out. For our younger patrons, a **Nook Color eReader** is located at Children's Reference Desk.

CONNECTING WITH THE PERFORMING ARTS

Tom Atkins, veteran actor of the stage, screen and TV, discussed his 44-year life in the theater at the library in February. He reminisced about his portrayal of Art Rooney, Sr., the legendary founding owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers franchise, in his one-man stage production of "The Chief."



Tracie Yorke, a professional dancer, ethnologist, and Pennsylvania Humanities Council presenter, provided an energetic program about Carnival celebrations to kickoff National Library Week in April. This exciting, colorful event welcomed over 100 guests.





Scott Blasey, lead singer, songwriter, and guitarist for Pittsburgh-based rock band *The Clarks* gave an outstanding performance in the library lobby in May. Over 350 fans attended Blasey's fun, family-friendly concert.

CONNECTING WITH OUR SENIOR PATRONS

A **Senior Space** Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held in April with over 50 guests, including Washington County Commissioner Bracken Burns, State Senator John Pippy, and State Representative John Maher. The event featured a bagpipe performance, vocal selections from local high school students, and a program about healthy living. The Senior Space, named the "KEENage Korner", offers displays for upcoming library programs of interest to seniors, informational brochures and fliers, puzzles, and games.



At the Pennsylvania Library Association Conference in October, the library was awarded an AARP 2011 Excellence Award for the **Technology Thursdays** program which provides technological assistance for older adults.



During the year, we began a program series with **AARP**. Through their Financial Security and Consumer Issues Bureau, we presented a program on becoming more knowledgeable consumers: how to become informed shoppers at the gas pumps, at the local deli and even with grocery shopping.

We partnered again with AARP in November—Veterans Month—to present AARP's Driver Safety Program at no charge to all Veterans and their spouses to thank them for their dedication and commitment to service to their country.

CONNECTING WITH BOOKS AND READING

An **Adult Summer Reading Challenge** was offered this year. Eighty-two individuals participated, with a total of 820 library books read!

Young adults took part in the "**You Are Here**" Summer Reading Program. Teens participated in activities that took them around the world, "visiting" countries such as Japan, India and France. Over the nine weeks, attendance at our programs reached almost 1,000 teens.

One of our most exciting and well-attended events is the annual Children's Summer Reading Program. This year's theme was "**The Library—Your Passport to the World!**" Over 800 members signed up and collectively read more than 17,000 hours – our largest participation ever! Additionally, 6,000 patrons attended a variety of programs and events during the nine weeks of Summer Reading.



CONNECTING WITH LOCAL AUTHORS

Ms. Elsie Henderson, longtime and last cook for the Kaufmann family at Fallingwater visited the library in November. Henderson spoke about her time at Fallingwater, meeting such well known personalities as Senators John Heinz and Ted Kennedy, Isaac Stern, and Frank Lloyd Wright, and favorite recipes of the Kaufmann family.



In one December weekend, the library hosted two book signing events. **Dr. James McMurtry Longo**, professor of education and chair of the Education Department of Washington and Jefferson College, presented a fascinating program discussing his recently published book **From Classroom to White House** to over 40 individuals.



The following day, Myra Olenik, Nancy Hobbs and Kristen Sacco, all educators in the Peters Township School District, introduced their newly published book **Personalized Reading: It's a Piece of Pie**.

The library was host to five other local author visits including Doug Oster, Patty Kreamer, Susan Castriota, Alison Kartevold, and Ceane O'Hanlon-Lincoln.



CONNECTING WITH GREEN LIVING

The library's GO Green Club offered the community a **Green Fair** in March. Nineteen local vendors provided information and products that focused on environmentally-aware and sustainable living. The event featured

three speakers – Doug Oster, Dr. Candy DeBerry, and Faith Starr. They shared details about organic lawn care, native plants in the garden, and methods to make your home healthy. Nearly 150 individuals attended the all-day fair.



In August the Go Green Club and Cooking Club teamed up to host the library's 2nd Annual Potluck Dinner. Participants were asked to provide a dish that incorporated local foods or produce from their own gardens. Liz Kanche from American HealthCare Group discussed "Eating Locally in Western Pennsylvania."



In the spring, the Children's Department introduced *Bookflix* and *TrueFlix*, which allow users to read or listen to interactive eBooks either at library computers or from their personal computer. Using a variety of multi-media tools, both sites encourage literacy for beginning readers ages 3-8 and students in grades 3-5.



The Children's Department received a \$5,000 grant furnished by the Library Services and Technology Act to purchase videoconferencing equipment. The PTPL videoconferencing system will enable us to expand our educational program offerings exponentially, allowing for author visits, virtual field trips and connections with other libraries and organizations from around the world.

The excitement and anticipation leading up to the release of the LeapFrog LeapPad Explorer in August led us to purchase 20 devices for the collection. The LeapPad Explorer contains a built-in camera, and a library of 100+ games and activities, and innovative apps that

inspire creativity and turn reading into fun! For those patrons who already own a LeapPad Explorer, the library has also purchased three copies of each of the 24 Leapster Explorer games available for checkout separately.

Throughout the year, the Children's Department actively planned and developed programming; offering expanded sessions of current classes and providing more community outreach than years past.

We continued outreach to local organizations such as McMurray Day Care and KinderCare and added programs for Extended Day Services at Bower Hill, Pleasant Valley and McMurray. We provided a holiday outreach program for the parents and children of the Weavertown Environmental Group, attended by 350 community members.



Our first American Girl Tea Party was attended by nearly 50 girls with their favorite American Girl doll in tow to enjoy food, games and crafts. Our Fancy Nancy story-time, Dragons story-time and our 30th Anniversary Indiana Jones party were popular too. Over 500 patrons attended our Tree Lighting and Children's Holiday Party and nearly 100 children joined our Easter-Egg Hunt and story-time.



The Children's Department is looking forward to enhancing our collection, adding new and exciting programs and further merging our Children's and Young Adult Departments.

During 2011, the Young Adult Department increased programming, added a variety of new resources to our existing collection and collaborated with students and teachers at the Peters Township High School and within our community.

Young Adult programs continued to expand, with brand new programs created in conjunction with our active teen patrons.



The Young Adult Department hosted popular programs including Anime Club, *Pokémon* and *Super Smash Bros. Brawl* tournaments and National Library Week's "Ton of Books" contest. Teen volunteer service also increased in 2011.



Two notable programs recommended by our teens were our first Poetry Slam in July and our Open Mic Night in November. These programs were a great opportunity for teens to showcase their creativity in a welcoming environment.

Working with the PTHS students on their Mahatma Service projects was another highlight of 2011. We had two groups collaborate with the Young Adult Department on fundraisers for global causes as well as for our library. Collectively, the Mahatma Dance and Concert was attended by over 70 teens.



Our dedicated and technologically-savvy teen patrons consistently assisted in programs such as our Technology Fair and "Technology Thursdays," an open hour where senior citizen patrons can receive technology assistance on library resources or personal devices.

We continued to expand and develop our Young Adult Collection, with the majority of our resources in the Teen Reading Room, including the Paperback Series, Magazines, Video Games, Anime, Manga, CDs, Non-Fiction and newly released Fiction. Hardcover Fiction with a publication date of six months and older remains on the second floor.



A variety of Xbox Kinect games were added to our circulating video game collection, and we purchased an Xbox Kinect for use in the library. Popular Anime television shows and movies are included in our existing collection, and we now have a designated Anime section in the Teen Reading Room.

The Young Adult Department looks forward to enhancing our diverse collection and adding unique programming in the years to come.



Our library reference department continues to collaborate with a variety of nonprofit organizations to meet the library goal of *Providing Resources for Lifelong Learners*. We hosted educational programs offered through Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC), American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Pittsburgh World Affairs Council. Our International program series, hosted in partnership with Pittsburgh World Affairs Council, continues to enjoy funding by McMurray Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 764.



During 2011, we partnered with Peters Township Chamber of Commerce to host a University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center Seminar – *Mechanics of Starting a Small Business*. Participants at this seminar learned about financing, creating a business structure, and identifying essential forms for establishing a successful small business.

With financial support provided through Friends of Peters Township Public Library, we enthusiastically welcomed Professor David R. Shumway's return to our library to lead a book/film discussion.



Our library book clubs continue to meet monthly and select books which provide an opportunity to learn about new authors and new subjects, as well as join a discussion welcoming diversified points of view. In August, Susan Vreeland joined the afternoon book discussion via speaker telephone as the members discussed her New York Times bestselling book – *Luncheon of the Boating Party*. She responded to questions from our discussion group members and shared personal anecdotes about the writing of this novel. The new in 2011 Mystery Book Club continued to meet monthly to read and enjoy books from the genre.

Patrons expanded their knowledge of digital cameras, spreadsheets, and social networking during weekly computer classes offered at the computer area on the second floor. Job searching assistance was provided with lessons on creating resumes and using the internet to search for employment. Learning to use the library's resources like eBooks and eAudiobooks were other popular topics explored.

Several clubs sponsored by the library continue to be well-liked by our patrons, who actively participate at monthly meetings of each group. The GO Green Club, continuing into their 3rd year continues to be a source of many library programs for the community on topics such as native plants and trees, healthy living, and clean drinking water. At the end of the year, the club provided a display with tips and examples about how to keep your holidays "green."



The library's Cooking Club enjoys preparing and sampling a variety of cuisines each month, expanding their palates with foods from China, Mexico and Ireland.

Meeting twice each month, the Couponing Club maintains a Coupon Collection available for all library patrons to use. They generously share extra non-perishables obtained through their frugal shopping methods with two local food banks.

The Friends of the Peters Township Public Library continues to provide yearly, on-going support through many volunteer hours and provides funding for many items mentioned in this report. The Friends sponsored the sale of fall and holiday floral arrangements, and the Enjoy...2012 coupon book. Two raffles were held throughout the year, including a "Tickets for Tickets" raffle and the Samsung 51" Plasma TV raffle. The ongoing "Used Book Sale" continued to be very popular with avid readers looking for books at a bargain price.



The 10th Annual "Taste of the Township" was held in April at Valley Brook Country Club. Delicious food selections from local restaurants were enjoyed, and the event featured live music and a variety of unique items for the silent auction. The library's proceeds of over \$32,000 from this event were used to improve resources, services and programs.



A "Try It" grant of \$5,000 was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Commonwealth Libraries to purchase videoconferencing equipment and to support new programming that will utilize the equipment.

A grant of \$1,000 was received from the John G. and Annie K.M. Johnson Trust to help support one-year subscriptions to the Scholastic BookFlix and Scholastic TrueFlix online resources.

A grant of \$500 from the McMurray Lions Club was used to expand and improve the large print book collection

The library thanks the many individuals who made memorial or honorarium donations throughout the year.



A partial list of donations in 2011 include:

Walter L. Christman Family Fund
 Giant Oaks Garden Club
 The Goddard School
 Lexington Court Garden Club
 Peters Township Duplicate Bridge Club
 Peters Township Marathon Bridge Club
 Peters Township Newcomers and Neighbors
 VFW Post 764 (Honorarium for World Affairs Speakers)

Many new programs have been planned for 2012 that reflect the variety and scope of patrons' interests and requests including:

- A Chinese New Year Celebration
- Robert J. Gangewere, who will be discussing his recently published book *Palace of Culture: Andrew Carnegie's Museums and Library in Pittsburgh*
- A 5-part series to discuss selected readings related to the Civil War, led by Dr. Elaine Parsons, Civil War scholar and Associate Professor of History at Duquesne University
- A GO Green Camp for Kids organized by the library's GO Green Club

The Children's Department will begin a new outreach program in 2012 to provide library materials and storytelling sessions in a more organized and consistent manner. Outreach opportunities will also be explored with local nursing homes and assisted living centers.

The Young Adult Department continues to develop a collection of in print and electronic materials. A proposed "Leadership Club," designed to help teens develop leadership skills, is in the early planning stages for 2012.

New technology initiatives will include the launch of the library's new website, and the beginning of a series of programs designed to help patrons learn about and use specific electronic devices.

The library added 7,646 new items in 2011. With a growing interest in electronic media, the library's collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks has increased and improved dramatically, with increased circulation statistics revealing the popularity of this new and convenient format. We will continue to monitor new trends in electronic formats to maintain a current and relevant collection of materials.

Statistics for 2011

395, 101 Total Circulation

234, 339 Total Visitors to the Library

149, 891 Total Collection

79, 742 Visits to the Library Website

22, 138 Patron Questions Answered

38, 209 Total Library Cardholders

19, 703 Patrons Used Library Computers

18, 329 Children Attended **585** Programs

3, 137 Young Adults Attended **226** Programs

6, 819 Adults Attended **254** Programs

4, 053 Patrons Used Study Rooms