



eBooks  
small business  
eReaders  
Playaway Day  
World Affairs Council R.E.A.D. Cookbook local authors  
Potluck Dinner  
Cooking Club  
social media  
NASA  
author visits  
community partnerships  
GO Green Camp for Kids  
Pennsylvania Humanities Council  
summer reading program  
computer classes  
Homegrown Heroes new website  
Book Clubs  
The Gallery  
No Tune Left Behind  
facebook

# Annual Report

## Lifelong Learners



## A Message from the Library Board and Staff

“Providing Resources to Lifelong Learners” – our tagline – was truly evident in 2012 as the Peters Township Public Library continued to offer patrons of all ages a wide variety of materials and services.

Experiencing the continuing popularity of eBooks, eReaders, tablets, eAudiobooks, and other digital formats, the library provided more electronic resources while carefully developing our collection of materials to best meet the needs of our patrons. Patrons still do enjoy reading in every mode, and we continue to provide many options for book discussions like our Girls’ Book Club, Teen Book Club, Afternoon and Evening Book Clubs for Adults, and Mystery Book club.

The library accepted the challenge to provide timely, stimulating and entertaining programs for everyone in the community by offering 1,122 programs that welcomed 27,726 attendees. By including video-conferencing capabilities in several programs, our patrons experienced an entirely new way of interacting with the world at large. For example, the Children’s Summer Reading programs, held in cooperation with NASA, greatly enhanced the theme of “Outer Space” by connecting astronauts in live-time with our young patrons. More of these types of programs are planned for 2013, including new partnership opportunities with organizations like the Creative Learning Collaborative.

*\*Library Services in the Digital Age, released January 22, 2013 by the Pew Internet & American Life Project  
<http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/01/22/library-services/>*

A new report by the Pew Internet & American Life Project reveals that while 80% of Americans say that borrowing books is a “very important” service libraries provide, 77% say free-access to computers and the internet is also a “very important” service.\* The Library Board completed a concerted effort in 2012 toward understanding trends in library services and resources by analyzing neighboring libraries, comparing a variety of statistically relevant circulation and usage statistics over the past five years. This knowledge will help us plan the direction the library must take to maintain its essential place as a valued community resource. Upcoming improvements to the Multi-Purpose Room sound system in 2013 will be one of the tangible results realized from this thoughtful analysis.

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 year of growth and service.

### The Peters Township Public Library Board and Staff



**Peters Township Public Library Board**  
(L to R) 1<sup>st</sup> row: Margaret A. Verlato, Treasurer; Pier M. Lee, Library Director; Judith Adler-McNutt, Secretary; Carol Adler, Vice-Chairman.  
2<sup>nd</sup> row: Richard F. Easton, Chairman; George Dvorznak, Myra Oleynik, Mark R. McFarlin

#### 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.

## A Broader Perspective through Community Partnerships



Patrons interested in a global view about current issues benefited through our partnership with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. The library welcomed panelists from the **U.S. Army War College Eisenhower Series College Program** for *Tackling Global Threats: Challenges Facing National Security*; **Dr. Alexander Cooley** for *The Price of Access: Contracts and Corruption in Central Asia's New Great Game*; and local resident **Brigadier General Lew Irwin** discussed his recently published book *Disjointed Ways, Disunified Means: Learning From America's Struggle to Build an Afghan Nation*.

Exploring history, specifically the period of the Civil War, appealed to many patrons who eagerly attended programs on this topic. With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Library Association, and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, **Making Sense of the Civil War, a Reading and Discussion Series**, was led by Dr. Elaine Parsons. Parsons, a Civil War scholar and associate professor at Duquesne University, conducted discussions of three books: *March* by Geraldine Brooks, *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* by James McPherson, and *America's Wars: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on Their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries*. Our library was one of four Pennsylvania libraries chosen to partner with Pennsylvania Humanities Council to offer the program. As part of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council Commonwealth Speakers Program, Steve Anderson, a Living History Interpreter for the

Pennsylvania Past Players, presented **Homegrown Heroes: Pennsylvania Communities in the Civil War**.

An exciting evening with an important message was the result of a new collaboration between the library, the school district, and the township. Over 150 children and adults attended a concert by the **"No Tune Left Behind"** band, comprised of four teachers from the neighboring McMurray Elementary School. The event began with Peters Township Police Chief Harry Fruecht addressing the crowd, followed by Officer Dave Stanton reading an anti-bullying pledge, which was turned into a banner for the youngsters to sign. An energetic concert followed, highlighted by the video and song "Don't Bully on the Bus," an original creation drawing nation-wide attention.

With college costs soaring, parents were anxious to explore options about funding their child's education and receiving financial assistance. Through an on-going partnership with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), the library presented two programs, **College Financial Aid Night** and a **FAFSA Completion Session**, to concerned parents. Individuals later made appointments with the PHEAA representative to meet in the library to receive guidance and help completing paperwork using the library's study rooms and computers.

# Technology @ the Library

With the explosion of new digital devices, persons flocked to the library to learn how to use their new eReaders, portable devices, and laptops in a relaxed, unthreatening atmosphere. During library hours, patrons dropped by with their new gadgets for help, anxious to learn how to download library eBooks. For assistance with a particular issue, the library's 30-minute **One-on-One Appointments** were popular for individuals struggling with email, using the Internet, and other computer basics. **Tuesday evening computer classes** provided more in-depth instruction. Persons searching for employment received lessons on creating a resume and searching for jobs online, while other came to the library classes to become proficient in word processing, creating spreadsheets, or developing a slideshow presentation.

Using **videoconferencing equipment** purchased through a Pennsylvania Department Education Office of Commonwealth Libraries "Try It" grant, the Children's Department offered children a virtual trip to the Bronx Zoo and during the Summer Reading program, they were able to communicate in real-time with astronauts, greatly enhancing this year's "Outer Space" theme.

As one of only nine cities selected nationwide to participate in a **Playaway Views for Adults** pilot program, the library was given a selection of 30 Playaway View titles, including classic movie and TV series titles, business seminars, travel films, documentaries, and more. Playaway Views are handheld devices equipped with several hours of video content.

For business owners puzzled by the tidal wave of social media opportunities, the library offered **Social Media Implementation: Take Your Business to the Next Level**. Robert Stein, Director of the Informational Technology Leadership program at the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence, discussed how to effectively implement social media for small businesses. The library hosted the program with the Peters Township Chamber of Commerce through the University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center.

The library's **new website** was launched in 2012. Patrons use the site to view our calendar of events, download eBooks, check the catalog, and use online databases for schoolwork and research. Nearly 1,000 persons currently subscribe to the library's weekly e-newsletters for program reminders and easy-to-use registration links, and we continue to expand our communication with patrons through social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Our free Wi-Fi access continues to be a popular with visitors to library and a mobile version of the library's web site is currently under development.





The Peters Township Public Library has gained a reputation for providing patrons of all ages with educational and entertaining programs of the highest quality. It has become a gathering space where patrons can listen to a poetry recitation or a children's story-time; learn how to plan a bike trip or prepare healthy morning smoothie; enjoy a jazz concert or a potluck dinner prepared with local foods. In addition to the programs previously mentioned in this report, further highlights for 2012 included:

Internationally known author Dr. Samuel Hazo, Pennsylvania's first State Poet Laureate and author of poetry and fiction, discussed **Poetry in Public Speech**, and offered recitations of some of his poetry.

Robert Gangewere, author of **Palace of Culture: Andrew Carnegie's Museums and Library in Pittsburgh**, detailed the efforts involved in creating and managing two iconic Pittsburgh institutions, The Carnegie Museums and Library of Pittsburgh.

Mary Shaw and Roy Weil provided an informative discussion on planning a bike trip from Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. Their book, **Linking Up: Planning Your Traffic-Free Bike Trip Between Pittsburgh, PA and Washington D.C.**, featured tips and advice on using the Great Allegheny Passage and C & O Canal Towpath to travel via bicycle between the two cities.

The Library Board, staff, and volunteers worked together on two projects to benefit the library.

A library first, the **R.E.A.D. Cookbook**, is a community collection of **Recipes: Enticing And Delicious** that was inspired by dishes served at the library volunteers' luncheon each December. The cookbook was offered for sale in October.

With much hard work and dedication, the 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Taste of the Township** event was a resounding success. This night of food, fun, and fabulous auction items provided funding to help support library programs and services.

The GO Green Club invited children in grades 3-5 to participate in a 3-day long **Green Camp for Kids** where they discovered more about the water cycle, recycling, and local foods.

Ted and Cathy Carns discussed their book, **Off On Our Own**, at a program sponsored by the GO Green Club. The Carns' described their off the grid, self-sufficient, and sustainable lifestyle.

Our **Celebration of Chinese New Year** was a festival event that included Chinese dancers, traditional food items, a calligraphy demonstration, and a display of Chinese artifacts.

The GO Green Club and Cooking Club combined efforts to organize the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Potluck Dinner** where delicious dishes were shared that used locally grown foods.

A lively **Evening of Jazz** featured Lee Robinson on saxophone and Joseph Sheehan on keyboard.

# Looking Ahead to 2013

The Peters Township Public Library is charged in our mission to enrich and empower every patron by fostering a love of learning, and in 2013 the library will continue to be a hub for an exchange of information through books, programs and other resources.

With more events being planned throughout the year, a few programs are already in place:

In Celebration of National Library Week (April 14 – 20), the library will be hosting a Pennsylvania Humanities Program entitled **Homemade Music in Pennsylvania**. In this presentation, award-winning performer and educator Paula Purnell will demonstrate a host of homemade musical instruments while sharing songs from Pennsylvania's past. Audience members will be invited to play along—and even do a little instrument making of their own.

The Cooking Club will begin a **Taste of the World** series, where each month a volunteer chef will prepare recipes from different cuisines of the world, with hands-on demonstrations and food sampling. The programs will tie in with other library materials for the selected country including books, travel DVDs, and language learning resources.

Beyond providing reading materials and other services, the role of this library is expanding to include new partnerships with community organizations. In the fall of 2012, the library began working with the **Creative Learning Collaborative**. This parent-led community group

is dedicated to providing information about educational extracurricular programs for the benefit of parents and students in Peters Township and our surrounding communities. Students participating in Odyssey of the Mind, First Robotics, Science Olympiad, and other local programs use the library facilities to meet regularly in preparation for competitions. More opportunities for partnerships with community organizations will be explored and developed in 2013.



This year will be a watershed for library services district-wide with the introduction of the **One Card Network**. The new network will ensure that every resident can go to any library in the three-county region (Washington, Greene and Fayette Counties) and use one library card. A launch date is expected mid-year for this new project.

We encourage and welcome your suggestions and recommendations to help us improve our service in the years ahead.

## Statistics for 2012

345,862	Total Circulation
195,074	Visitors to the Library
150,989	Total Collection
95,667	Visits to Library Website
19,494	Patron Questions Answered
35,711	Total Library Cardholders
23,968	Patrons Used Library Computers
20,846	Children Attended <b>737</b> Programs
1,734	Young Adults Attended <b>145</b> Programs
5,146	Adults Attended <b>240</b> Programs
4,363	Patrons Used Study Rooms