



OVER
200,000
LIBRARY
VISITORS



22,424
CHILDREN ATTENDED
723 PROGRAMS



OVER
132,000
ITEMS AVAILABLE
FOR LOAN

19,435
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED



**CHANGING
and ENGAGING** 2013
ANNUAL REPORT
Peters Township Public Library

From the Library Board Members and Staff



As the world becomes more digitized each year, our library meets the challenge to serve our patrons by changing to anticipate their needs and engaging with them whether in the library, in their homes, or using a mobile device.

A noteworthy change for the library this year was the establishment of the One Card / One Network WAGGIN System. This unified system among libraries in Washington, Greene and Fayette Counties has resulted in the creation of a singular

online catalog for all libraries, greater ease in sharing resources, and the ability of residents to use one card to access all participating libraries. The system was made fully operational in June, and since then, the library has seen steady increases in circulation and patron visits.

To create a more welcoming, friendly area for our visitors, significant renovations to the internal library space took place, including the reconfiguration of the 2nd floor Non-Fiction area. New seating was installed to provide space for groups or individuals to work or study, and library shelves were slightly lowered to allow more natural light to permeate the space. The result is an area that gives patrons easy access to the collection and a comfortable space to meet, read and use their digital devices. The Teen Reading Room also received new furniture and lighting.

For our online community, two new electronic resources were introduced. IndieFlix offers over 4,500 award-winning independent films including shorts, features and documentaries from more than 50 countries. Zinio provides readers online access to full text editions of over 160 selected magazines.

We are reaching out to more patrons through social media with over 3,000 subscribers to our e-newsletters. A redesigned library web site provides our cardholders with easy access to their account, digital media, the online catalog, and a daily calendar of events. A mobile version of the website is also now available for our patrons on the go.

Whether you are with us in the library or at home, school, or work, we will continue to strive to bring you the information you need in the format you desire for years to come.

The Peters Township Public Library Board Members and Staff

Peters Township Public Library Board

Richard F. Easton, President
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Pier M. Lee, Library Director

Adult Reference Department

Many local authors visited the library this year to offer book talks or share their writing experiences. Most notable was Dan Rooney, retired U.S. Ambassador to Ireland and chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers. He and Carol Peterson discussed their book *Allegheny City: A History of Pittsburgh's North Side*.

Sharing their insights into the writing process were authors Jeanne Marie Laskas, Stephanie Keyes and Patricia Easton at *Reading, Writing, and the Creative Process*. Other author visits included Todd DePastino, author of *Bill Mauldin: a Life Up Front* and *The Steel City Garden Book Talk* with Doug Oster.

To help the community get a better understanding of upcoming changes to their health care, the League of Women Voters of Washington County, the Peters Township Chamber of Commerce, and the library hosted *The Affordable Care Act at a Glance*.

The library's programming partnership with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh continued with several prominent speakers: U. S. Army War College Eisenhower Series College panelists with *National Security Challenges in 2013 and Beyond*; *The Geopolitics of Energy* with James C. Clad; *After 2014: a Journalist's Perspective on the Future of Afghanistan* with Carmen Gentile; and *China as Number One? Scarcity and China's Ascent in the 21st Century* with William Adams and Damian Ma.

The Green Halloween Costume Swap hosted by the library's GO Green Club recycled over 140 gently used costumes and accessories. The group was recognized later in the year by the Washington County League of Women Voters for their environmental efforts and programs.

To satisfy our patrons' appetite to experience cuisines from other countries, the library's Cooking Club offered the very popular *Taste the World* series. Food samples were prepared from a different country each month with the help of knowledgeable guest chefs.



Children's Department



The Children's Department partnered with over 30 different local organizations to offer a very successful Animal Fair in September. Local shelters, pet trainers, rescue leagues, service dogs and even the mascot from the Washington Wild Things came to educate the public about their organizations. Patrons had the opportunity to meet many wonderful animals and some pets were adopted that day! We plan to make this an annual event at the library.



The 2013 Dig Into Reading Summer Reading Program had 710 participants in kindergarten through sixth grade. It was the first year the library participated in the *QuestYinz*, an internet-based program created by the Allegheny County Library Association. The program prompted children to complete different "Quests." Many required the child to visit the library for more information or read a book to complete the Quest.

Two new online tools were added to the library web site. *One More Story* is an online library of the best of classic and contemporary children's literature. Using *TeachingBooks.net* engages students and educators alike with author programs, books readings and book guides.



Over 150 excited children and their families attended a special program honoring the 50th birthday of the beloved children's storybook character, Clifford the Big Red Dog. A staff member wore a Clifford costume and children had the opportunity to meet and have their picture taken with Clifford. Activities that day included a dog bone scavenger hunt, crafts, and readings of Clifford's stories.

At another popular event, 85 girls came to the library dressed for a fancy tea party with their favorite American Girl doll. The program was so well-received, that another American Girl tea party was held near Halloween. The girls enjoyed wearing their costumes and many came with their dolls in costumes.

Young Adult Department

Every day the Teen Reading Room is the space where young adults come to enjoy a book, a video game, or simply hang out with their friends. Different student-led programs are offered six days of the week, including Gamers Unite, Teen Crafternoon, Ping Pong Challenge, Chess, Trading Card Club, and Dungeons and Dragons. All of these programs were new in 2013, except the Trading Card Club which has had a consistent following for several years.

The Teen Summer Reading Program had over 100 participants in grades 6-12. A new 30 Day Drawing Challenge was held during July. Each day a new drawing challenge was posted in the Teen Reading Room and on the Teen Facebook page. Participants who completed 30 drawings by the end of the month and were given ten tickets for the summer reading raffle.

The Hunger Games book series has been popular teen and adult readers alike. When the film based on the second book in the series *Catching Fire* was released, a Hunger Games-inspired program attracted teens for an afternoon of trivia and a mock-Hunger Games events.

The library engaged in a new partnership with the Creative Learning Collaborative, providing them with meeting space to prepare for competitions. Both rookie FIRST Technology Challenge Robotics Teams placed in the finals at the FTC Southwestern PA Regional Tournament and will compete in the championship tournament in March 2014. The collaborative designed and ran two Robotics Workshops over the summer at the library. The Titanium Titans helped run the workshops for 50 students in grades 3-8. A new Math Club which meets weekly at the library has competed in two local Math Olympiad events, the CalcuSOLVE competition, and will compete in Math Counts.



Looking Ahead to 2014

The library will be celebrating our 15th anniversary in our current location, which was dedicated on April 17, 1999. It is fitting that this important date falls during National Library Week, April 13-19, and an event is being planned to mark this date in the library's history.

Internal renovations will continue in 2014 and include the realignment of shelving in the 2nd floor periodical area. Plans are to reduce the height of the shelving, rearrange the shelving units, and install seating to make the area more user-friendly and comfortable.

An Assistant Director will be hired in 2014 to help the Library Director with the management of the library.

A series of lectures from Carnegie Mellon University Professor David Shumway has been planned for 2014. This 3 part series called *From Romance to Intimacy: Changing Stories of Love, Courtship and Marriage* will explore comic and tragic versions of romance, and the more recent conception, intimacy, by comparing several book titles with their film adaptations.

Ultimately, the library aims to meet the needs of the community and adapt quickly as those needs change. In 2014 we plan to create more opportunities to bring library resources and services to the community in new ways. While the method of accomplishing this is still under consideration, the certainty is that the library must continually reassess how effectively it is being used by the community, and always strive to improve its responsiveness to the meeting the needs of those it serves.



Over 100 students from the Peters Township High School Photography Club will exhibit their work at "The Gallery" in February 2014. This is the 9th year the library has hosted this exhibit.

Statistics for 2013

337, 181	Total Circulation
201, 399	Visitors to the Library
132, 706	Total Collection
88, 427	Visits to Library Website
19, 435	Patron Questions Answered
22, 842	Total Library Cardholders
27, 491	Patrons Used Library Computers
22, 424	Children Attended 723 Programs
1,845	Young Adults Attended 346 Programs
5, 307	Adults Attended 183 Programs
4, 366	Patrons Used Study Rooms