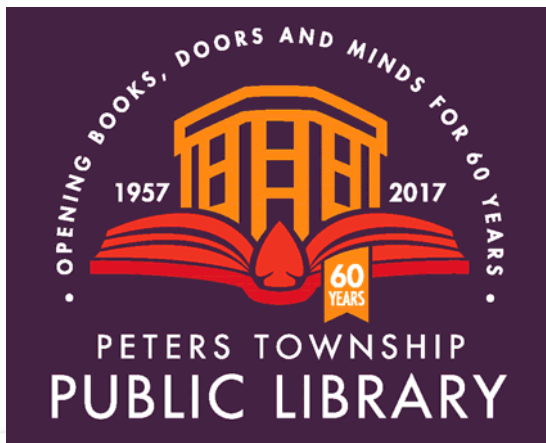


2017 ANNUAL REPORT

616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317 | 724.941.9430 | ptlibrary.org

From the Library Director



Happy Birthday to us!

We certainly had a lot to celebrate in 2017 and captured the essence of this milestone year with our new logo and tagline: *Opening books, doors and minds for 60 years!* From our new lobby banner to our embroidered denim staff shirts, our message was visible and an integral part of our mission this year.

To honor our rich 60-year history, we hosted an unforgettable Birthday Bash. Nearly 900 people filled the library with excitement on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in October. Visitors of all ages could be seen wearing balloon hats, dancing to music outdoors, exploring the library's scavenger hunt, viewing the Donaldson Family photographs, engaging with our guest speakers and of course enjoying birthday cake. Our County Commissioners and Township Manager, Paul Lauer, presented us with a beautiful proclamation. The first 100 families also received a hardback copy of the "The Cat in the Hat" which was first published in 1957. Kids of all ages played with hula hoops and won Frisbees from our prize wheel to also commemorate the 60th birthdays of these historic milestones from 1957.

Although we are 60 years old, we are still young enough to celebrate many "firsts" in 2017 including the use of Facebook LIVE in our social media, hosting our first Preschool-A-Palooza, promoting a year's worth of World War One programming and partnering with our Peters Township Library Foundation for our very first Novel November event.

Being the first library west of Altoona to be awarded the PA Forward Gold Star by the PA Library Association was the icing on the cake! This recognition validated our countless efforts to bring quality resources and first-rate programming into our community. Highlights in each of the PA Forward literacies are outlined in this report to illustrate the scope of our objectives all year long.

The best birthday gift this year was to receive the enduring support of our staff, library board, Foundation, Council, and community which I am proud to serve.

Myra

Myra R. Oleynik
Library Director
Peters Township Public Library



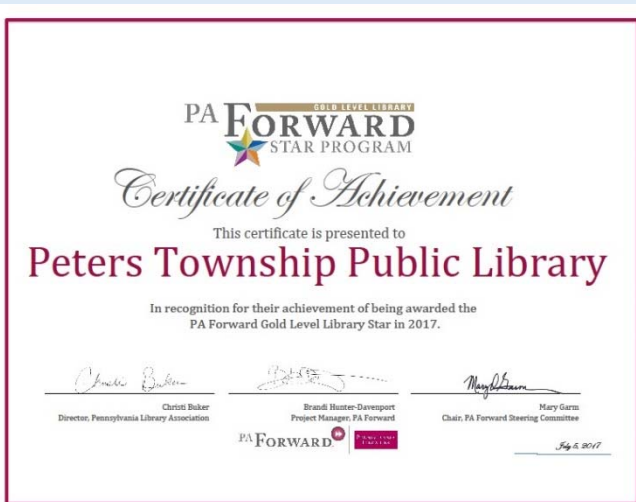


We began our mission in January 2017 to reach our Bronze Star level by completing five core actions and three bonus actions. Our achievements were documented, submitted for approval, and we were awarded a Bronze Star before the end of the month. We continued our quest by demonstrating a specialty in five Silver Star areas and were awarded the Silver Star in April. By May, we had successfully demonstrated four new bonus actions and the Peters Township Public Library succeeded in becoming the first library in western PA to achieve the highest level of recognition and became designated by the Pennsylvania Library Association as a Gold Star PA Forward Library.

With the right support, libraries are ideally positioned to become the community centers of information, technology, and learning that will fuel educational and economic opportunity for all of our citizens.

Reaching this level of achievement signifies our library staff's vision and commitment to quality service, valuable resources and prized programming for our community. This statewide initiative places the spotlight on Pennsylvania libraries and the important role libraries play in the lives of citizens.

PA Forward redefines the library's role in our Commonwealth within the context of five essential literacies that Pennsylvanians must grasp to succeed as citizens, parents, students, employers, employees, and consumers. We coordinated programming in all departments this year to foster these five basic PA Forward core literacies: basic literacy, information literacy, civic and social literacy, financial literacy, and health literacy.



BASIC LITERACY

Libraries can push Pennsylvania to achieve one of the highest literacy rates in the country, a trained and skilled workforce, and a growing economy, tax base, and population.

- Our Youth Services Department hosted our 2nd annual **Kindergarten Tea** featuring New York Times best-selling children's author/illustrator, Jackie Urbanovic. She presented a lively evening program to parents and children, and was our guest speaker the next day to our area Kindergarten and preschool teachers. Play-K learning stations made possible through a grant from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries were highlighted by library staff. Children visit the stations daily to "play kindergarten" using materials with different themes to prepare for PA Kindergarten readiness skills such as using scissors and taking turns.
- Children's Librarian, Linda Esposito, coordinated our first **Preschool-A-Palooza** with 12 local pre-schools for an early-literacy fair for over 52 attendees.
- Myra Oleynik and Dr. Nancy Hobbs facilitate the **3R's Book Club: Read. Recommend. Repeat.** Educators meet once a month to share ways to put great books into the hands of their students.
- Weekly **family literacy programs** include Toddler Tales, Book Babies, Mother Goose Storytimes, Wild Kratt Wednesdays, Bodies in Motion, and Storytimes for Kindergarten and Preschool students.
- Three PTPL staff-led **Book Clubs for Adults** foster rich discussions on many levels and include titles from various genres.
- With the help of three loyal volunteers, we continued to offer **outreach** to four assisted living facilities and four private homes delivering 60+ titles to residents each month.
- Members of our Youth Services team **visit area preschools, K-Plus and Extended Day programs** nine times a month throughout the school year.
- Volunteer literacy tutors from **Southwest PA Literacy Council** meet with English language learners each month.



INFORMATION LITERACY

Libraries can help all Pennsylvanians learn how to use online resources and current technology to improve their education, to enhance their job skills, to develop their personal lives, and to fully participate in a digital society.

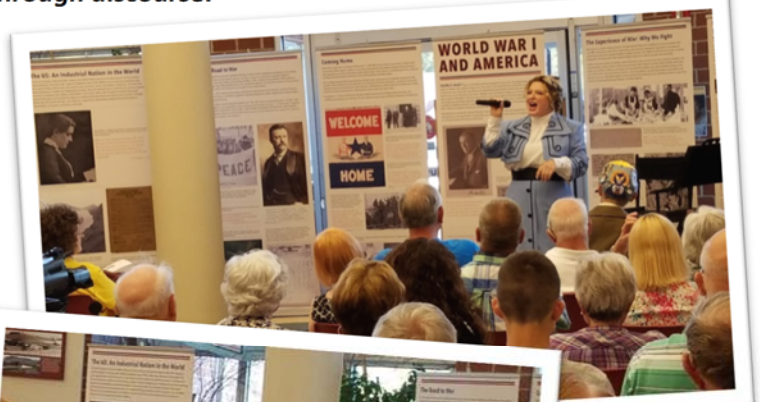
- Peter Stamoolis hosted 35 **Computer Classes** with a total of 239 attendees to teach word processing, email use, spreadsheets creation, and to promote library online resources.
- The Youth Services Department initiated **Teen Tech Tuesdays** with teen volunteers offering one-on-one help to patrons with downloading eBooks and using library eResources.
- The 5-part **It's Your Job Career Development**, series resulted in one of the participants being offered a new job!
- To celebrate the **National Hour of Code**, 14 adults experienced hands-on activities and 11 children attended our Maker Monday where they learned the basics of Scratch coding.
- **Gale Courses** offered thru the WAGGIN library system provided instruction on topics from Excel to CSS3 and HTML5 to WordPress
- Volunteers reached out to the newest residents of our community with **welcome letters** that informed them of our many resources and programs.
- Our **e-newsletter** reached 8089 inboxes and continues to keep our community informed.
- Patrons use of our **Self-Checkout kiosks** increased 3% with 3578 self-checkouts this year. Our 3 new WAGGIN tablet kiosks made online searching so much easier too.
- Over 50 exams were **proctored by library staff**, an increase of 168% from 2016.
- Special thanks to Carrie Weaver for designing our first-class marketing materials and press releases that reach far beyond Peters Township to promote our programming. She continues to keep our website updated with our many programs and events, Staff Picks, and new resources.



CIVIC AND SOCIAL LITERACY

Libraries can play an important role in helping citizens have the knowledge and skills they need to improve their lives, to participate and contribute effectively to their community, government, and society, and to connect with one another through discourse.

- Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the United States entry into WWI, The **World War One and America** opening event in August was attended by over 200 people of all ages. Margaret Deitzer, Head of the Reference Department, wrote a grant that provided funding for a year's worth of related programming and display of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Centennial Exhibit. WWI Scholar, Michael Neiberg, was the guest speaker and a musical tribute was performed by Valerie Williams and the Abbey Players of St. Benedict's Church. Additional programs included guest speakers Todd De Pastino, founder of the Veterans Breakfast Club, and Professor David R. Shumway of Carnegie Mellon University.
- The Youth Services **Fall Animal Fair** was attended by more than 400 people with 14 organizations represented. The vendors, trainers, rescue leagues, and vets shared their knowledge about pets and pet care.
- The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and the library hosted senior officers from the **US Army War College** who discussed National Security Challenges and shared their first-hand experience with military operations.
- The library connected many **notable authors** with the community including Christopher George, Yaa Gyasi, Steve Hallock, Sam Hazo, Niki Kapsambelis, Meredith Milletti, Michael MacCambridge, and Jackie Urbanovic.
- Monthly social connections were fostered at **library-sponsored clubs** including the Crochet Club, Writers' Workshop, Beading Club, WW2 Discussion Group, Stamp Club, Couponing Club, Afternoon Book Club, Mystery Book Club, Evening Book Club, Go Green Club, Coloring Crew, Roots Genealogy Club, Spanish Conversation Circle, and German Meet-up.



HEALTH LITERACY

Libraries can play an important role in helping citizens manage their own and their family's well-being, and empower them to be effective partners with their healthcare providers so they can live longer, more productive lives.

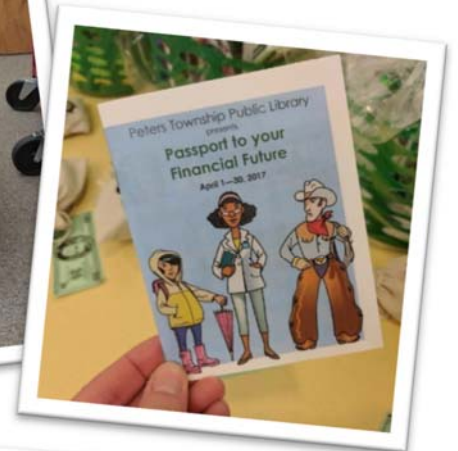
- Niki Kapsambelis, author of "The Inheritance," joined by two sisters featured her in book, shared stories of the DeMoe family's battle against early-onset **Alzheimer's**. Kapsambelis received national attention on the Today Show, NY Times, and Wall Street Journal for her exploration of the research conducted at the University of Pittsburgh. We offered this program with financial support from Washington Financial Bank.
- Shannon Pauley, Head of our Youth Services Department, established **Scarlett's Sunshine Shelf** to support grieving families and children who have experienced loss due to miscarriage, stillbirth, or early infant death. We partnered with the Still Remembered Project to offer a special storytime for children and their families. MisterRogers and WQED Sesame Street have provided us with materials to share.
- **Blood Pressure Clinics** and a **Flu Shot Clinic** were offered to the community and two **Blood Drives** captured 63 units and helped 189 area patients.
- **Programs** offered related to health literacy included Medicare 101, Maintain Your Brain, Climb Your Family Tree, and Live the Less Toxic Life.
- With the help of library secretary, Rebecca Tomlin, we distributed more than 150 pairs of **safe solar viewing glasses** to the public. On that historic day, we hosted the new teachers of the Peters Township School District who toured the library and safely watched the solar eclipse with us.



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Libraries can help citizens become informed consumers and guide individuals, small businesses, and other organizations to contribute to the economic vitality of their community through innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

- Assistant Director, Sue Miller, wrote and received a grant awarding the library the **"Thinking Money" 1000 square foot traveling exhibition** for April 2017. PTPL was the only library in PA among 50 libraries across the country to host the exhibit. Miller coordinated a month's worth of related programming and gathered a multitude of financial literacy resources for our visitors.
- To launch the exhibition, a **Financial Literacy Fair** welcomed more than 150 people and 7 non-profit organizations such as Junior Achievement, PHEAA, AARP, and our PTPL Coupon Club. The Youth Services Department offered special financial literacy programming for children and teens.
- In partnership with PHEAA (PA Higher Education Assistance Agency), the library's **College Financial Aid Night** and **FAFSA Completion Workshop** helped 90 parents and students learn more about planning and paying for college. The library's college and career sections include the most recent materials offering topics on scholarships, grants, and economic value.
- The library served as the location for six volunteers from the **AARP Foundation Tax Aide** to help more than 215 clients prepare their income taxes.
- The library's web site offers many financial literacy resources. **Gale Courses** are six-week instructor-led classes that range from accounting fundamentals, QuickBooks and finance to grant writing, stocks, bonds, and investing. Gale's **Testing & Education Reference Center** provides valuable career assistance to business veterans or students trying to choose a career path.



Peters Township Public Library Turns 60!

Planning for the Peters Township Public Library's 60th anniversary celebration began in September 2016 with the discovery of the photo "Peters Township Opens New Library" pictured with committee members from the Women's Club of Peters Township. With that find, we began a year's worth of planning, brainstorming, and research to prepare for our biggest event of the year on Sunday, October 22, 2017 from noon to 3:00 p.m.

The Birthday Bash was filled with free, fun, family-friendly activities including live music, a balloon artist, a photo booth, a prize wheel, a Bethel Bakery birthday cake, and ice cream courtesy of Eat'n Park. The first 100 children attending received a hardcover copy of *The Cat in the Hat* (published in 1957) compliments of the library.

Jim McNutt and Diane Lioon, secretary of The Peters Township Library Foundation, produced an historic DVD of library memories which played throughout the afternoon featuring Mrs. Lee, former staff members, children, and adults.

Members of the Donaldson family presented a photographic display "110 Years of Donaldson's Crossroads" and storytellers, Barbara Seels and Mary Jo Sonntag, captured favorite memories with "What's Your Library Story?" Dr. Robert Moore, valedictorian of the PTHS Class of 1968, presented well-documented resources to our visitors to help learn more about local history.

Library Board members helped to spin a Prize Wheel and welcome guests throughout the day. PTPL Frisbees, I <3 PTPL buttons, PTPL letter openers, lip balms, and vintage cookbooks were among the special prizes.

Music was provided by DJ Vanessa who shared lively tunes and hula hoops, a popular toy from the era. Staff members were positioned throughout the library to guide visitors through our 60 Point Scavenger Hunt.

To thank our patrons for 60 years of loyalty and support, the library kicked-off a Fine Amnesty Week from October 16-22.



Highlights from 2017

Over 100 students attended our **Summer Reading Kick-off party** to celebrate this year's theme *Build a Better World*. Nearly 300 children and teens participated in this year's summer programming.

The library embraced the *Build a Better World* theme with several adult programs that expanded our horizons during the summer months. Internationally-known Colombian harpist, **Hildo Aguirre**, performed in our Reading Room and amazed the audience with his beautiful interpretation of traditional music of the Venezuelan and Colombian "planos." Our second annual **"Tour de Fleece"** with the Washington Spinners and Weavers brought an alpaca and a sheep to the PTPL in addition to 50+ people who learned about the world of fibers, spinners, and weavers.

We reached out to our local community to *Build a Better World* by supporting events such as the Chamber Chase, the Trick or Treat Trail, the PTMS Dance-a-thon, and Relay for Life. We distributed 502 items beyond the WAGGIN system of libraries through interlibrary loans across the state including universities and prisons.

Expanding our world even further, the **World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh** partnered with the library to bring Professor Ross Harrison of Georgetown University to discuss *The Middle East: Understanding the Region and its Key Players*. Our lobby was filled with 90+ well-informed guests of all ages who raised many pertinent questions and received detailed explanations from Harrison. We were honored by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh with a recognition certificate for our 16-year partnership that was developed and cultivated by Margaret Deitzer. An exclusive program was held in October with former German Defense Minister, Karl-Theodor Zu Guttenberg and Swedish Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter about the future of transatlantic relationships. Over 100+ were in attendance including 25+ students.

Our Youth Services Department maintained our partnership with 8th grade language arts teachers to offer a special **Shakespeare Week** that coincided with the 8th grade PTMS Shakespeare curriculum including Black-Out Poetry and a Shakespeare Quote contest. Teens participated in our Youth Advisory Council's "Blind Date with a Book" event and our tweens enjoyed STEAM programming through the PBS Design Lives Here curriculum.



Highlights from 2017

More than 140 little ones registered for our **1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge**. Seven youngsters and their grown-ups completed this impressive goal in 2017 where parents/caregivers pledge to read 1000 books to their newborns, infants, and toddlers before they enter kindergarten. The concept is simple; the rewards are priceless. Readers receive log sheets and reading incentives throughout the process from our Youth Services Desk. Upon completion each child receives a personalized and autographed book from our “1000 Books” partner, Jackie Urbanovic, and their photo is added to our wall of fame!

An **Interactive Light Board** to encourage family play was installed in our Family Activity Center with generous donations on the WCCF Day of Giving.

Our Circulation Department has fostered our **Lucky Day Shelf** and attracts visitors to the library for the “hottest” new titles that are available only if you visit the library in person. They signed up 1671 new cardholders in 2017!

We’re never done **learning at the library** and the staff is no exception. We experienced ALICE Training with Shelly Belcher and the PT Police Department, AED training with the PT Fire Department and Ambulance Team. We found our “Bird-Brains” with teamwork building, learned to develop our #starfish customer service, received Aquos Board training, attended WQED Inquire Within workshops, and an early literacy Children’s Literature Conference at Pitt-Greensburg.

Nine staff members attended the **annual statewide conference of the PA Library Association** in Greentree over four days and had many opportunities to learn more on topics ranging from Readers’ Advisory to Virtual Reality. Our very own Carrie Weaver, Public Relations Coordinator presented library marketing tips to a packed session with standing room only. And we met Guest Speaker Rick Sebak!





THE PETERS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY FOUNDATION

With the help of The Foundation, **28 area book clubs** shared their reading lists with the library. A new display was created on the first floor to enrich our community's shared reading experiences. Books, eBooks and audiobooks were added to the library's collection to provide extra copies for our readers.

A new **mail drive** fundraiser was initiated by The Foundation in time for the library's 60th birthday celebration. Community members generously donated to help fund the Foundation's mission of building financial and volunteer support for the Peters Township Library.

A **Google 360 Tour** was created with funding from The Foundation so that our library is now visible online to anyone, anytime, anywhere!

During National Volunteer Week, The Foundation hosted a Sunday afternoon **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** to honor the more than 3374 hours our loyal volunteers have donated to our library.

Our library visitors know where to find the best book bargains around! The Peters Township Public Library Friends, a special sub-committee of The Foundation, spend many hours sorting through book donations and creating attractive displays. Their efforts raised \$5000 in 2017 from their **Daily Used Book Sale** in the main lobby.

To cap off a year of planning, The Peters Township Library Foundation launched their first **Novel November**. At this new large-scale author event, nearly 400 persons from the South Hills and the Pittsburgh area attended to hear New York Times bestselling author of *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi, at our off-site location at The Bible Chapel, South Hills campus. Plans are underway for the next Novel November to be held on November 8, 2017.



Looking Ahead

- Working with the Parks & Rec Department to present **Hamiltunes**, a community sing-along on Community Day 2018.
- A **Read Local/Eat Local** event in June with local authors and food-trucks.
- Two **Vietnam**-related events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive and 1968, the Year that Changed America Forever.
- The **Read Harder Challenge** will encourage reading on many new levels.
- Partnering with PTMS to bring **WWI** historian, Michael Nieberg, to speak to the entire 8th grade.
- The PTL Foundation will offer a second **Novel November** on Thursday, November 8 featuring noted author, Tim O'Brien.
- **Daniel Tiger** will visit the PTPL for a WQED night funded by EQT.
- McMurray Elementary **Battle of the Books** partnership with 4th and 5th grade teams.

Come visit us soon!

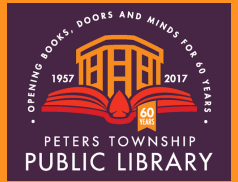


Partnerships



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Penguin Book Shop
Girl Scouts
Gilder Lehrman Institute
McMurray Art League Show
PT Police Department
Office Dave's Model Railroad Club
WQED Inquire Within
Cal U of PA
South Hills Interfaith Ministry
Veterans Breakfast Club
AARP SCORE
University of Pittsburgh
Small Business Saturday
FINRA Foundation
Trinity Bell Ringers
Washington County Tourism
PT Farmer's Market
McMurray VFW
PT Chamber of Commerce
Western PA Lensshooters
McMurray Rotary
Littsburgh Achieva
Still Remembered
Peters Township School District
US Army War College
Lexington Court Christmas Tree Raffle
Eagle Scout Pratiik Kaushik
PHILPA
Washington Financial
Giant Oaks Garden Club
PT Parks and Recreation Department

2017 Celebrating 60 Years of opening books, doors and minds!



TRENDING UP

64%

WIFI
Usage

44.4%

ROOM
Usage

28.85%

ADULT
Programs



203,955
VISITORS



with 22 days exceeding
1000 visitors!



282,493

Adult, Young Adult
& Children's Materials



11,946

eBook and Audiobooks
Downloaded via OverDrive

335,444

Items Borrowed



22,860

DRM-free songs/videos
downloaded via Freegal



3,437

Digital magazines
downloaded via Flipster



14,708

Loans to libraries in the WAGGIN system

20,726

children attended

865 programs

3,161

teens attended

427 programs

7,177

adults attended

469 programs



18,142
**Registered
Users**



17,568

Questions answered

3,374

Volunteer
hours donated



Nearly

5 million
dollars

Value of services
and resources
provided to the
community