Foundation Grants Fund a Fun and Fulfilling Year

The newly installed cabinets behind the children’s desk of the Library are already filling up with books, games, construction paper, tiny pompoms, glue, and stickers. Bobby Simic, the head of children’s services for New Rochelle Public Library, is delighted! “Now we can keep everything we need in one place, organized and secure.”

Over the last five years, the Main Library has been renovated from the bottom up, using New York State (NYS) construction grants with matching funds from the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation. This past year, the Main Library received a grant of $229,625 for the final phase of the Library’s Third Floor Renovation. The Foundation’s match for this grant, $57,424, was made possible by generous support from the Foundation’s corporate sponsors, individual donors, and proceeds from our fundraising events.

The third floor now offers modern, flexible workspaces that meet the needs of entrepreneurs, students, and remote workers with laptop bars, two large conference rooms, as well as three private workspaces for study, job interviews or video conferencing. The renovations also brought technology upgrades to the third-floor information services desk, 10 new computer workstations in the Bliss Music Center, and upgrades to the second-floor Teen Room, which include noise insulation and additional Maker Space gear: 3D pens, a Cricut machine for cutting elaborate shapes in craft materials, and Twitch streaming equipment.

In addition to important Library renovations, your generous donations make it possible for NRPL Foundation to continue to fund programs like the popular Museum Pass Program, allowing families free access to many local and New York City museums. These grants help keep our Library up-to-date and responsive to the changing needs of the community. This year, the NRPL Foundation also provided funding for wonderful events such as the Family Fair, the “New to New Rochelle” Welcome Event for new residents and “Game On!,” a rollicking fun evening of sports and games for adults and children.

The Museum Pass Program

The Foundation continues to provide funding for the tremendously popular Museum Pass Program providing patrons with free or discounted admission to the area’s most popular and expensive museums. Library patrons can now borrow passes for entry to 25 area museums, including MOMA, the New York Hall of Science, and the American Museum of Natural History. This year, NRPL passes enabled more than 12,000 museum visits!

Family Fair

On Oct 2, 2022, hundreds of superheroes of all ages gathered at the Library’s Family Fair for a fun-filled afternoon sponsored by the NRPL Foundation. This free event with the theme “Recharge Your Superpowers at the Library” included a magic show, a special visit by Spider-Man, a teen video game tournament, carnival games, an obstacle course and manga art and balloon sculptures. Library Director Tom Geoffino said the event was “designed to bring New Rochelle residents from all parts of the city into the Library for an afternoon of fun and also highlight the breadth and depth of Library resources available to the community.”
Message from Our President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Over the almost nine years that I have served as President of the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation, I have had a front-row seat in seeing the many ways our Library serves our community. It is because of you, our donors and supporters, that the Foundation has been able to assist the Library in staying up-to-date and vibrant, through the matches that we provide to meet New York State requirements for grants for capital improvements, and by providing additional funding for technology and software updates and other requests by the Library.

The Library is traditionally, and continues to be, a place for study, research, and for discovering books for the joy of reading, but today that role has been greatly expanded. Mornings can find Moms, Dads and caregivers participating with their toddlers in story time; there are school visits by elementary school teachers and students; tutoring in the afternoon; games, book discussions, hangouts in the teen room; yoga in the community room; sewing classes; art workshops; computer classes; film series in the theater; book clubs; art exhibits; and a Business Center that helps those seeking to change employment or write a better résumé. Residents can also be found doing research and working in the new private study rooms.

When we take a moment and consider all that our Library offers, in a safe and friendly environment, we can all be proud knowing that our Library is on the front lines in addressing the epidemic of loneliness that exists in this country, as detailed in the recent Advisory issued by the U.S. Surgeon General. As a matter of fact, the Surgeon General includes libraries as part of the strategy for addressing the need for greater social connection in the country.

There is always more that can be done, but thanks to you and your support, our Library is a valuable and much-appreciated resource for so many in our community. We can all be proud of that!

With best wishes for the New Year,

Christina Selin, President

Lynn Green, Vice President
Dr. Cheryl Archbald, Secretary
Joan F. Clarke, Treasurer
Roderic Rolett, Assistant Treasurer

Dr. Amy Bass
Leslie Margot Demus
Judith Factor
Hon. Timothy C. Idoni
Theresa Kump Leghorn
M. Lori Morrow
Leslie Newman
Erin Harrell Riley
Lucia Speight
Dr. James W. Swinehart
Stephanie Tomei
Sharon Weekes
Mica Wilson

Emeritus Board Members
Marjorie Bliss
Bill Handelman (1993-2019)
Alisa Kesten
Mary Jane Reddington

Ex-officio Director
Whitney Barrat, President
New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees

Tom Geoffino, Library Director
Yvette Gordon, NRPLF Administrative Assistant
Anne Todd, Editorial Consultant
Susan Nagib, Creative Consultant
New to New Rochelle, A Welcome Event for New Residents

On January 25, 2023, new residents of New Rochelle were invited to mingle, win prizes and take after-hours tours of the Library while learning more about their new hometown and ways to get involved. The event was co-sponsored by the NRPL Foundation, the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, the New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence, the New Rochelle Public Library, and the New Rochelle Downtown BID with support from RXR, Lori Morrow Homes and Monroe College. The first 30 guests received “swag bags” from New Rochelle’s Department of Development. Barbara Davis fielded questions in an “Ask the City Historian” booth. A NOMA Social mixologist created a signature cocktail for the evening.

Game On! Fundraiser

On March 11, 2023, the NRPL Foundation raised $75,000 with an after-hours game night for grownups. For the “Game On” fundraiser, the Foundation turned the Library into a giant mini-golf course – with help from a professional mini-golf company – and created spaces for a variety of games, from a Mahjong “parlor” to a ping pong area with nooks set aside for “lightning” Scrabble and Wordle. Guests also enjoyed music (including karaoke), nibbles, and a whiskey tasting on Friday night. On Saturday, children and families were invited to try their hand at the mini-golf course free of charge: More than 500 people turned out over the course of a rainy afternoon. “Game On really put the “fun” in our annual fundraiser,” says NRPLF President Chris Selin. “It gave our guests a chance to hang out and enjoy some friendly competition while getting a look at what we’ve accomplished inside the library.”

New Rochelle Public Library Foundation and New Rochelle Public Library celebrated the Huguenot Children’s Library’s 25 wonderful years in operation with a birthday bash on May 20, 2023, that drew more than 300 families. The free day of fun included music, crafts, balloon art, visits from Peppa Pig and Marshall of Paw Patrol, with cake and goody bags for all.

Many things have changed at the little library over the years, but the HCL remains a happy, beloved place for families and children to gather. Every year, families look forward to Summer Fun on the Patio, sponsored by the NRPL Foundation. This year, over 3,400 visitors participated in its 12 free, weekly programs that delighted and educated with LEGOs, crafts, puppet theater, sign language, and yoga. The popular Art Club is taught by members of the New Rochelle High School Art Honor Society (some of whom participated in this class years ago.) Children sang, danced, and played cooperative games in programs such as Move & Groove with Joy, Wiggle and Giggle with Dawny Dew, and Rock Your World Kids with Armelle.

A grant of $48,760, funded equally through the NRPL Foundation and New York State grants, enabled HCL to continue its Summer Fun programs and complete significant building improvements this year. The basement received a new floor, additional storage, and new kitchen countertops, sink and faucets. Storage was also enhanced on the first and second floors. Important façade and foundation repairs were made outside, including patio upgrades. The HCL is looking better than ever and continues to improve with age! Happy birthday, HCL!
Susan Kettner
Robin Kietlinski
Kimco Realty Corporation
Shelly & Alfred Klein
Marian & Peter Korn
Lucy Krupenye
KT Electronics, Inc.
Julia Larkin
Kim Larson
Theresa Kump Leghorn & Thomas Leghorn
Marlene & Armand Lerner
Linda & Mark Levine
Dalia Levine
Moshe J. Levison
Rhoda & Arthur Lew
Michele Lewis-Bellamy
Barbara & Les Lieberman
Daniel Lin
Amy Lind & Fred Treffeisen
Matthew Linde
Katherine Lobach & Richard Kaufman
Lori Morrow Homes, Inc.
Diane & Larry Luftig
Sal & Regina Maffei
Millie Magraw
Deborah Levy Maher & Damon Maher
Maid Right
Linda & Ken Maier
Alisa Mannis
Jennifer Maria
Paul Martin
Masonry Depot
Marie Mattson
Bella & Phillip Maxfield
Sarah Mazzella
David & Evelyn McCabe
Eileen & Daniel McCarthy
Wendy McFee & Janet Wilson
Mary McGann & Andy Brody
Colleen McKeegan
Sean McPherson
Ellen Meiner
Susie Menkes
Patricia Micek
Louise & Tom Middleton
Monroe College
Marilyn Morris
George Morris
M&T Bank
Rhiannon Navin
NCG Insurance Agency
Diana & Greg Nero
New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce
New Rochelle Council on the Arts
New Rochelle Lions Club
Leslie Newman
Yvette Nieves
Abigail Nixon
Sam Obstfeld
Perry Ochacher
Mary & Joe Oldak
Mary Olsson
Ira & Karen Orenstein
Joann & Scott Ornstein
Mark & Ellen Oster
Steven Otis
Sylvie Otten
Evelyn Otten
Amy Pace
Carmen & Anthony Paolerio
Annette Parchment-Pennant
Minda & Rick Parrish
Cheryl Passavanti
Nancy Paulsen and David Friend
Valerie Perel
Patricia Perito
Concetta Perrotta
Linda & Milton Persily
Wendy Phelps
Judith & Donald Pinals
Lisa & Phillip Pine
Deirdre & Ian Polow
Susan Porcelli
Marcia & Hy Pryluck
Adrienne & Dennis Pryluck
R & N Construction Corp.
Maureen & Matthew Ragone
Joanne Raimondo
Yadira Ramos-Herbert & Jeffrey Herbert
Dean Reben
Martha Reddington
Barbara Reguero
Mary Clare & Sean Reilley
Lucille Renwick & Randal Archibold
Rice Family Foundation
Elise & Barry Richman
Sara Richmond
Dan & Llana Richmond
Judy & Bernard Robinson
Catherine & Roland Rogers
Alice Rogoff
Ann & Rod Rollett
Jennifer & Matthew Rooney
Eleanor & John Rorner
Robyn & Eric Rosenberg
Bonnie & Donald Rosenfeld
Barbara & Michael Rosenthal
Rotary Club of New Rochelle
Laurie & Eric Roth
Andrea & Peter Rothberg
Maija Ruggiero
RXR Development Corporation
Wendy & Martin Sanchez
Susan & David Schlecker
Randall Schloss
Judy & Edward Schwartz
Serena Scott-Ram
Janet & Isaiah Seligman
Christina Selin and Jeffrey Endervelt
Nancy & Stephen Semenza
Tobe & Ralph Sevush
Kristine Sharp
Nina Shawn Gainor
Kanan Sheth
Judy & Roy Siegel
Heidi Siesfeld
Sills Family Foundation
Elaine & Ron Simoncini
Linda & Charles Simpson
Arthur Sinkman
Bill & Janine Steely
Nicholas Smith
Martha Solinger
Ellen & Steven Sonet
Lucia & Benjamin Speight
Ann Spindel
Ashley Springer
Nancy & Stephen Semenza
Sue & Mitch Weisman
Sylvia & Bill Weisner
Samantha White
Susan Wielstein
Leni & Frederick Wiener
Beth Willensky & Herb Feuerstein
Mica Wilson
Phyllis Wilson
Victoria Woeste
Linda Wolf
Donna & Bob Young
Debbie & Steve Young
Arnold Zinman

2022-2023 Donors and Supporters (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

We have done our best to make sure these lists are correct. If you feel there is an error, we apologize and encourage you to contact us at nrplfoundation1@gmail.com so we can make the correction.
Connecting the Community and Building for the Future

Your donations create a very special place, one that brings people together to share activities and explore the world.

Please help us continue to keep our Library up-to-date and responsive to the changing needs of the community.

Giving is easy.
Visit us at NRPLFoundation.org to donate online with a credit card.

Donations made by check should be made out to the NRPL Foundation and mailed to:

NRPL Foundation
One Library Plaza
New Rochelle, NY 10801

The NRPL Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable entity, Federal Tax ID #13-3712927

SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, May 9, 2024

Celebrate and Support the Library
Join us at Greentree Country Club for cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a silent auction that will raise vital funding and augment the New Rochelle Public Library’s ability to serve our diverse community. The Guardian Award Honorees are three champions in the fight against book banning: Nancy Paulsen, president and publisher of Nancy Paulsen Books, Penguin Inc.; Jacqueline Woodson, author of children’s and young adult books; and Emma Straub, author and owner of Books Are Magic bookstore in Brooklyn.

Other honorees include Donna and Bob Young of the Young Companies and JRY Foundation, NRPLF President Chris Selin, and NRPL Director Tom Geoffino. Tony Aiello of CBS News-12 will serve as the evening’s emcee. Tickets are $185 per person. Journal ads and sponsorships are available.

Your support is essential to our success!