



SCAVEGANZA RETURNS: City-Wide Scavenger Hunt Raise Money for New Rochelle Public Library Foundation



In October, 2021 two dozen teams fanned out across New Rochelle on a city-wide scavenger hunt, chasing clues and completing tasks to win prizes – and raise money for the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation. **"Scaveganza"** was a hit, raising vital dollars to support the NRPL and help it serve the community.

Scaveganza 2.0 will take place on **Saturday, April 26th** from 4 to 6 pm, and as co-chairs Mica Wilson and Sharon Weekes say "This is not

while raising donations to support Library programs that enrich lives across by bridging technology gaps, creating innovative spaces, and fostering lifelong learning.

Teams (individuals, families, local organizations, and businesses) will explore Downtown New Rochelle, competing to solve as many clues as possible in two hours: The clues will lead teams to unique Downtown New Rochelle locations where teams will upload photos, earning points as they do so. The team that raises the most money and the team that has the most points will be the winners.

The hunt will begin with a kick-off ceremony at the NRPL to welcome all participants, distribute event T-shirts, and explain the rules. All teams will then download the clues at the same time, watches will be synchronized and the hunt will begin! All teams will return to the Library for an Awards Ceremony with music, light refreshments and lots of laughs.



your ordinary fundraiser! If you enjoy fun competition with a purpose, this event is for you!" Once again teams will compete to earn prizes –all

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

- **Form a Team:** Be a Team Captain and lead a group of friends, family, or colleagues in the scavenger hunt while working toward fundraising goals.
- **Join a Team:** Participate as a team member and help fundraise by sharing the event with your networks.
- **Sponsor the Event:** Showcase your business or organization as a proud supporter of the Library while engaging with the community in a meaningful way.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO OR GO TO NRPLFOUNDATION.ORG



COMING SOON: An Exciting New Space For Children

The Foundation is funding an enhanced Children's Garden to expand capacity for children's programs.

The Library's youngest patrons can look forward to spending more time outdoors, exploring and engaging in projects, thanks to a quarter million dollar federal grant that will dramatically improve the enclosed garden adjacent to the building. The project, funded through the **American Rescue Plan Act** and allocated by the City through a highly competitive process, will bring electricity and water supply to the garden and provide a solid paved surface that will be protected from the elements with an attractive pergola. Lighting, audio visual equipment, storage and furnishings will make expanded outdoor programming possible throughout a good part of the year. Watch for more news about this project in the near future.



Letter from our Co-Presidents

As we head into 2025, we are grateful for the Foundation's supporters and we are excited about what lies ahead in this new year.

First and foremost, we welcome Nina Robertson, our first-ever Executive Director. She has been working very closely with the Board and Library Director Eugenia Schatoff since onboarding mid-November. Nina brings great energy and enthusiasm to her role, and she is eager to know our supporters, so please don't hesitate to contact her at any point.

We are particularly excited about the Children's Garden Project, which is funded by an ARPA grant of \$250,000. This summer will see the construction of the new improvements, providing for outdoor programming and gathering space adjacent to the Children's Room of the main Library. A big thank you to our colleagues Lynn Green and Chris Selin for obtaining the grant, and to Eugenia Schatoff for leading the design and construction team.

Our annual fundraiser, SCAVEGANZA 2.0, will take place on Saturday, April 26. This fun-filled scavenger hunt takes place in downtown New Rochelle where teams compete for victory. Please consider creating, joining, or sponsoring a team at this friendly competition! We thank Nina Robertson, and our colleagues Mica Wilson and Sharon Weekes, for leading the planning team.

We welcome new board member Derrick Owens. A recent arrival to New Rochelle, Derrick brings his skills as a Treasurer to our board, and he will be invaluable to our Finance and Investment Committee. We also would like to thank Jim Swinehart for his board service over the years. Jim will continue to serve as an Advisory Board member.

With all good wishes for an early spring, we look forward to seeing you on April 26!

Stephanie Tomei and Rod Rolett



New Rochelle Public Library Foundation Names Nina Robertson as Executive Director

When Nina Robertson moved to New Rochelle last year she says "the New Rochelle Public Library was one of the first places my family visited! We signed up for library cards and began exploring all that the Library had to offer, especially the children's programs. It quickly became a place of community for us, providing enrichment and a deep sense of connection to our new home."

Now Nina has a chance to be more than a fan: In November the Board of Directors of the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation hired Nina as the Foundation's first Executive Director. The appointment was made following an extensive nationwide search.

As Executive Director, Ms. Robertson will be working closely with the Board of Directors to raise resources and provide advocacy to keep the library vibrant, up-to-date, and able to serve the diverse needs of the New Rochelle community.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota with an MBA from St. Thomas College, Robertson has experience in organizational and community development, program management, and strategic planning. In 2021, she was chosen one of the "40 Under 40" - representing the next generation of business and community leaders in the Twin Cities - by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal for her work as Director of the Step Up Youth Employment Program for the City of Minneapolis. More recently she worked as Director of Systems Change for the Women's Foundation of Minnesota before her husband's career brought the family to New York.

As the NRPL Foundation's first Executive Director she says "my vision is to build on its extraordinary legacy. I want every person in New Rochelle to feel that the Library is for them and to see themselves as part of the Foundation's efforts, helping us elevate the Library so that it can be everything our community needs and more."

Board Members

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Roderic Rolett, *Co-President*
Lynn Green, *Vice President*
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Joan F. Clarke, *Treasurer*

Nina Robertson, *Foundation Executive Director*

Eugenia Schatoff, *Library Director*

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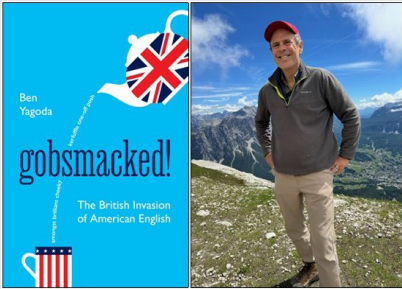
Lucille Renwick, *President*
New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees

* Deceased



Cocktails & Conversation

Author Ben Yagoda on His New Book "Gobsmacked"



The audience was "Gobsmacked" when author Ben Yagoda came for Cocktails & Conversation at Alvin & Friends restaurant in New Rochelle on December 11th. The event was the latest in the C & C series created by the New Rochelle Public Library

Foundation to bring book lovers together. The author – a New Rochelle native – talked with moderator Amy Bass (a history professor and author who sits on the NRPL Foundation Board) about his latest book, a lighthearted look at British slang that has found its way into American English.

Photos:

1. Moderator Amy Bass with author Ben Yagoda at Cocktails & Conversation.
2. Eugenia Schatoff, Director of the New Rochelle Public Library, with NRPL Foundation Board member Sharon Weakes Threash and NRPL Foundation Executive Director Nina Robertson.
3. Author Rhiannon Navin, a Trustee of the New Rochelle Public Library, with literary agent Stuart Krichevsky.
4. Cocktails & Conversation organizers Lynn Green, Theresa Kump Leghorn and Amy Bass.



MEET THE LIBRARY'S NEW DIRECTOR: Introducing Eugenia Schatoff

The Foundation is thrilled to be working hand-in-hand with the NRPL's new Director, Eugenia Schatoff, charting a course that will take the New Rochelle

Public Library into the future. Having assumed her leadership role as of October 1, Ms. Schatoff will oversee the continued revitalization of the library, with a renewed emphasis on ensuring the library is a best-in-class facility, expanding programming and services to meet the needs of the diverse and growing New Rochelle community.

Coming to New Rochelle from the Pearl River Public Library, Ms. Schatoff was selected by the Board of Trustees of the NRPL after an exhaustive four-month nationwide search.

At the Pearl River Public Library, Ms. Schatoff oversaw a successful bond referendum campaign to renovate the existing building. She was the 2024 recipient of the 17th district's Congressional Woman of Distinction Award and named New York Library Association's Innovative Library Director of the Year for 2023.

"Eugenia is a results-driven, experienced leader who will bring a sophisticated approach to systems, processes, management and

structure, which makes her ideal for our new Director at an important time for the Library," said Lucille Renwick, President, New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees. "What was most impressive is her deep passion for public libraries and the enthusiasm and commitment she has brought to her work."

"Coming from an immigrant family, public libraries have always represented the pathway to participation in American society for me," says Ms. Schatoff. "I'm honored to have the chance to collaborate with such a committed board and talented group of professionals. I am thrilled to give back to the vibrant New Rochelle community, which is especially meaningful to me, given my mother's nearly 30-year tenure as a teacher at Isaac E. Young Middle School."

Ms. Schatoff received a BA in Eastern European Area Studies from Excelsior College, an MA in Russian and an MSIS, Library and Information Services from the University at Albany, and an advanced graduate certificate in Public Library Administration from Long Island University. She resides in Rockland County with her husband and three children.





Connecting
Community

One Library Plaza
New Rochelle, NY 10801

NRPLFoundation.org



To keep our Library up to date and responsive to the needs of the community, we need your continued support for this vital community resource!

Can we count on you?

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN

SCAVENGER HUNT 2.0

April 26, 2025

NEW ROCHELLE
FUN
SCAVENGER
HUNT



THIS IS NOT YOUR ORDINARY FUNDRAISER.

If you enjoy fun competition with a purpose, this event is for you! Teams will explore Downtown New Rochelle, solve clues, and capture team photos in this 2 hour scavenger hunt—all while raising donations to support the New Rochelle Public Library. It's a scavenger hunt and so much more!



CREATE OR JOIN A TEAM!
Become a Sponsor or Donate!

Visit nrplfoundation.org for more information.