



Providence **Community** Library  
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES

Annual Report 2015–2016

# The Year — BY THE NUMBERS

Libraries	9
Staff	65
Patrons	51,625
Library visits	736,783
Items in our Collection	339,491
Total Circulation	372,423
Number of Programs	6,236
Program Attendance	65,844
Reference Transactions	56,586
Public Computer Sessions	184,199



## Financial Information

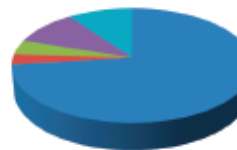
Snapshot of the Providence Community Library operating finances (unaudited) for fiscal year 2015-2016 (July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016). [Note: this does not include \$688,294 in grants for capital purposes.]

### Resources: \$4,737,256



- City of Providence 75%
- State of RI grant-in-aid 15%
- Donations and grants 8%
- Donated Materials 1%
- Other Income 1%

### Use of Resources: \$4,737,256



- Personnel 77%
- Library Materials 5%
- Library Consortium Membership 4%
- Occupancy 8%
- Other Operating/Programs 6%

## Free Public Access to Reading Resources — Why it Matters

The availability of books in a home is often cited as an indicator of later academic success for children. So how does Providence measure up? Not so well, according to Unite for Literacy's interactive Book Desert Map, which uses a combination of data sources to estimate the average number of books in homes.

According to the map, six PCL libraries serve neighborhoods where 10% or fewer households own 100 books or more. Estimated percentage of households – surrounding each PCL location – owning 100 books or more:

39%	Fox Point
5%	Knight Memorial
34%	Mount Pleasant
5%	Olneyville
44%	Rochambeau
5%	Smith Hill
5%	South Providence
10%	Wanskuck
7%	Washington Park

Substantial numbers of children in Providence have access to very few books at home—or even none at all. That's why PCL matters. Regardless of age, background and economic circumstance, community libraries empower patrons to change their lives for the better.

### Estimated % of RI homes with more than 100 books

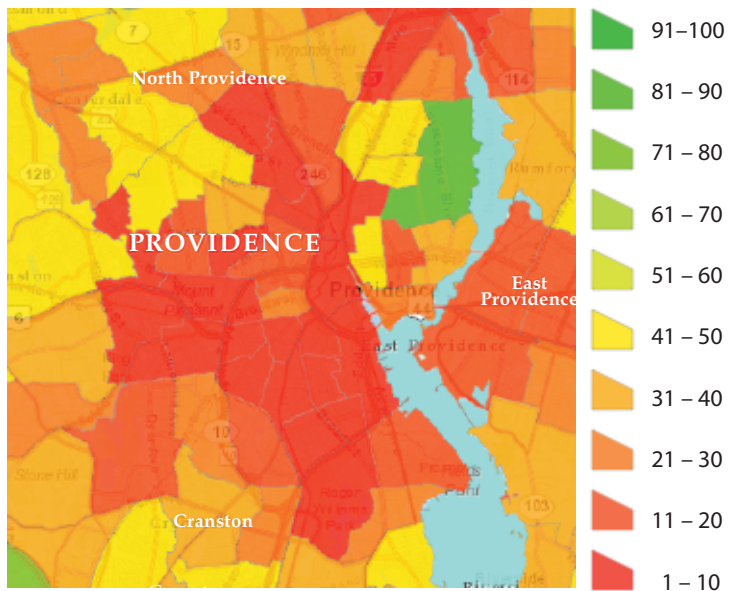


Table based on Unite for Literacy's Book Desert Map at [www.uniteforliteracy.com/corp/esri](http://www.uniteforliteracy.com/corp/esri)  
Map section printed by kind permission of United for Literacy

## CYNDIE WILMOT

### President, Board of Directors

What a great year it's been! More than 70 StoryCorps interviews recorded; beautiful new windows and air conditioning installed at Smith Hill; a huge, continuing demand for GED, ESL and Learn Spanish courses; a wonderful internship program featuring talented local teens and a prestigious grant from United Way Rhode Island that is putting PCL's mobile library bus on the road and into schoolyards for the next three summers.

I'm not saying it's been easy. Financial stability always has been a priority for PCL and each successive year has brought greater challenges and difficult choices. Last September, as I began my term as Board President, it seemed that 2015-2016 might turn out to be the toughest year yet. As a result, our Board, staff and Advocacy Committee united to conduct a vigorous awareness campaign that clearly articulated a case for better support for the city's nine neighborhood libraries. We were proud and humbled by the extraordinary support given to our advocacy campaign by PCL Friends groups, which organized the creation, collection and delivery of thousands of handwritten postcards to City Hall, each explaining why PCL was so important to individual patrons. We talked to City and State leaders, our funders, the media and everyone who would listen to our story.

The conversation resulted in success on many levels. We are grateful to Mayor Elorza for increasing our funding and we appreciate the concerted efforts of City Council members to find extra money to support PCL's essential programs and services. A campaign to increase state aid for libraries also yielded success. As a result, PCL begins 2016-2017 in a stronger position than we could have imagined a year ago. Thanks to everyone who helped make that dream a reality! The Board and I look forward to working with the new Library Director, Jeff Cannell, and to another amazing year!



### Board of Directors

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Pam Vogel  
Ken Wise



### JEFFREY CANNELL Library Director

It's a great privilege to join PCL, particularly at such a critical stage in its development. PCL's story is an inspiring one: a grassroots initiative fueled by the wisdom and resolve of founders who really understood how neighborhood libraries make a difference. My job is to create a secure and sustainable future for PCL so that it continues to fulfil the needs of Providence and its people. I look forward to meeting you along the way!



*Thank you, Friends of PCL, for supporting the Library as it campaigned for an increase in City and State funding. The Friends organized the writing, collection and delivery to City Hall of 3,500 postcards from library patrons and supporters (left) culminating in a rally on March 24 (right).*



*Thank you, also, Mayor Elorza and City Council members, for listening and responding so positively to our appeals.*





### United Way Grant Takes PCL into Schoolyards

Thanks to a three-year grant from United Way RI, PCL has been able to take its mobile library on the road to bring summer reading opportunities to students at 10 PPSD elementary schools and several City recreation centers. Carrying 4,000 popular books, a sound system, shade tents, tables and chairs, life-sized board games, and mobile hot spots for WiFi access and computers, the Mobile Library visited each schoolyard weekly and served free breakfast and lunch to students as part of the City of Providence *Summer Meals* program. In an important example of data sharing and school-library collaboration, PPSD's Office of Research, Planning and Accountability will analyze data to determine if students who read 20 minutes a day throughout the summer maintained or gained reading skills over the summer months.

### Fighting Summer Learning Loss, Raising Literacy Levels

It's a serious problem: 60% of Providence students experience summer reading loss and 51% experience summer math loss. We were delighted when Cheryl Space, PCL Youth Services Coordinator, and Michelle Novello, PCL Program Coordinator, were invited to join the Mayor's special taskforce and lend their considerable expertise to the study of summer learning loss in Providence and to the creation of this year's Summer Learning Passport. As a library, we are all too aware of the problem of summer learning loss, and this year, we have taken further strides in providing answers.



### Taking on the ConnectED Library Challenge

The *ConnectED Library Challenge*, a national initiative launched by the White House in 2015, strengthens partnerships between mayor's offices, schools and libraries so that every child enrolled in school can receive a public library card. In Spring 2016, Mayor Elorza, Superintendent of Providence Schools Chris Maher and PCL joined forces to take on the challenge in Providence. PCL has already issued more than 1,300 new library cards to students from selected kindergarten, first and second grade classes. Eventually, all 24,000 Providence public school students will receive a card. Providence, through PCL, is the first city in Rhode Island to have committed to the ConnectED Library Challenge.

*A young reader receives his first library card!*



*Cheryl Space and Taskforce members join Mayor Elorza and Schools Superintendent Chris Maher at the launch of the Summer Learning Passport.*



*York Teen, Kankan, led a children's STEM program and a teen Social Awareness program at Wanskuck; pictured above with her first paycheck!*

### Teens Provide Inspiration with Clubs and Workshops

Thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Otto H. York Foundation, PCL recruited nine high school student interns, to create compelling youth programs, mentor younger children and serve on PCL's Teen Advisory Council. One intern was attached to each library location. Programs, which were inspired by the teens' own interests, included debating skills, stand up "improv," film making, photography, art, creative writing, global issues, science, health and girls' clubs.

### Summer It Up!

Knight Memorial hosted a 6-week summer camp/tutoring program for rising 6th graders entering Gilbert Stuart Middle School. In its fourth year, the 2016 *Summer It Up* program offered extended hours to allow for swimming lessons, recreational play and lunch. Providence teachers worked closely with 35 volunteer tutors to improve math and literacy skills, engaging 25 students in challenging but fun activities. Partners and sponsors include RI Foundation, Providence Parks & Rec Dept, Center for Southeast Asians, Benny's, and Community Boating Center. *Pictured right: Participants and volunteer tutors of the 2016 Summer It Up program gather on the steps of Knight Memorial Library.*

## Feria del Libro Celebrates 500 Years of Latinos in the US

*Feria del Libro y Las Artes de Providence* returned for a second year at the Providence Career and Technical Academy. The two day festival featured more than 30 Latino writers, musicians, crafts and spectacular displays of folk dancing. Respected professors Julio Ortega (Brown University) and David Espinoza (RI College) led discussions of the PBS documentary *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*. The events were supported by a grant from the American Library Association, PBS and the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as funds from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Providence Schools, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island and Sodexo. An associated visual art exhibition, *Somos Latinos in America*, took place at the Atrium Gallery (see below).



Cuban writer Yanitzia Canetti was keynote speaker at Feria del Libro.

## RISCA Presents Carolina Briones with an Award

PCL's Latino Program Coordinator was given the Latino Community Leadership award by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts in recognition of her work to advance and promote Latino arts and culture in Rhode Island. The award was presented in October 2015 at a reception celebrating RISCA's 14th Annual Latin American Art Exhibit at the Atrium Gallery in Providence. Carolina Briones, pictured right, curated the art exhibit, *Somos Latinos in America*, herself. She is a well-known and highly respected figure in the Latino arts community of Rhode Island.



## Dia de los Niños Gets Some STEAM!

Multi-talented artist Ildefonso "Poncho" Franco returned to Providence in April 2016 to present a series of mask making and animation workshops. A grant from the Association for Library Services to Children allowed PCL to incorporate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and math) components into a workshop series that led up to *El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros* (children's day/book day) on April 30. Minority populations are underrepresented in STEAM education and professional fields, so these workshops were an exciting opportunity for our young patrons.

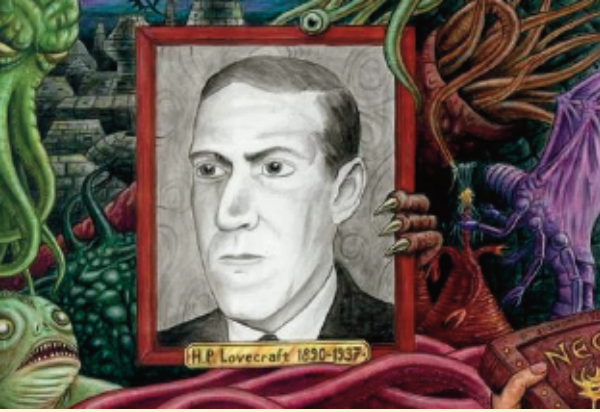


Lots of fun and learning at Poncho's mask-making workshop!

## Language Courses Remain Very Popular

Demand for GED in Spanish, ESL and Learn Spanish classes continued to outstrip supply. Six students obtained their GED certificates, 27 passed between one and four exams and a total of 124 students followed the GED preparation courses. A GED certificate is a virtual necessity for people seeking employment or entry into educational programs and PCL is one of the few places that offers free Spanish-language GED preparation courses.





## The Year in Review — HIGHLIGHTS

**JULY** Olneyville became the proud parent library of a clutch of chicks! Incubated since April, the babies made their debut in July, thanks to a program sponsored by University of Rhode Island 4-H. Left, patron Miguel shows off newly hatched chick, Aaron.



## StoryCorps® @ your library®



StoryCorps Live at Mount Pleasant Library • Sept 9 • 6:00PM

**AUGUST** PCL's Lovecraft Week (*top far left*) commemorated the birthday of this celebrated writer with spooky crafts, movie nights, readings, an art contest and a Minecraft Meets Lovecraft competition!

**SEPTEMBER** Mount Pleasant hosted *Storycorps Live!*, with guests Len Cabral, Jo-Ann Ryan, Sokeo Ros, and interviewer Valerie Tutson. Presented as part of our Storycorps @your library program, the interviews were recorded live before an audience. A memorable evening!

**OCTOBER** Our young readers love Halloween! Mt. Pleasant staged its second annual Haunted House which attracted 80 local children. Maybe the librarians take their job a little too seriously...! (*far left*)

**NOVEMBER** A *Ready For K!* (R4K) student (*left*) explores the bug world sensory table at Rochambeau. After a successful two-year pilot, R4K became a permanent program at PCL in 2015. R4K program modules feature hands-on learning and creative storytelling and story-acting practices based on Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards.

**DECEMBER** Festival Ballet Providence put everyone in the holiday mood at multiple locations with its educational and entertaining *Nutcracker* Workshops. They came back in Spring to present some equally popular workshops about *Swan Lake*.



## The Year in Review — HIGHLIGHTS

**JANUARY** At right, a yogini in training at Wanskuck's *Beginner's Yoga Program*, which caters to youth and teen participants. PCL offers a range of fitness and wellness programs at our libraries throughout the year.

**FEBRUARY** We partnered with Providence Children's Film Festival (PCFF) to bring a free animation workshop to PCL (*pictured far right, Washington Park*). Kids made animated elements at different stations and contributed towards a collaborative short movie. PCFF also provided free movies at PCL locations during the Festival.

**MARCH** Teen Tech Week (*near right*) brought holograms, smartphone apps, codebreaking, killer passwords and tech autopsies to Knight Memorial Library. Part of a national initiative, Teen Tech Week 2016 celebrated the theme *Create it at your Library*.

**APRIL** *What Cheer? Brigade* provided a spectacular musical finale to PCL's Amnesty Week party at Mt. Pleasant. Held on RI Library Awareness Day during National Libraries Week, the party featured generously-donated refreshments, entertainment from improv artist Eric Fulford and a grand raffle!

**MAY** A workshop at Fox Point produced this fabulous fairy furniture for tiny houses, all made from shells and other natural materials (*top of page, far right*).

**JUNE** Is it summer again already? Mayor Elorza was a welcome guest at Washington Park's summer reading program kickoff party on June 30. More than 350 kids registered there for summer reading! They would be joined by hundreds more at other PCL locations in the following weeks, plus the many new families to whom we reached through the Mobile Library.



*Left, A beautiful family gets into the holiday spirit at the Christmas Bazaar presented by the Friends of Smith Hill.*



Leah Lubman (center) of PCL records a conversation between Jo-Ann Ryan, Councilwoman for Elmhurst, Mount Pleasant and Manton (left) and Valerie Tutson (right) at StoryCorps Live! at Mount Pleasant. Sokeo Ros, Artistic Director & Choreographer of Everett Dance Company and Len Cabral, storyteller and author, also were interviewed.

Right: Benjamin and Elijah asked mom Elexe why Washington Park Library was special to her as a child.

Far right: Tales of bears and runaway horses during the interview with Smith Hill librarian Alan Gunther and his father.



## The Neighborhood Comes to the Rescue!

When Olneyville Library was damaged by flooding following heavy rains on April 23, Friends of Olneyville, library staff, local businesses and residents organized a fundraiser. "Re-Place, Re-Store, Re-Open Olneyville Library" raised \$10,000 in just two hours. The money will be used to buy new furniture and other items. Special thanks to Cluck Urban Farm Supply for hosting the event and to everyone who made it possible!



## Amnesty Week

For one week in April, library users once again returned hundreds of overdue materials and donated food in lieu of fines. PCL donated a staggering 879 pounds to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank following Amnesty Week, enough food to provide a meal a day for 24 people for an entire month!



Full baskets of food donated by patrons, some giving even if they didn't have fines!



PCL's Michelle Novello talks about Amnesty Week on The Rhode Show.



The cast posed for a photo following a bilingual performance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at South Providence Library, produced in association with Rhode Island Latino Arts and the Trinity Repertory Company.



## Thank you, Supporters of Providence Community Library

*PCL proudly acknowledges all donations made between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. PCL receives less than 90% of its funding from the City of Providence and the State of RI. Every dollar we receive means a lot—and goes straight to maintaining PCL's collections, providing diverse programming, access to computers, as well as free cultural and arts events. Our libraries are open to everyone and provide potentially life-changing possibilities for our patrons. A donation to PCL is a donation to the future of Providence.*

### \$1,000,000+

City of Providence

### \$500,000+

State of Rhode Island

### \$250,000+

The Champlin Foundations

### \$20,000+

Henry and Peggy Sharpe, Jr. and Sarah Sharpe and John Powley  
Mabel T. Woolley Trust

### \$10,000+

Elms Foundation (Merle, Stanley, Larry and Jill Goldstein)  
International Game Technology PLC  
June Rockwell Levy Foundation  
Linda and Harold Kushner  
Nordson Corporation Foundation  
The Rhode Island Foundation  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Rhode Island Senate

### \$5,000+

American Library Association  
Billy Andrade-Brad Faxon Charities for Children  
John Clarke Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee  
Friends of Rochambeau Library  
Mark McKenney  
Mary Dexter Chafee Fund  
Providence Journal Charitable Legacy Fund  
RDW Group, Inc.  
RIDOT Office of Highway Safety  
RI Health Center Association

### \$2,500+

Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.  
BJ's Charitable Foundation  
Dexter Donation  
Emma G. Harris Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee  
Frederick C. Tanner Memorial Fund  
Joan Gelch and Morris Weintraub  
Harry M., Miriam C. & William C. Horton Fund, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee  
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts  
Herman Rose  
Santander Bank. N.A.  
Sharpe Family Foundation  
Signore Family Foundation  
United HealthCare  
Naida Weisberg

### \$1,000+

Joseph Chazan  
Joel Cohen and Andrea Toon  
CVS Health  
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Salvatore Laterra  
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Ellen Schwartz and Stephen Ciesluk  
Severus Foundation  
Shivan and Jyothi Subramaniam  
Textron Matching Gift Program  
Ken Wise  
Anonymous

### \$500+

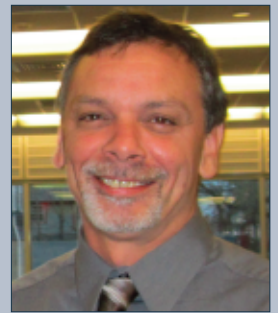
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### \$250+

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Citizens Charitable Foundation  
Mary and Robert Daly  
Murray and Judith Danforth  
Jane Desforges and Michael White  
Ann Dodge  
Dorothy Dumont  
Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center  
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Allan and Barbara Feldman  
Donna and Harley Frank  
Deborah Furia  
Sandra Gandsman and Arnold Herman  
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Richard Wong and Barbara Schepps Wong

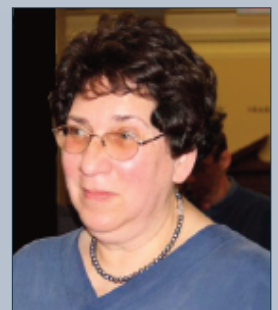


*Judanne Hamidzada has served for over 20 years as a Youth Services librarian and as Manager for the past year. She is an effective and kind leader who is beloved by patrons. Judanne's impact on patrons and staff is something that can't be matched.*



*Mike Nickerson has been improving our buildings for 17 years in a friendly and positive way, always displaying professionalism and compassion. He works hard to accommodate everyone's needs, creating comfortable, clean, and efficient spaces for all.*

## Volunteer of the Year



*PCL Board member, Treasurer and Founder, Ellen Schwartz dedicates countless hours to support the overall running of the Library. She also volunteers as an ESL teacher and has been brought to tears by the successes of her students.*

## \$100+

AAA Southern New England  
Joan and Richard Abrams  
Felicia Nimue Ackerman  
Tony Aguilar  
Hamilton and Irene Allen  
Susanna Angelillo  
Ed and Priscilla Bailey  
Marjorie Beach  
Robert Bedick and Marsha Miller  
Anita Berger  
Doug Best and Maureen Reddy  
Patricia and John Biasuzzi  
Katherine Blacklock  
Andrew and Beverly Blazar  
Joan Boghossian  
Donald and Elizabeth Breed  
Valerie and Joseph Burke  
Rod Burkett  
Rocco Caldararo  
Paul and Susan Campbell  
Suzanne and David Cane  
Jeffrey Cannell  
Maria Cimini  
William Claflin  
Tiffany Cohen  
College Crusade Of RI  
Sharon Conard  
John Connors  
William and Hannelore Crossgrove  
Diane Curran and Linda Katz  
Janet Cusick and Anthony Lioce  
Joan Dagle and James Kittredge  
Karen Daigle  
Hadassah and Phillip Davis  
Doris De Los Santos  
Deborah Del Gais  
Cedric DeLeon and Emily Heaphy  
Gerald DeSchepper  
Rep. Grace Diaz  
Wendell and Betsy Dietrich  
James and Frances Dillion  
Paula Donovan



*The Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center held a dinner to raise funds for Knight Memorial. The event raised \$450, which was gratefully received and used to purchase children's books.*

Helen Drew and Kenneth Payne  
Wendy Drumm  
Christopher and Courtney Dupaul  
Eileen Dyer  
Jean Edwards  
Ruth Edwards  
Nathan Epstein  
Susan Erkkinen  
Frank Faltus  
Temple Fawcett  
Nicholas Fazzano  
Barbara and Walter Feldman  
Molly Flanagan  
Edward and Gail Fogarty

Helena and William Foulkes  
Robert and Wendy Fournier  
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Richard Gregory and Louise Thorson  
Linda Grenz and Delbert Glover  
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Steven Hamburg and Sally Barker  
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Betty Jaffe  
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David and Dorothy Kellogg  
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Elizabeth Kofron and John Robson  
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Christine Kue  
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Nina Kushner and Joon Bai  
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Emily Maranjian  
James March  
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Brad and Marcie Marston

## In-kind Contributors

Antonio Aguilar/New Flavor Media, LLC  
Blooming Blossoms  
Jessica Daley  
Grapes & Grains  
Sue Greenfield  
I.M. Gan Discount Liquors  
David Karoff  
LaSalle Bakery  
Laughing Gull Chocolates  
Marcus Mitchell  
Pane e Vino Ristorante  
Revival Brewing Co.  
Ellen Schwartz CPA  
Silver Star Bakery  
Washington Park Community Center  
What Cheer? Brigade

*... and the many readers who have given their treasured books to our libraries.*

Jack Martin  
Ronald and Jane Massa  
Robert and Theresa Mathiesen  
Sabina Matos  
Mary Ellen McCabe  
Sara and Jack McConnell  
Virginia McLoughlin  
Jean McWilliams  
Suzanne Michaud  
Kennon Miller and Jennifer Newkirk  
Liz Morancy  
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Gary and Kathryn Wessel  
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Sam and Lauren Zurier  
Anonymous

## \$1+

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Norma Anderson  
Annette Angeli  
Susan Apshaga  
Gale Aronson  
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Edward and Anne Bozzi  
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Luz Bravo-Gleicher  
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*Congressman David Cicilline and Linda Kushner (above center), both of whom were instrumental in the creation of PCL in 2009, were honored at PCL's May 4th fundraiser. More than 150 friends, staff, sponsors and supporters mingled at Hotel Providence, enjoying good company and fine hors d'oeuvres. The event raised \$50,000, including \$10,000 raised through a 50:50 raffle.*

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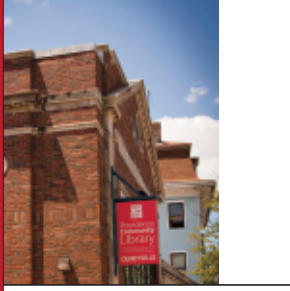
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