

Year in Review

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019



WHITE
PLAINS
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Dear Library Patrons

Weeks before the last fiscal year got underway, we opened The Hub, our new library for adults. This marked the completion of several years of construction, and plenty of disruption. Big thanks to White Plains residents for their patience! And thanks also to our **staff members**, who managed to keep the Library opening throughout the renovation, saving on any relocation costs.

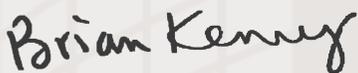
But the noise and upheaval was worth it, and our Library today is bright, open, welcoming, and well designed to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's users. Visitors are finding spaces for quiet study, small conferences, classroom instruction, leisure reading, and large group meetings, while staff is finding new ways to utilize our reinvented facility.

A **Welcome Desk** helps orient everyone to the library building and our collections, programs, and services. Hub staff has more—and better—technology to offer patrons. Thanks to our partnership with the NY Hospitality Group, we now have the **Everyday Healthy Café** which doubles as a home for our **Friends Bookstore**, which has expanded and blossomed in its new location. The Friends continue to support the Library in many ways, especially in enabling professional development for Library staff.

The White Plains Public Library is a municipal library, and we are grateful to **Mayor Thomas Roach and members of the Common Council** for their continued and consistent support. Our staff, collections, and facility are all funded by the City of White Plains. The **Library's Board of Trustees** has been visionary in their support for a re-invented library. Thanks also go to the **White Plains Library Foundation**; through their work and generosity we are able to significantly enhance our building, programs, and services.

What's ahead? In 2019-20 we'll be renovating the Gallery, Auditorium, and second floor meeting rooms. The local cable TV station will move into the Library and share the Auditorium. Next year at this time our renovation work will be done and our grand Library, which opened in 1974, will be ready to serve White Plains for the next 50 years.

See you at the Library,



Brian Kenney
Library Director
bkenney@whiteplainslibrary.org
914-422-1406



Paul Schwarz
President, Library Board of Trustees

FY19 Highli



Wellness Wednesdays, which began as a weekly meditation session—expanded to include a range of practices that address stress, anxiety, and mindfulness. Attendance grew steadily throughout the year.

Common Ground, a partnership with the League of Women Voters, brought together a cross-section of White Plains to discuss some of the most pressing topics of our day: Immigration & American Identity, Transgender Rights, Race & American Society, and more.

Technology learning continued with adult programs on popular

topics like cord cutting (cancelling subscriptions to TV services), internet privacy, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence.

THE EDGE

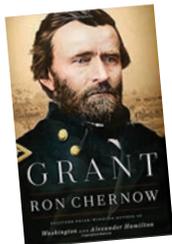
The Edge, our teen library, celebrated its 5th anniversary! To mark the occasion, we had an after-hours party for teens, keeping the Library open until 9 p.m. on a Friday evening. The Edge also welcomed 575 sixth grade students from Eastview Middle School, and provided a series of free, one-week summer camps focused on Maker activities such as 3D printing, video creation,

and more. We also started two successful programs: Mindfulness for Teens, where teens learn stress management techniques, and STEM Saturdays, a program designed and led by high school students that teaches engineering concepts to children.

This Week on Martine, the Library's newsletter, went from a monthly to a weekly communication while subscribers tripled from 3,000 to over 12,000.

The **White Plains Library Foundation** hosted three special events. The fall gala featured author **Ron Chernow**, who spoke about Ulysses S. Grant,

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the subject of his award-winning biography. The world's most prolific—and famous—audiobook reader and White Plains resident, **George Guidall**, shared his experiences with a full house of listeners. **Carol Fitzgerald**, founder of TheBookReporter.com, presented the year's most exciting new books. The Foundation helped fund many of our new programs through generous community contributions and grants.

Book groups really took off with regular meetings to discuss crime fiction, short stories, women's memoirs, and more. Reading is definitely a contact sport, and books are made richer through sharing.



We launched **Trove Time**, an innovative early literacy program for caregivers and children ages two to four. It includes time to play, socialize, and have fun. Offered three times

a week, we provided 107 sessions and more than 4,000 participants experienced the program.

In keeping with data that shows that fines discourage children from borrowing books—oftentimes for years—we ended the practice of charging late fees on materials borrowed by youth. Families are still responsible for returning material or else their card becomes unusable.

Sign-up for our newsletter
whiteplainslibrary.org/newsletter

Our Numbers Are Up



Computer usage in the Hub was up thanks to the increased capacity—more computers and better technology.



Nearly 37,000 **patrons** attended 3,450 **programs**



We lent out 972 **museum passes**. Most popular museums? The Intrepid, MoMA, and the Guggenheim.



Circulation The biggest jump was in our digital collection; e-books and e-audiobooks saw borrowing increase. This was due to the ability to share material among other Westchester public libraries as well as increased spending on digital content on our end.



Hotspots—which allow you to take the Internet with you—were lent out nearly 900 times over the past year. We will expand this hugely successful service in the next fiscal year.

Thank You Donors



About Us

The White Plains Library Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization incorporated in 1995 to help the White Plains Public Library reach its long term goals. Through contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations, the Foundation raises funds for new programs, service enhancements, and capital projects. Private support from Foundation donors helps supplement the Library's essential public funding from the City of White Plains.



What We've Accomplished

- Raised nearly \$7 million in private support
- Completed capital campaigns for the Trove, Edge, and Hub
- Awarded grants to expand programs for kids & teens
- Commissioned a design study and contributed funds to transform the Gallery



What We Fund

- Building improvements, furniture and signage
- Afterschool activities, language classes, and early literacy programs
- Innovative technology like 3-D printers, virtual reality, robotics, and video production equipment
- Book groups, art exhibits, cultural celebrations, and author events



How You Can Help

- Join us! Donate at whiteplainslibrary.org/foundation or by mail
- Ask your employer about matching gifts
- Support the Gala and annual appeal
- Talk with us about sponsoring a program or creating a bequest to benefit the Library

Contact

Nancy Rubini, Executive Director
nrubini@whiteplainslibrary.org
914-422-1495



100 Martine Ave
White Plains, NY 10601
914-422-1400
whiteplainslibrary.org