The Avid Reader

Friends of the Scranton Public Library | Winter 2017/18 Issue

www.albright.org

From the Library Director:

On June 1, 2018 the Albright Memorial Library will celebrate its 125th anniversary. In preparation for this momentous occasion the Library has undergone significant improvements over the last few years, including the installation of an elevator in 2012 and a total masonry preservation project in 2013/14. Attention has now shifted to necessary interior upgrades - including new flooring (carpet, vinyl and tile) refinishing a significant portion of the wonderfully crafted woodwork, complete renovation of the public restrooms, a new circulation desk, and additional lighting. When completed - early 2018, the Albright Memorial Library will be in tip-top shape - ready to serve the people of Lackawanna County for the next 125 years!

There is a downside though. As the saying goes "Temporary Inconvenience, Permanent Improvement" and the library project is no exception. The stripping and refinishing of the woodwork, along with the restroom renovations will make the Library generally uninhabitable for patrons and staff alike. Consequently, beginning on Monday, November 27th the Albright Library will be closed for at least a few weeks - maybe longer. But rest assured the results will be worth the inconvenience and we will do everything we can to make certain that the inconvenience will not be one hour longer than necessary.

While the doors to the Albright might be locked, library service will continue to be available. Our Nancy Kay Holmes Branch will maintain its regular service hours; Library Express (located in the Marketplace at Steamtown) will actually have increased hours; the Bookmobile will make its appointed rounds, and the Children's' Library will operate as per usual.

Mark Your Calendar For Our 2018 Book Sales

February 27-March 4
June 5-June 10
September 11-September 16
December 4-December 9

Located at the Marketplace Steamtown Mall
We're always looking for willing volunteers to help us setup and staff the sales. If you are intersted please call our volunteer coordinators, Pat Bisignani (570-346-2558 or Diane Coolbaugh (570-347-6620).

The Top 10 Circulating Books at the Scranton Public Library

Fiction:

1. The Whistler by John Grisham
2. Never Never by James Patterson
3. Truly Madly Guilty by Liane Moriarty
4. The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
5. The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware
6. The Mistress by Danielle Steel
7. One Perfect Lie by Lisa Scottoline
8. Night School by Lee Child
9. Dangerous Games by Danielle Steel
10. A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Non-Fiction:

1. I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
2. I Heard You Paint Houses by Charles Brandt
3. Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance
4. Haunted Scranton by Anthony C. Bernardi
5. Shattered by Jonathan Allen
6. The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up by Marie Kondo
7. The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman
8. The Quiet Don by Matt Birkbeck
9. Men Explain Things to Me by Rebecca Solnit
10. No One Cares About Crazy People by Ron Powers

From the Friends President

A Time to Say Farewell

We, the Board of the Friends of the Scranton Public, were extremely fortunate to have had the privilege of working with a very devoted member of our organization-Barbara Murphy.

I can say with confidence that Barbara Murphy was very passionate about serving the Scranton Public Library and her community. Until recently, she was employed by the Scranton School District for thirty years, where she performed her duties as a classroom teacher, Learning Support teacher and most recently, Librarian. Upon her retirement, she left this area to be closer to her family.

Barbara's compassion and willingness to assist at any given time was remarkable. Her services to the Friends included Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Chairperson, and Special Events Co-chairperson. She also served on the following committees: Book Sale, Friends Helping Friends, Hill House Tours, Special Events, Swingin' on Vine, and the Newsletter Committee. She was never too busy to help at our many events.

Barbara has served the Friends with honor, dignity and respect for such a long time that it may be easy for someone to take over her position(s) on the Board of the Friends. However, those individuals will never fulfill the duties in the same manner in which she so graciously did. I would also like to thank her for encouraging me to join the Friends.

Her endless devotion to the Friends was appreciated by everyone on the Board.

On behalf of the Board and myself, we wish Barb continued happiness, good health, success in all she does, and fun times as she enters into the next phase of her life. "Thank you, Barb!"

Sincerely,
Jill Cadden
Friends of the Scranton Public Library
President

Save The Date

Computer Classes

Check www.albright.org for the class schedule

Scranton Reads
October 2018

Save The Date

Join us for First Friday At the Albright Memorial Library

Swingin' On Vine
May 25, 2018

2018

Maker Mondays

Check www.albright.org for dates and details.

BUS TRIP

www.albright.org

The Friends of the Scranton Public Library Cordially Invite You To Join Their Annual Bus Trip on Saturday, April 28, 2018

Lehigh University Library and Moravian Museum

Friends Members: $45.00 and Guests $50.00

1. The bus will leave from the Scranton Public Library at 8:00 am and departs Bethlehem at 7:00 pm.
2. Tour the Lehigh University Library and Moravian Museum.
3. Dinner and lunch are on your own.
4. Opportunity for shopping in the exciting city of Bethlehem.
5. Deadline to register is April 1, 2018. No refunds after April 14, 2018

For more information contact Jill Cadden @ 570-947-6571 or Gail Rees @ 570-650-7283

Please complete the below form
Checks can be made out to FSPL, 500 Vine Street, Scranton, PA 18509 Attn: Tina Thomas/Bus Trip
Deadline to register: April 1, 2018. No refunds after April 14, 2018

Name_____
Please Print

Home Phone:_____ Cell Phone:_____
Number of Tickets:_____

Guest Names_____ _____
Amount Enclosed_____

Meet Laureen O'Handley
Head of Children's Service
Lackawanna County Children's Library

It was in 2005 when Laureen O'Handley and her family decided to move from Long Island, New York. Laureen's sister put a bug in her ear about an opening at the Lackawanna County Children's Library (LCCL), and she applied for the position. When Laureen was hired as Head of Children's Services for the LCCL she, and family, were on their way to Lackawanna County after Laureen had spent 20 years being a librarian in Long Island.

She always wanted to be a teacher or a librarian. She has a Bachelor of Science in French with a minor in 19th Century Literature from the University of Stony Brook, New York. She also earned a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University, New York. After teaching English for two years while she served as a volunteer in the Peace Corps in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, she decided teaching was too structured and restrictive for this self-proclaimed free spirit. Her curious manner and easily distracted attention span was not the right fit for her career as a teacher. She noted, "I started in libraries when I was seventeen, and I've never left! That's been a long time."

Laureen has made a point of making sure that every child feels welcome and valued at the LCCL. She even goes so far as to make sure questions posed by a child get the same attention and consideration as any adult conversation. Her own childhood experiences did not open such doors for her generation. At that time children were discouraged from exploring any and all reading materials, as well as letting their own curiosity investigate any nook and cranny of the library they found interesting. These limitations have left an impression on her and inspired her to work diligently, every day, to be sure they are not repeated. "I always wanted the library to be a welcoming place for parents and children. A place that all feel comfortable coming to, more than a library. I wanted it to be a community place, a gathering place. I think we are achieving that." No matter how technological advances have touched all our lives, Laureen feels that the families still get a true sense of community when visiting and using the LCCL, and that it's "a great place to bring your child."

SECOND SUNDAYS WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

LACKAWANNA COUNTY CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

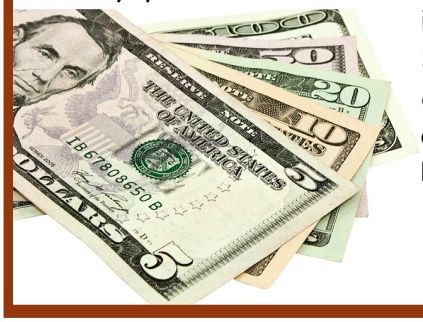
FREE MONEY? WELL, MAYBE THE NEXT BEST THING!

by: Joan Hodowanitz

Has your church or alma mater ever asked you to remember them in your will? Did you ignore their requests because you preferred to leave your entire estate to your heirs? Well, now there may be a way to honor such requests without taking money from your heirs or your own bank account.

As you know, the money you receive as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is not subject to inheritance taxes. Consequently, some "mature" (notice that I didn't say "older") individuals will purchase a life insurance policy to minimize the inheritance taxes on their estates. Now here's where it gets really interesting. Recently some insurance companies, in an effort to be known as good corporate citizens, have begun offering what is called a "charitable giving rider" on life insurance policies. For example, an insurance company might pay one percent of the face amount of a life insurance policy to any organization which meets the IRS's definition of a 501(c) charity.

So how does this actually work? Consider the following example. Suppose you buy a life insurance policy with a face value of $100,000. If the insurance company offers a one-percent charitable giving rider, it will still pay your heirs the full face amount, but it will also pay $1,000 to whatever charity you choose. What does this cost you and your heirs? Absolutely nothing! What does the insurance company get for its $1,000? Really good publicity.

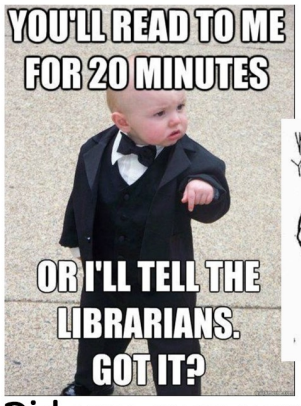


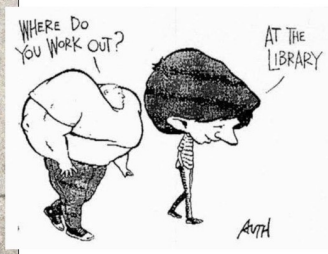
So the next time you get one of those requests from your church or alma mater, remember this new insurance option. And remember that no organization will do more good with your money than the Scranton Public Library.

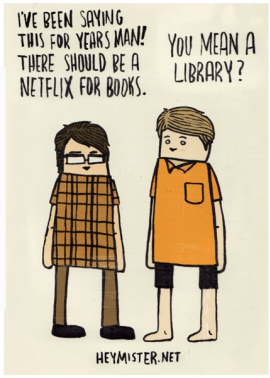
Family Fun

Quotable Facts About America's Libraries:

*There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the U.S. 16,766.
*Reference Librarians in the nation answer nearly 6.6 million questions weekly.
*Students make 1.3 billion visits to school libraries during the school year.







Did you ever wonder?

*If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
*Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?
*When someone asks you for "a penny for your thoughts" and you put in your two cents, what happened to the other penny?

Friends of the Scranton Public Library Annual Membership Form

Please Print

Name_____

Street_____

City_____

Zip Code_____ Phone_____

email:_____

Our future goal is to save costs and email the newsletter.
By providing your address you're helping us contact you.

Check one:

O New O Renewal

Membership Levels

O Individual - $10
O Senior Citizen - $5
O Business - $30
O Family - $15
O Student - $5
O Lifetime - $75

O Cash O Checks made payable to the Friends of Scranton Public Library

Please return this form with payment to
Friends of the Scranton Public Library
500 Vine Street, Scranton, Pa 18509
attn Christina Thomas

O I am interested in volunteering to help at book sales.

Thank you for supporting the Friends of the Scranton Public Library through your membership. We help the library in many ways, including sponsoring programs at the Lackawanna County Children's Library. In addition to helping the library, you receive these benefits from being a member: Newsletter, 10% discount at quarterly book sales, discounts and priorities on all Friends' trips and activities, and a Friends' bookmark for new members.

revised 10/12/17

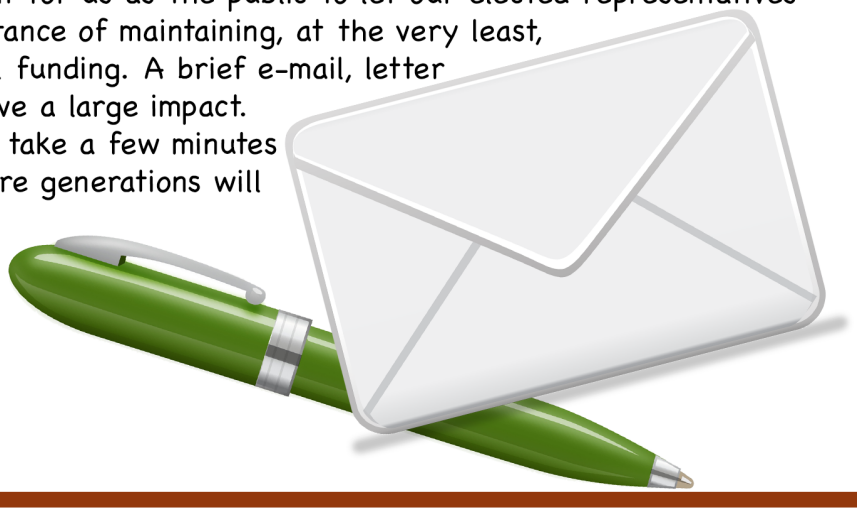
Annual Membership year runs from January through December. Contributions deductible as allowed by law.

Arts and Humanitites

by: Peter Tafuri, Past President of the Friends of the Scranton Public Library

It is, or should be, a well-known fact that government funding for the arts and humanities has an enormous multiplier effect; every dollar spent generates far more in the spin-off, to say nothing of the intangibles. The revitalization of downtown Scranton is a good example of this and the library has certainly done its part. Not only does it serve as an important information hub, where the latest technology is made accessible to the entire community; it also culturally enriches the area by sponsoring a variety of free outreach programs, such as guest speakers, movies, children's activities and so forth.

Despite all the positives, government funding, which accounts for only a minute fraction of one percent of total spending, is again under threat, with many politicians calling for a complete elimination of it. Sadly, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for the private sector to make up for the loss. As such, it is incumbent for us as the public to let our elected representatives know how we feel about the importance of maintaining, at the very least, and expanding at the best this vital funding. A brief e-mail, letter or phone call to that effect will have a large impact. For the benefit of everyone, please take a few minutes to follow through; present and future generations will thank you for it!"



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*Contributed to the Winter 2017/18 Newsletter

Friends of the Scranton Public Library
500 Vine Street, Scranton, PA 18509

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Our Mission
To preserve and strenghten the Scranton Public Library and create awareness and appreciation of library services.

Did you know the Scranton Public Library has...