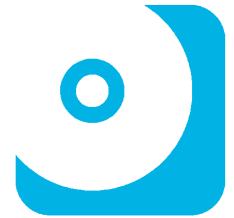
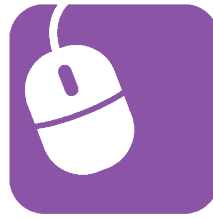


# PAGES

A PUBLICATION OF THE



## READING PUBLIC LIBRARY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

### UNDER THE RAINBOW

Have you been upstairs to the Teen and Children's Library since 2013 renovations? There have been some big changes which created a more flexible space. Our children, teens, and families enjoy the new bright, open, and inviting atmosphere.

Unfortunately the mural already on the huge wall was a victim of the renovation. And for a year, we looked at a blank wall while we served our patrons with award-winning programs, computer access, and wonderful books, movies, magazines, and music. So once we learned how our new space could be used, it was time for a new mural.

Michael Miller of Berks Community Murals worked with library staff to create a new design. In late December, he started painting. Here he is during the first week.



On January 21 and 26 we held family painting parties. Folks in our community turned out in force to take part in creating this once-in-a-lifetime project. Take a look:



We are overwhelmingly grateful to Alex and Sherry Cameron for funding the new "Under the Rainbow" mural and to Mike Miller for the countless hours he spent with us designing and painting.

Be sure to go upstairs and have a look. See how many iconic story, myth, and legend symbols you can find! And look for an announcement about the dedication of our new mural—very, very soon.

Reading Public Library Foundation Presents



# Cocktails & Classics

**FRIDAY** COCKTAILS  
**MARCH 27** SWEET & SAVORY BITES  
**6-9 PM • GOGGLEWORKS** LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

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readingpubliclibrary.org  
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# FROM THE DIRECTOR: FRANK KASPROWICZ

The beginning of a New Year is always an exciting time, and the first months of 2015 are no exception. We have a lot of things to be excited about and thankful for at RPL.

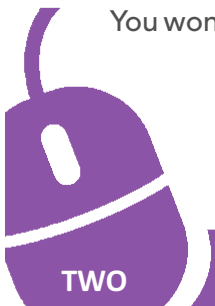
One of the first things you might have noticed is that we have a new slogan for RPL, one that we feel is especially perfect for the library: Read, Play, Live. Those three verbs stand for all the things you can do and learn and enjoy at the library, some which you might not be aware of.

Take Read, for example. We offer six free adult classes in the Main Library each month. Five of the classes are computer classes, and one of them is how to write a resume for a job application. You will also find that we provide a variety of programs for all ages. This month a Mindpop program is about "Genealogy," and February's program was about the Constitution and the Supreme Court. The younger generations also have their own programs. Teens enjoyed a "Bonding Over Books Brunch" after reading *The Secret Life of Bees* with a chosen friend, parent, etc. And there are many, many more programs.

Play covers a lot of activities. One of our most popular is access to the arts. We make it possible for patrons to have free tickets to the Reading Symphony, Miller Center for the Arts at RACC, Berks History Center, and Reading Public Museum. The Main Library and the Northeast Branch offer an open Book Club at each site. The Children's Department has a Wrestling Club which is for kids and their family members. They read about wrestling, make a craft, and watch a match on television. On another day they read aloud to Clara, the tamed Therapy Dog.

Live is the last word, but certainly not the least important. Its boundaries are the widest of the three. It includes everything from the Mindpop programs that include cooking classes to the high school bands that provide music during the countywide Jazz Fest. One of our newest and most exciting additions for our patrons is the digitization of all 682 of its high school yearbooks. Digitization is the process where printed material is converted to a format that you can search for online. So if your yearbook has been digitized and you lost the one you got in high school, you can go online and look at it there!

Come to the Library for the opportunity to **Read, Play, Live!**  
You won't be disappointed.



## LIBRARY HOURS & LOCATIONS

### MAIN LIBRARY

100 South Fifth Street  
610-655-6350

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
9:30 to 7:00

Thursday, Friday  
9:30 to 5:30

Saturday  
9:30 to 3:00

### NORTHWEST BRANCH

901 Schuylkill Avenue  
610-655-6360

Tuesday  
12:00 to 7:30

Thursday  
9:30 to 5:00

Saturday  
10:00 to 3:00

### NORTHEAST BRANCH

1348 North 11th Street  
610-655-6361

Monday  
9:30 to 5:00

Wednesday  
12:00 to 7:30

Saturday  
10:00 to 3:00

### SOUTHEAST BRANCH

1426 Perkiomen Avenue  
610-655-6362

Monday  
12:00 to 7:30

Wednesday  
9:30 to 5:00

Saturday  
10:00 to 3:00

### WEBSITE

[readingpubliclibrary.org](http://readingpubliclibrary.org)

## JAZZ FEST PERFORMANCE BY MINAS

Join us on April 11 at noon for a performance by Minas, a Philadelphia-based Brazilian jazz band with a unique and innovative sound drawn from their Brazilian and American roots. The group was formed by Orlando Haddad and Patricia King in 1978 at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. They have performed all over the eastern United States and in Brazil, where they resided for a time before settling in Philadelphia. Their music has been featured on numerous television and radio programs such as Emeril Live on PBS and NPR's Crossover with Jill Pasternak.



For more than 25 years Minas has been teaching the music and culture of Brazil in libraries, schools, and universities through live performances, workshops, and hands-on participation.

This spring Minas will release a new album, *Symphony in Bossa*, featuring the Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia. A single from the album "The Girl from Ipanema" was released in November. Visit their website, [minamusic.com](http://minamusic.com) to sample their music.

Minas will be at Main Library on April 11 at noon. The performance is free and family friendly.

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2015

Does it feel as if summer will NEVER get here? Not at the Reading Public Library! As soon as one summer ends, we begin planning for the next. We've been working on the 2015 Summer Reading Program since last September. This year the theme will be superheroes. Children will have a great time with *Every Hero Has a Story*. Teens will *Unmask!* to discover the hero within. And we always include adults so the whole family can read together. The library's adult patrons can *Escape the Ordinary*. Sounds like a plan!

All 4 of our Reading Public Library locations will have programs for all ages. To help prevent summer learning loss, everyone is eligible to win prizes for reading. Performers are scheduled to entertain us throughout the summer.

Join us for Summer Reading 2015 from June 8 through August 15.

NEWS FLASH!!! On the dark side of super heroes - Star Wars villains will mount an expedition to the Main Library on Saturday, October 3 at noon. Meet Darth Vader and his crew. They will test your Star Wars trivia, answer your questions, and pose for endless photos. We dare you to join us ...

**Remember to save your Redner's tapes for the RPL!**

**Bring your register tape to the Main Library or any of the three branches and put it in the box at the circulation desk.**

**Shop at Redner's and help raise funds for the RPL!**





# GROSSOLOGY

Did you know that on a typical day the average person will produce a quart of mucus and fart 14 times? Probably not. But the children who attended a program called Grossology this past summer know these disgusting facts – and many more. Yucky facts about bodily functions and weird animals were collected and then shared using PowerPoint presentations, which allowed participants to take turns reading the gross facts out loud.



After reading together and sharing personal gross stories, the grossologists worked on data charts to record information about nose picking, booger eating, and favorite gross animals. When it was time for the hands-on activities, even the parents were eager to make goopy snot and fake poop!

During the last Grossology session, the children took a quiz on the gross terms they previously learned and were awarded a "Certificate of Disgustingness." The grossologists also prepared and devoured icky snacks such as bloody band-aids (graham crackers with frosting and jelly), and dirty q-tips (marshmallows on candy sticks dipped in butterscotch).

Grossology proved to be a successful "sneaky science" program, exposing families to science, literacy, and even math under the guise of burps, boogers, and poop. The participants had so much fun getting grossed out, they were not even aware of how much they were learning at the same time. This program was named Best Family Program of 2014 by Berks County Public Libraries. Kim Sheffer from the Children's Department accepted the program award at the thirteenth annual award presentation at Wernersville Public Library on December 18. Congratulations to all the RPL grossologists!



# BOOK REVIEW

By Debbie Minotto, Southeast Branch

**Orphan Train**  
by Christina Baker Kline

If you enjoy historical fiction, the novel *Orphan Train* may enlighten you about a seemingly little-known part of American history. The book centers on a time the orphan trains and the Children's Aid Society changed many lives—some for better and some for worse.

Based on true facts, the story focuses on the time from 1929 to 1943. Orphaned children were put on trains to be transported from cities on the east coast to various areas in the Midwest. Although many were put into foster care or adopted in the same area they had lived in the East, many more were put on trains and moved west.



The author creates two main characters that seem to have nothing in common at first. Molly Ayer is a 17-year-old girl who has been in foster care for several years, and whose recent actions have threatened to land her in juvenile detention. She meets Vivian Daly as part of a community service agreement. Since Vivian is living alone in a big house, Molly is enlisted to help her clean out her attic.

They both find that they have had diverse struggles in their lives and have learned to survive and overcome tragedy. As their relationship turns into friendship and their mutual trust grows, a bond develops that neither would have thought possible. The two learn that no matter what life hands us, we benefit when we can look beyond our own problems and reach out to others.

*Orphan Train* is the 2015 One Book, One Community selection.





## LEAVE A LEGACY®

*Has the Reading Public Library played a role in your past?*

*You can play a role in its future. How?*

*By making a bequest.*

*Make a Will!*

*Make a Difference!*

*Remember the Reading Public Library Foundation.*

## YEARBOOK DIGITIZATION PROJECT

At the end of 2014 RPL had an opportunity to have part of its high school yearbook collection digitized. Digitization is the process in which printed material is made available in a format that is accessible online. Oklahoma Correctional Industries (OCI) is a business run by inmates in Lexington, Oklahoma. The company makes yearbook digitization a free service to any library that contacts them.

So Reading Public Library shipped all 682 of its high school yearbooks to OCI in November 2014. The crew then digitized every volume onto DVDs. OCI also provided the cardboard boxes (a product they make themselves) to contain the DVDs and paid for the FedEx parcel delivery. All the yearbooks returned to the library on January 6 in the same condition in which they were dispatched in November – but now they were accompanied by dozens of DVDs.

We are very excited to be able to offer digitized archives of our own material, and we hope we might be able to do the same with other parts of our collection in the near future.

## LIZ ESHELMAN: A FRIEND OF RPL

Liz Eshelman loves libraries. She worked as a librarian at Alvernia University and at Albright College before she retired after thirty years. But she never abandoned libraries, and she is still actively involved with several! It is Liz's dedication and tireless donation of her time, energy, and expertise to libraries that earned her the Dreisbach Award in December. The award is presented annually to a person for exceptional dedication and contributions to a library or libraries in Berks County.

Liz has long been a staunch supporter of Reading Public Library. She began volunteering at the Northwest Branch in 2008. She was a terrific worker, diligently shelving, filing, and doing whatever needed to be done. She was always alert to patrons needing help and quickly offered assistance. She loved to share and promote library resources, and she was wonderful with diverse patrons who grew attached to her quite quickly and always asked for her.



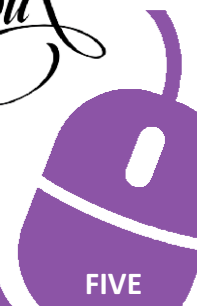
Liz helped us at the Main Library too. She helped set up our fundraiser, Cocktails and Classics, several times. As the Main Library renovation was in the finishing stage, she volunteered to help clean the shelves and books before the Library reopened. She belongs to the Reading Library Company and attends the annual meetings--and more. And RPL is not the only library she supports!

Liz well deserved the Dreisbach Award, for she is an exceptional advocate for libraries. RPL is grateful for her contributions.

## Thank you to all the 2014 Reading Public Library volunteers!

Katelyn Bennett  
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# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2014 INCOME

State	726,646
County	958,473
City of Reading	100,000
Other	
Wide Area Network	132,371
Grants, Gifts and Endowments	97,046
Daily Operations	73,089
<small>(includes Fines, Fees, Reimbursements)</small>	
Transfers from Library Trusts	606,500

**TOTAL INCOME** 2,694,125

## 2014 EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	1,757,401
Collection Development	392,514
Other Operating Expenses	470,693

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 2,620,608

Beginning Balance January 1, 2014 67,197

**TOTAL ENDING BALANCE** 157,393





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The core mission of the Reading Public Library is to provide access and tools for managing the information resources of its community. In doing so it will connect people to the resources they need to actively participate in our evolving democracy, promote civil discourse, provide recreational resources for its members, and empower its neighbors to reach their full potential.



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# Cocktails & Classics

**FRIDAY  
MARCH 27  
6-9 PM  
GOGGLEWORKS**

COCKTAILS • SWEET & SAVORY BITES  
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