

News from the NRPL!



SPRING 2022

Emerging from a Year Like No Other

The Library reopened in May 2020 and we were so happy to welcome back growing numbers of patrons each week. Much to the delight of young families, we resumed in-person programming for children last summer, offering outside activities twice each weekday, for six weeks. Our very popular preschool and after-school programs resumed in September and took place outdoors as long as the weather permitted. *Bad Kitty* author and illustrator Nick Bruel kicked off our after-school programs virtually with a presentation that featured a read aloud from the author, drawing demonstrations, and a question and answer from the audience!



At the end of September, NRPL hosted the first in-person concert since the start of the pandemic. Chip Shelton and his Flute Party Band performed outside in Ruby Dee Park and had listeners tapping their feet to a variety of popular tunes. The following weekend, the Library was buzzing with activity for the first-ever NRPL Family Fair, hosted by the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation.



Over 1,000 people attended this fun-filled, Comic-con inspired day. Featured events include children's book authors, a magic show, a DJ, crafts and a cornucopia of awesome activities. Mark your calendars now for Family Fair 2022 which will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2022.

Children & Teens

Weeks of “Wild” Fun for Kids Over the Summer

New Rochelle went wild for the 2021 Summer Reading Challenge, “Tails & Tales” celebrating all things animals! Over 300 kids signed up for the Challenge. And thanks to funding from the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library and the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation there were outdoor programs galore at the Main Library and the Huguenot Children’s Library (HCL). The 2022 Summer Reading Challenge kicks off on June 25! This summer’s theme is “Oceans of Possibilities” and we’re planning great programs for all ages!

Last summer, a roaring good time was had by all in the Main Children’s Room with our animal-themed weekly storytimes and crafts. Children constructed awesome creations including balloon llamas, raccoon marionettes and milk gallon bird feeders. Kids went wild for our guest presenters including Budding Buddhas’ Animal Yoga and ArchForKids and their Beastly Builds of wildlife habitats (they were also at HCL helping kids find their inner engineer) The Stamford Museum and Nature Center introduced families to live animals (Goats! Rabbits! Cockroaches! Oh my!), and turned our outdoor tented Children’s Garden into a laboratory for science experiments exploring the properties of flight, water, slime and more!

Over at HCL, Summer Fun on the Patio 2021 kept children engaged with all kinds of creative, fun and educational programs! We Love Animals! Storytime, Animal Tales with Melissa, and Funny Furry Friends (featuring the red joke bucket filled with seriously silly jokes) kept kids smiling all summer. HCL’s popular twice weekly art program, Drawing Dynamos! with Sofia always drew a crowd (pun intended), and Melissa and Michaela offered up great crafts for Get Your Art On! The surprise hit was the lively Animal Action dance programs - not even a heat wave stopped the music and the movin’! Speaking of music - everyone loved Wiggle & Giggle with Dawny Dew, who continued to delight children this fall at both HCL and the Main Library.

Thank you to the nearly 3000 patrons who attended our programs in both locations this summer, creating, dancing, listening, reading, and having fun with us! We can’t wait to see you again, in even greater numbers this summer.





Huguenot Children's Library is the Best of Westchester!



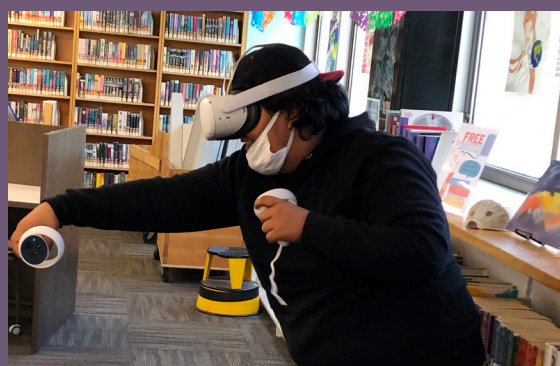
The Huguenot Children's Library was voted Best Children's Library in Westchester 2021 by Westchester Magazine. We appreciate our community for the support and are honored for the recognition.

News From the Teen Room

Kudos to all the teens who joined us for the 2021 "Tails & Tales Summer Reading" program! Over 15 teens participated, taking home a book of their choice for each badge earned. A big congratulations to Jessenia A. for taking home our grand prize basket!

Teens enjoyed the collection of free books, DIY crafts, and goodies. Our Summer Reading Grab & Go Bags were a resounding success. Look for more Grab & Go bags in the future!

This fall, teens dropped in for new weekly crafts and to experience VR (virtual reality.) Our popular monthly video game tournament was back and has been challenging the skills of all participants. This winter we added a weekly Board Game Night, Anime Night, chess and a new music club where we chat and learn about music. Check the events calendar on our website, nrpl.org, for details about these and other upcoming teen programs.



Fall Fun!

At the Main Library, pre-school children's programs in English and Spanish ran throughout the fall in our Children's Garden (weather permitting.) New afterschool programs including Family Art Studio, The Graphic Novel Appreciation Society, and Young Readers Academy, were met with rave reviews and are continued this winter and spring.

At HCL, popular programs including Baby Rhyme Time and Preschool Storytime were back, as well as other favorites including the wonderful Dawny Dew, and Yoga Tots. A new program, STEAM Along with Toddlers was a hit, giving children a chance to enjoy creative (and messy!) activities. HCL launched two new after school clubs: a Young Reader's Book Club for ages 6-8 where new readers found confidence in reading and talking about books, and Find Your Way to Words, a writing club for ages 9-11 where writer's block was banished through fun activities. Young artists were so happy that Art Club, an after school art program led by members of the New Rochelle High School Art Honor Society, returned to HCL in early December and continued into 2022. A new chess program for children 6 years ran at HCL this winter, and came to the Main Library this spring.

For details about all our children's programs, visit our online calendar at nrpl.org.



ArtsFest 2021

ArtsFest 2021 was back and better than ever this past October. The Library hosted Cabaret Veritatis, an intimate concert featuring Angels in the Chamber and the Dave Fabris Quartet, the Ajkun Ballet's *Swan Lake*, and Read650's *Haunted: A Spoken Word Event*, all of which took place in the Ossie Davis Theater. The patrons' excitement for being back in our theater for a live performance was palpable. Music filled the air when Songcatchers Youth Choir performed on the Library steps.

Beautiful art was created as children painted rocks with New Rochelle Artist Association artists in Ruby Dee Park on Library Green, and children designed their dream homes under the guidance of ArchForKids at the Huguenot Children's Library.



Music & Dance

On Sunday, October 31, The Library joined with the New Rochelle Downtown BID to provide families with a fun-filled and festive morning. Hundreds of children marched in the Merchant's Urchins Costume Parade, painted pumpkins, and danced to music by DJSmithyBoy in Ruby Dee Park at Library Green. Thanks to the generous donation of books by the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library, the library gave the treat of a book to the costumed cuties who joined in the festivities.

With a nod to 'Dia de los Muertos,' Calpulli Mexican Dance Troupe returned to the Ossie Davis Theater on Sunday, October 31 to the cheers of a very happy audience. Accompanied by live music, dancers performed distinct choreography from various states and ethnic regions in Mexico, each with unique and vibrant costumes.

Songcatchers' teachers, mentors and friends honored the memory of former piano teacher, Linda Zhang with a concert in November. And after almost 2 years of their voices being temporarily silenced due to the pandemic, "Sing Your Heart Out" performed at the Ossie Davis Theater celebrating the return of in-person music, and the re-emergence of the group singing together.



In the Gallery

Art finally returned to the Lumen Winter Gallery in September with the 106th Annual Juried Exhibition of the New Rochelle Art Association (NRAA) which featured works in oil, watercolor, graphics, mixed media, pastel, photography, and more. The NRAA winter exhibit, the Adolph Grant Award Show, recognized the best 2-Dimensional art by a New Rochelle artist.

Additional exhibits included the NRAA Circle Art Show, the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, "Exploring Ragtime: E.L Doctorow's New Rochelle," and the NRAA Dermot Gale Award Show.

The City School District of New Rochelle's "Our Children, Our Artists" exhibit will return in May.



Family & Adult Programs

Below highlights our upcoming programs. Visit our online calendar at [/bit.ly/NRPLCalendar](https://bit.ly/NRPLCalendar) for details and registration.

**"INSIDE OF HISTORY:
SELECTIONS FROM THE
LIBRARY'S ARCHIVE WITH
NRPL ARCHIVIST, DAVID ROSE
(VIRTUAL)**
April 9 | 4:00 pm

**WIGGLE AND GIGGLE
WITH DAWNY DEW**
April 11 | 11:00 am

THE PAPER BAG PLAYERS
April 11 | 2:00 pm



**SPRING GARDEN PLANTING
WITH THE CHILDREN'S ROOM**
April 12 | 11:00 am

POP-UP ART FOR KIDS
April 12 | 2:00 pm

YOGA AND MEDITATIVE ARTS
April 12 and 26 | 6:00 pm

SPRING INTO STORIES
April 13 | 11:00 am

JOSHY THE MAGICIAN
April 13 | 2:00 pm

**FAMILY MOVIE: CLIFFORD
THE BIG RED DOG (2021)**
April 14 | 10:30 am

**WONDERS IN THE GARDEN
WITH AUTHOR, ANNE
MOTTOLA**
April 14 | 10:30 am

FAMILY MOVIE: ENCANTO (2021)
April 15 | 10:30 am



**STEAM AHEAD! AT THE MAIN
LIBRARY**
April 21, 28, May 5, 19, 26 | 4:00 pm

**MARTIAL ARTS MOVIE
MADNESS**
April 23 | 12:00 pm

SONGCATCHERS CONCERT
April 24 | 3:00 pm

YOGA AND MEDITATIVE ARTS
May 3 and 17 | 6:00 pm



SOUND SHORE CHORALE
May 15 | 3:00 pm

A CAPELLA CONCERT
May 18 | 7:00 pm

**THE ALL-STAR FEMALE BAND
JAZZ CONCERT**
May 22 | 3:00 pm



**SUMMER READING KICKOFF,
"OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES"**
June 25

**In the Lumen
Winter Gallery**

DERMOT GALE AWARD SHOW
April 3 - May 1

OUR CHILDREN, OUR ARTISTS
May 5 - June 3

The Library continues to offer a wide range of free computer classes. From computer basics such as email and exploring the Internet, to social media, Zoom basics, Microsoft Word and more, take advantage of these free, interactive classes, led by trained professionals. Visit <https://nrpl.evanced.info/signup/calendar> for dates and registration details.

Filling Patrons' Need to Read During the Pandemic



On the bright side.... our online books, audiobooks, movies and more have seen a significant increase in circulation. When we were forced to close our doors due to the pandemic, our patrons discovered that we could still fill their need to read with our online resources! Not surprisingly, we've seen a significant increase in circulation of our two most popular e-resources: Overdrive (aka Libby) had an 82% increase and Hoopla a 65% increase.

Audiobooks are the most downloaded format on Hoopla and e-books are the most popular item on Overdrive. Patrons are also taking advantage of the many magazines on offer through Overdrive: *Us Weekly*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Economist* are by far the most borrowed, but there are also many other magazines being downloaded such as *Architectural Digest*, *Cooks Illustrated*, and *National Geographic Traveler*; with over 3,000 magazines available, there's something for everyone.

Did you know that the library also provides patrons with free online access to the digital edition of *The New York Times* and *Consumer Reports*? If movies are more your thing, take a look at Kanopy. A streaming service with more than 30,000 films to choose from. And, don't forget, Comics Plus, a favorite among some of our librarians. All of these resources and more can be found at <https://nrpl.org/online-resources/ebooks-audiobooks-music-more>. You will need your library card number and your PIN (usually the last 4 digits of your phone number). If you have any trouble, please call the reference desk during library hours at 914-813-3737, and we'll be glad to help.

82%

increase in use of e-resources through OverDrive/Libby

MOST DOWN-LOADED FORMAT

- Audiobooks on hoopla
- eBooks on OverDrive

Over

3,000

magazines available on OverDrive

LOOKING FOR?

Movies? Watch on Kanopy!

News? Read the digital edition of the New York Times!

Product reviews? Browse Consumer Reports!

Letter from the President



The NRPL is one of our city's greatest assets, and I am honored to serve as the President of the Library's Board of Trustees. The Board's role is to ensure the Library continues to meet your needs and the needs of our diverse community. The Library is here for you, and it is crucial that its plans for the future reflect your vision.

This past summer, we embarked on a strategic planning process to create the Library's next five-year Strategic Plan. Our top priority was to engage all New Rochelle residents – our community partners, stakeholders, Library users and non-users, of all backgrounds and geographical locations - in this process. To that end, we gathered input from New Rochelle residents and Library patrons regarding the Library's programming, services and facilities through community meetings and a survey. The survey was available online, and paper copies were also available.

The ideas and feedback generated through the community meeting and survey were used to guide the goals and objectives of the Library's next strategic plan to be implemented 2022-2026.

Your input was critical in enabling our library to become the resource, institution and haven our community needs, now and well into the future. We sincerely thank you for your participation, and I look forward to sharing with you the outcome of this process and how we plan to implement the 2022-2026 NRPL Strategic Plan.

Warmly,
Whitney Barrat

Letter from the Director



Dear Patrons,

Two years ago, our world was turned upside down with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Obviously New Rochelle Public Library was swept into this chaos – and yet it continued to function to serve the community despite the closure of its doors. Confronted with this unexpected challenge, our library pivoted to provide a wide variety of virtual services including electronic programming, increased electronic book and electronic e-book services as well as adding new products and services like electronic magazines, the online *New York Times*, additional streaming services and curbside service.

Since that moment in time, we have swiveled from closure to opening and then repeated the “formula” again. Despite this confounding dilemma, our library never experienced an interruption in its service to the community.

I am thrilled our Main and Huguenot Children's Libraries are fully open with the restoration of hours and services prior to the onset of the pandemic along with precautions still in

place regarding appropriate distancing and limits on library users in our facilities.

I am also excited to announce we have nearly completed our 2nd Floor Renovation Project. At a cost of over \$600,000 (nearly all of it underwritten by New York State and New Rochelle Public Library Foundation grants) this ambitious project will transform the space and provide the following new, updated or upgraded features:

- New Business Center and Periodical/Newspaper laptop bar areas
- Additional public meeting and conference rooms
- Updated social services room, microform area, Information Desk and (LED) lighting
- Upgraded Teen, Spanish Collection, Handelman Business Opportunity Center and Local History areas
- Replacement tables, chairs, security station, shelving, computer workstation furniture, wall coverings and carpeting

We appreciate your continued patience as we move forward towards completion of our 2nd floor Renovation Project. Our upgraded, attractive and state-of-the-art 2nd Floor spaces will be a terrific enhancement for our patrons – and well worth the inconvenience!

Feel free to contact me at tgeoffino@nrpl.org or 632-7879 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Best regards,
Tom Geoffino

News from the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation

“Scavaganza” Success

On Saturday, October 2nd 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. Eager team members scoured New Rochelle to search for the answers to questions about the Queen City of the Sound. The day was a huge success thanks to the 24 team captains and their teams who showed their competitive side while having a fun day and doing good for our Library. The memorable afternoon raised nearly \$70,000 for the Foundation.



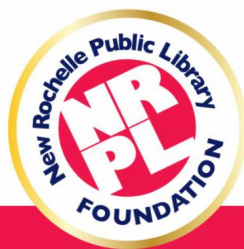
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Celebrates 2nd Floor Renovations

On Sunday, October 3, as part of the Family Fair festivities (see page 1), local politicians, including County Executive George Latimer, New York State Assembly member Amy Paulin, and Mayor Noam Bramson, joined New Rochelle Public Library Trustees and NRPL Foundation members for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the library's newly renovated 2nd floor. Encompassing the Handelman Business Opportunity Center, Teen Center, Local History Room, private study areas and expanded Spanish language collection, the renovation cost just under \$700,000 and was funded by a NY State Grant with required matching funds provided by the NRPL Foundation.



Join Us!

The New Rochelle Public Library Foundation gala will be held on May 12, 2022. Karen and Irwin Redlener will be presented the 2022 Guardian Award. Judith Factor, and Ellen and Steve Sonet will also be honored for their outstanding commitment to our community. Learn more and buy tickets, journal ads and sponsorships at nrplfoundation.org/guardian-gala/



GUARDIAN *Gala*

News from the Friends of NRPL

BIG Book Sales are Back!

Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, The Friends' were able to bring back their very popular holiday BIG Book Sales this past November and December which have been on hold for over a year. The Friends also held a very successful \$1/Bag Sale in early February.



Support the Library with the Gift of Your Time

The Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library raise tens of thousands of dollars to support the many FREE programs the Library runs each year for children, teens and adults. They raise these funds by selling donated books at their bookstore in the Main Branch of the Library. The Friends receive approximately 1,000 books a week. Dedicated volunteers regularly sort, price and shelve the books for sale.

If you are an avid reader and book lover, and can classify books by topic (i.e. Sci Fi, cookbook, bio, etc.) please consider volunteering a few hours of your time on an ongoing basis to help the Friends' tremendous efforts to support the Library. Stop by the Library when the bookstore is open (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays, 10am - 4pm) or call the Friends at (914) 813 3705 to learn how your gift of time can make a huge impact.

Become a Friend of the New Rochelle Public Library

Support the Friends for as little as \$10/year. As a Friend, you will receive the Library's printed newsletter, mailed to your home. In addition, you will have exclusive access, by appointment, to browsing the thousands of books in the Friends Warehouse located at the Library. Membership forms are available in the Lobby, or can be downloaded from the Library's website, nrpl.org (click The Friends of the NRPL link at the very top of the page.)

Friends Bookstore Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Farewell and Welcome: NRPL Staff and Board Updates

Over the past 24 months, we have said farewell to a number of valued staff and board members, and added a few new faces to the Library team.

Farewell...



Beth Mills, a voracious reader who enjoys nothing more than talking about books, joined NRPL in September, 1976 as an entry level librar-

ian. During her 45 years of dedicated service tenure, she worked her way up, retiring as Supervisor of Adult Collection Development (ordering fiction, science and fine arts titles, as well as overseeing what was being purchased for the rest of the adult collection) and Circulation/Registration. Beth particularly enjoyed helping Library patrons find what they were looking for, whether it was information or connecting them with a good book, and meeting so many interesting people, both as colleagues and library users. Beth was the mastermind behind the Library's Harry Potter party for the release of book 7, and also put together the first guide to the Library's local history collection. Beth continues to work at the Library one day per week, and is continuing to order books.



Sherri Paul, who began working as an adult reference librarian at NRPL in November, 1985, retired from her position as part-time librarian. Her warm smile

often greeted patrons at the First Floor Reference Desk - it's no wonder she said her favorite thing about being a librarian was her interaction with our patrons. A serious painter, Sherri's works are frequent prize-winners in the exhibits presented by the New Rochelle Art Association in the library's Lumen Winter Gallery, and in other area galleries.



When **Roxanne Mapp** began working at NRPL in 1998, she was the library's full-time graphic designer, creat-

ing the Library's vibrant logo and the enhanced appearance of all of the Library's printed materials. In 2010, Roxanne received her MLS from Pratt Institute and launched her second career as an adult reference librarian. Now retired, Roxanne is devoting herself to her life's passions - her art, graphic design, writing, motivational speaking, and grandchildren!



Barbara Davis, NRPL's Community Relations Coordinator since March 2004, was the orchestrator of the Library's myriad of programs, services

and exhibits, as well as publicity and communications about all the offerings. Under Barbara's leadership, the Community Relations team provided the community with an incredible array of concerts, films, children's activities, international music and dance instruction and performances, social service partnerships and assistance, ESL classes, Literary festivals - and more! Wearing her other hat, as New Rochelle's City Historian, Barbara helped NRPL preserve and broaden its already-extensive collection of local history - and bring those invaluable materials to the public through programs and exhibits. Upon retirement from the Library, Barbara is continuing as City Historian and took on a new position, as Co-Director of the Westchester County Historical Society.



Rev. Diedra Clark served as the President of the New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees until this past June when her term ended. Dierdra is cur-

rently Pastor of Love Mercy Do Justice at New York Covenant Church where she brings voice to those in marginalized communities. Prior to becoming a pastor, Deirdra worked on Capitol Hill and completed a graduate degree in public policy at Columbia University. Dierdra is the current President of the New Rochelle PTA Council. She is also a board member of the Amicus Fund, a nonprofit that seeks to improve the transition to affordable housing for marginalized populations.

We also said goodbye to **Melissa Zemba** and **Luis Briseno** who left for new opportunities, and **Beth Colomb** who retired (but continues to work with us part-time.)

Welcome...



Lisa Itzkowitz joined the Library this past June to lead marketing and communications efforts. Lisa began her career in the financial services industry,

including 9 years at American Express where she held a variety of marketing roles. She transitioned to the non-profit sector 17 years ago when she joined the JCC of Mid-Westchester. Lisa served as the JCC's Director of Marketing, and most recently ran the JCC Academic Center which she grew into a vibrant and profitable department during her tenure. She is thrilled to join the Library and looks forward to increasing awareness of all the Library has to offer, and developing programs to engage all segments of our diverse New Rochelle community.



Milton Cobb joined the New Rochelle Public Library at the start of November as the Head of Circulation. Originally a school teacher and school

librarian in Mount Vernon, Milton served as the Teen Services Librarian at The Field Library in Peekskill for 3 years. He is excited to be working in this part of Westchester County and looks to bring his patron-focused and customer service oriented mindset to the New Rochelle community.



Brian Zamek joined the library staff on November 1st as a full-time adult reference librarian. Prior to accepting this position Brian had been work-

ing part-time at several public libraries around Westchester County and Western Connecticut. Before becoming a librarian, Brian was a public school music educator, conducting bands and teaching a wide variety of music courses. He currently plays drums in the Yonkers-based band State Liquor Authority. In addition to providing excellent customer service, Brian will be managing the library's collection of music books, scores, CDs, and videos.



Whitney Barrat, who has been serving on the New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees since January 2018, assumed the role of President this past

July. Whitney previously served on the NRPL's Policy Committee, Budget Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee, and Special Projects Committee and is currently spearheading the development of its 2021 – 2026 Strategic Plan. Whitney has supported and volunteered locally, including for the New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence, Parks Clean Up Days, the Grand Market on the Library Green, the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation, and Grow! Lincoln Park, and served as President of the Daniel Webster School PTA. A seasoned non-profit professional, Whitney has over fifteen years of experience leading organizations and programs that work to strengthen communities and maximize spaces and institutions within the public realm. Whitney is currently the Director of Planning and Administration for the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.



Lucille Renwick was sworn in as a Trustee of the NRPL Board in July. She is a communications strategist with more than three decades of experience

helping individuals and organizations tell their stories to advance their goals and missions. She currently serves as Chief Communications Officer for Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, a social justice/human rights foundation. Committed to telling the stories that matter, Lucille has her roots in journalism, working for a decade as a reporter for The Hartford Courant and the Los Angeles Times. Prior to joining Wellspring, Lucille led communications and marketing for the City University of New York's School of Law, and worked with Fenton, a social justice communications agency. Lucille holds a Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and an MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She is a board member for the New Rochelle Boys and Girls Club and a long-time member of the New Rochelle YMCA. Lucille lives in New Rochelle with her husband, three children and their dog, Scout.



Tobe Sevush joined the NRPL this spring as the programming coordinator. Prior to joining the

library she was the Director of the Cultural and Performing Arts and the Summer Arts Center at the JCC of Mid-Westchester. She has also served as the Executive Director of the renowned TADA! Youth Theater in NYC.. Tobe is thrilled to be a part of such a great team and looks forward to introducing innovative programs to the New Rochelle community.



Hours of Operation

As of January 1, 2022 we have returned to pre-pandemic hours of operation.

Main Library

1 Library Plaza
New Rochelle, NY 10801
(914) 632 - 7878

Monday	9 am - 8 pm
Tuesday	9 am - 8 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 6 pm
Thursday	9 am - 8 pm
Friday	9 am - 5 pm
Saturday	9 am - 5 pm
Sunday	1 pm - 5 pm

Huguenot Children's Library

794 North Avenue
New Rochelle, NY 10801
(914) 632 - 8954

Monday	10 am - 5 pm
Tuesday	10 am - 6 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 5 pm
Thursday	10 am - 6 pm
Friday	10 am - 5 pm
Saturday	10 am - 5 pm
Sunday	CLOSED