

DECEMBER 2023

News from the NRPL!

Walk into the library anytime, any day of the week, and you will find a flurry of activity. This year the library hosted dozens of concerts of all genres, dazzling dance performances, and enriching and educational programs for children, tweens and teens.



NEW
ROCHELLE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY



There were films, author talks, wellness programs, author visits, local history programs and much more. Flip through these pages for a glimpse of all that took place at the library this year. We look forward to bringing many more exciting and engaging programs and events to the library in 2024.



Live Concerts



The Wayne Henderson Sextet delivered an unforgettable night of jazz as part of NRPL's popular Friday Night Concert Series.



Student musicians from the Copland School of Music at Queens College performed *The Carnival of the Animals* for second graders from Columbus Elementary School. The program was made possible by Young Musicians of Westchester.

Afternoon concerts brought a broad range of musical genres to the community, including chamber music, jazz, a capella, Klezmer and more. Our Friday Night Concert Series hit all the right notes with a mix of captivating jazz and blues ensembles.



Elijah and the Not for Prophets brought the sounds, songs and history of Klezmer music to the Ossie Davis Theater as part of NRPL's Sunday Afternoon Concert Series.



Hudson Valley Chamber Musicians, a classical woodwind quintet, delivered an enchanting performance of classical music as part of NRPL's Sunday Afternoon Concert Series.



Patrons enjoyed a soulful, laid-back concert of memorable melodies when The Kenn Morr Band, an original alternative folk rock group played the Ossie Davis Theater.

International Music and Dance!

This summer, the Library once again transformed into a cultural epicenter, captivating patrons with the annual International Music and Dance Festival, an enriching and diverse showcase of music and dance from around the world.



World-renowned dance artist Aszmara performed in gorgeous costumes, accompanied by folkloric music of Armenia, Turkey and Egypt.

Enriching and Diverse Performances from Around the Globe



Dancers from the Natyamudra School of Indian Dance delighted the audience with their grace, beauty and colorful costumes.



The Village Light Opera Group presented a lively summer concert of songs from favorite Broadway musicals, operas and operettas.



"Sing Your Heart Out" adult singers shared their beautiful voices in a live concert, as the culmination of their Spring workshop.



Calpulli Mexican Dance Workshop participants celebrated and performed the rich dance traditions of Mexico at the final performance of the 2023 Festival.

The library hosted its summer Sing Your Heart Out Concert, performed by adult singers who shared their vocal talents and passion with an enthusiastic audience, and Village Light Opera Group, a delightful ensemble that brought classic and contemporary operatic performances to life.

Throughout the year, we embraced Heritage Months and diverse cultures with live music and dance performances, films, author talks, workshops and more.



The Library's Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead) - inspired program featured a live music and dance performance by Calpulli Mexican Dance Company.

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY



In celebration of Pride Month, Kitty Ka'Boodlez of Drag Story Hour Westchester, presented a fabulous, fun-filled "Rainbow of Reading" storytime with stories, songs and a craft that celebrated inclusion, diversity and individuality.



In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Alex McCabe's Spanish language music group, Cuba Bella, performed a concert of Cuban and Mexican sounds with contemporary jazz overtones.



In honor of Juneteenth, authentic African rhythms and culture were brought to life in a multigenerational African Drumming workshop, led by Master Drummer, Kazi Oliver.



Diálogos Duo presented a concert of contemporary Brazilian Music, featuring a variety of genres including samba, choro, and bossa nova.

Women's History Month featured the Karen S. Allen Memorial Concert, paying tribute to Karen, a steadfast supporter of the Library.



Karen S. Allen (1940 – 2020), a fervent supporter and steadfast volunteer of the New Rochelle Public Library, was celebrated during Women's History Month with a memorial concert featuring selections from opera, including the Tutti Bravi Productions original production of *The Gentle Lark of New Rochelle*, written by Karen Allen. In addition, Gospel, Motown and other popular and classical favorites were performed by internationally acclaimed vocalist Audrey DuBois Harris.

Bringing Wellness to the Community



Gentle evening yoga provides patrons with an opportunity to access the benefits of traditional yoga - without the expense of studio yoga classes.

Our yoga programs are bringing wellness to the community. Twice weekly chair yoga and bi-monthly evening yoga provide participants with the perfect balance of relaxation and socialization. In 2024, we will be introducing Qi-Gong and Mindful Movement classes to our wellness offerings.



Our gentle yet invigorating chair yoga classes provide participants with renewed energy and focus. Our twice weekly sessions continue to grow in popularity, attracting 20 - 25 students/class.

Creative New Rochelle

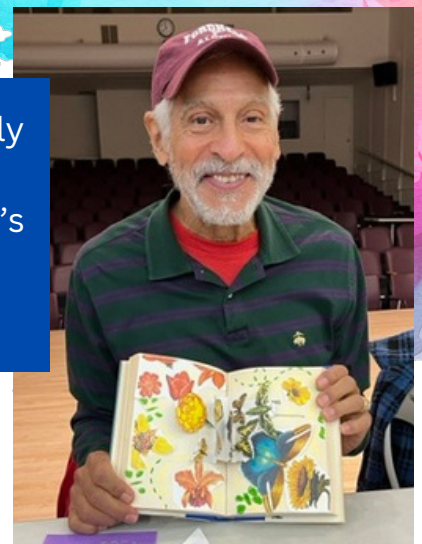


The NRPL Knitting Club welcomed knitters of all levels in a relaxed atmosphere. Our professional knitter guided participants through skill-appropriate projects.

Adults unleashed their creativity in our monthly Adult Art workshops and knitting classes, and adults and teens learned to sew on the Library's brand new sewing machines, through our new Learn To Sew @ The Library program.



Adults and teens had an opportunity to learn to operate the library's newly acquired sewing machines, while making several small projects including a pin cushion and simple tote bag.



Our monthly adult art workshops drew an enthusiastic crowd of artists each session. Projects included fantastical stories through collage, pop up holiday cards, make your own Van Gogh, and more.

Engaging Programs for Children All Year Long!



The National Circus Project was a highlight of our April Vacation Week programs. The performance featured circus skills, thrills, laughs and plenty of audience participation.

Captivating story times, music, yoga, and more kept hundreds of children engaged and entertained throughout the year.

Vacation week programs, children's book week celebrations, and special workshops - from Capoeira (Brazilian martial arts) and a Calpulli Mexican Dance workshop to introduction to piano, acting classes, and Bokandeye African American dance-brought joy to children and families.

The Summer Reading Kickoff Party launched the Library's summer festivities for children. Over 800 children and teens participated in the Summer Reading Challenge, and over 7,600 children and adults participated in educational and engaging daily programs at both the Main Library and Huguenot Children's Library.

Children and families were also treated to a new series of Summer Saturday concerts featuring family-friendly entertainment.



The "Saturday Summer Sings" concerts - a new series of family-friendly, weekend entertainment for children and their families - were a big hit this summer.



Using the Rhodes Piano Method, children ages 5 - 9 learned how to play the piano in a fun and engaging group environment.



This summer, NRPL hosted Mad Science Mondays which provided unique hands-on science workshops that were both entertaining and educational.



Children had a fantastic time frolicking in the forest during the "Walk in the Woods" puppet show held during February Vacation Week.



Kids went wild for Wild Wednesdays! Each week throughout the summer, children had an opportunity to meet and greet animals and learn about their habits and habitats from local nature center educators.



Children kicked off the Summer Reading Challenge with a fun-filled party featuring crafts, a visit from beloved characters, Elephant and Piggie, and of course, books.

TWEENS: HANGOUTS, BOOK DISCUSSIONS, AND MORE!



Our weekly Tween Club gives children ages 9-12 a safe space to hangout, play games and socialize with peers.



Free build with LEGOS is always a popular activity for Tween Club participants.

Tween Club provided a space for friendship and fun, with weekly hangouts and monthly guided book discussions. Snacks and activities included.



Teens had a great time playing Giant Jenga - another favorite activity in the Teen Room.



Teens had a chance to learn or improve their knitting skills in our new Teen Knitting Club.



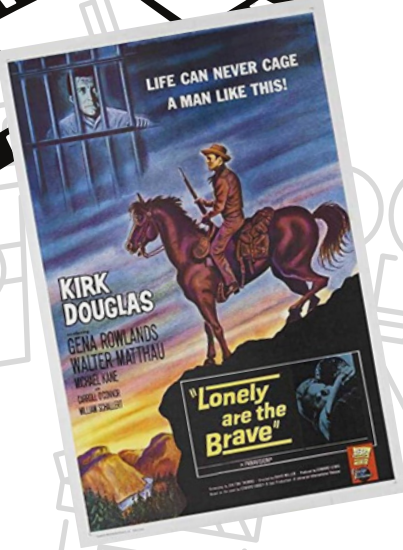
Teens had a frighteningly good time making Halloween candy sushi - always a favorite activity in the Teen Room.



The monthly Teen Video Game Tournament is always a popular and well attended event for teens of all ages.

TEEN SCENE

NRPL Film Series



A variety of film series including New Rochelle Plays Hollywood, NRPL Film Series, and Extraordinary Women Film Series gave patrons an opportunity to explore classic and contemporary films followed by engaging discussions

NEW ROCHELLE LOVES ITS LOCAL HISTORY



"Ghosts in the Wind: A Spectral Vision of New Rochelle for Halloween", presented by NRPL Archivist David Rose, showcased the most evocative, unusual, and surprising photographs in the Photography Collection of the New Rochelle Public Library Archive.



Patrons enjoyed "Elizabeth Huntington Coley Fox: Sparks of Beauty, Shards of God" - an illustrated presentation, based on personal papers in the Library's archives, of Elizabeth Coley Fox, an artist, school teacher, and resident of New Rochelle from 1928 to 1947.

Local history presentations - always popular with the New Rochelle community - continued to attract large audiences. This year's programs included "The History of the George Washington Carver Garden Club of Westchester", "Elizabeth Huntington Coley Fox: Sparks of Beauty, Shards of God", "Ghosts in the Wind: A Spectral Vision of New Rochelle for Halloween" and "Discovering Your African American Heritage by Building a Family Tree."

Beyond the shelves, the Library continues to support the community with a range of free services throughout the year, including Civics Classes for Citizenship, English Conversation Classes, job search assistance, High School Equivalency and GED information sessions, notary public services, job fairs, Medicare information sessions and one-on-one support by our Community Outreach Specialist.

The library was awarded a grant to conduct digital literacy classes in both English and Spanish. Additionally, we partnered with STEM Alliance to offer two intensive workshops: Tech Skills for Success and Cyber Seniors.

WiFi enabled Chromebooks, iPads, and mobile hotspots, put into circulation for patrons to borrow, was well received by the community. Thanks to support from the Friends, all devices have a durable storage case, reducing the chance that devices are damaged.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY



AARP Tax Aide volunteers provided free tax advice and preparation to over 900 patrons during tax season.



WiFi enabled Chromebooks and iPads, as well as WiFi Hotspots were put into circulation this year, helping bridge the digital divide.

Our popular AARP Tax Aide program was back in full swing, providing free tax assistance to over 900 patrons in the two months leading up to tax day.

The Friends donated books to a number of organizations including a school in Haiti, a senior living facility, the local Ronald McDonald House, and the county correctional facility.

In 2024, the library will continue to develop and offer programs and services to support the needs of our diverse community.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

VIRTUAL New Rochelle Public Library

"I'LL HAVE WHAT SHE'S HAVING"
How Jewish Delicatessens Became a Cornerstone of American Food Culture

Thursday, March 9, 2023
7:00 pm

In this virtual presentation, you will discover how Jewish immigrants, mostly from Central and Eastern Europe, imported and adapted traditions to create a uniquely American restaurant. The presentation explores the food of immigration, the heyday of the deli in the interwar period, delis and Broadway, delis in popular culture and more.

Registration required at bit.ly/Deli_03_2023

Presented by the New York Historical Society

@NRPUBLICLIBRARY @N.R.P.L. @NRP.LIBRARY
1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY 10801 | info@nrpl.org | (914) 632-7878

VIRTUAL New Rochelle Public Library

GENE KELLY: SINGING AND DANCING IN THE RAIN

Thursday, April 27
7:00 pm

Gene Kelly is one of the most engaging and influential dancers to ever set foot in Hollywood. Starting in the 1940s, Gene Kelly created dozens of classic numbers which helped to define the American musical, and which continue to entertain audiences of all ages around the world.

This virtual presentation, featuring Rose, professor emerita of the University of California, will explore Kelly's extraordinary achievements and his enduring legacy in Hollywood dancing.

Registration required at bit.ly/SingingRain_04_2023

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VIRTUAL New Rochelle Public Library

Confronting Hate: 1937-1952

Wednesday, March 15, 2023
7:00 pm

This virtual program examines the history of the groundbreaking media campaign launched by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in 1937 to combat anti-Semitism. This campaign, growing through posters, radio spots, newspaper advertisements, graphic novels, and television cartoons, graphically confronted not only anti-Semitism, but racism and nativism as well, and championed democratic values and understanding.

Registration required at bit.ly/ConfrontingHate_03_2023

VIRTUAL New Rochelle Public Library

The Great British Baking Tour

Tuesday, November 28 · 7:00 pm

Join UK travel/relocation consultant and former UK resident Claire Evans for a delightful culinary tour of the UK inspired by "The Great British Baking Show" television series.

Learn about making a proper cup of tea, regional specialties, their origins, and the particular parts of the UK they hail from. She'll translate the trickiest parts of British recipes for Americans so you can try them in your own kitchen.

Pick up useful travel tips as well, just in case you'd like to create your own tour!

Registration required at bit.ly/BritishBaking_11_2023

We brought the library to your screens with a variety of virtual programs throughout the year! From "Selling on Ebay", and "Valentine's Dessert Baking Workshop", to "I'll Have What She's Having" - a virtual tour of the New York Historical Society's exhibit about how Jewish delicatessens became a cornerstone of American Food Culture - online events kept patrons entertained and informed.

Thank you to the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library for their generous support which made many of the programs highlighted in this publication possible.

Highlights of Upcoming Programs in 2024!

**For a full listing of events at the New
Rochelle Public Library, visit
bit.ly/NewNRPLCalendar
or scan the QR Code!**



January

NRPL Film Series:
January 6, 2:00 pm

Film: Maya Angelou
Reflections of a Blessed Soul,
January 7, 2:00 pm

Adult Art Workshop:
Escher Designs
January 17, 10:00 am

Author Talk: Reggie Marra,
Healing America's Narratives
January 18, 6:30 pm

Bokandeye Intergenerational
Dance Workshop, 6 sessions,
beginning, January 20, 3:30 pm

Art Exhibit: "The Fine Art of
Illustration" by
author/illustrator Cedric Lucas,
opens mid- January



February

Film: *Presumption of Guilt: Race,
Class and Crime in America*
February 4, 2:00 pm

Piano and Violin Classical
Concert
February 11, 2:00 pm

Lotus Lantern Craft Workshop
February 14, 10:00 am

Children's Concert with Zev
Haber
February 20, 10:30 am

Bokandeye African Dance
Performance
February 24, 3:30 pm

Creative Writing Workshop
Series, 5 sessions, starting
February 28, 10:30 am



March

Irish Step Dance Performance
March 3, 2:00 pm

Women's History Month Lecture:
Violetta White Delafield
March 9, 3:00 pm

Zonta Club Women's History
Month Film Series
March 5, 19 and 26, 5:00 pm

Play Reading: *Voices and Echoes*
March 20, 2:00 pm

Hand Sewing Basics
March 27, 12:30 pm



April

Poetry Reading
April 6, 2:00 pm

Songcatchers Concert
April 7, 2:00 pm

Michael Powers Blues
Band Concert
April 12, 7:00 pm



News from the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation

Greetings of the season to all of our Library Friends and Supporters,

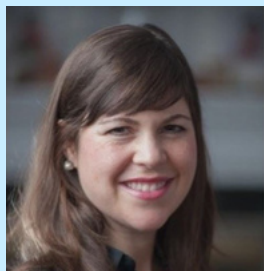
2023 has been a very busy and productive year. The New Rochelle Public Library Foundation sponsored Game On! at the Library, a fundraiser, which included mini golf in the stacks, games and karaoke on a Friday night in May for adults. That Saturday families were invited to play mini golf in the stacks for free.

Fundraisers such as these enable the Foundation to provide the Library with the match needed to secure New York State Construction Grants for capital improvement projects. This year the Foundation provided the Library with a total of \$162,032, half to meet two match requirements, and the balance for children's programming at the Huguenot Children's Library; the popular Museum Pass Program; and many other items that help to keep our Library vibrant and able to meet the needs of our community.

We are beginning the planning for our next Guardian Gala, a fundraiser, which will be held on May 9, 2024, at Greentree.

With best wishes from the Board of the Library Foundation for a happy and healthy holiday season to you and your family and loved ones.

Letter from the President



Dear Library Patrons and Friends,

As 2023 draws to a close, I am filled with gratitude for the vibrant community that makes the New Rochelle Public Library (NRPL) a truly special place. Throughout the year, the library has continued to serve as one of our city's most vital assets, fostering connections, learning, and cultural enrichment.

I am thrilled to welcome two new members to our Board of Trustees, Tatiana Infante and Fela Cortés, whose passion for education, literacy and community will contribute to the continued success of the NRPL. Their insights and dedication will undoubtedly help shape the future of our beloved library and ensure we are a center of the community that welcomes and serves all members of our diverse city.

Simultaneously, we bid a fond farewell to Sarah Langlois and Daniel Bonnet, who have served tirelessly on the Board for the past five years. Their commitment and contributions have left an indelible mark on the library, and we extend our deepest gratitude for their invaluable service.

I am delighted to welcome Dr. David Mener as the New Rochelle representative for the Westchester Library System (WLS) Board of Trustees. David has a long history of community and civic involvement and is committed to libraries and literacy for all residents of New Rochelle and beyond. Dr. Mener will have big shoes to fill, as our current WLS representative, Francis Okelo, is stepping down after 5 years of dedicated work on behalf of the NRPL. We express our deep and heartfelt gratitude for his many years of service, and appreciate how his skillful involvement and fruitful collaborations have strengthened our ties with the broader library community. We thank Francis for his invaluable contributions.

In the realm of leadership transitions, we must acknowledge the impending retirement of our esteemed Library Director, Tom Geoffino. Tom's visionary leadership and unwavering dedication have propelled the library to new heights, and the NRPL is better for his many contributions. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tom for his years of service and wish him a fulfilling and joyous "next chapter."

Additionally, after serving 9 years, Christina Selin is stepping down as President of the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation. Under Chris's guidance, the Foundation has played a pivotal role in supporting the library's initiatives, and has helped the NRPL to access public grants and opportunities that would otherwise have been unattainable. We extend our deepest thanks to Chris for her dedicated leadership.

If we've learned anything from the past year, it is that communities need strong libraries, and libraries, in turn, need the strong support of their communities. As I look to 2024, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, and for the many ways the NRPL and the New Rochelle community will support each other, lift each other to new heights, and celebrate everything we'll achieve, together. We invite you to join us on this journey as we embark on another year of growth, learning, and community building.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Whitney Barrat

President, New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees

Letter from the Director

Dear Patrons,

New Rochelle is a city with a fine tradition of community volunteerism. Our library has long benefitted from the engaged and civic minded citizens interested in assisting and advocating for effective library services for all New Rochelle residents. As 2023 winds down, I am especially pleased to highlight the hard work and successes of the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library and the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation, two volunteer groups that consistently provide financial and advocacy support for our library and its programs and services.

The Friends Bookstore, renowned for its exceptional bargains, operates with a dedicated team of volunteers who organize, manage, and sell donated books, DVDs, etc. These efforts not only raise significant funds, but also provide affordable resources for residents to build their own libraries. All proceeds from these sales directly benefit the library, funding programming and special projects.

The New Rochelle Public Library Foundation raises substantial funds through diverse events, such as the recent Game On, transforming the library into a mini-golf course. This not only generated significant funds, but also showcased the library to the community. The Foundation's support facilitates building improvements, including recent renovations to the second and third floors, Teen Room re-imagination, and new study room construction. Additionally, their backing enables the library to enhance services, and provide cutting-edge technology support to meet community needs.

Our Friends and the Foundation have greatly assisted our library – and the New Rochelle community – and deserve your admiration and financial support.

On a personal note, I will be retiring in the second quarter of 2024. It has been a privilege to serve the New Rochelle community since my arrival in 2006. I send my best wishes for a happy 2023 holiday season and a happy and healthy 2024.

Sincerely,

Tom Geoffino

Director, New Rochelle Public Library

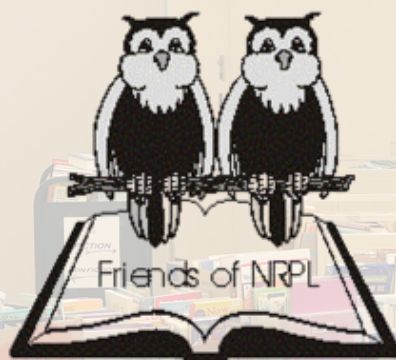


FRIENDS OF THE NRPL BOOK STORE

The Friends Bookstore is well-stocked with a great selection of books, CDs and DVDs. From new fiction and cookbooks, to biographies, children's books, and so much more, stop by to find your next great read (or listen!) Stop by every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am - 4 pm!

BIG BOOK SALES

The Friends hold BIG Book sales throughout the year where you can find bargains galore. Mark your calendars for the next sale on Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3



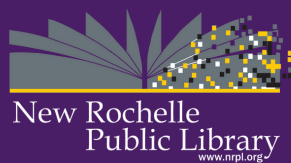
STORE HOURS
TUESDAYS,
THURSDAYS AND
SATURDAYS
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

DONATIONS

Donating books? The Friends gladly accepts donations of gently used books. Please limit donations to one small bag or box, and please, no encyclopedias or textbooks.

VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for volunteers to help sort, shelve and sell the many donations we receive. If you are interested in giving a few hours of your time each week, please call 914-813-3705 to learn more.



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

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