



# Foundation NEWS

Fall 2011

New Rochelle Public Library Foundation • One Library Plaza • New Rochelle, NY 10801 • [www.nrplfoundation.org](http://www.nrplfoundation.org)



New Rochelle resident Claudia Carrier and her daughter Martina enjoyed a Brazilian Capoeira performance at the Library on July 12, 2011.

## Libraries Change Lives One-on-one with Library patron Claudia Carrier

New Rochelle Public Library Foundation supporters believe the Library is a centerpiece of our diverse community and plays a critical role in the future of our city and the overall quality of life. The Foundation's work helps the Library fulfill its mission to "improve the life of every citizen in our city" and to encourage learning in all stages of life, protect intellectual freedom and provide fair and equal access to information.

When Claudia Carrier moved to New Rochelle from Uruguay eight years ago, she quickly tapped into the Library to meet new friends and teach her daughter Chiara, then three years old, English. Today, Carrier works out during the Library's lunchtime Yoga Express program; attends, with her family, International Music and Dance performances; and continues to enjoy the Library's many children's programs with her youngest daughter, Martina, age six. Chiara, now a sixth grader at Isaac Young Middle School, regularly taps into the Library for school projects.

### How has the New Rochelle Public Library made a difference in your life?

"When we first moved here, I found the Library and it helped me feel less isolated. We participated in all of the wonderful children's programs during vacation weeks and during the summer. My younger daughter still does. I participated in the Bouncing Babies summer music and story program with both girls. We attended Preschool Story Time and Bedtime Stories programs, too, which really helped immerse Chiara in English.

**"My daughters grew up in the Library."**  
— Claudia Carrier

"When I first came to New Rochelle, I didn't even have a computer. I used the computers at the Library — you can even send a fax from the Library!"

### What draws you to the Library now?

"I love the International Music and Dance. Not all libraries present such a multicultural offering. I loved the Japanese performance last year. Everyone, from anywhere in the world, is comfortable in our Library. Our Library teaches our children there are many different people in the world and there are many cultures to learn and appreciate. The Library enriches all of our lives."

### Share a favorite Library experience.

"Last year we ran out of ink cartridges so we went to the Library to print out Chiara's report. We found even more information there on the subject. We discovered it's better and more efficient to do the project at the Library than at home!"

## Bookmark the Foundation

The NRPL Foundation has cast its web with a new online presence. Go to [www.nrplfoundation.org](http://www.nrplfoundation.org) for Foundation news, contact information, volunteer profiles and more! And don't forget to "bookmark" us!



# In Brief...

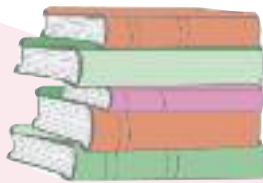
## Children's Language Learning Program

To support the growing interest of New Rochelle families in teaching their children a foreign language through the immersion approach, the NRPL Foundation has granted the Library \$1,200 to purchase new Spanish, French, Italian, Chinese and other language learning materials available on USB sticks.

"The world is getting smaller each day and The New Rochelle Public Library is helping our community to stay ahead of the language curve," said NRPL Foundation Board Member Paul Warhit. "To meet worldwide demand, many employers are expecting high school and college graduates to be fluent in at least one language besides English. The Children's Language Learning Program affords our children a wonderful language opportunity that will undoubtedly prepare them for living and working in a globally interdependent world."

## Point Me in the Direction of Books on Albuquerque

Library users will soon have help navigating the Library's 60,000 square feet of books and services, as an \$8,000 Foundation grant provides for new digital signage.



A large LCD panel, located in the Library just past the two circulation desks, will guide Library patrons with an electronic description and graphic depiction of each floor. Patrons can tap into more detailed information on each area via touchscreen.

"Our Library isn't an intuitive library," noted Library Director Tom Geoffino. "It can be very difficult to figure out where to go. This signage will effectively guide visitors."

Tied into the software used by the Library to maintain its website's schedule of programs, the new signage will electronically broadcast the date, time, location and other information on current and upcoming events.

"It's wonderful for people to be educated and informed on all the Library has to offer," Geoffino said. "This signage will better market to the public all we do here."

## New Lights to Shine on Handelman Business Opportunity Center

A \$9,500 Foundation grant will be used to upgrade the inadequate lighting in the Handelman Business Opportunity Center. Eight new pendant fixtures will replace the current lighting in this popular service area.

## New French and Italian Books

The Library's small, outdated French and Italian collection will be removed and donated to Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library for sale. A \$3,000 Foundation grant will be used to purchase a starter collection better tailored to the needs of New Rochelle residents.

## Cocktails & Conversation

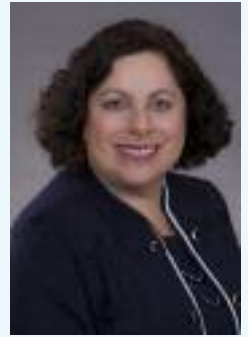


The NRPL Foundation invites you to a friendly fall fundraiser. Plans are in the works now for this festive evening in support of the Library. Learn details as they are firmed up by following us at [www.facebook.com/nrplfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/nrplfoundation) or on our website at [www.nrplfoundation.org](http://www.nrplfoundation.org).

# Why I Volunteer

## BETH WILLENSKY

New Rochelle Public Library  
Foundation Board member



*Attorney Beth Willensky lives in New Rochelle with her husband, Herbert Feuerstein, a local architect, and two young adult daughters, whose love of reading was nurtured by the New Rochelle Public Library. Along with her work for the Foundation, Willensky is an avid potter and calligrapher. She loves to garden, cook and read. She also serves on the board and as secretary of the New Rochelle Council on the Arts (NRCA) and recently stepped down as vice president of the Westchester Women's Bar Association. Beth volunteers as a mediator and arbitrator with the New York state and federal court systems and is actively involved in the Ward Acres Community Garden.*

### Why did you become involved in the NRPL Foundation?

Libraries are critical for communities. They have always been a haven for me, intellectually and emotionally. I formed some of my most lasting "friendships" with authors and thinkers when I was growing up in Brooklyn. Buying many books wasn't in my budget, or my family's. I would go to the library every day after school and read everything from political philosophy to career guidance, ratty fiction to highbrow works of art. I continued to do the same in every community in which I lived, through college and law school. When everyone else in my class hit the law school library, I studied at an undergraduate library where I could pull a poetry book off the shelf for my breaks. When I moved to New Rochelle in 1987, using the library was already a lifelong habit. I love libraries -- and libraries need financial support to survive.

### Share with us a memorable Library experience.

A number of years ago, I was hospitalized and diagnosed with a medical ailment that was scary for my then-young girls. We went to the Library together and read books about that condition, which thankfully has not recurred. They were so familiar and comfortable with the Children's Area -- one of my girls had done every jigsaw puzzle in inventory, the other had read all the series books about her favorite characters -- that they felt immediately reassured in the environment and were able to process what I was telling them much more easily.

### What is your favorite part of the Library?

Not fair! I love it all. I still don't have a budget for all the books I read!

### What program or initiative supported by the NRPL Foundation can you best relate to?

The Library Banner project married two of my passions. The NRPL Foundation and the New Rochelle Council on the Arts partnered to develop beautiful artwork to grace the Library's lobby. I was also involved in the mural project across the street. I think public art is transformational, just as books are. And, of course, libraries are so much more than books.

### What has been the most satisfying aspect of being involved in the NRPL Foundation?

The most satisfying part is probably ensuring that this fantastic institution can continue to flourish, get up to speed with 21st Century needs, and provide support for the expanding community initiatives that our very professional library leadership identifies. I'm excited that we were able to help fund guest passes for Library patrons so that more families can attend museums that they might not otherwise be financially able to enjoy.

### Interested in becoming involved with the NRPL Foundation?

Email Foundation Co-Presidents Judith Factor and Leslie Demus at [info@nrplfoundation.org](mailto:info@nrplfoundation.org).

## Teens Dance, Draw and Make Jewelry through Summer Programs

The NRPL Foundation, through the Nathan Rosen Fund, granted \$3,375 to three free late-afternoon programs for kids aged 10 to 17 this summer. Jewelry making on Mondays, African dance and drums on Tuesdays and an anime and gamers club on Wednesdays were filled to capacity – with more than 20 tweens and teens participating in each session. The programs started in early July and ran through mid-August.

“Thanks to the annual support from the Foundation, so many teens found their niche at the Library this summer, as they soaked up interesting and enriching experiences provided by these workshops,” said Barbara Davis, community relations coordinator.



More than 60 teens and tweens enjoyed three summer programs, including African dance and drums, anime and gaming, and jewelry making, in July and August. *Photos courtesy of Barbara Davis*

### We Like You, Will You ‘Like’ Us?

The New Rochelle Public Library Foundation would like to hear from you, our friends and supporters, on Facebook! “Like” us and you’ll receive updates on events, Foundation news, and new Library services and programs supported by NRPL Foundation.



We’d love to add you and your Facebook friends to our cyber circle of Library supporters – and continue to spread the word about the many ways to be involved in the Foundation and benefit from the programs and services it supports.

**Everyone has a “library story” -- share yours with us at [www.facebook.com/NRPLFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/NRPLFoundation)**



“Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend. Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.” – Groucho Marx

## A Few Words from the Co-Presidents

As New Rochelle Public Library lovers and supporters, we appreciate the power of words. That’s why we’re thrilled to be reaching out to you regularly through this newsletter and the Foundation’s new Facebook page and website. It’s our hope to better engage the community and spread the word about the NRPL Foundation’s work to secure investments in the Library’s materials, programming and infrastructure.

We encourage you to let us know your thoughts about the Library. Do you have a suggestion for building improvements or enhancements to the Library’s book collection? What additional informational and educational services would benefit the community? How can we work together to ensure a bright future for one of New Rochelle’s greatest resources for learning?

Email us at [info@nrplfoundation.org](mailto:info@nrplfoundation.org) or visit us at [www.nrplfoundation.org](http://www.nrplfoundation.org) or [www.facebook.com/nrplfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/nrplfoundation).

Let us know if you’d like to get involved!

See you at the Library,

**Leslie M. Demus**

**Judith Factor**

*Co-Presidents, New Rochelle Public Library Foundation*

## NRPL Foundation Board

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The Foundation's support of the lobby revitalization was appreciated at the Library's Summer Reading Kick-Off Party, which drew hundreds of children and supportive family members.



The Library's lobby embraced more than 200 residents as they enjoyed the Westchester Chamber Symphony Orchestra July 3.

## Life in the Refurbished Lobby

Thanks to the NRPL Foundation-supported renovation, the Library's lobby provided an ideal setting for a particularly diverse array of activities this summer. In just one busy week, an additional 1,000-plus patrons utilized the great space!

Hundreds of children participated in the Summer Reading Kick-off Party on June 25. The annual event, designed to raise enthusiasm for a summer of reading pleasure, featured a lively performance of music, movement and song with children's entertainer Louie Miranda and creative projects.

Scores of visitors enjoyed the Standard Flower Show June 27 through 28, as the Garden Club of New Rochelle celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a display of extraordinary floral design and horticultural delights.

Then, on Sunday, July 3, the lobby became a concert hall for the Westchester Chamber Symphony Orchestra's annual Independence Weekend Concert. More than 225 music lovers were treated to a superb concert of Sunset Serenades, performed by some of the New York metropolitan area's top string musicians under the direction of Maestro Barry Hoffman. The lobby's acoustics were stellar – as noted by Hoffman, the musicians and the audience.

Hundreds of New Rochelleans also enjoyed "New Rochelle's Bravest: 150 Years of Firefighting," a lobby exhibit featuring archival photographs, artifacts and apparatus, July 11 through August 12.

*"When I got my library card, that's when my life began."* – Rita Mae Brown



*"At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better."* – Barack Obama

## Library Gets Into Teen Spirit

The Library's second-floor space serving New Rochelle's teenagers is getting a significant facelift, thanks to the NRPL Foundation's \$33,500 grant. Now delineated with purple walls, the teen area will be expanded to 1,700 square feet and get new lighting and carpet. The area will be enhanced with a fabric-and-glass surround, rockers, bean bag chairs and bar-height tables and stools. The new tables will be wired so that teens can plug in their iPods, laptops and other technology.

"The area will be transformed into a multi-use space, with print and nonprint materials, mostly fiction and for recreational reading, plus books found on New Rochelle public, private and parochial schools' reading lists," said Library Director Tom Geoffino. "We'll have new study tables and we're building a conference room visible through glass, equipped with a table for group study."

The upgrades are expected to be completed by Thanksgiving with the help of a \$50,000 New York State Public Library Construction Grant, which was received this spring.

"We've been successful in the past leveraging our Foundation grants with other monies and have done it again by applying for the

New York state grant this year," Geoffino said. "We were a little apprehensive about getting the grant with everything happening in Albany, but at long last we have it. The Library is also kicking in some money to make complete this enhancement. Time and again, the Foundation's generosity has allowed us to find and obtain matching funds, other than taxpayer money, elsewhere."

NRPL Foundation Board Member Alisa Kesten and Ted Kesten funded the original renovation in 2000 in memory of their fathers Irvin I. Harris and Morton L. Kesten.

*"The new tables will be wired so that teens can plug in their iPods, laptops and other technology."*



Children's Librarian Kathy Cronin helped ready the niche in the Children's Room to be transformed into a quiet homework area.

## Children's Area Gets Homework Help Space

Once home to a small collection of books, the nook behind The Children's Room librarian's desk is being transformed into a haven for kids looking for homework help.

A \$6,000 grant from the NRPL Foundation will provide for an enclosure with sliding doors and sliding windows, which will afford a more comfortable, less distraction-filled, quieter area for children and their tutors.

Children's Librarian Kathy Cronin and her colleagues spent the winter weeding out old and unused books and moved others to the Children's Room's nonfiction collection. Biographies, collective biographies, circulating encyclopedias and reference books were moved along the perimeter of the space.

"The Children's Room can be noisy so we wanted to create a quiet space for homework use," Cronin said. "The tables used in the Children's Room were removed from the center of the room and an open space was created for patrons to walk through. Relocating the tables in the front of the Children's Room has created a calming effect on the dynamics in the area.

The enhanced area will be used by the "Steps to Success" program, which offers elementary and middle school students homework help from Monroe College students and New Rochelle high school students who are active in the New Rochelle Youth Bureau.



## It's Been a Banner Year

The New Rochelle Public Library is expanding the impact of the three welcoming lobby banners created last spring by local artist Dale Zheutlin. The Foundation's \$6,000 grant will underwrite the creation of two more banners, to be placed in the Library's remaining skylight spaces, adjacent to the Lawton Street entrance.

"The second set of banners continues to unify the space and contribute to the community that has been so visionary in its support of the arts," Zheutlin said. "The Library is a community resource where many come to be enlightened, engaged and entertained. I am using these banners to highlight and remind users of our sacred assets – our books, our history, our learning.

"In the Library there is a sense of celebration and the freedom to grow," she continued. "I am using color, design, text and imagery to enhance this revered environment. I feel very privileged to be part of this process."



## Area Museum Passes Are Huge Hit

This summer, Library patrons made great use of free passes to the area's museums, a program the NRPL Foundation continues to support.

Passes are available to the Children's Museum of Manhattan, Guggenheim Museum, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Museum of the City of New York, New York City Fire Department Museum, Stepping Stones Museum for Children, Bruce Museum, Neuberger Museum of Art and Katonah Museum of Art.

Library cardholders over the age of 18 and in good standing may borrow one pass per family at a time; they may be reserved up to one month in advance. Passes are checked out for three days -- one day to check out the pass, one day to visit the museum and one day to return the pass.

NRPL Foundation is doubling its support of this popular service with a \$2,000 grant for its 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Reservations may be made through the **Children's Room Reference Desk, 914-813-3716** or **914-813-3717**.

## Refurbished Meeting Room Welcomes All Groups

From kids armed with glue sticks to adults discussing lucrative grants, the Library's meeting room defines "multi-purpose." Sporting new paint and lighting thanks to a 2010 NRPL Foundation grant, the first-floor meeting room will soon be equipped with new tables and chairs, purchased with an additional \$6,300 Foundation grant.

The meeting room is used "constantly" and the tables are not in good condition, noted Library Director Tom Geoffino who is working with Community Relations Coordinator Barbara Davis to secure the new furniture. The Library is working with a vendor to buy the furniture at state-contract pricing, with up to 50-percent-off discounts.

"The New Rochelle Public Library's new meeting room furniture will make the Library an even more inviting and welcoming public meeting place," said NRPL Foundation Board Member Paul Warhit. "It is essential that our Library provides clean and updated furniture where residents who may not have access to a board room can meet and discuss important matters of the day. Whether discussing the city budget, planning for our city's downtown or waterfront development or simply reflecting on how lucky we are to live in New Rochelle, our Library is the perfect place to meet and make a difference in our community."

**"Libraries: The medicine chest of the soul."**

- Library at Thebes, inscription over the door



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“Real poverty is lack of books.”

– Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, author of Gigi

# Foundation NEWS

Fall 2011



## Our Story

The New Rochelle Public Library Foundation is a volunteer fundraising and advocacy organization that undertakes varied activities to ensure the future well-being of the library. NRPL Foundation provides support for initiatives that enhance opportunities for learning, exploration and public discourse.

NRPL Foundation, established in 1993, has raised almost \$2 million for the New Rochelle Public Library. These funds were used for the purchase of computers for public access to the Internet; renovation of the reference and information service area; refurbishing of the lobby; creation of a teen area; creation of the Handleman Business Opportunity Center, plus renovations to the Ossie Davis Theater.

## JOIN US!

The New Rochelle Public Library Foundation is a community of volunteers with a shared belief that “Libraries Change Lives.”

For more information on ways you can volunteer to help with the Spring 2012 CelebriTea event, featuring renown authors with local ties, please call the Foundation at **914-632-7878 ext. 1600** or email [info@nrplfoundation.org](mailto:info@nrplfoundation.org)

### Encourage Learning, Support Our Library

Only through your support can the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation continue to enhance the Library’s facilities and programs for all residents of our city. Contributions to the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation may be made by check and mailed to the Foundation office at One Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Or donate by credit card through the NRPL Foundation website, [www.nrplfoundation.org](http://www.nrplfoundation.org).



**NRPL Foundation**

**Be involved a little.**

**Be involved a lot.**

**Be involved!**

Or, consider naming the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation as a charitable beneficiary in your will or trust. Contact the Foundation at **914-632-7878, ext. 1600** for suggested bequest language. Consult your financial planner or attorney about your legacy — and then let us know so that we can thank you!

**“New Rochelle will have a vibrant and dynamic public library service program with funding that permits continuous innovation and growth.”** – NRPL Foundation Vision