

New Rochelle Public Library Foundation  
One Library Plaza  
New Rochelle, NY 10801  
www.nrplfoundation.org

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REMEMBER TO VOTE MAY 19TH LIBRARY BOARD & BUDGET



Spring 2015

Foundation NEWS

## Your Gift Can Change Someone's Life

Established in 1993, the NRPL Foundation is a volunteer fundraising and advocacy organization dedicated to the future well-being of the Library. To date, we have raised more than \$3 Million in support of the New Rochelle Public Library endowment fund and special projects such as:

- Purchasing over 100 Computer Stations with Free wifi
- Ossie Davis Theater Renovation
- Children's Room Renovation
- Creation of the Bliss Music Center
- Creation of the The Handelman Business Opportunity Center
- "The Big Read" Initiative
- 100s of hours of Children's Programming, Services for Seniors, New Immigrants and Unemployed
- And many more projects



### Every Gift Makes An Impact

**Mark a Wonderful Occasion** with even more meaning with a gift to commemorate a special Birthday, Anniversary, Graduation, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Wedding or Birth. **Honor the Memory of a Loved One** with a gift to the NRPL Foundation. Donations will be recognized by the Foundation with a personal letter of thanks.

**Giving is Easy.** Donate securely online at: [nrplfoundation.org](http://nrplfoundation.org) and click the DONATE button on our homepage. For more information email us at [info@nrplfoundation.org](mailto:info@nrplfoundation.org) or call (914) 632-7878 ext. 1600.

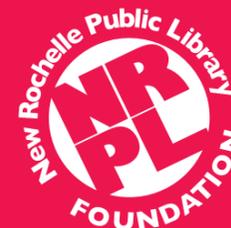
Donations made by check should be made out to NRPL Foundation and mailed to One Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Attn: NRPL Foundation

**Leave a Lasting Legacy** by remembering the NRPL Foundation in your will or trust. A Legacy Gift is part of thoughtful estate planning. It takes your needs and the needs of your loved ones into consideration while supporting a charity that is personally meaningful to you. Planned gifts can also provide valuable tax benefits. For more information please contact **Christina Selin**, NRPL Foundation Board Member, at [cselin@aol.com](mailto:cselin@aol.com) or (914) 633-3147.

*The NRPL Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable entity, Federal Tax ID #13-3712927.*

Libraries Change Lives

[nrplfoundation.org](http://nrplfoundation.org) [facebook.com/nrplfoundation](https://facebook.com/nrplfoundation)



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“Milton and I shared a wonderful life together and a love for music. I wanted to do something to honor Milton's memory – something that would be a lasting legacy for our children and community. Now that the Bliss Music Center is here and I see how many people use the Center — I am very happy. If Milton knew how many people were listening to music because of him, I think he would be happy too.”

— Marjorie Bliss

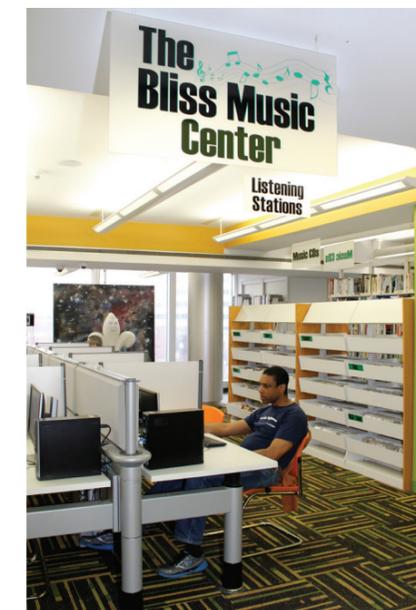
## The Bliss Music Center A First-Class Resource

One of the most exciting additions to the library's growing resources is The Bliss Music Center. According to Library Director **Tom Geoffino**, the Bliss Music Center is “one of the crown jewels of the Library and includes something for just about everyone.” The Bliss Music Center was made possible by a gift from **Marjorie Bliss** and Family in honor of her late husband **Milton Bliss**. Mrs. Bliss is an active member of the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation, which has been instrumental in developing and maintaining The Bliss Center.

Located on the 3rd floor — with a scenic view of the Library Green below — The Bliss Music Center was modeled after the Lincoln Center Branch of the New York Public Library. The Center has greatly expanded the Library's music collection to more than 4,000 CDs. The catalog now contains new genres, such as World Music and Rap, as well as a robust assortment of Classical, Opera

and International titles. Many special edition box sets are available for the first time. The Center is also home to a first-class collection of original musical scores. Inside the Bliss Center there are 8 state-of-the-art Listening Stations where visitors can preview music before making their borrowing selections. 12 brand-new computer stations allow patrons to stream or download music and audio books to their personal devices including iPods, iPhones and MP3 compatible devices. Accessible databases include Naxos, Classics Online, Smithsonian, Pandora, Internet Radio, eMusic, Audio Lunchbox and more.

Since its opening in 2009, the Bliss Music Center has continued to grow. With the ongoing support of the Bliss Family and other donors – large and small – The Bliss Music Center has been able to upgrade and expand its resources on a yearly bases.



“Keeping up-to-date technologically so our users have access to the vast online resources available today is must for the Library,” notes Tom Geoffino, “but funds are hard to find. **We depend upon private donations through the NRPL Foundation to support projects like this.**”

## Foundation Board

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## After The Flood, Ossie Davis Theater Better Than Ever!

What a hard winter this has been. On Feb 16 another winter storm rolled in and sometime after closing, a pipe burst in the Library. The newly renovated Ossie Davis Theater and adjacent conference room were soon under 2 feet of water. Brand new floors, seats and carpeting were ruined. It looked like a total disaster but, thanks to the hard work of our amazing staff and the support of our community, today the Theater is back — and better than ever. A special thank you to our amazing neighbor Recologie Lifestyle Inc. (49 Lawton Street) for lending us their space so that the Ossie Davis Theater hardly missed a beat or a performance. 🎭



## Downtown Redevelopment Update

The City of New Rochelle recently signed a Master Development Agreement with Renaissance Downtown/RXR to design an economic development plan for our downtown community. The goal is to improve the overall quality of life and the economy of downtown New Rochelle. The Library and its Board of Trustees are in discussions with RX/RDDM to determine how the Library will fit into future proposed plans. In the words of New Rochelle Commissioner of Development **Luiz Aragon**, "The Library is in a win/win position. Now its up to RD/RXR together with the Library Board, to develop plan that is good for the future of our beloved Library and our downtown community." **We encourage all our readers to become active advocates for our Library by playing a part in the crowdsourcing dialogue. Sign up today and give your input at [www.nrfuture.com](http://www.nrfuture.com).** 🗣️

## A Message from our President Paul Warhit

### We Need You Now, More Than Ever



The New Rochelle Public Library is a microcosm of our city. It is near and dear to my heart because it is a place where people of all ages and backgrounds find resources for education, self-improvement and entertainment. It is a place where we all learn and grow together. For many years now the Library Foundation, along with the Friends of the Library, have worked to fill the gap between the Library budget and the needs of our community. Over the past 5 years matching funds from the Foundation have helped secure more than \$200,000 in State and Federal grants for our Library. *These funds have made all the difference.* Together we have built one of the best and most utilized libraries in Westchester County.

But the challenges continue. Despite the dedicated work of our Director, **Tom Geoffino**, and his diligent staff, the gap between the Library's budget and its needs have continued to grow. To meet those needs we need your support now, more than ever.

**Our upcoming projects include the renovation of the First Floor Lobby, which will include a new Adult Reception and Circulation Desk, Friends of the Library Bookstore, and a new Lawton Street entrance.**

Also, beginning in May, we are sponsoring a community-wide video contest for students in grades 9-12 themed, "I Found It At The Library." Please take a look at our website for more details and share with teens you know who may be interested in entering.

The challenges are great but the rewards are even greater. Please join me in supporting the vital work of the NRPL Foundation today. 🙌

## Children's Room Renovation Earns an A+

As soon as you enter the Library you can see the transformation. Walk through the dramatic archway entrance, inspired by Norman Rockwell's *Land of Enchantment* painting, and you know you have entered a totally refreshed space.



Designed to appeal to our youngest patrons and their families, the Children's Room has been recreated with vibrant colors, modern furniture and a jazzy new carpet giving the space an open and inviting feel. Creativity meets efficiency in the new train motif Librarian Station, wrap-around Computer Center and smart new room layout.

According to **Cathy Cronin**, longtime Children's Librarian, "This space has not been renovated since 1997. That's almost 20 years! The wear and tear on this room is tremendous. We desperately needed these upgrades."

The Children's Room is ranked second in total children's book circulation and third in total annual hours open among all 38 Westchester System Libraries. But that is only part of the story. Free community programs include weekly Nursery Rhyme Time, Toddler Time, Preschool Story Time, Yoga Tots, Baby Steps, Pajama Time, Music, Movement, Parenting Activities and Craft Workshops.

The Children's Room renovation was made possible by a generous gift of \$21,000 from the Foundation and a 2012/13 New York State Construction Grant of \$89,081. We extend our sincere thanks to the members of the Foundation for their generosity and to the New Rochelle Legislative Delegation for their work in making the State funding possible. 🙏



The Children's Room also hosts our 7 elementary schools and community preschools. Homework Help is offered every weekday during the school year. In addition to all these scheduled activities, the Children's Room hosts hundreds of babies, preschoolers, school-aged children, parents, grandparents and caregivers who utilize the room to read and socialize together.

