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Reading PA 19602

readingpubliclibrary.org



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A PUBLICATION OF THE **READING PUBLIC LIBRARY**

COMMUNITY JOINS READING PUBLIC LIBRARY IN CELEBRATING NATIONAL MEDAL

A PROUD MOMENT IN RPL HISTORY

On May 24th, RPL Executive Director, Bronwen Gamble, traveled with a long-time library patron, Luis Rodriguez, to the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington D.C. to accept the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Back home in Reading, library supporters watched the ceremony from live stream viewing parties, joining in on this proud moment in Reading Public Library's history.



Pictured above are IMLS Director, Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew, RPL Executive Director, Bronwen Gamble, and community member, Luis Rodriguez. Photo courtesy of IMLS/Shannon Finney.

ONE OF TEN IN AMERICA

The Institute for Museum and Library Services is dedicated to transforming the lives of individuals and communities by supporting, advancing, and empowering America's museums and libraries. They select only 10 recipients a year for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. It is the highest honor given to those institutions who provide exceptional service within their communities. Visit imls.gov to learn more.



BIG SUPPORT

"CONGRATULATIONS! We are very proud of being your partner and are happy for the recognition you have received for the great work that you do."
-Yamil Sanchez, United Way of Berks County

"Congratulations to the staff and board of the Reading Public Library for this prestigious award!! We're all so proud!"
-Donna Reed, Reading City Council

"The Reading Public Library is a cherished and valuable asset to the Reading community."
-Pat Toomey, United States Senate

"Congratulations to the RPL staff and Board! We are so proud to have you in our community!"
-John Slifko, Reading City Council

"Just such terrific news and so well-deserved. Congratulations from all of us here at Commonwealth Libraries."
-Glenn R. Miller, Office of Commonwealth Libraries

"I just wanted to extend my congratulations to Reading Public Library on winning IMLS's highest honor for institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Well done!"
-Daniel Snedden, American Library Association

"This recognition speaks to the high regard in which you are held by your peers and is a wonderful acknowledgement of your hard work and commitment."
-Robert Casey, Jr., United States Senate

Something for all Ages

Monday, June 11 to Saturday, August 18
READING PUBLIC LIBRARY

Free events happening all summer long at each of our four locations. Join us for ten weeks of exciting performances, weekly Family Nights, games, programs and prizes! Go to readingpubliclibrary.org or stop in your library for more information.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

These are exciting times at the Reading Public Library. As you will read throughout this edition of *Pages*, the library is meeting needs and offering services in all kinds of innovative ways. And I'm not the only one who thinks so! The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Medal for Service recognizes RPL as an outstanding leader in providing what our community wants from its library. Books? Computer classes? Family programs? Library services coming to you? Check, check, check, and check!

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a city and county to keep an award winning library at the forefront of service. Thank you for borrowing our books, movies, magazines, and music. Thank you for finding us online and becoming our fast growing digital customers. Thank you for donating your time and your dollars. Please keep telling us what you want from YOUR library. Is there a new book you want us to buy? An old favorite you can't find but we may be able to borrow from another library anywhere in the world? Is there a program or service you wish you could access at the library? Come in and tell us or look for us out and about in one of our new mobile vans. We're listening.

Regards, *Bronwen*



FLASHBACK WITH DIGITIZED BERKS COUNTY YEARBOOKS

Lovers of local history and Berks County students of the past are invited to go back in time with our newly available digital yearbook archive.

A collection of yearbooks from Reading High, Reading Central Catholic, and other high schools around the county was made possible in conjunction with Oklahoma Correctional Industries, who graciously completed the physical scanning of the paper yearbooks at no cost. Following the scan, Reading Public Library's reference department staff proceeded to upload the contents of over 680 Berks County yearbooks to the free POWER Library online platform.

Today you can reminisce on the glory days of the past by visiting powerlibrary.org. Find the collection under "PA Photos and Documents," and select the name "Berks County Yearbooks."

¡Tenemos **libros electrónicos y audiolibros** en español!



We have **Spanish eBooks and Audiobooks!**



IN THE COMPANY OF GOOD FRIENDS AT COCKTAILS & CLASSICS

It was a record-breaking year for RPL's largest annual fundraiser, *Cocktails & Classics*. Held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Reading, the event saw upwards of 300 guests. The evening featured many of the event's traditional elements, including a signature cocktail, music performed by local talent, excellent food samplings donated by Berks County vendors, and entertaining auction items and experiences.

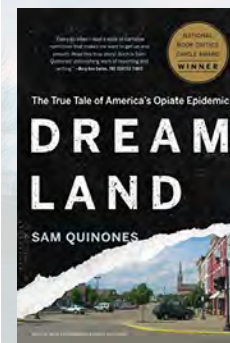
The night held a few new twists as well. This year the Gene London Hollywood Collection made an appearance, exhibiting costumes from classics such as *Gone with the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Ben Hur*. Guests had the opportunity to buy a Golden Ticket, which entered them into the running to win any silent auction item of their choosing. "Do It Local" was present with a photo booth, as was the Reading Distilling Guild who provided samples of their signature rums.

With ticket sales, a successful live and silent auction, a Fund a Need appeal specifically for Children's Programming at RPL, and the generosity of individual and corporate sponsors, the evening raised an incredible \$104,000. These much needed funds will support the literary needs of library patrons throughout the year.



OPIOID ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH:

Connections and Crossroads



Join us as Samir Naber of the Greater Reading Mental Health Alliance discusses the connection between opioid abuse and mental health problems. A featured talking point will be Sam Quinones' award-winning book, *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 23
11 AM AT RPL MAIN**

100 South Fifth Street, Reading

do it LOCAL



**SAVE MONEY
WHILE
SUPPORTING
THE LIBRARY**

\$15 of every \$25 membership goes directly to RPL. Enjoy over 130 deals at 60+ local businesses, right from your phone! "Do It LOCAL" is a community-focused app that makes it easy to get discounts at your favorite local restaurants and businesses.

Visit doitlocalapp.com to sign up and start saving today. Don't forget to use our key!

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