

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We have been very busy this winter improving services and programs for our users. Our website has been fully redesigned and displays our wonderful new logo. We have grown our museum pass offerings and moved the passes to the children's library. Staff have been growing our new titles in all areas of the library and we have seen a jump in circulation. Usage for our online resources continues to grow especially for Hoopla, which offers over 200,000 films. The new strategic plan for the library should be finished in the next months. This plan will give us our vision for services to the community for the next five years. Based on focus group meetings, our survey and a town hall session, the new strategic plan will set our vision for 21st century library service for all our users. Don't forget to sign-up for our email calendar and newsletter list, it will keep you in the know! Our tax levy vote will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. Please look for our information brochures on the website and in the library for more information about our budget for 2016 – 17.

– Carolyn Karwoski

NEW & IMPROVED

The Mount Vernon Public Library **Computer Lab** has extended its hours. The new lab hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10:30 am to 5:00 pm, Thursday, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and Friday 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. In addition there is a small collection of computer books in the computer lab. The lab computers have been updated and there is a new updated touch screen large display monitor.

RECAP: HIGHLIGHTS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Mount Vernon Public Library celebrated Black History Month with an array of programs.

One of the more successful programs, "The Roots of Black Music," held in the Community Room on February 6, had a great turn out. It focused on Early African American music, drawing upon spirituals and the blues. It was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

The first meeting of the library's Genealogy Group was held on February 25 and focused on the special problems found in researching African American genealogy. The group was facilitated by family researcher and library staffer Cheryl Thomas. She provided worksheets used to begin developing family trees.

Finally, special kudos to our Trustee, Brian G. Johnson, who led an amazing book discussion on author Richard Wright's novel, *Native Son* on February 29.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY!

The new Mount Vernon Public Library's Website has gone live. Our new website provides a user friendly experience for patrons, making it easy to find information that you need to know. Visit us online to search databases, and find programs that you like. www.mtvpl.org

Adult Coloring Book Club

Relax, meet new and old friends and express your inner artist. Supplies will be provided. Register at the Reference Desk. For more information, please call 914-668-1918.

Wind Art Sculpture Installation

Seeing the Wind, a signature art sculpture, by artists Rochelle Shicoff and John Cipora, will be installed at the 2nd Avenue entrance of the Library. Funding for this project was provided by a grant from NY State capital projects. For more information please contact Carolyn Karwoski, Executive Library Director, at 914-668-1840 ext. 223

Teen Tech Week

March 6 to 12, teens had the opportunity to learn about 3-D printing, discover downloadable music and movies, comics and ebooks, and build projects with Little Bits®.

DID YOU KNOW?

Having a library card can save you money and make life easier. With your card you can:

- Visit a museum for free.
- Download Audiobooks, Ebooks, EMagazines and stream music.
- Access to use our computers.
- Research Databases.
- Learn Online.

The list goes on and on . . . come in and sign up for a card to enjoy these free resources.

PARENT UNIVERSITY – SATURDAYS at Benjamin Turner Middle School

Informational sessions covering the following topics:

March 12 at 9:00 am: *Building Self Esteem in Your Child*

March 12 at 10:00 am: *AIR – Accountable Independent Reading*

April 30 at 9:00 am: *Kindergarten Transitioning into 1st Grade*

April 30 at 10:30 am: *6th Grade Transitioning into Middle School.*

May 14, 2016 at 9:00 am: *Middle School Transitioning Into High School*

May 14, 2016 at 10:30 am: *High School Transitioning Into College/Career*

RSVP to Dr. Bennett-Conroy at 914-665-5527. Address is 624 South 3rd Avenue, Mount Vernon. NY 10550.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM BILINGUAL STORYTIME

Signs of Spring Bilingual Storytime

Tuesday, March 15 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Nancy Corigan, from WLS, and Susi Dugaw, Children's Librarian, host a bilingual (Spanish) storytime that includes stories, songs, a craft, and often a puppet show and/or dance.

For more information contact the Children's Department at 914-668-1840 ext. 211

SUMMER FUN IN HARTLEY PARK

Me and My World is a fun playgroup for parents and caregivers and their children ages 0 – 4 in Hartley Park. Games, music, toys, story time, water play, arts & crafts, and special guests will provide fun for all. The playgroup will meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, from Tuesday, June 16 to Wednesday, July 29. The rain location is the Mount Vernon Public Library's Children's Department. Hartley Park is located on Gramatan & East Lincoln Avenues in Mount Vernon.

BRIAN PINKEY TO VISIT MTVPL'S CHILDREN'S ROOM

Brian Pinkey, award-winning author and illustrator of several highly-praised picture books including *On the Ball*, *Hush Little Baby*, *The Faithful Friend*, *In the Ties of the Drums* and *Duke Ellington* is coming to our Library Thursday, April 14 at 3:30 pm. Watch for details on our website.

APRIL IS JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

The library will celebrate with a concert of jazz standards by the **Marcio Garcia Quartet**.

The quartet is comprised of students studying jazz performance at SUNY Purchase College, Conservatory of Music. The concert is Tuesday, April 12 at 4:00 pm in the Community Room. Light refreshments will be served.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FAMILY RESEARCH?

Join our **Genealogy Group** Thursdays at 6:00 pm, every other month, in the Grace Greene Baker Community Room.

April 21: Researching your Family History: A Librarian's Perspective.

June 23: Getting Started with Your Family History Research.

Sign up at the Reference Desk. For more information please call 914-668-1918.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT: DORIS HACKETT



My four children started out coming to the Mt. Vernon Public Library as young children. I began working here in June of 1999. My children were 10, 9, 5, and 3. They would all come here after school and spend the afternoon in the Children's Room since I worked in the Circulation Department, covering the Adult and Children's Room Circulation desks.

I would make sure I brought them each a snack and juice so that they wouldn't be hungry until we got home that evening.

As time went on, however, my good friend and surrogate mother, Josephine Boone, who worked in the Children's Room, would bring them snacks and juices each day. "Don't worry about it" she would say, "These are my babies"! And so I let her grandmother them since she was not yet a grandmother. Sadly, she passed away in 2009, just as her youngest daughter was about to make her a grandmother for the first time.

My children are now 26, 25, 21, and 19. How time flies. The Mount Vernon Public Library was pivotal in the lives of my young children. It gave them a safe place to go after school to do their homework and participate in the children's activities. Thanks to a caring and competent staff, my children understood at an early age that, "Reading is Fundamental"!

**Save the Date Tuesday, May 3
Library Budget Vote
and Trustee Election**