

# THE HUGUENOT HOTLINE

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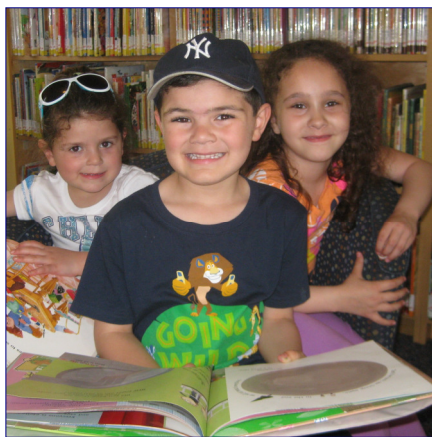
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## DID YOU KNOW....

In 2010 the New Rochelle Public Library circulated more than **562,084 items** and offered over **1,633 free programs** that were enjoyed by **27,674 children, teens, adults and seniors.**

The cost of programs at the Main Library and the Huguenot Children's Library is covered by support from the NRPL Foundation, the Friends of the NRPL and the PHCL.

## FUNTASTIC READ-A-THON SET FOR JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>



*Bella and A.J. Rodriguez enjoy a book with Grace Francella at the HCL*

Calling all young readers: New Rochelle's elementary school students are invited to join the **Funtastic Read-A-Thon** at the Huguenot Children's Library on **Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 8 pm.** Show off your reading skills while you help support the Huguenot Children's Library! Children are being asked to invite their friends, family and neighbors to pledge donations for every book or chapter they read during the **Funtastic Read-A-Thon**; all funds raised will benefit the non-profit Partnership for the Huguenot Children's Library, which provides programming and enhancements not covered by the regular operating budget.

Participants can stay a short time or stay for the entire five hours and read, read, read! There will also be a special Pajama Hour Story Time

from 7 to 8 pm, so kids can bring their pajamas or come back and get comfortable for some late night fun!

The **Funtastic Read-A-Thon** will include **snacks, giveaways and guest readers**, including Ward School Principal Franco Miele, Mayor Noam Bramson, and a fire

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## LIBRARY BUDGET VOTE MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

Your library needs your support: **Please remember to vote on May 17<sup>th</sup>.** On that day New Rochelle residents go to the polls to approve the school budget as well as the library budget, which supports both the Main Branch downtown and the Huguenot Children's Library. The proposed 2011-2012 budget is actually *less* than the library's 2010-2011 budget due to conservative spending and successful grant applications; The tax levy is the result of decreased revenue (fund balance). The proposed tax levy of \$143,000, or 3.49%, translates to an increase of **\$13.47 per household for the average taxpayer** (estimate furnished by the New Rochelle City Finance Department)

*(Continued on page 2)*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

After a long, hard winter, things are really beginning to heat up around the Huguenot Children's Library. We have recently completed a multi-year enhancement initiative, which included the renovation of the basement as a multi-media room for programming, upgrades to the furniture and computer stations on the second floor, a state-of-the-art computer system with new educational software on the first floor, and a complete re-wiring of the building that should sustain us for many years to come. Our special thanks to Roxanne Nielsen and the Building Committee for their outstanding leadership on this project, and to our supporters, who made this significant upgrade possible.

In addition to the physical upgrades to the library, the Partnership and library staff are hard at work planning our Read-a-Thon, scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>. Children in grade schools throughout New Rochelle are encouraged to join us on that date and read, read, read! The children will ask friends and family to support them with pledges based on the number of books they read. Their donations will go to support future programming at the Huguenot Children's Library.

The library continues to be a vital hub of reading, learning and creativity for the children of New Rochelle. And we continue to be grateful for the generosity of our supporters. Last December, we were overwhelmed by the response to our year-end direct mail appeal to raise funds for the Partnership. The money raised will allow the PHCL to continue to support ongoing children's programming at the Huguenot Children's Library as well as special events like Lego Day, part of New Rochelle's Arts Fest each fall. If you haven't been to the HCL lately, we encourage you to please come by, see our renovations first hand and enjoy the intensity and energy as our children learn and grow!

With our sincere gratitude for your continued support,

*Lisa Bonalle*



*NRPL Director Tom Geoffino with PHCL President Lisa Bonalle*

**In 2009 the New Rochelle Public Library was ranked among the top four of Westchester's libraries in terms of:**

**Total Children's Book Circulation (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Grand Total Circulation Transactions (4<sup>th</sup>)**

**Reference Questions Answered (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Library Sponsored Programs Conducted (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Number of Library Card Holders (3<sup>rd</sup>)**

**Annual total of hours open (3<sup>rd</sup>)**

**And yet... the NRPL's public support per capita is the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest in Westchester County**

## LIBRARY BUDGET VOTE MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

or a little more than a dollar a month.

"This proposed tax increase is due solely to declining assessments," explains Greg Varian, president of the NRPL Board of Trustees. "The NRPL has reduced spending, reduced operating costs, and reduced staff positions, from 42 in 2005 to 30 in 2010. But usage of all kinds has exploded: Books — traditional and electronic — as well as downloadable music and computer access. The budget covers staffing our two facilities — approximately 70% of our operating budget — as well as the upkeep of these two buildings, including capital repairs, utilities and lending materials." He adds that the cost to the average homeowner works out to \$13.47 per year, a little over a dollar a month. "Without this increase the New Rochelle Public Library will face a spending reduction of \$143,000," says Varian, "the major impact of which would be closure of the library on Sundays and summertime Saturdays. What's worse is that we would be looking at double-digit tax increases in future years just to restore services to today's level."

Also on the ballot will be the election of two Library Trustees. **The vote will be held on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Polls are open 7:00 am to 9:00 pm.** If you are unsure about your polling place, contact the District Clerk at the Board of Education (914) 576-4219 or email [lsaraiva@nred.org](mailto:lsaraiva@nred.org). For absentee ballots, applications are available at [www.nred.org](http://www.nred.org) (click on Budget Vote and Elections).

## PHCL PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

The Partnership for the Huguenot Children's Library is dedicated to inspiring a life-long love of reading and learning through outstanding library services for all of the children of New Rochelle. Founded in 1992, the PHCL was responsible for renovating the once-abandoned building and formerly neglected playground, and it continues to support — and even organize — programs that enrich the lives of children and families every day. Just a few examples coming up this spring:

### Old Fashioned Summer Fun Returns

Once again the PHCL will offer **Old Fashioned Summer Fun** on the patio, starting June 27<sup>th</sup>. The annual program — made possible every summer through the generosity of an anonymous donor — was a visited by more than 3,200 children last year.

**Old Fashioned Summer Fun** will run Monday through Friday, from 10 am to 5 pm, all summer long, offering free supervised activities and access to games as well as arts and crafts for children accompanied by a parent or an adult caregiver. Coordinator Yan Mui says, “We look forward to helping to create many happy summer memories!”

### Parenting Classes

As wonderful as it is, parenting can sometimes be difficult. A series of free parenting workshops in May is designed to provide some insights and offer new tools to help deal with the challenges of being a parent.

The workshops, sponsored by the Partnership for the Huguenot Children's Library, will be conducted by Caroline Goldmacher Kern, LCSW on three Wednesdays in May — May 4<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 to 11:30 am. The topic on May 4<sup>th</sup> will be “**The Ups and Downs of Being A New Parent**,” while the May 11<sup>th</sup> workshop will focus on “**How to Communicate Effectively with Your Partner (and Family)**”. Finally, on May 18<sup>th</sup>



*Children and caregivers enjoy arts and crafts activities on the patio as part of Old Fashioned Summer Fun at the Huguenot Children's Library last summer.*

the topic will be “**STRESS: It's All Around Me, What Can I Do About It?**”

According to Catie Stern, the PHCL's program chair, the goal of the series is to help new mothers adjust and to start building friendships with other women going through the same experience. “Being overwhelmed is part of being a new parent,” she observes. “When we offered the first series of workshops last winter our goal was to provide useful information and help women establish a network of other new moms.”

For more information about how you can support the work of the Partnership for the Huguenot Children's Library, or to make a donation, visit [www.partnershipforthehcl.org](http://www.partnershipforthehcl.org).

## READ-A-THON (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

fighter, a cartoonist, actors from the New Rochelle High School and others who will cheer you on as you read for a great cause. To participate, pick up a flyer at the Huguenot Children's Library and register by June 11<sup>th</sup>.

“The Read-A-Thon is a great way to encourage our children to read, give them a sense of pride in their reading accomplishments and support the library created and programmed just for them,” says Barb Francella, who is organizing the event with Joan Travers. “The day is designed for all of the city's elementary students, from pre-readers to pre-teens, and their families.”

For further details contact Barb Francella at [barbfrancella@aol.com](mailto:barbfrancella@aol.com).

**The Partnership  
for the Huguenot  
Children's  
Library**

P.O. Box 0072  
New Rochelle, NY 10804  
[www.partnershipforthehcl.org](http://www.partnershipforthehcl.org)

Library Phone: 632-8954

**Library Hours:**

**Monday-Friday 10 AM to 6 PM**

**(Open till 6 pm Mondays and  
Thursdays, 8 pm Wednesdays)**

**Saturdays 10 AM to 5 PM**

**Sundays 1 to 5 PM**

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## **NEWS BRIEFS**

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The Partnership for the Huguenot Children's Library thanks all who contributed to our annual year-end appeal. Your contributions make possible programs and enhancements not covered by the operating budget.

\* \* \*

Mark your calendars: Arts Fest – the city wide celebration of the arts – returns to New Rochelle the weekend of September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, and once again the Huguenot Children's Library will be the place to be for all "LEGO ® maniacs" as "Brick Builders" offers a free LEGO ® workshop. From 12 noon to 4 pm on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> **The Partnership for the Huguenot Children's Library** will host an afternoon of fun with the colorful plastic blocks: Brick Builders will provide tons of LEGO ® parts, pieces and figures for children to play with in a free play environment. There will also be a small take-home gift for each child who participates.

**Arts Fest**, organized by the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, will include free art exhibits, events and performances at 19 venues across the city. Once again a free trolley will offer "hop on – hop off" transportation between sites. For a complete calendar of events go to [www.newrochellearts.org](http://www.newrochellearts.org).

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Visit us on the web at [www.partnershipforthehcl.org](http://www.partnershipforthehcl.org) to see photos of recent events and learn more about how you can support the Huguenot Children's Library.