

# Croton Free Library

## SHELF LIFE

Quarterly Newsletter, Spring 2019

### Croton Reads 2019

Little known fact: Just a few dozen yards from the Croton Free Library lies the grave of activist, playwright, public intellectual and artist, Lorraine Hansberry. Who knew? Well, now our entire Croton community knows that Lorraine Hansberry lived here in Croton. To celebrate her life, the 2019 Croton Reads program – our sixth annual installment – was an extravaganza of not one but five events. Screenings of Tracy Heather Strain's bio-documentary, "Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart" and the original 1961 film *A Raisin in the Sun* and its 2008 remake based on Hansberry's 1959 New York Drama Critic's Circle Award-winning play of the same name launched the festivities in February.



March brought an appearance by the author of our "One Village, One Book" selection, the biography *LOOKING FOR LORRAINE: The Radiant and Radical Life of Lorraine Hansberry* written by Imani Perry, whose gracious, articulate and very knowledgeable discussion engaged an audience of over 50 participants. The event series culminated in another sizable crowd gathering for a special appearance by Joi Gresham,



Hansberry's Literary Trustee and former Croton resident, who spoke on Hansberry's living legacy and how her writings, visual art and civil rights activism continues to influence our culture. What a unique opportunity it was to share the life of one of Croton's own residents with those who may have known her, with those who may have never before heard of her accomplishments, and with a new generation of students in our schools who each year read and study *A Raisin in the Sun*.

## LIBRARY BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday, May 21**  
**Croton Harmon**  
**High School**

A Message from the Director

“I’m always astounded by how popular the Library is when I gather statistics for the annual report. In 2018, the Croton Free Library had over 170,000 visits from our patrons. During those visits, our public computers were used over 6,000 times, over 15,000 people attended our programs, we circulated about 148,000 items and our reference librarians were approached 16,000 times with questions. We even saw a 10% increase in attendance to our ever-popular children’s programs.

“Last May, the Library budget passed with a 90% approval from voters. We are humbled by the support we receive from the entire community each year. This year’s budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 21 at the Croton Harmon High School; polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 9:00 p.m. The Library is seeking a 2.2% increase to the tax levy (about \$18,500), making the total requested amount just under \$870,000. A large portion of this increase will be devoted to salaries to stay ahead of the legally mandated annual rise in minimum wage, and the remainder will be allocated to the collection, annual programming, digital services, and employee benefits. Thank you for your continued support.” - Jesse Bourdon

2018 ANNUAL STATISTICS

Circulation

Adult Book Circulation . . . . .	45,347
Children’s Book Circulation . . . . .	41,383
Adult Audiovisual & Other . . . . .	20,157
Children’s AV & Other . . . . .	4,380
Digital Materials . . . . .	15,130
Items Loaned to Other Libraries . . . . .	21,568
<b>Total Items: . . . . .</b>	<b>147,965</b>

Programming

Adult Program Attendance . . . . .	1,813
YA Program Attendance . . . . .	502
Children’s Program Attendance . . . . .	12,431
All Other Program Attendance . . . . .	572
<b>Total Attendees: . . . . .</b>	<b>15,318</b>

Services

Visitors . . . . .	173,147
Reference Transactions . . . . .	16,027
Public Computer Sessions . . . . .	6,276
Library Cards Issued . . . . .	490
Museum Pass Use . . . . .	426

Croton Free Library

171 Cleveland Drive, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520  
914-271-6612 • www.crotonfreelibrary.org

STAFF

Jesse Bourdon, *Library Director*  
Thao Nguyen, *Assistant Director*  
Lori Phillips, *Technical Services*  
and over 25 valued part-timers

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Karen Zevin, *President*  
Laura Jaeger, *Vice-President*  
Meredith Hertlein, *Treasurer*  
Lisa Dashman, *Secretary*  
Kate Fabian  
Patricia Foley

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(Term Ending Year)  
Leslie Ellis,  
*President, 2019*  
Marianne Merola,  
*Vice-President, 2022*  
Sid Franks,  
*Treasurer, 2022*  
Adora Lam,  
*Secretary, 2020*  
Susan Ranis, *2019*  
Sharyse Eisinger, *2020*  
Mary McFerran, *2021*  
Barry Feinberg, *2023*  
Lynn Kauderer, *2023*

Croton Free Library Association

SPRING  
BOOK & BAKE  
SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 18  
SUNDAY, MAY 19  
10 A.M.— 3 P.M.