

Community Conversations on Timely Topics

This month, the UDPL advanced its strategic goal of uniting the community “in a vibrant, accessible, and inclusive Center for Community Engagement” through a series of speaker events designed to spark meaningful dialogue. We’re grateful to our mission-aligned partners, dedicated to lifelong learning and community enrichment, who collaborated with us to create valuable spaces for shared ideas and connections on these timely topics.

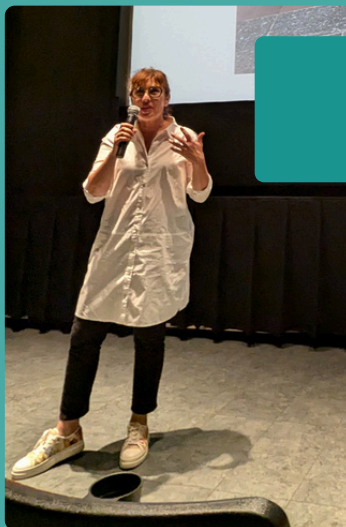


Celena Morrison-McLean

In partnership with Upper Dublin Township’s Human Relations Committee, the UDPL welcomed Celena Morrison-McLean, Executive Director of LGBTQ+ Affairs for the City of Philadelphia, and her colleague Zach Walters on October 17. Together, they offered a comprehensive exploration of what it means to be transgender, providing insights into the history, terminology, issues, and challenges faced by transgender individuals. The presentation also highlighted resources available to help support our community in fostering understanding and inclusion. The program concluded with a Q&A. Photo (L to R) Library Director Cheri Fiory, Morrison-McLean, Sherry Schaffer (HRC), and Walters.

WHYY-FM & Studio 2

The UDPL was honored to host a live recording of WHYY’s Studio 2 program right in our own Shanis Auditorium! As part of their new initiative to take the show on the road, hosts Cheri Gregg and Avi Wolfman-Arent stepped out from their radio booth on October 21 to lead a compelling discussion before a packed audience. The conversation explored the role of Philadelphia’s suburbs in the 2024 election, featuring insights from Montgomery County Commissioner Jamila Winder, Delco GOP’s Dave Galluch, and Katie Meyer of Spotlight PA. The program aired on WHYY-FM 90.9 on October 23 at 12:00 pm.



Let’s Discuss It! Lauren Grodstein

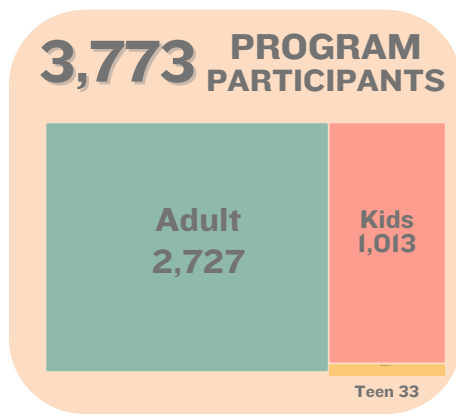
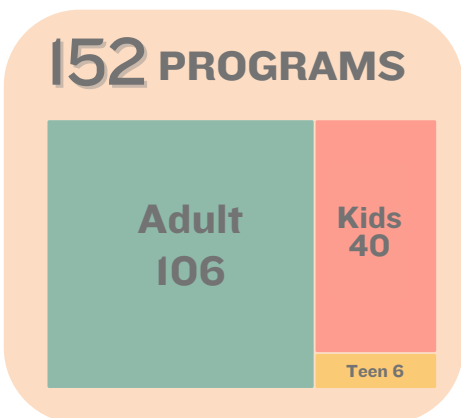
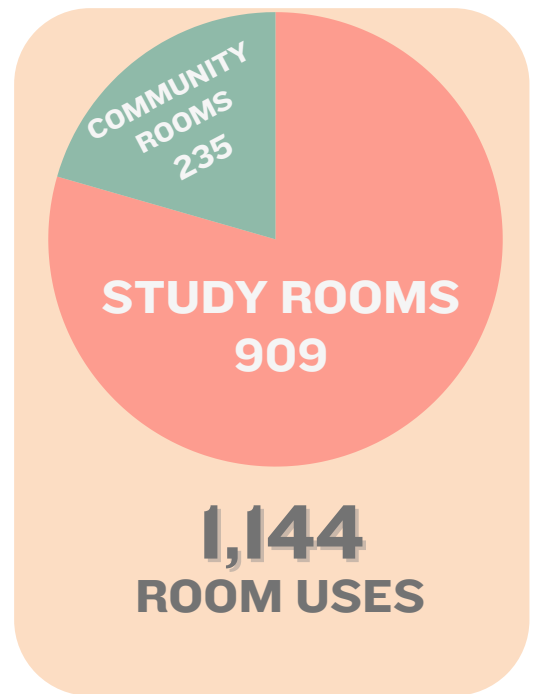
On October 29, we celebrated author Lauren Grodstein’s paperback launch of her acclaimed novel, *We Must Not Think of Ourselves*, a Today Show Read with Jenna pick, during what was the 10th anniversary of the "Let's Discuss It!" series. This series, hosted in collaboration with long-time partners Wissahickon Valley Public Library and the historic Ambler Theater, featured Lauren's engaging storytelling that had the audience laughing and crying as she shared humorous tales of her family's travels to Poland, alongside the sobering research she conducted on the Warsaw Ghetto. Special thanks to Reads & Company Book Shop for helping us coordinate visits from remarkable authors for our community.

BOOKS & MATERIALS

31,705

 TOTAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT

PROGRAMS & SPACES





Make a Friend, Be a Friend

In celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week, members of the Friends Board and UDPL staff hosted a special meet-and-greet event. Dozens of attendees gathered in the UDPL lobby to discover how becoming a Friends member sustains the high-quality library programs that the community cherishes and to explore various opportunities for involvement. Guests enjoyed light hors d'oeuvres and exclusive discounts at the Friends Shop.

Building Big Imaginations with Our Youngest Visitors

October was packed with programs designed to inform and inspire children. In collaboration with members of the Upper Dublin Police Department, participants in the Whodunit Book Club dove into detective stories and explored the art of evidence collection. Meanwhile, budding environmental stewards in our Going Green series met with a park ranger to learn about safe campfire management—an event held alongside a month-long reading challenge celebrating 80 years of Smokey the Bear. And, of course, October wouldn't be complete without some spooky fun! More than 200 children and grownups combined enjoyed Not-So-Scary Halloween Storytimes across three festive sessions, filled with stories and treats.



AD&L: Running Longer Than Your Favorite Streaming Series

Lead coordinator Dan Shoulberg, Head of Adult/YA Services Lindsay Cummings, and instructor Jeff Thomas are all smiles as the 7th season of Adult Discovery & Learning wrapped up on November 1. Nearly 500 participants registered for this popular series this fall, diving into the history of radio and television, mastering jazz, and discussing timely topics such as Fascism, Socialism, and the 2024 Election. The Spring season begins in February 2025.

