

## ABOUT THE INAUGURAL NANCY CURTIN SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Nancy Curtin began working at PWPL in 1974 and became the Library Director in 1994. When she retired in 2018, a committee was formed made up of Trustees, and representatives from both the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation, to create a “Nancy Curtin Library internship.”

The internship will be given to one local high school student currently in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Thanks to the generosity of the Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library, the intern will receive a \$2000 award for a six-week program. The intern will work approximately 15-20 hours per week, and will be assigned various tasks among multiple departments, including the Children’s, Young Adult, and Technology areas of the PWPL. This is a wonderful opportunity for any student who wants to learn about the PWPL and serve his or her community.

When Nancy Curtin retired, she wrote this article for our PWPL Bookings newsletter:

### A MESSAGE FROM NANCY CURTIN

*Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life. —Confucius*

I have been blessed to work in a field that I love and that I believe has real value. When I began as a librarian trainee in 1974, my specialty was children’s services and I basked in children’s literature and became a storyteller. I would recommend books, help with homework, and just enjoy one of the happiest places on earth. I am not talking about Disney World; I am talking about the children’s library!

Before there were DVDS, we would show children’s films via projector and film reels and I would share the excitement the children exuded as Jiminy Cricket sang “When You Wish Upon a Star” from *Pinocchio*. I remember reading to sick children in what was then North Shore Hospital, reading to children in their pajamas, reading to children while visiting nursery schools, reading to children at the beach. It was not a job, but a vocation.

For information and research, there was a card catalog and all the books we could store. Libraries were the source of most information. If you had to find an article, there were the many large volumes of the Reader’s Guide to Periodical Literature. I was a detective. When I was given a question, I read, I cross checked, I used bibliographies and footnotes. There has been tumultuous change, but change has brought amazing innovation and a new life for public libraries.

When I was made director in 1994, I was so honored to work with a dedicated library board and staff and lead this amazing institution into the future. Sometimes your dreams come true. Since then, I have worked with fellow librarians across the country, publishers, advocates, and of course the best community I could have wished for, Port Washington.

I have loved my working life and have therefore never worked a day in my life.