



**701 Cocoa Avenue
Hershey, PA 17033**

May 8, 2020

To our Library Community:

Once again, I'm writing to you from my home, while my seventeen-month-old son, Henry, naps downstairs. Our work lives and homes lives have become tangled up in ways we couldn't have anticipated over the past few months. It's not unusual to see children, pets, and spouses in the background of video conferences and I know I'm not the only one analyzing the bookshelves behind the backs of news broadcasters and late-night hosts. We're in a brand-new reality. Normally this time of year brings a small lull in library activity before the onslaught of summer programming. This year we're diligently trying to bring the same level of education and entertainment our community has come with summer programming while respecting the mandates of our socially distanced reality.

There are reasons to be optimistic. Libraries across the country are coming up with new ways for their community to interact with each other. Our library is testing out loaning Zoom rooms that would function like meeting spaces, we've had enormous success with video Story Time, and this afternoon we'll be testing out a group gaming program that we hope to roll out to our teens. We're also following local, state, and federal guidelines that will determine how and when our library will be able to resume services. We're so grateful for your patience, but we ask you to hold tight for a few more weeks.

For now, I just want to thank our medical professionals, police officers, grocery workers, and delivery drivers. I hope those of you reading this are healthy, happy, and already planning your first visit to the library.

Kindly,

Laura O'Grady