

Fall 2015

All Together Now

Vol. 13, No. 3



East Orange PL Teams Up with The Links, Incorporated

By **Lina A. Belkewitch**,
Coordinator of Public
Relations and Community
Outreach, East Orange
Public Library

East Orange Public Library (EOPL) and the Essex County Chapter (NJ) The Links, Incorporated (ECCL) have been teaming up for 15 years to ensure college-bound students from urban communities have the best possible chance to get their feet in the doors of some of the most prestigious schools in New Jersey.

About The Links, Inc.

The Links, Inc. is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of nearly 14,000 professional women of color in 281 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.



East Orange PL has worked with The Links, Inc. for 15 years on college prep classes.

The Links, Inc. is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other

persons of African ancestry.

ECCL has five facets: Services to Youth, The Arts, National Trends and Services, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services.

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High School Job Shadowing at Rowan University

By **Sarah Hoskins**, Digital
Scholarship Center
Specialist, Campbell
Library, Rowan University

The Digital Scholarship Center (DSC) opened in Rowan University's Campbell Library at the start of the 2014 school year. It is a space where all members of the campus community can build digital literacy and find new ways to present their research.

From January to May 2015, keeping with its mission of community engagement, the DSC hosted a job-shadowing program for special education students from nearby

Clearview High School.

Getting Started

From its inception, the DSC has partnered with Disability Resources (part of Rowan's Academic Success Center) on a variety of projects and events to support student success. When the director of Disability Resources approached us about a potential job-shadowing program, we were immediately excited.

Planning the program also brought in new campus partners: a professor and her students from the College of Education.

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Message from the PRESIDENT

All Together Now: Installation Speech of 2015–16 President James Keehler

[This speech was given during the annual NJLA Conference in April.]

Thank you all for coming. I guess I started to get concerned about this talk when people I work with in NJLA and Piscataway started saying, "I am looking forward to hearing your speech" with what can only be described as wry smiles.

For a little background, growing up in the Keehler household meant when you sat down to eat dinner, eating was what you did. For 15 minutes. To this day, after I get off the phone with my mom, I will yell to my wife, Allison, "18 minutes! I made 18 minutes."

One last thing you all should know before I continue, for the past 20 years Allison has asked me, "How was your meeting?" and I always evaluate the meetings the same way: "Well, I made people laugh."

So, not loquacious. I don't fear public speaking as much as talking in general. For those of you who don't know me well, I figure you should be able to enjoy the irony in me being up here giving this speech as much as the next person.

But here I am, recommending that we all start having conversations in our communities outside the library. I am also a "to the point" type of person. So, let's do exactly that and get to the point!

Libraries are great! Missile, wave, pyramid, you know? [Slideshow: images of a missile, a wave, and a pyramid]. Thank you for coming! (Truth be told, when I started to write my speech, there was a point where I thought, hey, what if I just said 'libraries are great!' dropped the mic and walked off? Then I thought, it would be better if I threw in some symbols—you know, for mystery.)

Any ideas on the missile, pyramid, and wave? A little "Blue's Clues" perhaps?

They are the default symbols in my version of Adobe Illustrator. Okay, maybe I should continue further.

For many years, libraries have been the place to store knowledge or books, much like a silo stores corn. Silos are great for keeping stuff in, and possibly for keeping pests out, but little grows in a silo. [Slideshow: image of silo, mouse, and teen sleeping]. Okay, maybe mice do. Then the library equivalent—teens.

We are often silos in another way, as an agency trying to help the people in our communities. If we change our silo from storing corn to storing a rocket ... driven by our dedication to our community, we can dream big.

[Slideshow: Superstorm Sandy and Ferguson PL]. After Superstorm Sandy, many libraries in New Jersey were damaged or without power, such as Neptune PL. But librarians and staff were still working in their communities with other organizations and it was, in many cases, a transformative experience.

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newsletter_editor@njlamembers.org

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mlena@njla.org

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Mission Statement of the New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter

The *New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter* is one of the official publications of the New Jersey Library Association and serves as a vehicle for communication of library issues and activities among the members of NJLA.

Editorial Statement of the New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter

The *New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter* shall provide news of NJLA and information about statewide, regional, and local library activities.

News shall be as current as possible within the constraints of the publication schedule and the publication will serve as an archival record of significant and lasting library issues and topics.

The *New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter* shall provide reports from officers, committees, roundtables, sections, and other units of the NJLA.

It shall also publish reports on trends and practices in the library profession and articles on topics of interest to the New Jersey library community. Ephemeral issues and time-sensitive topics will be covered in the Listserv or the association website.

Inclusion of an article or advertisement in the *New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter* does not constitute official endorsement by NJLA.

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Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



NJLA: Looking Good for 125!

As some of us get a little older we try to forget birthdays, but we do realize they are important. The same can be said for organizations. On December 29th of this year NJLA turns 125! A significant milestone for any organization and one that we need to celebrate.

I decided to look through our files to see if I could find some written verification of the event. To my amazement, hidden in the executive board file, I found an old notebook.

When I opened it, there was a wonderful surprise: "Minutes of the New Jersey Library Association organized at Trenton, Dec. 29, 1890." It was a meeting of librarians, trustees, and others interested in library work held at the Union Library in Trenton. The meeting was called to order by Frank Hill (the first librarian of Newark Public Library).

The temporary chairman was B.B. Hutchinson. In his welcoming address, he spoke of "the public libraries of our time being among the most valuable and effective agencies, hand in hand with the church, the home, and the school in the promotion of the spiritual, mental, and even the physical welfare of all classes of people." Although the language is a little stilted, I think many libraries today have a similar mission statement.

The American Library Association was founded in 1876. State chapters followed several years later. We were modeled after the Massachusetts and New York Library Associations. In fact, Melville Dewey and a group of librarians from Albany came to our second meeting to help us get organized.

It is amazing to see how some things never change. At the second meeting,

there was a call for increased membership (one of our goals still today). By 1893, we had a committee on legislation and many of our earliest conferences were held in Atlantic City (just like next year's will be).

Speaking of conferences, several ALA conferences were held in New Jersey. If you look at Wikipedia under ALA you will see a great photo of the American Library Association Conference in June 1919 held at the Monterey Hotel in Asbury Park.

New Jersey also boasts seven ALA presidents (I am not sure that is a record for any one state, but it is pretty close). The most recent was Leslie Burger of Princeton Public Library.

The last 125 years have seen so many significant changes in our libraries and, yes, in our culture. Over the decades there have been many naysayers predicting the demise of the public library. Motion pictures, radio, television, mass market paperbacks, the Internet, and ebooks were all predicted as killers of the public library.

But somehow we have survived. Perhaps that is one of the most unrecognized talents of the library community. We can (and do) change to meet the needs of those we serve.

So celebrate we will. NJLA is starting to plan for our birthday year. A special task force of the executive board has been appointed to discuss ways to mark this significant milestone in our association's life.

The next issue of the newsletter will focus on our 125th. Hopefully, many of you might have some pictures or documents to share with us.

I am sure not too many of you remember NJLA's 100th anniversary. It was quite the gala (some of the men even wore tuxes). Although I don't think we need to go that far to celebrate, we should take the opportunity to reflect on our many accomplishments and, more importantly, to focus on where we are going in the future.

I predict a really big party for our 200th!

Pat Tumulty



Note from the EDITOR

Just Say Yes

Though I'm no longer in school, fall still feels like the beginning of the year to me. It is also a time for new beginnings in NJLA: our newly installed leadership has settled in, committees have started meeting, and in this issue, we are kicking off NJLA's new presidential theme, "All Together Now."

For those of you who were able to hear James Keebler's speech at the conference (if you missed it, read the transcript in this issue on page 2!), I'm sure you remember his shout-out to Paterson Public Library Director Cindy Czesak, whom he identified as the quintessential community collaborator.

Cindy, I promise not to unearth more photos from your library past here as James did for his slideshow, but I will say that when it comes to community partnerships, I think of you too, and the simple advice you gave a few years back to the NJLA Emerging Leaders: Always say yes.

Asked to join the Rotary in your library's community? Yes. Encouraged to attend a pancake breakfast for a local non-profit? Do it. Invited to be a reader at a school for Dr. Seuss Day? Be there.

Cindy pointed out that saying yes isn't necessarily easy. We all have a never-ending list of things to do back at the library and challenges (staffing shortages, anyone?) that make it difficult. In addition, participating in community events does not always seem immediately fruitful.

But what Cindy emphasized is that the networking you do and the reputation you make for yourself as a team player in your library's community have a wealth of long-term benefits that make it worth your while.

And if you don't believe it, just check out our "People & Places Around the State" feature on page 10, where Cindy and Paterson Public Library are (once again!) recognized for their inspiring work in their library and surrounding community.

Megan McCarthy

One Hundred Years of Community Partnerships

**By Deidra Garcia, Reference Librarian,
West Caldwell Public Library**



Essex Valley School's heritage quilt on display at West Caldwell Public Library

This year, the West Caldwell Public Library celebrates its 100th anniversary. Celebrating this milestone has given my library colleagues and me an opportunity to reflect on all of the wonderful connections we have made with our community over the years and to appreciate the fulfilling community partnerships we support to this day.

Although some people still consider the library merely a place to check out books or movies, we believe that the library is an often overlooked resource for creating beneficial relationships with groups that strengthen the community.

Our community connections have encompassed a wide variety of groups and goals, from showcasing the multimedia art of local artists, community organizations, and school groups in our gallery space to providing an on-site book club for older residents at a local senior community. We've held item drives for local charities throughout the years and promoted non-traditional giving.

One example is a DIY dog toy craft that patrons completed at home and then returned to the library for donation to a local animal shelter. We've also worked with local businesses and organizations to help secure funding for special projects, such as a community makerspace, summer reading programs, and special community events.

Although we are proud of all of our community connections, some of our most powerful partnerships have come from working with local groups that serve our young adult population, a frequently overlooked demographic.

Letting the Artist Shine

Our library director, Samantha McCoy, was approached in 2014 by an English instructor at Essex Valley School (www.essexvalleyschool.org), a local alternative school, to

see if we would be interested in developing a unique collaboration.

Essex Valley School provides educational training, vocational instruction, and therapeutic services for students who have not had success with traditional schools. The school serves students in grades 6–12 from locations throughout New Jersey, with many of the students coming from low-income areas.

The instructor wanted to work with us to display a heritage quilt created by her students. The art project was a large, colorful quilt measuring 7 feet by 4 feet. Constructed from paper and printed images, it showcased costumes, people, cuisine, and cultural items from the different backgrounds of the students.

Library staff worked with the instructor to designate display space for the large piece and assisted in the installation. We created press releases for local media outlets and promoted the project via our website (www.wcplnj.org) and our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.

The heritage quilt display was a great success when it was installed, generating many positive comments from our patrons. The quilt is displayed in our high-traffic computer area and continues to be a visual focal point.

Considering this positive outcome, we were more than happy to collaborate with the school on another art project. As part of a class on Edgar Allan Poe, the students were encouraged to create handmade dioramas of his famous works.

These dioramas were then prominently displayed throughout the library, with artist attribution for each one. We held a special reception, enabling the artists to mingle with patrons and community leaders and talk about their work and the artistic process.

This community partnership generated outstanding benefits for our library and the school. The demonstration of their artistic abilities helped students build self-esteem and allowed them the unique opportunity to express themselves positively in a venue outside of school. The library successfully created another avenue to serve students in an unconventional way. Groups of students from Essex Valley School who had never set foot in the library before have since visited the library for tours and database tutorials!

Getting Ready for the Workplace

We have also had fruitful community partnerships with New Beginnings (www.nbnj.org), a nearby accredited school serving students with autism and multiple disabilities from pre-K children through age 21; and Essex County Vocational School (www.essextech.org), an educational program with vocational-technical training opportunities. Library Manager Karen Kelly utilized her background in special education to create connections with these two groups, focusing on getting students ready for the workplace and promoting job-worthy skills for them to develop.

For the past 6 years, a group of 12 students from Essex County Vocational have come to the library once a month to complete tasks such as labeling CDs, dusting and cleaning shelves, and organizing our community coupon box.

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East Orange PL Teams Up with The Links, Inc.

These programs are implemented through strategies such as public information, education, and campaigns.

Roadmap to College

ECCL has won national awards for Roadmap to College, a program that helps fulfill the organization's goal of providing services to youth.

Roadmap to College, which is offered at East Orange Public Library, consists of a 10-week, 34-hour SAT preparation course, a self-awareness and time management program, a college admissions workshop, and a financial aid workshop.

The SAT preparation course is taught by the renowned Kaplan, Inc., a leading international provider of educational and career services. Usually costing upwards of \$2,000 per student, the course is available to 25 11th-grade students each year for a nominal fee; ECCL provides the remaining balance due.

The course teaches score-raising SAT strategies in a dynamic, interactive setting, with tutors who give personal attention and the extra help needed to improve scores. To reinforce classroom learning, each student receives a full set of at-home study materials, including practice tests and access to online resources and instruction.

Beyond Test Prep

To supplement the SAT preparation course, ECCL also presents additional programs throughout the year to college-bound students in the area and their parents.

For their college-admissions workshop, ECCL brings in guest speakers from area schools to provide step-by-step guidance with the college-admissions process. The speakers discuss the college-admissions timeline for the senior year of high school, the paperwork and information that is required, and writing the college admissions essay.

ECCL also offers a financial aid workshop, which covers the complete process of finding and applying for college financial aid, including how to get scholarships.

Another popular program that ECCL has held is Inspire to Hire, a job-training and placement program that takes students through the process of writing resumes, preparing for interviews, conducting online job searches, and completing job applications.

A History of Partnership

While ECCL has been helping Essex County youth achieve college educations for over 15 years, this spring ECCL and



Students participating in ECCL's Roadmap to College Program at East Orange Public Library

EOPL will celebrate a total of 30 years of collaborative service to the community.

The partnership began with a small literacy outreach program called Linking with the Library, which paired ECCL members with children individually to read and discuss books. A similar program was also offered to the participants' mothers. The Linking with the Library Book Club was the first of its kind offered at the library.

Other ECCL-sponsored events have included the Read to Me Children's Book Club, an adult book club, Kwanzaa celebrations, a health fair, an international tea, a program called "Linking Cultures Throughout the African Diaspora," and an art contest for children. Also, through the Health and Human Services facet, ECCL sponsors an annual activity for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Day.

"East Orange Public Library, and the community, are grateful for the long-time collaboration and support of the Essex County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated," said Carolyn Ryan Reed, Director of EOPL. "Their dedication has enabled us to provide valuable cultural and educational library programs, especially to our youth."

A gateway to knowledge, the East Orange Public Library helps people of all ages meet their informational, educational, and recreational needs through professionally selected print and nonprint resources.

For further information about this and other library programs, visit the library's website at www.eopl.org. For more information about the Essex County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, please contact Cynthia Cuffie, Program Coordinator, at P.O. Box 3001TCB, West Orange, NJ, 07052.

Lina A. Belkewitch is the Coordinator of Public Relations and Community Outreach at East Orange Public Library and has been marketing libraries for the past 13 years. Prior to that, she worked in hospitals marketing healthcare for over 15 years. Lina has a B.A. from Kean College of New Jersey (now Kean University) in Union. Her email address is lbelkewitch@eopl.org.



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High School Job Shadowing at Rowan ...

Over the previous year, a class of Clearview High School transition students (special education students in the 18–21 age group) collaborated with the College of Education's Department of Language, Literacy, and Special Education and our food services provider to work in the campus dining halls.

For the 2015 spring semester, the program was expanded into the library on a trial basis, exposing the Clearview students to different working environments. We worked with our circulation department and the Rowan professor to create a schedule.

One morning a week, from January until May, five Clearview students spent 2 hours at the library. Two Clearview special education teachers accompanied them. In the library, they worked with me, the DSC Specialist, and a member of our access services department. The students continued to spend another day each week in the dining hall.

Orientation

For the first visit, the DSC Specialist developed an orientation program. Both the Clearview students and Rowan students from the College of Education received a tour of the library.

The tour focused on not just the space but also how we use resources, the roles of our staff, the extent of the collections, and how academic libraries are different from high school libraries. We introduced them to the Library of Congress call number system, explained how and why it is different from the Dewey Decimal system used at their high school, and enjoyed a basic call number sorting activity.

To end the day, the Rowan students talked candidly with those from Clearview about student life, transitioning to college, getting through college with a disability, and the support Rowan provides to students with disabilities.

Skill-building Workshops

The first few weeks focused on skill-building workshops created by the DSC Specialist to teach the Clearview students how to find and organize books in the library.

First, they learned to put stacks of books in call number order and sort them onto carts to be shelved. Next they were given the title and call number of a book and had to find it on the shelf. We also asked students to go into the stacks, find a book that looked interesting, and write down the title and call number. They then traded titles with a partner and had to find the other's book.

We repeated the activities on both the third and fourth floors of the library, where the bulk of our physical collections live. The librarian at Clearview High School reinforced these skills with continued Library of Congress sorting throughout the week. After a few weeks, the students were successful at sorting books on carts and finding books on shelves.

Government Documents

While the job-shadowing program was in progress, we were also working hard to weed and move our government

documents collection in anticipation of a renovation. Luckily, we were able to join these two projects.

For the latter half of the semester, the students split into two groups. One group assisted with the documents move, primarily bundling items to be recycled and transferring them to the loading dock. They also moved carts of items to a different floor of the library and shelved them. Their work was extremely helpful in getting the collection moved out of the space on time, and the students had a chance to actively participate in a library project.

The other group worked on library maintenance: dusting, pushing in chairs, etc. Halfway through the morning, the groups switched duties so every student was able to experience both sides of library work.

Evaluation

Overall, the program was extremely successful. The students learned job skills in a quiet, relaxed environment. They can add the experience to their résumés as they transition from high school to community college or the working world. It also gave them the chance to get out of the class-

room and get exposure to different types of opportunities, all while performing work that significantly contributed to the library.

On our end, the program helped our staff interact with the community and think more carefully about how different populations use our collections, how we can serve students of different ages and skill levels, and how to make our space friendlier to those with disabilities. The job shadowing proved to be a positive learning experience on both sides.

The program will continue next year, but hopefully with a few changes. The government-documents project fell into our laps unplanned, but it worked out well. Without it, we would have struggled to find enough

work to keep the students engaged and useful.

Next year, we want to develop a long-term project in advance. Additionally, the students' interactions with library staff were limited to two staff members. As the program continues, we would like to invite one staff member each week to give a 3- to 5-minute talk about his or her job and role within the library.

Finally, due to scheduling conflicts, the Rowan University students participated only in the orientation. We think it would be beneficial for them to be more actively involved.

The library staff was pleased with the program as a whole and can potentially use it as a base for further community collaborations. It brought together a variety of partners, each providing a unique contribution.

Sarah Hoskins is the Digital Scholarship Center Specialist at Rowan University's Campbell Library in Glassboro. She holds an M.L.I.S. from the University of Pittsburgh and is currently earning an M.A. in History from Rowan. She organized the job-shadowing program and continues to work with Disability Resources to support and educate the campus community. Her email address is hoskins@rowan.edu.



A library staff member with two Clearview students, sorting the government documents collection

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All Together Now

We worked with emergency management offices, police, and nonprofits. Most of these collaborations came together in a very short period of time.

It was a bright moment for libraries across the state. When our communities needed us, we worked above and beyond our normal duties, alongside other groups who wanted the same thing—to help our people.

Look at the story of Ferguson Public Library in St. Louis: After schools were closed because of the protests and violence in the area, local teachers and library staff quickly created a school, working with several partners. Ferguson Public Library director, Scott Bonner recalls:

That Monday morning, a local arts teacher at one of the elementary schools in Ferguson came in and said, 'I've got a few teachers, and if you've got a few empty tables, we'd like to do some tutoring.' Before she even got the next sentence out, I jumped. 'Heck yes!' I said. 'Let's get as many teachers in here as you want.'

But what about libraries in nondisaster times? The PLA article "Community Centered: 23 Reasons Why Your Library Is the Most Important Place in Town" reminds us:

Public libraries know their communities firsthand, and are often the first to recognize a pressing local need, simply because they interact on a daily basis with patrons from all walks of life. This puts libraries and librarians in the best position not only to bring local issues to municipal governments and social agencies, but also to partner with local governments and agencies to address the needs of a community.

Libraries of all types—not just public libraries—are in a special position. We need be like Malcolm Gladwell's "connectors" and "mavens" in our communities. We have the knowledge of the community needs and the passion to serve, but we have limited resources, time, and some really



A survey of NJ Rotaries reports almost 40% of Rotarians are affiliated with NJ libraries. Nearly 77% of NJ Rotarians would hold meetings at a public library if space were available.

"Let's start the conversation with 'Here is what we value, here is what we are passionate about. What do we value in common? How can we work together?' And let the conversation take shape from there; the conversations may create opportunities you didn't initially consider."

big issues. We need to invite ourselves into other silos and talk about what we value as the library.

As many of you know, I am a Rotarian and on a weekly basis we meet for lunch and talk about how we want to be able to help the poor, children, veterans, students, participate in Relay for Life, and more. (Oh, and how we don't have enough members or money to do all we want to.)

Then I go back to my library and talk about helping the same people with similar issues through our limited resources. I would have done a Venn diagram about who both groups want to help, but it would just be a circle.

As a result of these conversations, I put out a survey to all the New Jersey Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs to see what the level of interaction is. [Slideshow: survey].

As you can see, there are some interactions. Some Rotaries have built entire libraries, bought bookmobiles, or donated money, but what is the most interesting is the collaborations:

- Fundraising efforts, such as library teams participating in the Rotary Run
- Rotary-sponsored library programs, such as an author talk and holiday luncheon for disadvantaged youth
- Purchasing books for summer reading, ESL classes, and more
- Cosponsoring community events, such as the annual Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast
- Joint blood drives

I am asking that we all invite ourselves into some of the other silos. Or invite groups to meet at the library to learn about it. Let's go to the bulletin board most of us have in our libraries and see what other organizations are out there that we might be able to collaborate with.

And let's not start the conversation with "Will you give us money?" Let's start the conversation with "Here is what we value, here is what we are passionate about. What do we value in common? How can we work together?" And let the conversation take shape from there; the conversations may create opportunities you didn't initially consider.

Let's learn about the individual people. In the end, a check is nice, but a relationship is even better. For us at Piscataway Public Library, participating in Assemblyman Chivukula's annual backpack drive helped us receive a Resolution from Legislature for our summer MakerCamp and allowed us to have our events advertised in his newsletter. And of course, we also receive responses when we call about library issues.

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Upcoming NJLA Events

YOUTH SERVICES FORUM

When: October 7, 2015
From 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Where: Monroe Twp. Public Library

NJLA FRIENDS INSTITUTE

When: October 19, 2015
From 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Where: Cherry Hill Public Library

-OR-

When: November 14, 2015
From 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Where: East Brunswick Public Library

SNAPSHOT DAY 2015

When: October 21, 2015
From 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Where: All New Jersey libraries

ADULT SERVICES FORUM

When: October 26, 2015
From 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan

PERFORMERS SHOWCASE

When: November 12, 2015
From 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan

For more info, visit www.njla.org

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One Hundred Years of Community...

Two interns from the school also come twice a month with their teacher to accomplish higher-level tasks, such as processing interlibrary loans and scanning materials. A separate group of students from New Beginnings has come once a week with a job coach since 2013 to complete clerical tasks, such as photocopying documents.

The focus of these partnerships has been on building vocational skills and promoting confidence in the workplace. The students are given actual work to accomplish, not just busy work, and this helps give them a sense of what to expect when they enter the job market.

This arrangement also provides an invaluable service to library staff, whose workload is reduced as a result of the help. Library Manager Kelly has even instructed students on workplace policies, such as etiquette and dress code, and has provided reference letters for students to use when applying for jobs. The response to these connections has been overwhelmingly positive, with some students even informing us of new jobs they have secured.

Looking Forward

The West Caldwell Public Library would not be the community center it is today without the hard work, enthusiasm, and diligence of our community partners. But the partnerships do take work! We have found that our partnerships are more successful when we follow these simple guidelines:

- Consider all groups, no matter their size or how long they have existed.
- Create a plan of action before approaching any groups.
- Be enthusiastic in every interaction with the group (partnering is *not* easy!).
- Realize that sometimes it's just not the right time for a group to partner. Don't be discouraged!

By working with our diverse groups and pursuing new connections, we hope to continue finding new ways to better serve our community for the next 100 years!

Deidra Garcia is a Reference Librarian at the West Caldwell Public Library. She holds a B.A. in English Literature from New York University and an M.S. in Information Studies from Florida State University in Tallahassee. Before becoming a librarian, she worked at publishing houses and online magazines in New York and as a copywriter and editorial assistant in Miami. Her email address is deidra.garcia@westcaldwell.bccls.org.

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(Continued from page 7)

All Together Now



New Jersey Makers Day, held in March, was a collaborative event sponsored by libraries, local groups, and businesses at over 150 locations in all 21 New Jersey counties.

The connections can happen almost randomly when conversations are happening. Allen McGinley (branch manager and head of teen services at Piscataway) decided to attend an NAACP meeting and ended up meeting the executive director of NJ Small Business Development Centers, who later became a partner on New Jersey Makers Day.

So this year, we will pick a couple dates to ask libraries to have a local group meet at your library or for the library to present to them. And just talk about what the library is passionate about. Nothing too burdensome. Let's start crashing some other silos in our communities.

All Together Now and the wave. I read a business book recently and the author discusses what makes a professional surfer good versus great. The expected things are on the list, such as training and managing fear, but you know what makes the biggest difference? The ability to find just the right wave to ride. [Slideshow: New Jersey Makers Day logo and images from the event].

From the very first conversation, New Jersey Makers Day (NJMD) wasn't just going to be about libraries. And when we reached out beyond libraries, partnerships with ManufactureNJ and other groups started to fall into place.

For those of you who aren't familiar with ManufactureNJ, they are a talent network that connects job seekers with employment opportunities and provides job training, info, and more. Libraries are also trying to find people jobs! ManufactureNJ wants to reach out to younger people to tell them about opportunities. Libraries are all about opportunities!

Another partner, NJ Small Business Development Centers, wants to promote small business growth in New Jersey. Libraries can be a major supporter of small businesses—not only through databases, but in many other ways.

The stars of NJMD, of course, were the libraries who signed on and did different events across the state. Many of them reached out and had their own partnerships with other organizations and companies providing programming, funds, and other support. In the end, it was a statewide event at over 150 locations in all 21 counties.

There was more press coverage for NJMD than I have ever seen for one event. Libraries and supporting organizations attended online meetings, collaborated among themselves, and shared ideas. It is just an example of libraries working together and what can result. Every site put in their own energy and made the event what it was.

NJMD will return again for 2016. Let's make it bigger than before, but also, let's see what other statewide events we can do. What impact could we have with statewide blood drives, or food collection, or some other idea we haven't even thought of yet?

Finally, the pyramid. Our goal has to be not only to work together but also to bring together more of us with that drive to make a difference. Not just more librarians but all library employees and library supporters. [Slideshow: logos of various library organizations]. Right now:

- NJASL has more than 800 members.
- NJLA has 1,680 members.
- NJALA has about 200 members.
- SLA (NJ Chapter) has 300 members.
- SLA (Trenton/Princeton Area) has 78 members.
- NJ Library Trustee Association has 1,500 members.

That's over 4,500 paying members before even counting the 201 Friends of the Library groups and 52 VALE libraries!

These are the roots of a movement, and that is what we need: local and statewide partners, library associations, and our supporters working together. The challenges of the school libraries affect the public libraries and the academic libraries. The future of publishing and ebooks—it's not just a public library issue or an academic library issue. It's an issue for everyone.

We also see this reflected in the goals of the new NJLA strategic plan:

- Open up the organization beyond librarians.
- Review opportunities for collaboration with other library groups.
- Look at governance to ensure all groups have a voice.
- Work inside and outside of NJLA to coordinate continuing education efforts.



The 2010 Save NJ Libraries rally brought together library supporters from across the state.

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People & Places Around the State

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Elizabeth Burns, Youth Services Librarian for the New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC), was selected to participate in Leading to the Future, a 4-day immersive leadership development program for future library leaders offered by ALA.

Natalie Cheetham of Cedar Grove PL is the new chairperson of the statewide Summer Reading Program.

Timothy Ryan Dewysockie of Berlin is the 2015 recipient of the Tom and Roberta Drewes Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a library support staff worker who is pursuing a master's degree in library and information science. Timothy will be attending Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Haworth PL celebrated the completion of its expansion project on May 31, 2015.

Arlen Kimmelman, Library Media Specialist at Clearview Regional High School, Mullica Hill, won the Ruth Toor Grant for Strong Public School Libraries from the American Association of School Librarians. The grant provides funding for the creation and implementation of a local public awareness/marketing campaign that promotes and positions the school library as a necessary resource in the community.

Karen Klapperstuck of Monroe Township PL recently became a certified Career Development Facilitator (CDF). She was the NJLA representative to this ALA initiative that was designed to help state chapters develop programs to assist librarians with job and career training to patrons and to recent library school graduates seeking jobs in the profession.

Landis Intermediate School library, managed by **Sally Goode** in Vineland, is the proud recipient of the ALA/Information Today, Inc. Library of the Future Award.

Northvale PL officially opened on June 2, 2015.

Cheryl O'Connor, Executive Director of LibraryLinkNJ, received the 2015 Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) Leadership and Professional Achievement Award for her work joining the four regional cooperatives into one statewide cooperative.

Paterson PL and Director **Cindy Czesak** were honored with a jazz brunch hosted by the Paterson Education Fund, a nonprofit advocacy group.

Sharon Rawlins of the New Jersey State Library was elected to the Collaborative Summer Library Program's national board of directors as Vice-President/President-Elect. She began her position on June 1, 2015.

Adam Szczepaniak, Deputy State Librarian and Director of the TBBC, received the 2015 Francis Joseph Campbell Award from ASCLA for his contribution to the advancement of library services for blind and physically handicapped people.

Appointments and Elections

Phillip Berg is the new Director of the Morris Automated Information Network (MAIN).

Andrew Brenza was hired as Director of the Audubon



The Northvale Public Library officially opened in June with a grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

PL.

Maryanne Duffy is the new Director of Garwood PL. **Gretchen Kaser** was appointed Director of the Ho-Ho-Kus PL. She is formerly of Allendale PL.

Chad Leinaweaver will become Interim Director of the Morristown & Morris Township PL on September 1, 2015.

James Lonergan is the new Deputy State Librarian for Library Support Services. He is formerly of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in Washington, DC.

As of July 15, 2015, **Dr. Krisellen Maloney** is the Vice-President for Information Services and University Librarians at Rutgers University Libraries. She was formerly Dean of Libraries at the University of Texas San Antonio.

Tierney V. Miller was named Circulation Supervisor at the Margaret E. Heggan Free PL in Sewell.

Louise Moroses was appointed Acting Director of the Bergenfield PL.

Louis Muñoz has joined the Morristown & Morris Township PL as a Reference Librarian.

Nancy O'Donnell was named Workroom Supervisor at the North Brunswick PL.

Karen O'Malley is the new Director of the Union Township PL.

As of August 1, 2015, **Jonathan Potter** is the new Dean at Rutgers School of Communication and Information. He comes to us from the School of Social, Political, and Geographical Sciences at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom, where he was dean.

Luis Rodriguez was appointed Director of the Butler PL.

Mary Ellen Rogan is the new Director of the Plainfield PL.

Michele Stricker is now Deputy State Librarian for Lifelong Learning. She had been serving as Associate Director for Library Support Services.

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People and Places Around the State

Robert White became Interim Executive Director of PALS Plus on July 1, 2015. He will be in that position until a permanent director is found.

Resignations/Retirements

Maria Baratta, Assistant Director of the TBBC, retired at the end of July.

Wendy Bloom retired as Director of the Ramsey PL on June 19.

Ruth Bogan, Executive Director of PALS Plus, relocated to Indiana in June 2015.

Leslie Burger will retire as Director of Princeton PL in January 2016.

Mary Ellen Firestone retired as Director of the East Brunswick PL at the end of May 2015.

Patricia Gandy announced her retirement from the Perth Amboy PL.

Carol Lombardo retired as Director of Garwood PL at the end of June.

Maria Norton will be retiring as Director of the Morris-town & Morris Township PL, effective September 1, 2015.

Mary Riskind retired as Director of Bergenfield PL.

Denise Saia retired as Director of the Franklin Township Library (Gloucester County).

Laurie Sansone retired as Director of the Union Township PL in June.

Deaths



Joseph Gasparro

Joseph Gasparro, Assistant Director of Montville PL and co-chairperson of the statewide Summer Reading Program, died unexpectedly on July 31.

Dr. Patricia G. Reeling, retired faculty member of Rutgers University, Department of Library and Information Science, died in May 2015. She was a recipient of NJLA's Distinguished Service Award, the Library Leadership Award from NJSL's Advisory Council, and the James Bennett Childs Award from the Government Docs Roundtable. She also has a place on ALA's Library Education Centennial Honor Roll.

Charles E. "Charlie" Reid, former trustee of the Paramus PL, past president of the New Jersey Library Trustee Association, member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information, and chair of the 1991 White House Conference on Libraries, died Friday, May 15, 2015. Charlie was instrumental in the founding of the Paramus PL and the Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS). A branch of the Paramus PL is named in his honor.

Compiled by **Richetta Wilson Lobban**, Reference Librarian, East Orange Public Library

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All Together Now



Children's librarian Cynthia Cuozzo and a young winner, Katie Vasilik, 2.

Cindy Czesak during her days as a children's librarian (with a young Kate Vasilik)

We are at our best as associations when we work together; we can make some great noise. [Slideshow: images from the 2010 Save NJ Libraries rally]. From rallies at the statehouse, to NJ Library Advocacy Month, to the first annual LMx Advocacy Breakfast. Mini collaborative projects during the year. Advocacy beyond NJ Library Advocacy Month, in manageable chunks.

All of our associations are facing similar challenges. Let's meet together, have events together, and move forward together.

Finally, Allison has asked me what I hope to accomplish as president of NJLA, what lasting impact I hope to have. So I have a simple measure: If our work can engage one more person in our association to work in both their community and the library community with passion and dedication, then we have succeeded.

Think about it. Think about how much a single inspired person can do for libraries in New Jersey and for his or her community. Think about the impact our members have, the leaders we are and will continue to be. Basically, this all will be a success if we add one Cindy Czesak. [Slideshow: photo of Cindy as a children's librarian with a young Kate Vasilik].

Look, here she is, single-handedly inspiring a young child to a life of library service. (OK, OK, I know, but I'm building a narrative here! Creative license! Based on a true story.) So let's start measuring our success per Cindy Czesak. I believe if I add three Cindy Czesaks, I gain NJLA sainthood.

As you now know, for the past 20 years Allison has asked me, "How was your meeting?" and I always evaluate the meetings the same way, "Well, I made people laugh."

Thank you.

James Keehler

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Write for the Next Issue

Winter 2015

NJLA Is 125!

If you have photos, documents, or other materials from NJLA's past that you would like to share, send them our way!

We will also be collecting favorite memories, stories, and more in the coming weeks.

Stay tuned for more info!

Send images by October 1

Members:
To contribute, just email
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P.O. Box 1534, Trenton, NJ 08607
www.njla.org
609-394-8032; Fax: 609-394-8164

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GRAPHIC DESIGN & LAYOUT
Megan McCarthy

AD MANAGER
Melissa Lena
mlena@njla.org



The 2015–2016 NJLA leaders pose during the annual NJLA Leadership Orientation at Monroe Township Public Library.