

Fall 2013

Creating Our Futures

Vol. 11, No. 3



Play, Create, Innovate: Studio M at Monroe Township Library

By **Lynnette Fucci**, Youth Services Librarian, and **Steve Hrubes**, Studio M Coordinator, Monroe Township Library

After the 2012 Public Library Association conference in Philadelphia, the librarians at the Monroe Township Library had their "a-ha" moment. A presentation about emergent technologies in libraries demonstrated that a library doesn't need a designated space to create a "maker lab"—all that is needed is a computer and some basic equipment to get started. Fortunately, right about this time, the library received a donation from a local couple to build and designate a space in the library's children's de-



A 3-D printer demo at the Studio M opening

partment for the tween population (a group the donors thought was greatly underserved in the community). The library decided to put the tween space and maker lab

close to each other within the library since we thought the tween population would be one of the lab's biggest users. Studio M was then created and is dedicated to the discovery and implementation of popular and emergent technologies. Studio M provides library patrons with access to tools and hands-on learning opportunities.

Planning and Funding

In late spring of 2012, Library Director Irene Goldberg designated a team of librarians from various departments within the library to serve on the planning committee for Studio M. Each of the librari-

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'Made' in Piscataway: A New Space for Dreamers and Doers

By **Kate Vasilik**, Supervising Librarian, Head of User Services, Piscataway Public Library

In the spring of 2012, a handful of librarians at Piscataway Public Library became obsessed with opening the first public library makerspace in New Jersey. James Keebler, the Library Director, was the fearless leader behind the Make it Yourself (MiY) project, encouraging Allen McGinley, Erica Solomon, and me to brainstorm and figure out how

to engage our community through shared learning and creating. With the addition of Doug Baldwin to our team in April 2013, the maker movement in the library has emerged as a truly engaging and energetic endeavor. The library was already a destination for discovering information and developing ideas, but now we can significantly improve the community's access to tools and resources to help turn dreams into tangible products.

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Message from the PRESIDENT

Creating Our Futures: Installation Speech of 2013-14 President Eileen Palmer

[Palmer originally gave this speech during the NJLA Annual Conference in June.]

Over the last year I have had an opportunity to work closely with Karen [Klapperstuck] and to experience firsthand how lucky NJLA is to have her leadership, energy, commitment, and talent. I think she knows every level and nuance about NJLA. Please join me in thanking her for all that she has done this year.

Before I get started, I would like to thank my family, friends, and colleagues for taking the time to be here today—it means a great deal to me. I would also like to thank SirsiDynix for sponsoring today's luncheon and the LMxAC Board and members for allowing and indeed encouraging me to take on this new challenge.

Lately I have been thinking a lot about something Steve Martin said in his autobiography. "Naïveté," he said, "is that fabulous quality that keeps you from knowing just how unsuited you are for what you are about to do."

Last year when Karen spoke about "finding your perfect fit" in NJLA and in the profession, I thought, "wow, what a great theme." I loved the theme and the way she wove it into a wonderful story. When I started thinking about what I would say this year, I thought I should just do what she did. But, while I did buy a new pair of shoes, I also realized I would need to chart my own course.

In thinking about what to say, I have concluded that this inspiration stuff is harder than it looks. So is walking in these new shoes.

A president's job is to crystalize our priorities, needs and issues into a direction for the year ahead. For me, I think that is about focusing on the future. I firmly believe it's time to step out of the day-to-day crisis management of the last five years and look for-

ward. So my theme is "Creating Our Futures." I am focused on looking ahead and on the power of creativity.

We all know the last five years have been extremely difficult. Libraries have lost hours, services, jobs, and more. NJLA has lost membership and conference revenues. We continue to feel the impact of a distressed economy on our funding and on the need for our services. We've engaged in a relentless battle to provide e-content to our users despite the crippling policies of publishers, distributors, and content aggregators. And while it has been demoralizing, it has also, surprisingly, become a time of creativity and opportunity.

It is time to take that creativity and apply it to our future. Emily Dickinson said "fortune befriends the bold," and I believe now is the time for bold and creative action. I am focused on three areas, all of which really need our best creative thinking and creative action. Those areas are NJLA itself, library funding, and library services. But first a few words about creativity.

Erich Fromm said that creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties. There are a lot of reasons our landscape has changed so much in the recent past, but that's not what's important. What's important is that today we face a set of challenges that require new and creative responses. And to develop those responses, we need to recognize that the certainties of the past are no more. We need to let go of our certainties.

We need to be creative and to unleash the awesome "make it happen" spirit that has been such a part of this profession.

The Future of NJLA

The first certainty to let go of is that NJLA will always be here. NJLA will only be here for us in the future if we tend to it now. Our current struggles are not unique. Sarah Sladek, in her book *The End of Membership as We Know It*, cites the years 1946 through 2000 as the

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Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Makerspaces: Reinvention or Natural Progression?

Innovation certainly *is* the theme of this edition of the New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter, with the focus on makerspaces in public libraries. I must admit that when I first heard the term "makerspace," I needed a definition to help me understand what people were talking about and why libraries should be interested. The articles in this issue couldn't be timelier, as public libraries of all sizes are discussing how to make these places a reality for their patrons.

I am sure some of you can remember the first time you heard the term "internet" and, like me, went scurrying to your dictionaries for a definition. You probably couldn't find one. Notice I said dictionary and not the web because, of course, it didn't exist yet. I can vividly remember

seeing the internet for the first time in a library, and you could sense that it was obviously a "game changer"; nothing was going to be the same again.

Like Gutenberg's printing press (no, I wasn't there to see it), the introduction of the internet shifted the way that people in our society interact with each other. The world of information took a quantum leap and libraries were fundamentally changed. We had to reinvent the library as we had known it for hundreds of years.

We did this in many ways: New equipment had to be purchased (both hardware and software); buildings had to be reconfigured for computer stations and labs; and extensive training had to be provided for all staff members. Now, I

can't imagine how any library would get along without the internet. It is a basic service.

Like the internet, makerspaces challenge the traditional definition of the library. Physical changes to the building, reconfiguration of budgets, and staff training will again be needed to integrate makerspaces into current library services. I am sure many will even argue that makerspaces really don't belong in public libraries, that providing this type of service is not our role.

"Where are the books?" they will cry! I think it is a little too late for that.

In viewing the "maker" philosophy and its role in public libraries, I see the maker movement as a natural progression for libraries in a technologically-driven society. This is a continuum in the development of public library service as the library community em-

braces technology in its many forms.

Many of these makerspaces focus on serving young adults. Not only are these young users eager to embrace the opportunities that technology provides, but they also embrace libraries as collaborative learning environments. As these patrons become the taxpayers of tomorrow, their view of the library and its relevance in their lives will continue to grow.

I can't predict if makerspaces will be in every library in the future, but I will predict that our libraries will continue to look for opportunities to innovate our services in order to meet the needs of the residents of our state.

Pat Tumulty



Note from the EDITOR

Create @ Your Library

After we were encouraged to reflect on the "Perfect Fit" last year, our newly inaugurated NJLA president, Eileen Palmer, is now inspiring us to look ahead and take an active role in "Creating Our Futures."

Eileen believes libraries have an important future fostering creativity, much like we have fostered literacy over the years. The library as makerspace is a key example of this role we are increasingly playing. Three public libraries in New Jersey have already embraced the maker trend and have opened areas in their libraries that allow patrons of all ages to discover and create, with tools from 3-D printers to sewing machines.

We hope that by reading their stories, you will be inspired to foster creativity in your own library in new and innovative ways. You may learn that it is not as hard (or expensive) as you think!

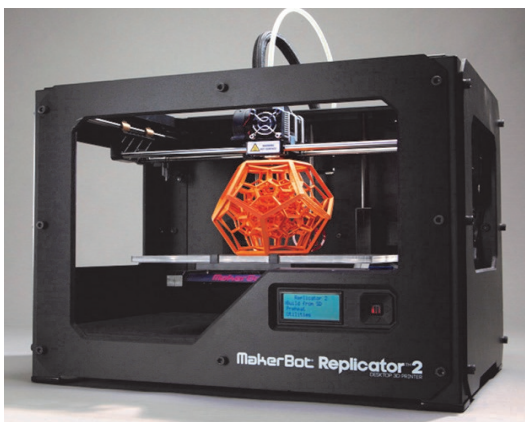
Also, since this is my first issue as editor, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. After graduating with my M.L.I.S. from Rutgers University in 2008, I became a Youth Services Librarian at Monroe Township Library in Monroe Township. I quickly became involved in NJLA and eventually served as Chair of the Public Relations Committee, where I helped develop the "I Love NJ Libraries" web site

www.ilovenjlibraries.org, e-newsletter, and Facebook page ("like" us!).

Last year, when the opportunity arose to relocate closer to my husband's job in Pennsylvania and spend time at home with my toddler, I decided to leave my position at Monroe Township. It was a hard decision to take time off, but I have been lucky to stay involved professionally through organizations like NJLA.

I am excited to take on this new endeavor as editor of the NEWSletter, and look forward to working with the Newsletter Editorial Board, and you, our readers and contributors!

Megan McCarthy



The MakerBot Replicator 2 3-D printer is a popular technology used in makerspaces.

Mini-makerspaces: 'Make' It What You Can!



The MakerSpace at Bernardsville Public Library

By **Lia Carruthers**, Media Specialist, Far Hills Country Day School

On March 19, 2013, the Bernardsville Public Library opened the MakerSpace, a space dedicated to creating, making, and idea generating. Wanting to offer patrons a space for creative thought and design, we repurposed a desk that originally housed an OPAC and a lonely microfilm reader into an official makerspace. We did not have the money or space for a 3-D printer but thought about what our community could use in our available space.

We are a PC-based library, so offering a Mac came to mind. We purchased an iMac and loaded it with the iWork suite (a series of programs analogous to Microsoft Office that includes word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation designs); the iLife suite (software used for editing pictures, movies, and music); and Adobe Photoshop®. Then we found an unused printer and added that to our makerspace. Given the nature of the iLife suite, we invested in a pair of noise-canceling headphones that can be checked out when using the MakerSpace.

Not everyone had the ability to go seamlessly from platform to platform, so we knew our PC-inclined staff members should be trained in Mac usage. We purchased an Apple Store Joint Venture membership (www.apple.com/retail/

[jointventure](#)) for the library, allowing us up to three trainings at the Apple Store for our staff. Our first training was purely on how to navigate around a Mac (take away a PC user's right-click and things can get pretty stressful!). The training enabled our staff to better assist our patrons with basic procedures on the computer in the MakerSpace. We are scheduling our next training for the fall and will likely focus on the iWork suite.

How does our MakerSpace get used? Patrons have come to edit pictures and take online training courses inaccessible on our PCs. Patrons accustomed to Macs naturally gravitate to our only Mac in the building. As of today, we do not have an official makerspace "grand opening" scheduled, but we hope to schedule one in the future.

We wanted to start somewhere. Libraries are often limited by design, space constraints, and layout, but we did not want any of these to be a hindrance to our decision to have a makerspace. We wanted to present a makerspace to our patrons, and then see what they did with the space we had. In the future, we will consider whether or not to make more of the concept.

Lia Carruthers is currently Media Specialist at Far Hills Country Day School in Far Hills. She was previously Youth Services Manager at the Bernardsville Public Library, where she created the library's MakerSpace. She holds an M.L.S. from Indiana University in Bloomington. Her email address is lcarruthers@fhcds.org.

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...Creating Our Futures

heyday of professional associations. Building on the needs of the Silent generation and the Baby Boomer generation, associations became more popular than at any time in the past and perhaps in the future.

Sladek warns that associations that continue with service and membership models focused on the needs of Baby Boomers will fail. I don't believe that will be our fate—we have been blessed with active, committed members of all ages. But we need to recognize that the needs of our Generation Y and Millennial members are different and unique, as are the many contributions they are already making to NJLA and our profession. We need to ask ourselves: does NJLA offer the right services and membership opportunities to attract the best and brightest of every generation?

We also need to acknowledge that NJLA's revenues and membership are declining. Our annual appeal was more successful than ever this year and it will continue to be important to NJLA in the next few years. That success is the result of the tireless work of the Fundraising Committee led brilliantly by Joan Bernstein. But we have to look at why we need an annual appeal and whether we can sustain NJLA on a model that relies increasingly on our annual appeal to fund our basic operations.

If we are to maintain our role in developing library talent, advocating for public policy issues, and supporting library staff and trustees, we must think about the future. We need to look at NJLA, how it is organized and funded, and what resources it will need to best serve the membership in the future.

So this year, one of my priorities will be to embark on a strategic planning process for NJLA. It is time for us to be creative about NJLA's future and listen carefully to what our members want and need in their professional association. I am delighted that Irene Goldberg, Director of Monroe Township Library, former NJLA President, and [2011] Librarian of the Year, will lead that effort.

Under State Librarian Mary Chute's leadership, our colleagues at the [New Jersey] State Library and LibraryLinkNJ have been working on a statewide strategic plan which they will be reporting on tomorrow. Mary and Cheryl O'Connor have generously included NJLA in their planning process, and I look forward to their participation with us as we create our future.

In preparing this talk, I found a great quote about creativity that I really wanted to use—the only problem was that I had never heard of the person who said it. So I googled him and it turned out he was so obscure he didn't even have an entry in Wikipedia. Then I really started to question how good the quote could be; I mean the guy who said it wasn't even in Wikipedia! After some frustrated searching, I threw in the towel and called on my friends at the Newark Public Library Statewide Reference Center. They were kind and told me the information had indeed been hard to find, but they found it for me.

"We need to ask ourselves: does NJLA offer the right services and membership opportunities to attract the best and brightest of every generation?"

So now I can say with authority that the late George Kneller, a renowned author and professor of educational philosophy at UCLA, once said creativity "consists largely of rearranging what we know in order to find out what we do not know. Hence, to think creatively, we must be able to look afresh at what we normally take for granted."

The Future of Library Funding

I think that now is the time to look afresh at public library funding. Libraries in NJ have been shielded and protected by the minimum funding requirement for both municipal and county libraries since their inception. Since I came to NJ in 2006 it seems as if we have been in a constant war to protect that minimum funding.

Thanks to NJLA we have won some battles and we should be proud of that—we got municipal library funding out of the property tax cap, we added protections to partially mitigate the impact of the municipal take-back law, and, most recently, we passed a law requiring a municipality to hold an election if they want to stop funding a municipal library.

But, sadly, we are losing the war. More and more libraries in New Jersey are discovering what our friends in urban libraries have known for years: It is virtually impossible to run a modern public library on our legislated minimum funding. Many public libraries have spent the last few years on a starvation diet. Any fat we had is long gone and we are eat-

ing into the muscle and soon to the bone. The certainty we need to let go of here is that minimum funding is adequate funding.

We need a funding alternative for public libraries. Library funding is stagnant statewide and it is not getting better on its own. My numbers guru, Robert White, told me recently that in BCCLS communities, local

property taxes—not the rates, but the actual dollars collected—have increased by almost \$541 million since 2008. Library funding has increased by \$385,000. That means that over a five-year period, while tax revenues grew by almost 12%, funding for libraries grew by slightly more than half of 1%.

We need alternatives—not for all libraries, but for some. We need alternatives that we develop, not [ones] that are forced on us by a political process that does not understand, nor value, library services. I believe we must work in the coming year on moving forward the concept of district libraries and voter-approved funding levels. I understand that to many this is not only a bold but a scary option. But please remember this is a proposal for an alternative way to govern and fund public libraries, a way that to others across the country has proven to be both a stable and politically neutral option for library funding. If there are other ideas, let's hear them and discuss them. But we must take action and do something now.

We've lived with 1/3 mill funding for 130 years and it has mostly served us well. In the past we saved for a rainy day during good times so we could weather the bad times. But that's no longer true. This time around, when times got bad, it seemed like we were the only ones who had planned ahead. And what happened? Those who had not planned ahead stepped in and took away our savings—took our

(Continued from page 1)

...Play, Create, Innovate: Studio M at MTPL

ans brought different interests to the team, including 3-D printing, music composition, digital photography, and crafting. Together the group researched equipment, learned software, and created a room that allows our unique population to play with equipment that they would not necessarily have access to at home or school. Originally, the team was going to apply for a large grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to fund the

startup of the lab. Unfortunately, the scale of the grant was too large for our project, so the team set out to find other ways to support its creation.

Thankfully, we were able to fund Studio M with a bequest, a gift from the Friends of the Monroe Township Library, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Bank. This gave the Studio M team the flexibility to purchase an assortment of technology for the lab.

Technology and Tools

Studio M offers a wide range of technology and equipment for patrons to use. Some of the lower-tech items are a button-maker and a heat press to adhere patron-created designs onto T-shirts. The studio is equipped with a green screen for use in video-creation, either with a patron's own video camera or by checking out Studio M's in-library video camera. This meshes well with the photography modification and video creation aspect of the space.

In addition to the video camera, patrons may also check out a digital camera for in-library use. Once a patron has his video or photos ready he can then use the software programs iMovie, iPhoto, or Adobe Photoshop® Elements 11 to further enhance his creation. Many patrons have non-digital media they would like to preserve. To assist them, there is a scanner available for easy conversion of print photographs, slides, and negatives into digital media.

Music composition is another aspect of the studio, and patrons are able to access music editing software to make their own music. In addition to the software programs GarageBand and Virtual DJ, the library also has a MIDI keyboard and a Numark DJ 2 Go USB DJ controller available for in-library use.



Using the MaKey MaKey to make a keyboard from bananas

Arduino technology is also well represented in the maker studio. Arduinos are easy-to-use, programmable microprocessor boards and are available for use in training and practice sessions. A fun and simple form of an arduino, a device called a MaKey MaKey (www.makeymakey.com), is available at Studio M. A MaKey MaKey allows you to repurpose the keyboard of your computer to recognize anything that conducts electricity in place of regular keyboard keys. Have you ever played a keyboard with a bunch of bananas?

Perhaps the most exciting feature of Studio M is the 3-D printer. Whether it's being used for demonstrations or printing a patron's project, the MakerBot Replicator 2 (www.makerbot.com) fascinates onlookers and allows us a great opportunity to explain this emerging technology and the purpose of the maker studio. Patrons are assisted by library staff and Studio M volunteers to turn their digital 3-D models into physical form. Complementing the MakerBot, a number of 3-D modeling programs are available for patrons to utilize, practice with, and master. The 3-D modeling software programs offered on Studio M's iMacs are Blender, Sculpttris, 123D Design, OpenSCAD, and OmNomNom Creator. Often our patrons simply download "things" from www.thingiverse.com to print—no knowledge of 3-D printing software is needed to print out an object.

Opening and Public Reaction

The Monroe Township Library hosted the grand opening for Studio M on March 2, 2013, which was well attended by community members. During this grand opening, library staff demonstrated the various technologies available for use within the studio. Special invitations were sent out to local principals, Board of Education members, school librarians, and technology teachers.

The Studio M team let patrons know about classes and workshops on using the equipment in the room. Library patrons were instantly thinking about ideas on how to use the technologies offered in the lab, and still continue to surprise us with their creative ways.



Author Lynnette Fucci uses a vinyl press to make T-shirts at the Studio M opening.

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...Play, Create, Innovate: Studio M at MTPL



Tyler Rousseau, Emerging Technologies Librarian, shows a patron how to use music software.

The team thought there would be a huge demand to use the MakerBot 3-D printer, but we were surprised to find that the button-maker became the hottest item in the studio.

By inviting integral parts of the school community, such as Board of Education members and school faculty, word spread to the students in our township. High school and middle school students began using the Studio in order to complete assignments in unique ways.

The green screen proved to be very popular among Language Arts students who needed to film projects; the software on the new iMacs helped Biology and Chemistry students collaborate and share their ideas. Even elementary school students entertained the idea of using the 3-D printer in order to print objects for dioramas.

Staffing and Volunteers

There was an initial concern that there would not be enough time for library employees to staff the maker studio and there would be too much time when the studio would be unavailable to patrons. This problem was solved by enlisting volunteers. At the beginning of the summer, the Monroe Township Library advertised that we would be taking on volunteers in Studio M.

At the initial volunteer orientation, Steve Hrubes, Studio M Coordinator, was able to enlist nine volunteers to take shifts occupying the maker studio. That number has now grown to 13. The library is lucky to have volunteers who are engaged and have an affinity for the technology that is being offered to Monroe's community. After an orientation session, volunteers were able to assist patrons with their projects, demonstrate the features of Studio M to interested patrons, act as Studio M ambassadors, and just get comfortable with what the studio offers.

A popular benefit of being a volunteer in Studio M is that volunteers are given the privilege of using the 3-D printer to print out their own projects. It has been recognized that volunteers cannot assist with every patron's project, so if a project request is made that is beyond the ability of the volunteers, the patron is referred to library staff to receive proper assistance.

For a patron to get started in Studio M, all that is needed is a library card. The makerspace is equipped with four iMac desktop computers that require a patron to check out a mouse and keyboard to use. Once the user is logged in, all of the software programs on the desktop are ready to use.

The next time you're in the neighborhood, come by and check out Studio M!

Lynnette Fucci is the Youth Services Librarian at the Monroe Township Public Library. She holds an M.L.I.S. and B.A. in Economics from Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She is the Past President of the Children's Services Section of NJLA. Contact her at lfucci@monroetwplibrary.org, on twitter @lynnettef, or friend her on Facebook at [facebook.com/lynnette.fucci](https://www.facebook.com/lynnette.fucci).

Steve Hrubes works at the Monroe Township Public Library as Studio M's Coordinator and at the Piscataway Public Library as an Adult/Young Adult Librarian. He received his M.L.I.S. and B.A. in Biological Sciences from Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Steve can be contacted at shrubes@monroetwplibrary.org.

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... 'Made' in Piscataway: A New Space...

Supporting STEM

While the MiY project was designed to benefit all ages, we placed special emphasis on young people, especially tweens and teens, with the goal of inspiring and nurturing an interest



MiY grand opening poster

in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, an increasingly important focus in preparing youth for careers in our technology-driven economy. Our MiY project supports STEM education by providing unique opportunities for youth to collaborate and create original materials, as well as help them to further explore creative outlets and technological innovations, such as buttons soldered with LED lights and flash drive casings.

In January 2013, the library celebrated the official launch of the MiY project, attracting more than 250 people, including Council members, Library Board members, and our Township Administrator. The large audience was due in part to the extraordinary support we received from the school district's Acting Superintendent Teresa Rafferty and local educators.

The Stuff

Keeping in mind that the two most important focuses of our MiY project were collaborative creation and technological innovation, deciding *what* to feature was actually the easy part. All of the information on our MiY tools can be found on the library's website; from this link (<http://piscatawaylibrary.org/miy>), scroll down to the bottom and find the tabs under "MiY Focuses." We made the following initial purchases and use these tools for programs geared to various age groups:

- 3-D scanner and printer
- Two sewing machines
- Arduino single-board microcontrollers
- GarageBand and iMac for digital music production
- Vinyl cutter and heating press for T-shirt/sign design
- Button-maker

In order to promote a focus on STEM education and truly fun and exploratory creativity, we followed up on the success of our launch with a variety of programs, primarily targeted at a tween- and teen-aged audience. Our most successful programs to date have been robotics building for tweens, sewing for teens and adults, and our 2013 Summer of Make.

Innovative Programming

While some of the library's programs do happen inside our physical makerspace, we strive to promote the entire library

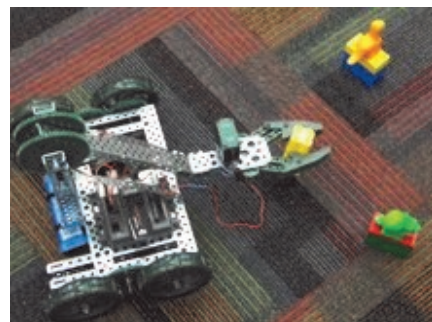
as a place for creativity, so many of our programs also happen in our other meeting spaces or in our café, visible to the entire public. Teen Librarian Erica Solomon, Emerging Technologies Librarian Doug Baldwin, and I have led many of our scheduled MiY programs, but we are actively working on forming relationships with community members to serve as regular volunteer instructors, group leaders, and knowledgeable sources within the makerspace!

This past summer, Erica and Doug featured two to three MiY programs each week as part of the Beneath the Surface Teen Summer Reading Program, following the model of *Make* magazine and Google's Maker Camp (<http://makezine.com/maker-camp>). Promoting education and free-flowing creativity, kids and teens were able to explore technology, art, and music in a way that was hands-on and accessible. Because the library was named a Maker Camp Super Affiliate, we received a supply of promotional materials from *Make* magazine and Lego® as well as supplies to use for each program, so all the library needed to contribute was donations of household items such as 2-liter plastic bottles.

Using Vex Robotics Design System (www.vexrobotics.com/vex), detailed instructions can be followed in order to make a clawbot, which is a fully functioning, remote-controlled robot that can pick up small items and move around a room. The clawbots really interested young boys in particular and inspired them to design and create their own original robots. While we are currently keeping robotics programs to the basics, there is a ton of room to explore the options! You can see a video of how these robots work on Piscataway Library's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OvAiGYz-o).

We also wanted our makerspace to go beyond being *just* a

space for those interested in technology. Bi-weekly sewing programs, open to those 12 years and older, have been a tremendous hit with teen girls and women. Erica and I structure these workshops to be as flexible as possible: for those who need an introduction to or a refresher on



The 'clawbot,' from Vex Robotics

using our sewing machines, we go over the basics; then we present a project that could be started and completed within a 2-hour time period by most. Large donations of fabric from patrons and staff have come into our space since our launch in January, and we allow participants to create their own unique bags, stuffed animals, pillows, and more! Because of wide interest, the Children's Department recently started a regular sewing program for those in Grades 4–6. We often post pictures of the final products on the library's Instagram (<http://instagram.com/piscatawaylibrary#>), Facebook, Tumblr (<http://piscatawaylibrary.tumblr.com>), and Flickr accounts (www.flickr.com/search/?w=45618061@N07&q=sewing).

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The Results

...“Made” in Piscataway: A New Space...



A patron sewing in the MiY space

The development of makerspaces is just getting underway in New Jersey public libraries and we are still learning what, how, and why particular programming connects with our community. By continuing to actively engage the community in discussions and allowing them to participate on a variety of levels, we

hope to strengthen our understanding of how to use our newly acquired tools to satisfy the needs, and encourage the dreams, of our users.

Kate Vasilik is Head of User Services at Piscataway Public Library. She holds an M.L.I.S. from Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She is part of the initial team behind the creation of the Make it Yourself program at Piscataway Public Library, and she co-presented “Maker Culture @ Your Library” at the 2013 NJLA Annual Conference. Her email address is kate_thelibrarian@yahoo.com.

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...Creating Our Futures

ability to get through tough times and to grow in the future. Let me be clear—in New Jersey, libraries are not overfunded, but we do suffer from a funding structure that no longer works for many of us.

A district library law will take library funding to the people via votes to establish millage levels. A district library won't be the best option for every library or every community—and it is not intended to be. But I truly believe if we do not act boldly now, and create this new option for libraries, many libraries will continue to stagnate under inadequate funding. I look forward to working with the NJLA Public Policy Committee on developing and implementing a strategy to put district library legislation before our legislators in the coming year.

The Future of the Library as Incubator

My last certainty is that any of us know what a public library will be in the future. I think nothing limits our potential more than our assumption that we know what the future holds. Raganathan's five laws of library science focus on reading and books as they were thought of in 1931. While still philosophically relevant, the first four laws feel a bit dated. Only his last law is still as fresh and relevant today as it was 82 years ago: The Library is a growing organism.

It frustrates me when people say libraries serve no purpose now that we have the internet. I know that is not true and

see the proof daily in my work and in my life. I recently attended my niece Lindsey's graduation from the University of Miami. While I expected to enjoy the graduation as an extremely proud aunt, I did not expect to hear University President Donna Shalala select librarian William Walker to receive her President's Award. I heard her acknowledge that the Richter Library had become known on campus as Club Richter and was a popular hot spot—to the applause of the student body. As much as for our materials and expertise, the library today is about the community we crave as human beings. I think it is within that sense of community that we are finding new opportunities for library service.

British educator (and TED Talk superstar) Ken Robinson says creativity is as important as literacy. I think now, more than ever, libraries are embracing their role in fostering creativity as they have always fostered literacy. 3-D printers and similar technologies may have opened the door to library makerspaces, but we have long been in the business of fostering creativity. I believe every library is already a makerspace.

When I asked LMxAC members for examples of how their libraries foster creativity, I had a dozen examples within five minutes; in addition to Lego® clubs and photography contests, New Brunswick has been publishing an annual anthology of poetry from local contributors since 1999, and then there are the Library Players and Open Mic nights in Piscataway, the art camp and writers groups at Monroe [Township], and Matawan-Aberdeen's Youth Art Show.

At the recent eSummit sponsored by the State Library, LibraryLinkNJ, and NJLA, one of the speakers talked about how libraries can build communities of creation, but I think we already do that in so many ways. The opportunity to excel in this area is there for the taking.

Today, thanks to Amazon and others, everyone can be an author. Libraries can serve as incubators in which creative communities can grow. Librarians can embrace a role as curators of their community's creative output. I think this fits so nicely with our growing role as physical community centers. This year I hope to highlight New Jersey libraries as creativity incubators. For next year's conference, I ask the conference committee to seek out programs that highlight and celebrate the library as a creative center of their communities—be they public, school, or academic. I hope it will be a celebration of all that libraries can bring to fostering creativity in their communities.

So that is my theme for the year, “Creating our Futures.” Let's use the best of our creative talents to chart a future for our association and our libraries, and spotlight our long-held tradition of fostering creativity. It will be a year for letting go of some certainties that no longer serve us well and for re-defining our libraries and our association.

I am so grateful to have this opportunity to serve as your president. I will need a lot of help to prove to myself that I am not Steve Martin's idea of naïve, but I have every confidence that together we can, as they say, “Make it happen!” Thank you and enjoy this fabulous conference!

Eileen M. Palmer

People & Places Around the State

Honors and Awards

Marta M. Deyrup of Seton Hall University Libraries is the recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Service Award, granted by NJLA's College and University Section/ACRL New Jersey chapter. This award honors Marta's excellent, energetic, prolific, and long-standing contributions to New Jersey librarianship both in information literacy instruction and as an international educator, editor, and writer in information science.

Eisen Memorial Library in Red Bank, has been selected as one of the 10 libraries to receive advocacy training as part of the Neal-Schuman Foundation grant to United for Libraries. Under this program, advocacy experts will provide onsite training to Friends of the Library groups, library directors, and trustees to help them develop blueprints for advocacy campaigns to restore, increase, or save threatened library budgets.

Claudia Flores of Plainfield PL has been selected by ALA to receive a Spectrum Scholarship.

Ocean County Library received "Special Recognition" by the judges of the 2013 Gale/*Library Journal* Library of the Year Award. The library was only one of two libraries nationally to receive this distinction.



Cheryl Turkington, an Assistant Archivist in the Morristown & Morris Township Library's North Jersey History & Genealogy Center, has written a new book on the history of the Irish people of Morristown: *Ordinary Days, Extraordinary Times: Morristown, New Jersey's Irish Immigrant Past*.

New Jersey State Librarian Mary Chute honored four libraries for conducting outstanding early literacy programs on behalf of their youngest library users and their families. The honorees were: **Alfred H. Baumann**

PL, West Paterson; **Moorestown PL**, Parsippany-Troy Hills **PL**, Lake Hiawatha **Branch**; and **Princeton PL**. Each library received a \$500 award.

Mary Chute also awarded the NJSL Innovation Award to two public libraries this year to recognize their creation of makerspace initiatives: MiY (Make it Yourself) at **Piscataway PL** and Studio M at the **Monroe Township PL**. Since they shared in this award, each library received a certificate recognizing their achievement and a \$2,500 check. Read more about these programs in this issue of the NEWSletter.

Four libraries have been selected to receive the expertise of the NJ State Library's "SWAT Team of Library Transformers." The libraries selected are **Belmar PL**, **Cedar Grove PL**, **Oakland PL**, and the **Warren Branch of the Somerset County Library System**.

Appointments and Elections

Patty Anderson has been named the new Assistant Director at Woodbridge PL. She was formerly Director of Clark PL.

Jeff Barry has been appointed the new Associate Dean of University Libraries at Seton Hall University.

Brett Bonfield of Collingswood PL was elected to the LITA Board of Directors.



Karen Brodsky

Karen Brodsky will be the new Director of the Library of the Chatham, starting September 1. She is currently the Director of Bernardville PL.

Sophie Brookover of LibraryLinkNJ was elected to YALSA's Margaret A. Edwards Committee.

Mary Faith Chmiel was named Director of Elizabeth PL in August.

Nicholas Jackson has been named Head Librarian/Information Specialist at Morristown Beard School.

Mimi Lee is the new Adult, Urban and Diversity Specialist at the New Jersey State Library. Mimi had previously worked at Atlantic City PL.



Michael Maziekien

Michael Maziekien was named the new Director at Kenilworth PL in July. He was previously at Rockaway Twp. PL.

Claire McInerney was appointed to serve as Acting Dean of the School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University, effective July 1.

Cheryl O'Connor of LibraryLinkNJ has been elected to the ASCLA Board of Directors.

Sam Pharo is the new Director of Kinnelon PL. Sam had previously been the Director of Butler PL.

Gary Schmidt has been named Associate University Librarian and Director of Public Services-College at Florham Library, Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Frances Scott is the new Director of Library Services at Georgian Court University.

Catherine Wolverton is the new Director of Englewood PL. She was previously Director of Bloomfield PL.

Celebrations

Cumberland County Library celebrated its 50th Anniversary in July.

Resignations and Retirements

Beth Cackowski has left East Brunswick PL to begin a new position in Elkins Park, PA.

Dorothy Key retired as Director from Elizabeth PL in August.

Carol Phillips, Manager of Youth Services for East Brunswick PL and Past President of NJLA, retired in August.

BJ Swartz retired as the Information Management Librarian at UMDNJ in April.

Maria Webb retired as Director of Public Services-College at

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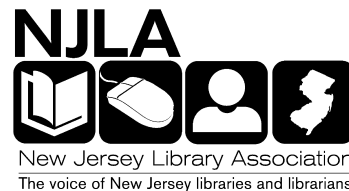
Winter 2013

Funding in Libraries
(Alternative sources of library funding, funding from grants, starting a foundation, exploring district libraries, educating stakeholders on library funding, and more!)

Propose by October 1

Members: To contribute an article, just email a proposal to
newsletter_editor@njla.org!

If your idea is approved, the editor will arrange details for your assignment.



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...People & Places Around the State

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Florham Library, Fairleigh Dickinson University in July.



Judith Olsen

Deaths

Judith Olsen, retired Library Director of Burlington County College, passed away in June. She was very active in the library community, having served on the Library Network Review Board for many years.

Compiled by **Mary Marks**, Associate University Librarian at Florham Library, Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison.

Intellectual Freedom Mini-Conference

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Monmouth County Library Headquarters, Manalapan

For more information, visit www.njla.org