

NJALA QUARTERLY REVIEW

A Newsletter for Library Assistants



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NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS



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Message from the President

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the cool fall weather.

Last week another member of the Conference Planning Committee and I attended a “Velvet Rope Affair” at the Enterprise Center at Burlington County College; we received a tour of the facility as well as a complementary sampling of appetizers, main dishes and dessert. I am pleased to announce that we will once again be holding our annual NJALA conference there. In 2011 we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants. Please stay tuned for the date of the conference. We are looking forward to presenting exciting, educational programs that will benefit you, your library associates and your patrons.



Cathy Lynch
clynch@theoceancountylibrary.org



Come One; Come All

You are cordially invited to join the Conference Planning Committee as they create the Association’s next extravaganza. The meetings are open to anyone who has a desire to collaborate on what will happen at our 2011 conference. Is there a great idea for a workshop that you’ve been keep-

ing under your hat? Please share your thoughts with us. Of course we want this conference to be the best yet. Do you know of a dynamic speaker? Is there some area of library interest that we have overlooked? OR is there a great program from the past that you would like to see repeated? If you don’t speak up how will we ever know what is on your mind?

Please come to the following meetings.

- 11/19 Seton Hall University Library
- 12/15 Mary Jacobs Branch, Somerset County Library in Rocky Hill
- 1/13 Bridgewater Branch, Somerset County Library
- 2/18 Maple Shade Branch, Burlington County Library
- 3/18 Seton Hall University Library
- 4/12 Bordentown Branch, Burlington County Library
- 5/18 Mary Jacobs Branch, Somerset County Library in Rocky Hill
- 6/2 Enterprise Center at Burlington County College

Conference Planning Co-Chairs,
Ginger Cairns, gcairns@theoceancountylibrary.org
Jacqui Ridzy, jridzy@sclsnj.org

Make Way for Ducklings Jersey Style

I was driving through Belle Mead on my way to work one beautiful spring morning; I was on River Road , which follows the Millstone River, when in the distance I noticed the on-coming car had stopped in the road while the driver gestured wildly for me to stop. Confused, I slowed down; suddenly I noticed a female mallard duck waddling around in the middle of the road quacking and flapping her wings frantically. The duck made sure to block both lanes of traffic with her movements.

I stopped and watched, wondering what in the world was wrong with the duck and how was I ever going to get around her.

Cars stopped behind me, including a school bus whose driver became impatient after a few minutes and started honking the horn. At this point I felt I would have to try to go around the duck when at that very moment a tiny baby duck popped up from the ditch on my side of the road. The mom waddled over to it and ushered it across the street. As I watched in utter amazement I saw a bunch of fluffy ducklings waiting for them on the other side of the road. The mom and her ducklings happily waddled off towards the river.

This mother duck was not going anywhere while her remaining duckling was having trouble navigating the ditch. She made sure that no traffic moved until her baby was safe.

This was such a beautiful event to witness -- the power and persistence of such a small creature to stop traffic and usher her duckling to safety.

Suzanne Ridzy
Mary Jacobs Branch
Somerset County Library

An Appealing Proposition

The Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, a branch of the Somerset County Library, serves the residents of Montgomery Township and Rocky Hill. The Library is a storehouse of knowledge and a vibrant, inviting community center that is jointly funded by public and private monies.

The building, furnishings, insurance, maintenance, and utilities are paid for by the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library Foundation (MJMLF) and generous donations from the community. The Foundation was established by Harold Jacobs in memory of his wife who loved the Rocky Hill community where she grew up.

The Library staff, books, computers, databases, CDs, DVDs, magazines, and newspapers are paid for by the Somerset County Library System. The Library hosts numerous programs each month; information about the programs offered can be found at:

www.somerset.lib.nj.us/maryjacobs.htm.

For the first time in its 35 year history, the MJMLF is reaching out to the community for financial support to help fund building operating expenses. Current economic conditions have adversely affected the Foundation's investment earnings and have negatively impacted the recent level of government contributions subsidizing the operating expenses. To learn more about the Foundation's Appeal visit savemaryjacobslibrary.com.

The Library is located at 64 Washington Street, Rocky Hill NJ.

Cindy Mangel
Director
Mary Jacobs Memorial Library
A Branch of the Somerset County Library System

STATEWIDE COOPERATION

The *Statewide Library Cooperative* is the new organization formed by the consolidation of the *Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative*, the *Highlands Regional Library Cooperative*, *INFOLINK*, the *Eastern NJ Regional Library Cooperative* and the *South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative* into one entity. The merger of the Regional Library Cooperatives (RLCs) reflects the changes made to the structure of the New Jersey Library Network by the State Librarian due to deep state budget cuts. The decision was to merge the RLCs into one statewide library cooperative, INFOLINK.

Consolidation & Merger – Central, Highlands and South Jersey closed their offices at the end of August. This was neither a happy process nor an easy one. These three cooperatives had been in business for almost 25 years and were effective, valued, and robust organizations providing much needed services to their multi-type library members. *We need to mourn that loss. This is a major change for all of us.* We need to help each other cope during this transition to one Library Co-operative. We are losing that local touch, and we are striving to develop an organization that values input, participation and feedback in different ways.

The end result will be INFOLINK as a 501c3 nonprofit organization with a new name, a new Executive Board, an expanded set of members, an expanded staff, a new budget, similar services offered in new ways, new by-laws, and a new strategic plan. INFOLINK Executive Director, Cheryl O'Connor, is leading the process.

Where Are We in This Merger Process?

Name: We invite all members of the New Jersey Library Network to help select a new name. Go to the INFO-LINK *Spotlight* at www.infolink.org to see how you can submit your suggestions. Deadline for submissions is October 30.

Executive Board: A new Transition Board representing the geographic areas of the former RLCs, as well as multi-type libraries, is in place; see http://www.infolink.org/about_infolink/executive_board/. There are 16 Board members representing schools (3); academics (3); lay rep (1); library agency (1) and public (8 -- 2 county and 6 municipal). They are busy considering continuing education, delivery and personnel policies. They will also develop a new set of bylaws and a new strategic plan for membership action.

- **Membership:** All current participating members of the former RLCs have been folded into the new Library Cooperative with no action needed on any library's part.
- **Funding:** The Cooperative has a commitment from the New Jersey State Library for stability and sustainability with funding from the State Library's network budget line. We have a contract and funding at \$1,840,000. There may be additional funds after the other RLCs complete their dissolution process. A Fiscal Year 2011 budget was approved recently by the Transition Executive Board.

- **Communication Services:**

Website – www.infolink.org – This website still exists and will remain up until a new one is created. We are developing a new website in Drupal, (Drupal.org) open source content management platform. The goal of the new website design is to provide more dynamic and user friendly and interactive online service to the entire New Jersey Library Network.

Listserv - The current INFOLINK listserv is still in use, and we have added all HRLC listserv subscribers. CJRLC and SJRLC's Google Groups also still exist. We communicate with members using these venues until the new website is launched.

Address, telephone, fax -

INFOLINK, 44 Stelton Road, Suite 330, Piscataway NJ 08854

Phone: 732-752-7720 or 866-505-5465; Fax: 732-752-7785 or 800-793-8007

- **Services:**

Statewide Services – To help everyone understand the library budget, the status of the New Jersey State Library (NJSL), statewide cooperative services (including statewide databases), and other developments, the staff at the NJSL has created a collection of very helpful documents at www.njstatelib.org. The links are on the right side of the homepage.

Delivery – We are working to merge delivery policies, practices and culture. A statewide delivery services advisory task force is considering the ramifications of one merged delivery service and is developing data to assist Board policy decisions. The Board accepted the task force’s recommendation to renew with Velocity Express for 2011, and that negotiation is underway. Once there is a cost overview for 2011, Cheryl O’Connor and the task force will develop recommendations to the Board relating to the membership delivery eligibility criteria. *Task Force Members are:* Marian Baumann (Neptune PL); Anne Ciliberti (VALE Executive Committee); Eileen Palmer (LMxAC); Robert White (BCCLS), Anne Wodnick (Gloucester County Library); and Pat Massey (NJASL Past President) with Joanne Roukens and Cheryl O’Connor.

Continuing Education – We will mesh old with new: webinars; online courses; in-person programs; subsidization of local staff development days; in-service training in school districts; subsidization of special programs by library groups such as VALE, HSLANJ, NJ SLA chapters, NJASL, NJALA, and NJLA. The Continuing Education Team will ensure service to all geographic areas of the state. The team also looks forward to partnering with consultants from the Library Development Bureau on selected programs.

Discount Offers – These will continue and could expand in scope beyond databases.

www.QandANJ.org – We have a contract to manage the statewide virtual reference service, which also supports NJLA’s South Jersey Works grant.

Expanded staff: The staff now includes:

Executive Director, *Cheryl O’Connor*– coconnor@infoLink.org

Assistant Director, *Joanne Roukens* – jroukens@infoLink.org

Website Project Manager, *Mi-Sun Lyu*– lyu@infoLink.org

Program Coordinator, *Jessica Adler* – jadler@infoLink.org

Program Coordinator, *Sophie Brookover* - and joining us in mid-October

QandANJ Project Manager, *Beth Cackowski* – bcackowski@sjrlc.org

Business Manager, *Nanette Cox* – ncox@infoLink.org

Member Services, *Carol Fishwick*– carol@infoLink.org

The Statewide Library Cooperative’s purpose is to enhance the ability of member libraries to serve their customers. We are here to help New Jersey libraries work smart and be successful. We support all types of libraries in the New Jersey Library Network. Our current focus is to:

- Share resources
- Provide delivery services
- Offer affordable continuing education
- Negotiate discounts on library resources
- Support innovation
- Present emerging technologies
- Model collaboration and cooperation
- Create partnerships
- Build networking
- Provide leadership
- and to provide exemplary service to our members.*

Cheryl O’Connor and Joanne Roukens

Ocean County Library Stars

I am pleased to announce that Library Journal  named the Ocean County Library as one of America's Star Libraries 2010 in their October issue. The Library Journal Index of Public Service ranked 7,407 public libraries throughout the United States. Out of 7,407 public libraries, 258 (3.5%) were given star status based on statistics including circulation, visits, program attendance and Internet use. The ranking uses 2008 data from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and is important because it reflects library public service since the onset of the recession.

Each and every day at the Library we work for the greater good of public service, with no expectation of recognition beyond the hope that we have served the people in our community to the best of our ability. Thank you for all your hard work in your respective areas in making this achievement as a star library possible. Your dedication to the Ocean County Library and to providing the residents of Ocean County with excellence in library services and customer service during very difficult economic times is truly appreciated.

Here is a link to the full article.

http://www.libraryjournal.com/lj/articleview/886935-457/americas_star_libraries_2010_top-rated.html.csp

Susan Quinn
Director
Ocean County Library



News Flashes

◆ Sherri Glass of Burlington County Library is the winner of a free day at the 2011 NJALA conference. Her name was drawn from a list of people who filled out the survey at the last conference. Join Sherri next June; come with your ideas for what you think NJALA should be; it's your organization. Find out in a time of severe budget

cuts what is happening in libraries around you.

◆ NJALA Liaison Marilyn Jack Brown will attend the American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference in San Diego CA from January 6-11, 2011.

◆ The Morristown and Morris Township Library is still closed due to the explosion on May 3. For the last few months they have been welcoming the public at their annex, across the street from the building, which is open seven days a week. The asbestos abatement has finally been completed, and staff members have been reshelving books and other items. The reference department has been displaced until major repair work is finished, but the librarians will be on hand as usual.



EXPANDING RESOURCES

Beverly Jacobs, Children's Librarian at the Bordentown Library in Burlington County has been working on developing a strong resource center for special needs families. Her 2007 proposal was to establish this section from a trust fund left by Miss Nelchin T. Sievers. The original plan was expanded from concentrating on autism to include information on a wide range of syndromes, disabilities, and disorders. There will be inclusive literacy lessons and medical books, and patrons may take out books, software, DVDs, educational and musical toys, and puzzles.

Sue Fogerty, Senior Library Assistant, and Ms Jacobs consulted with professionals in the field of special education and did extensive research before ordering the most current materials that would benefit local families, caregivers, and educators. The library has begun offering monthly yoga, gymnastics, and music therapy classes geared to children with special needs. Adult programs are also being offered to inform and help parents.

Marie Krosnick
Bordentown Library

You'll Hardly Recognize Us

The Burlington County Library System Headquarters in Westampton will be under "destruction". However, we will be open and will maintain all library services. Youth Services, Adult, Interlibrary Loan, Circulation, and Cafe will all be up and running. Confusion may reign for a while, but we will be up and running.

Library materials will be moved all over the place; it will be hunt and seek and find, but it should be exciting. The finished product will be glorious, awesome, and really neat. When all the work is done there will be a new entrance. We'll have a state of the art 250 seat auditorium, an expanded café, both inside and outside, and new and expanded bathroom facilities---no more lines!!! There will be a special area for the Young Adults and for the YA collection, and a bigger adult reading/relaxing/leisure area. We will also have 2 new meeting rooms, in addition to the auditorium, a bigger and better story telling/crafts room, and a drive through book pick up and drop off. Most important of all we will also get a new roof, a new AC system and new heating units. Hooray!!!

We will let you know when we are finished.

Tami Kessler
Burlington County Library System



NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY IN CRISIS

The Newark Public Library is caught in the grips of the budget crisis that is crippling the city. This severe situation has prompted the Library to reduce branch hours from thirty-five to twenty one hours a week, close two branches completely, and lay off the pages.

The branches are now closed on Saturdays, Mondays, and Tuesdays. This has affected the service we provide to patrons who rely on us for reading and reference materials and computer access. On a daily basis we assist patrons with resumes, unemployment claims, and job searches.

After school programs provided by the public schools have been severely cut back or eliminated completely.

Our libraries are safe places for children to come after school when they need homework help or just a place to wait for their parents. What will happen when the library doors are closed and our patrons have nowhere else to go to for help?

NJALA members @ The North End Branch of The Newark Public Library

HELP WANTED NJALA WEBMASTER

Starting in January, 2011 Gwenn Laisie will no longer be able to be the sole guardian of the NJALA website. Please help her and your organization keep the site going.

Contact Gwenn at glaisie@bcls.lib.nj.us
And let her know that you are interested.

If you haven't done so lately check out the website at NJALA.org



DEADLINE
for the next

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is January 3, 2011.

Feel free to send your articles or other information anytime before this date to:

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The NJALA website is <http://www.njala.org>.