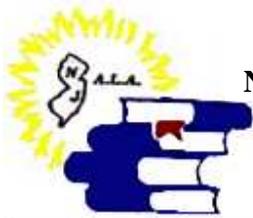
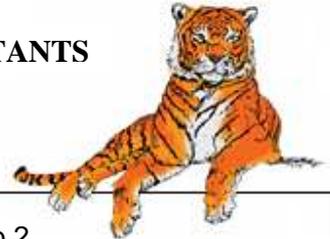


# *NJALA QUARTERLY REVIEW*

## A Newsletter for Library Assistants



A Publication of the  
NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS



**Editor:** Annette Tyler

**Distribution Manager:** Heather Rivera

Spring 2009 Vol.11 No.2

### *Message from the President*

Happy Spring to everyone now that we've gotten through the winter!

The Conference Committee once again is working very hard to offer a variety of programs, and we are very excited as time is nearing for our upcoming conference. You should all have received your registration information by now and can see the programs that we have scheduled. If by chance you have not received a registration packet you may go to our website and download the information at [www.NJALA.org](http://www.NJALA.org). Please respond by the deadline of May 20, 2009; there will be no on-site registration. Your e-mail address must be supplied for your registration confirmation. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Enterprise Center of Burlington County College, and I am sure that you will enjoy the many programs that we have put together.

Our conference theme is "Today's Choices Affect Tomorrow's Dreams." Make some great choices today, and see how well your dreams turn out tomorrow.

For dates of and directions to any of our meetings, please either e-mail me at [wardbarb@shu.edu](mailto:wardbarb@shu.edu) or call me at 973-761-9441. Now is a great time to get involved in YOUR association and make some choices that can affect your dreams of tomorrow. New thoughts and ideas are always welcomed.

If you happen to choose Tuesday June 9, 2009, as your day to attend the conference please

come to the Business Meeting. It is held right after lunch in the Auditorium and does not last long. This meeting is a way in which you may be kept up to date as to what is happening with NJALA. This is your chance to see the new slate of officers and hear about business pertaining to your organization.

We are in the process of updating and improving our Webpage. We will keep you posted as to when it will be finished. I am sure you will enjoy it as much as we do already. We plan to cover a lot of news and events.

One of the Past Presidents of NJALA, AnnaMarie Kehnast of the Gloucester County College Library, has been appointed to fill Mary Nation's position as Member-at-Large of the American Library Association's (ALA) Library Support Staff Interest Roundtable (LSSIRT) through July 2009. Mary passed away recently; she was also the Membership Chairperson for LSSIRT. I had the pleasure of meeting and having dinner with Mary at an ALA conference in Anaheim CA. She was such a loving and caring person.

If you have some news about events taking place in your library please write to our editor. We would love to hear about what is going on with you. Maybe there is some special activity that you would like to share with everyone.

Barbara Ward  
Seton Hall University  
Walsh Library

### **A Jill of All Trades Retires?**



After 25 years of dedicated service, Mary Jacobs Library Director, Mei Mei Morris, has announced her retirement from this branch of the

Somerset County Library System in Rocky Hill, NJ. Her last day will be Thursday, April 30, 2009.

Mei Mei's first position at MJL was as a volunteer shelving books. She earned her second master's degree in library science (the first is in social work) from Rutgers University when her children were small. Mei Mei was named Director in 1989.

It's a good thing that Mei Mei loves her job, because she lives so close to MJL that she usually walks to work. At the library, she does whatever needs to be done, from toting out the recycling and weeding the garden to more typical tasks like answering research questions and leading book discussions. She also guided the library through two major expansions. By her example, she has made quality service for every library visitor the goal of the entire staff.

Reflecting on her supervisor's qualities, Suzanne Ridzy, Head of Circulation at MJL, says, "I tear up just thinking about the person she is. Mei Mei is perfection personified." Gail Madak, Head of Adult Services, agrees: "I'm just focusing on how lucky we were to have Mei Mei as our director all these years; she can't be replaced; there could never be any comparison."

Staff say they understand and support Mei Mei's decision. Administrative Assistant and library school student Terri Coss believes, "Mei Mei will have more time for her grandchildren and for gardening and reading. It's sad for us, but Mei Mei should do what's best for her."

Asked what she's looking forward to doing with all the free time she'll have, Mei Mei laughs,

"I'm going to volunteer at the library and search for lost books!"

Gail Madak  
Mary Jacobs Branch  
Somerset County Library



### **DEADLINE**

for the next

*NJALA Quarterly Review*  
is July 6, 2009.

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

*NJALA Quarterly Review*

Editor Annette Tyler

Morristown & Morris Township Public Library

1 Miller Road, Morristown NJ 07960

973-538-3473 FAX 973-267-4064

E-mail: [Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org](mailto:Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org)

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



### **Something to Celebrate**

2009 is a celebratory year for the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library because it was thirty-five years ago in November 1974 that the library opened its doors. It was the first branch of the Somerset County Library System and the only library in New Jersey to have a private endowment.

Mary Barrowmen was born in St. Louis, Missouri on December 10, 1897. When she was 5 years old she and her family moved to Rocky Hill, NJ where she had a very happy childhood. She attended Rocky Hill grade school and graduated from Princeton High School in 1915.

*Something* continued on page 7

## Speak to Us

This is a preview of the two women who will kick off each day of our conference.



Christine Matteo will be the NJALA Annual Conference Keynote Speaker on Monday, June 8.

Christine has been with the Ocean County Library (OCL) since 1972, when she worked summers as a Junior Library Clerk. This title no longer exists - that's how long she's been here! Christine worked in every department (Administration, Technical Services, Acquisitions, Reference, and Children's). While attending Rutgers University for her Master Library Science degree, she was a Library Trainee and became a Branch Librarian for Beachwood in 1976. Christine moved to the new Jackson Branch as Branch Librarian from 1978 until 1986, when she became the Automation Implementation Manager for the Ocean County Library. After installing the Dynix system and being the System Administrator during 1987 and 1988, she became the Supervising Librarian for Central Services (Circulation and Automation), was the first supervisor of a newly formed Collections Department in 1991, and then became Chief Librarian for Public Services that same year. Christine has also been Chief of Technology, Accounting, and Facilities. She is back in Public Services now as a member of the Branch Services Team and supervises five branches (Brick, Jackson, Lacey, Lakewood and Manchester), the Collections Department, and Volunteer/Homebound Services. Christine also manages the Librarian-In-Training program and is currently the Administration liaison for the Staff Development Day Committee, Knowledge Management, Trendspotters, and the Diversity Focus Team: Insight Out.

**Management Philosophy:** Everyone wants to feel relevant, valued and proud of his or her work. Discover their skills and abilities, match them to the tasks at hand, and let them know the desired outcome and deadlines. Give them all the necessary tools and training. Give them frequent feedback. Listen. Match your management style to their communication needs. Allow them to plan their future within the defined vision of the organization. Encourage creative thinking. Have fun. Celebrate success. Create a pleasant, positive environment. Be accessible.

Christine's Myers-Briggs personality type is ISTJ – organized, detail-oriented, and highly creative. Her "True Color" is **Green**, then **Orange**. Her Top 5 values: independent, intellectual, imaginative, sense of accomplishment, exciting life. Christine is listed in *Marquis Who's Who*, *Who's Who in American Women*, and *Who's Who in the World*.

Her personal interests include sailing, gardening and landscaping, kayaking, her husband and her dogs, computer games, and interior design. She recently completed ACADD certification through Brookdale Community College. She and her husband are members of the Toms River Yacht Club and have sailboats, a power boat, and kayaks. They did a major renovation to their house on the water in Pine Beach, complete with a lighthouse! Christine was also a "charter" member of the Ocean County Library Cartwheelers, a book cart drill team that participated in outreach activities and parades, and she was "Miss March" in the second OCL Harley-Davidson calendar.

*Speak* continued on page 7

## **RITA L. HILBERT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD 2009**

The NJALA Scholarship Committee is proud to announce our annual scholarship award of \$250.00 for the 2009-2010 academic year. This scholarship will be offered to a library support staff person who would like to pursue any degree or certificate program that enhances work skills.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

1. Applicant must be a legal resident of New Jersey.
2. Scholarships are available to current NJALA members only.
3. Recipient must attend any accredited college program or certified post-secondary program.
4. Recipient must use the award in a job-related field.
5. Applicant must enclose a 150 word essay explaining how this scholarship will help her/him reach career goals.
6. If the Scholarship Committee deems a personal interview necessary the applicant must be available to meet with the committee.
7. Tuition payment will be sent directly to the institution of enrollment along with the recipient's registration application. Proof of completion of course is required.

If you have any questions or would like an application please contact the Scholarship Committee Chairperson:

East Orange Public Library  
Attn: John Guido  
21 South Arlington Avenue  
East Orange, NJ 07018  
Phone: 973-266-5601 or  
E-mail: [jguido@eopl.org](mailto:jguido@eopl.org)

All applications must be postmarked by May 8, 2009.

# RITA L. HILBERT 2009 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**1. NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print) (Last) (First) (Middle)

**2. Legal Residence:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Street)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

Phone: \_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Post Secondary:**

Have you applied for admission to any school(s)? Yes:\_\_\_\_ No:\_\_\_\_

Specify school(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been accepted for any school(s)?

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently attending a post secondary school? Yes:\_\_\_\_ No:\_\_\_\_

**4. Education:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(College) (Year)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Degree) (Major) (G.P.A.)

**Post Graduate Education:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(College) (Year) (Degree) (Major)

**5. Work Experience: (Most recent employment first)**

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Employer's Name) (Address)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Position/Title) (Employment Dates)

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Employer's Name) (Address)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Position/Title) (Employment Dates)

I understand that it may be necessary to be interviewed for this scholarship and agree to make myself available for this interview if so requested by the scholarship committee. I understand that in order to be considered for this scholarship I will be required to submit proof of course completion.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NJALA RECOGNITION AND KEHNAST AWARDS Application

Each year at the conference of the **New Jersey Association of Library Assistants** the NJALA Recognition and Kehnast awards are presented.

The NJALA Recognition Award is given to a dedicated Director, Trustee, or Librarian in a New Jersey Library or Libraries who encourages and supports participation in career development or activities for library assistants in New Jersey.

The Kehnast Award is given to a dedicated library assistant in a New Jersey Library who has made a significant contribution to the profession or to his/her library and actively participates in career development or activities in New Jersey. This award is named for AnnaMarie Kehnast who served as President and Liaison of **NJALA**.

To submit your recommendation for a candidate for either award please include the following:

### Your information:

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle)
2. Library name & address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or P.O. Box #)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (City) (State) (Zip)
3. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Candidate information:

5. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print.) (Last) (First) (Middle)
6. Library name & address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or P.O. Box #)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (City) (State) (Zip)
7. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Award you are applying for: \_\_\_\_\_

Include an essay of no more than 200 words explaining why the candidate deserves this award. This application along with the essay must be postmarked by May 8, 2009; send these documents to:

East Orange Public Library  
Attn: John Guido  
21 South Arlington Avenue  
East Orange NJ 07018  
Phone: 973-266-5601  
Email: [jguido@eopl.org](mailto:jguido@eopl.org)

*Speak* continued from page 3

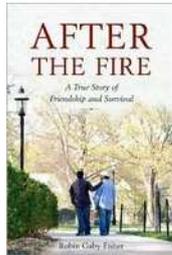
Robin Gaby Fisher is the Key Note speaker at the NJALA annual conference on Tuesday, June 9.



According to her website:

<http://robingabyfisher.com> :

“Robin Gaby Fisher is a news feature writer for *The Star-Ledger* in Newark, New Jersey's largest daily newspaper. She specializes in telling stories about regular people living through extraordinary circumstances. Her newspaper series "After the Fire," about two students, who were critically burned in the Seton Hall University dormitory fire, was a finalist for the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing. In 2004 her series "Last Chance High," about a special school for troubled teens, was also a finalist for a Pulitzer. The series received the Nieman Foundation's 2005 Taylor Family Award for Fairness in Newspapers.



Fisher's journalism career grew out of a lifelong curiosity about people and their stories. Her grade school history teacher, Nicholas Picciano, says today that when other girls in his class were reading Nancy Drew, Fisher always had her nose in a biography. Today, reading continues to be a source of great happiness for Fisher, who favors non-fiction and memoirs. Favorite books include *Zelda* by Nancy Milford, *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote, *Remembering Denny* by Calvin Trillin, and *Night* by Elie Wiesel.

Fisher is married to Loren Fisher, a photojournalist. They live in Somerset County, New Jersey and Woodstock, Vermont. When she isn't reading or writing, she loves spending time with her nieces and nephews and hiking the

mountains of Vermont with her Bernese Mountain dog, Boomer.”



*Something* continued from page 2

When Mary died in 1968 her husband Harold Jacobs wanted to establish a memorial in her name in Rocky Hill, the town that filled her with such fond childhood memories.

Harold decided to memorialize his beloved wife by bequeathing \$800,000 in a perpetual trust for a library. He chose the designer, specified that it would be a two story brick structure and even stated that the landscaping should include specific plantings. To ensure that Mary Jacobs would always be remembered he decreed that the library must be named after her and be closed each year on December tenth to commemorate her birthday.

Today the library maintains the cozy small town feeling that it had 35 years ago, despite having undergone two major renovations. A portrait of the beautiful, fashionable Mary Jacobs in a blue straw hat still hangs to the left of the Circulation desk.



The staff and Friends of the Mary Jacobs Library have a few events planned to mark this historic occasion in the coming months. On Saturday, May 2 the library will host an Open House with light refreshments. Community guests may even be greeted by smiling staff wearing blue straw hats to honor the life of Mary Barrowmen Jacobs and the legacy within the library's loving brick walls.

Suzanne Ridzy  
Mary Jacobs Branch  
Somerset County Library