

Lisa Alderfer***Cape May County Library***

Lisa Alderfer has a B.A. in English from Temple University and a MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh. Lisa taught English Composition at Atlantic Community College and also served as an interim reference librarian for the school. She has been a librarian at the Cape May County Library since 2008. In that time, she has served in multiple departments including library IT as well as patron technology education. She currently is the library's Social Media Manager. In addition to her responsibilities at the library, she is currently a part-time project manager for Advanced Computer Solutions Group, an IT consulting and support company, where she provides training, technical support, and product and service development.

Maria E. Andreu***Author***

Maria E. Andreu is a writer and speaker whose work has appeared in Newsweek, The Washington Post, NJ.com, and the Newark Star Ledger. Her debut young adult novel, *The Secret Side of Empty* is a Junior Library Guild Selection, a National Indie Excellence Book Award winner, an International Latino Book Awards Finalist and has been called "captivating" by School Library Journal. Maria currently lives in New Jersey with her two children.

Erica Bell***Union Public Library***

Erica is an award-winning Branch Manager/Supervising Library Assistant for the Vauxhaull Branch Library of the Union Public Library. In addition to her 23 years of service in the field of library work, Erica is a certified Career and Life Coach. Her passion has always been to help others become successful and achieve their full potential.

Deborah Blackwell***Training Officer/ Ocean County Library System***

Ms. Deborah Blackwell is currently the Training Officer at the Ocean County Library. She is a licensed Counselor and has a certification in Temperament Therapy, and is a Professional Clinical member of The National Christian Counselors Association. Ms. Blackwell is a sought out Conference speaker, trainer, personal coach and mentor. She believes that there is enough room for all of humanity at the "table for success." Deborah seeks to live life from the inside out loud, on purpose!

Peggy Cadigan***Deputy State Librarian/NJ State Library***

Peggy is the Deputy State Librarian for Innovation & Strategic Partnerships. Ms. Cadigan explores ways to enhance NJSL's services to NJ libraries and residents by engaging innovative partnerships and seeking development opportunities. One of her most successful ventures was the Futures Conference, held at the Borgata Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City, NJ. This conference presentations included: Hacking & privacy in the age of Big Brother and Big Data; the future of technology, science, innovation and media;

a forward look at economic, demographic, and real estate studies that will impact the future; innovative architectural design challenges; the future of social media, branding, and strategic communications.

Mary L. Chute

State Librarian/ NJ State Library

Mary L. Chute leads the NJ State Library, an Affiliate of Thomas Edison State University, in providing services for NJ libraries; the state legislature and government employees; Thomas Edison State University staff and students; and registered NJ borrowers. This also includes the NJ State Library's Talking Book & Braille Center. Prior to her 2012 arrival at the NJ State Library, she had served 10 years as the Deputy Director for Libraries at the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences. Prior to her experience in State Libraries, Mary worked as Director of both the Lynnefield Library and Franklin Public Library in Massachusetts. She has also worked in two other State Libraries, as State Librarian in Delaware.

Catherine DeBerry

Somerset County Library System/Librarian

Catherine completed her Masters in Library Science in 1991 and aside from a brief stint with Baker & Taylor, she has worked in public libraries in Somerset County for over 25 years. Currently she is employed as an Adult Services librarian at the Warren Township Branch of the Somerset County Library System and one of my primary responsibilities is outreach, community engagement and programming for special populations in Somerset County including small businesses, senior citizens and adults with developmental disabilities. Catherine is frequently asked to speak about her work with adults with developmental disabilities in the library system and have received local and regional accolades for that work.

Alison Ashley Formento

Author

Alison Ashley Formento is the author of the new chapter book One Alien & Four Furry Tails Tales and award-winning nature picture books This Tree Counts!, This Tree, 1, 2, 3, These Bees Count!, These Seas Count!, and These Rocks Count! Her young adult novel Twigs was featured in Publisher's Weekly as a notable new release for teen readers. Alison has written for several national publications including The New York Times, The Writer, and Parenting. She loves visiting schools and libraries and donates a portion of book proceeds to: www.AmericanForests.org www.alisonashleyformento.com

Givane "Gigi" Hayes

Ocean County Library

Givane "Gigi" Hayes currently serves in a dual role as the Assistant Branch Manager of Ocean County Library's Headquarters branch in Toms River and the System Coordinator of Adult Services; and is the co-chair of Ocean County Library's Readers Services Committee. She enjoys talking library patrons into checking out more books than they came in for and helping them find new authors. Gigi has been an avid reader since childhood when she was sent outside to play as a punishment.

Jeffrey W. Johnston***Author***

Jeffrey writes teen thrillers and mysteries. FRAGMENTS was a 2008 Best Young Adult Mystery Nominee by the Mystery Writers of America and a YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers. "The Truth" was a 2017 YALSA Quick Pick and an In the Margins award winner. He is working on a new teen novel due out in 2019. Jeffrey has written numerous articles on a variety of subjects, including theatre and film. Jeffrey is available for school and library visits. He can be contacted on his website: www.jeffryjohnston.com.

Carol Nurse***Montclair State University***

Carol has over 30 years of post-MSLS experience working in a wide variety of library settings including public, medical, library vendor, library organization, and last, but not least academic. In order to work more closely with the faculty in my liaison department, I earned an MS in Nutrition in 2008. My presentation is based on my experience with providing nutrition resources on the internet to faculty, students, staff and community patrons.

Cathi Sheridan***Ocean County Library***

Cathi is currently the Branch Manager of the Lakewood Branch of Ocean County Library System. She has been a librarian for 20 years. She was heavily involved with the Library's Diversity trainings. Cathi is a strong advocate for equal access to information for all.

Jennifer Stevenson***School Media Specialist***

Jennifer Stevenson is a School Media Specialist who has almost 10 years of experience. She has also worked in the Public Library System as well. Jennifer is a published author, and her work has been published in various poetry anthologies. She is the author of "Journey to Peace." Jennifer loves infusing the love of reading with technology!

Jeffrey Trout***Cape May County Library System***

Jeff Trout is the Supervisor of the Cape May County Library's Technology and Learning Center and the growing maker space. The Steam Engine. His love of technology started as a child and never has diminished. He has been at the Cape May County Library for ten years.

James Varick***Detective Sergeant/NJ State Police***

Jim Varick is a Detective Sergeant with the New Jersey State Police Bomb Unit. He has been a member of the New Jersey State Police for sixteen years and a member of the Bomb Unit for thirteen years. As part of his current assignment, he is also deputized as Task Force Officer with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm, and Explosives (BATFE) for the Newark Field Office.

Jim earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Monmouth University and a Master of Arts Degree in Homeland Security from American Public University. He serves as an adjunct instructor for American Intercontinental University teaching a course on Homeland Security and Terrorism. Jim also serves as an instructor for Kean University within their Fire Safety Training Program. He teaches a course, that he developed, entitled Bomb Threat Management and Response

Jim is currently the supervisor of the North Squad of New Jersey State Police Arson/Bomb Unit. His responsibilities include conducting render safe operations for incidents involving hazardous devices, technical support of SWAT operations, dignitary/VIP explosive sweeps, and investigating post blast scenes. He has operated in a supervisory capacity for numerous incidents and a number of high profile events including Super Bowl XLVII, WrestleMania 29, and the 2015 PGA Barclay's Tournament.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Jim has been a volunteer firefighter for twenty-one years. He rose through the ranks of his department and served as a Chief for four years. He is married to a wonderful wife and has two school-aged children.

Yvonne Ventresca***Author***

Yvonne Ventresca's latest YA psychological thriller, *Black Flowers, White Lies* (Sky Pony Press, 2016) won a National IPPY Gold Medal for YA fiction in 2017. Her debut novel, *Pandemic*, won a Crystal Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Yvonne's other work includes two nonfiction books and several short stories selected for anthologies such as *Hero Lost: Mysteries of Death and Life*. She loves a good ghost story and studies Isshinryu karate in a haunted dojo. You can learn more about her books at www.YvonneVentresca.com, where she also features resources for teen writers.

Nancy Voitko***Ocean County Library/Librarian***

Nancy has been a librarian for 21 years. Graduating from Rutgers, she began her library career as a children's librarian. She has been the branch manager of the Lacey Branch of the Ocean County Library for 5 years now, and was the branch manager of the Beachwood branch for 3 years prior. Nancy is a classically trained artist and art teacher, as well as a certified yoga instructor, currently working toward a degree in yoga therapy. As a co-chair of the Ocean County Library's Training Team committee, she is charged with leading the committee that supports the Ocean County Library training office, assisting in arranging guest speakers and trainers, as well as presenting trainings themselves.

Elizabeth A. Winters***Consultant/Executive Coach***

Elizabeth is co-founder of HR Fluent, an organization dedicated to providing consulting services, training and development, professional enhancement, and lifelong learning. She has demonstrated her ability to effectively coach individuals and groups to maximize organizational effectiveness. In addition, Elizabeth facilitates training and development workshops in the areas of leadership, management, change management, and team building. The themes that run through all her work include – motivation, confidence, emotional awareness, clarity/focus, and empowerment.

Shazia Zaman***Ocean County Library/Librarian***

Shazia Zaman is a librarian with Ocean County Library since 2012, and currently works in Adult Information Services at the Jackson Branch of the Ocean County Library. Shazia has also been a Branch Manager for the Point Pleasant Beach and Plumsted Branches of the Ocean County Library and is a member of the OCL Cultural Awareness Team and OCL Training Team. Shazia is an active meditation practitioner and is currently enrolled in a two year teaching certification program in Mindfulness Meditation with UC Berkeley Greater Good Science Center and the Awareness Training Institute in California. She hopes to graduate in May 2019. Shazia currently holds regular Mindfulness Meditation classes in various Ocean County Library ranches.