

STATE LIBRARIAN'S UPDATE
LibraryLink NJ – Spring Meeting
June 1, 2016

This spring, members of the New Jersey State Library staff have participated in and presented at a number of conferences and workshops around the State. One of the most notable being last month's NJLA Annual Conference. Many of us were involved.

The State Librarian's breakfast that honors our annual award winners in Innovation, Early Literacy and Multicultural programming, also featured Dr. George A. Pruitt, President of Thomas Edison State University.

This year's awards were as follows:

Multicultural Program Award

The New Jersey State Library 2016 Multicultural Program Awards for conducting outstanding multicultural programs to engage cultural and ethnic communities in meaningful and effective partnerships were presented to the Atlantic City Public Library, the Free Library of Hasbrouck Heights and the South Brunswick Public Library. Each library received a \$1000 award. Brochures with descriptions of their winning programs were distributed to attendees at the Conference.

2016 Best Practices in Early Literacy Award

The New Jersey State Library 2016 Best Practices in Early Literacy Awards for conducting outstanding early literacy programs on behalf of their youngest library users and their families were presented to the Bernardsville Public Library, Cranford Public Library, Moorestown Public Library and the Rockaway Township Public Library. Each library received a \$1000 award. Brochures with descriptions of their winning programs were distributed to attendees at the Conference.

2016 Innovation Award

The New Jersey State Library 2016 Innovation Award was presented to Hillside Public Library for its contributions to the Makerspace Community at the State Librarian's Breakfast during the 2016 NJLA Conference. It was noted that this year's award was not designated for one specific project, but rather for living the spirit of creativity and collaboration. The Library received a \$1,000 award.

In addition to presenting awards, this year the NJSL marketing team was recognized by winning an award. On May 17, 2016, members of the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA), library advocates and community leaders recognized the New Jersey State Library's Communications, Marketing and Outreach Department at its annual honors and awards reception. The New Jersey State Library was honored in the Information Literature category for its publication **Reboot Literacy @ your library 2015 Graduate Yearbook**.

The State Librarian's Breakfast was immediately followed by the State Librarian's Program featuring Don Byrne, President and CEO of Metrix411, creator of the Librarian's Guide to Disaster Planning and Community Resiliency Toolkit, who presented an overview of this new resource which is being explored in our series of ongoing workshops as described below:

The Librarian's Disaster Planning and Community Resiliency Workshop Series

The New Jersey State Library commissioned the Librarian's Disaster Planning and Community Resiliency Guidebook and Workbook to help libraries in New Jersey and across the country to be better prepared to accept the new mantle of responsibility being thrust on them as a safe haven in times of crises. These new resources will help make libraries more resilient so that they can return to operations quickly. They will provide guidance on how libraries can help speed the recovery of their community, and are key contributors to a resilient community. Thanks to a grant from PSE&G, the New Jersey State Library is pleased to offer nine training workshops based on this new resource developed for librarians to help their community after a disaster. More information can be found at:

<http://www.njstatelib.org/event/the-librarians-disaster-planning-and-community-resiliency-workshop-series/>

May 2: Gloucester County Library System, Mullica Hill Branch

May 3: Ocean County Library, Manchester Branch

July 12: Monroe Township Public Library, Middlesex County

July 13: Monmouth County Library, Manalapan Branch

July 15: Somerset County Library System, Manville Branch

Sept 19: Montville Township Public Library

Sept 20: Livingston Public Library

Sept 21: Wyckoff Public Library

Among the busiest of our NJSL attendees at the conference were our youth services experts, Sharon Rawlins and Liz Burns. Sharon was involved in three programs: the statewide summer reading committee's author session with Tim Green, "Thumbs Up or Down? Best Books for Young Adults," with Liz Burns and as a panelist on "Mental Health and Suicide Risk in Youth Services." Liz Burns also participated in: "Harnessing the Power of Fandom," "Book Buzz for Young Adults and Children," and ALSC's Notable Children's Books.

Deborah Mercer and Michele Stricker presented the program, The Fundamentals of Managing Preservation Efforts in Libraries.

Mary Kearns-Kaplan and Tara Kehoe presented a program at the NJLA Preconference "Open to All: A.D.A. Compliance and Beyond at Your Library." Tara Kehoe presented a book at a Readers' Advisory Roundtable Brown Bag Lunch session "Under the Radar Reads."

David Dean presented a 'lightning talk' on Wednesday afternoon on protecting a library's online presence. Mary Kearns-Kaplan and Meaghan Moody also contributed a 'lightning talk' presentation.

Tiffany McClary and Michele Stricker were on the panel for the "Telling your library's story" program.

Our next highly attended event is the upcoming **NJALA Conference** on June 7th. We have more than ten State Library staff members scheduled to be in attendance. Of particular note Peggy Cadigan, Mi-Sun Lyu and Irene Langlois will participate in presenting the session on our joint LibraryLinkNJ/NJSL program Mentor NJ.

LIBRARY SUPPORT SERVICES:

Trustee Training: James Lonergan and Pat Tumulty have made several presentations on library law at workshops (Scotch Plains Public Library, Bernards Township Library, and the Margaret Heggen Public Library in Sewell.) These sessions were offered by the **New Jersey Library Trustee Association**. Other

topics covered in the workshops included the roles and responsibilities of library trustees; recent legislation; and information resources for trustees.

The State Library received ten proposals in response to our **RFQ for statewide databases/electronic resources**. We requested proposals in the following categories: General; Language Learning; Genealogy; Live Homework Help; Career Resources; and Small Business Resources. The **Database Advisory Committee** and State Library staff evaluated the proposals and tested the proposed databases/electronic resources in online trials. The Committee convened to review the proposals and the results of the trials in late April, and, taking into account current database statistics and the results of the recent statewide database survey, made purchase recommendations to the State Librarian.

The State Library is pleased to announce that we will continue to contract with **EBSCO** and **Infogroup** to offer **statewide databases/electronic resources** for the next few years. In response to the request by Database Advisory Committee members to strengthen our statewide resources for public libraries, we are adding a language learning product, Rosetta Stone Library Solutions Plus. However, given level funding for statewide databases/electronic resources, we will be dropping access to Health Source: Nursing/Academic, MAS Ultra: School Edition, and Newspaper Source Plus, all of which were listed as possible databases to drop when the Database Advisory Committee consisting of librarians from multiple type libraries, ranked the resources by priority. The list of statewide database/e-resources available as of July 1, 2016 has been posted on the State Library's website and been disseminated through NJSL Direct and various library listservs.

The State Library has launched the **Grants for Libraries blog** (<http://www.njstatelib.org/category/grants-blog/>). Our Grants Manager, Eileen Morales, who helps find funding sources for special projects initiated by NJSL staff and manages the process of awarding sub-grants from NJSL to local libraries, will use the Grants blog to share her knowledge of the world of grant funding with New Jersey libraries.

LIFELONG LEARNING:

Andrea Levandowski is working on a **Grants for Mobile Mini-Makerspace Kits with LLNJ:**

Small Business Outreach: Andrea has been visiting libraries in the state that specialize in business outreach during May and June.

Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) Executive Board: Sharon's Presidency of the national summer reading program was scheduled to start June 1st but due to the resignation of the prior President at the CSLP Annual Meeting on April 21st, Sharon's presidency began immediately.

Summer Food Program: Sharon is working with Advocates for Children of New Jersey as part of their advisory board with other nonprofit organizations on an initiative called Food For Thought, a campaign targeting summer meal programs. Sharon is working with them to try to get more public libraries to act as host for summer food program sites in conjunction with school districts that qualify for the program during the school year. Sharon is also working directly with the NJ Department of Agriculture on this as well.

2016 CSLP Teen Video Challenge Winner: The judges selected Montville Public Library as the winner of the CSLP 2016 Teen Video Challenge, a video created by teens in a NJ public library to promote the 2016 summer reading program's theme of sports and the slogan "Get in the Game – Read." All the states were invited to participate and each state's winners were officially announced on April 25,

2016 during the CSLP Annual Meeting. The winning videos can be seen on the CSLP's website at www.csllpreads.org.

2016 Youth Services Forum: Sharon solicited for a volunteer to assume the duties of Project Manager for the annual Youth Services Forum, and out of the interested candidates, selected two that would serve as co-chairs. Having two people will allow for more flexibility and make it easier to share the duties. Those who weren't selected were invited to join the planning committee that will convene soon to start planning the event scheduled for either Oct. 13th or Oct. 20th 2016 at the Monroe Public Library.

NJCAR: NJSL on behalf of NJCAR has submitted a \$6,000 NEH grant for a workshop series on writing a disaster plan for cultural institutions.

The State Library is offering a special targeted grant opportunity which will help support public libraries in their efforts to advance the literacy skills of adult learners. Libraries which successfully completed the New Jersey State Library's **2015 Literacy Boot Camp** may apply for \$2500 toward the purchase of library materials in any format which develop their literacy collections. Grantees may direct their awards toward GED and other test prep materials, immigration and citizenship materials, financial literacy and other subject areas that encourage adults to become lifelong learners. Funds for this grant opportunity are made available through the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the New Jersey State Library. Guidelines for this targeted grant opportunity were sent directly to the 21 eligible libraries in early March.

INNOVATION & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:

The New Jersey State Library hosted a naturalization ceremony outdoors on the Capitol Plaza on May 23, 2016. Forty-four candidates representing 22 different countries became U.S. citizens. The Fifes and Drums of the Old Barracks Museum provided the musical background to this impressive ceremony. New Jersey State Librarian Mary Chute acted as Master of Ceremonies for the day and had the honor of reading aloud the names of the new citizens. John Thompson, Newark District Office, District Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, gave the keynote address. We learned that the journey to United States citizenship took some of the participants up to 20 years. The New Jersey State Library was proud to be part of this very special day.

The State Library was well represented at the **American Library Association's National Legislative Day**. This event was held from May 1-3, 2016 and incorporated advocacy training and information sessions about ALA's legislative priorities, including

- Support funding the Library Services and Technology Act at \$186.6 million for FY2017
- Vote to confirm Carla Hayden as Librarian of Congress
- Support the Freedom of Information Act Reform
- Support Public Access to Taxpayer-Funded Research
- Maintain "Innovative Approaches to Literacy" Funding for School Libraries
- Support Real Privacy and Surveillance Law Reform
- Support the Marrakesh Treaty for the print-disabled

State Library staff participants included Mary Chute, Peggy Cadigan, Adam Szczepaniak, Leslie Witko and Teri Taylor. We were joined by NJLA representatives Pat Tumulty, Susan Briant, Kathy Schalk-Greene, Jeanne Ryan, and Eileen Palmer. In addition, Marcos Vargas, President of the Board of Trustees from Belleville Public Library, Janet Clark, President of the New Jersey Association of School

Librarians, and Esney Sharpe, former board member at Orange Public Library joined us. Our lay representatives were passionate spokespersons for the value of libraries.

Our group was on the go all day, and managed to visit the offices of: Senator Cory Booker; Senator Robert Menendez; Representative Donald Norcross; Representative Frank LoBiondo; Representative Tom MacArthur; Representative Chris Smith; Representative Scott Garrett; Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.; Representative Leonard Lance; Representative Albio Sires; Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr.; Representative Donald Payne, Jr.; Representative Ronald Frelinghuysen; Representative Bonnie Watson-Coleman.

Many thanks to Susan Briant for her outstanding work organizing this event.

STATE LIBRARY INFORMATION CENTER:

Capital City Book Fair – The State Library had a table during the book fair on Friday, May 13. Staff from the research library, Talking Book and Braille Center and Lifelong Learning Department provided information about library services and programs for state workers, libraries and the public. We gave away free used books and ebooks.

Lunchtime Learning – Classes in May included “Learning about Electronics and Programming with Arduino Computers for Beginners,” “Online Health Resources of the State Library,” and “Best in Books.” Arduinos are miniature computers used for building digital devices and interactive objects. The hands-on class covered the basics of getting started. The online health resources webinar provided introductory information and went over search tips and techniques. “Best in Books” was a roundup of forth-coming books for adults with recommendations on what to take on vacation and what books will everyone be talking about.

TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER:

TBBC was award a **\$15,000 grant from Disability Rights of New Jersey** to introduce veterans registered with TBBC to the Apple iPad and provide training on its use, including the accessibility features in the iOS operating system and assistive apps. The goal is to introduce new assistive technology to veterans, to loan the devices to the participants, and to provide ongoing access to the iPads at TBBC after the completion of the grant.

Beginning in July, 2016 TBBC will host training sessions on a weekly bases to print impaired United States Military Veterans to

- Introduction to the iPad
- Introduction to the iOS accessibility features
- Introduction to assistive apps
- Advanced training in iOS accessibility features

The training will be done by Advancing Opportunities New Jersey and upon completion of the training sessions it is hoped that print impaired veterans will be comfortable with the use of the iPad to not only download materials from TBBC but also use the accessibility features for other web related opportunities such as employment.

On August 11 and 12, 2016, Mary Kearns Kaplan and Tara Kehoe will present papers at the **International Federal of Library Associations (IFLA)** annual conference. A presentation on TBBC’s work with New Jersey public libraries on downloading books and magazines entitled “Downloading for

All” will be presented on Thursday, August 11th and on Friday, August 12, 2016 their presentation will be on TBBC’s outreach tool kit for libraries with a program entitled, “Arms Open Wide.”

TBBC will hold its 15th Annual Golf Classic on Tuesday, June 14th, 2016 at Hopewell Valley Golf Club, 114 Pennington Hopewell Road, in Hopewell, New Jersey. Proceeds benefit the New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center, New Jersey’s only free public library for the print disabled. More information can be found on the TBBC website. <http://www.njstatelib.org/talking-book-braille-center/>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

JerseyConnect with the help of E-Rate Central has finalized a **new statewide EVPL contract** with Verizon, giving libraries better pricing on fast and reliable Internet and network access. The new service has a 36-month contract which was requested by many libraries. We continue to work with Comcast and other vendors to secure more options for NJ libraries.

JerseyConnect has launched a new and **improved web hosting service**. Highlights are better performance, more customization freedom, and new security options. More than 50 libraries have already moved to the new service and more are moving every day. We expect to have all sites on the new service by the end of June.

JerseyConnect staff continues to follow up on site visits and inquiries from attendees of our **regional meetings**. Feedback from the meetings has been very positive, and we’ll be working with the NJ library community to establish a more regular schedule of meetings.

Public libraries across New Jersey are taking advantage of the 2016 E-Rate window to sign up for **Managed WiFi service**.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Please be reminded that the Office of Communications, Marketing & Outreach maintains a marketing portal for NJ libraries, NJSLDIRECT.ORG, which is a repository of helpful and instructional marketing information, tools and resources for NJ libraries. The portal includes blog posts, relevant articles, tutorials, infographics, videos and webinars which can be accessed and used on demand. NJ librarians can also subscribe to the NJSL Direct newsletter to receive State Library updates, library community news, grant opportunities, upcoming events, registration deadlines and much more. Visit www.njsldirect.org to subscribe.