

HPL Library Director's Report for January 2010 – for February 23, 2010 Board of Trustees Meeting

Statistics for January 2010 – see Statistical Attachment.

Meetings Attended / Events at the Library for January 2010

- January 1, - Library closed for New Year's Day
- Jan. 7, NJLA Public Policy meeting at Princeton Public Library from 10-12 pm- Briant attended. Teen Advisory Board meeting at the library from 7-8 pm- Braverman and 3 teens attended.
- Jan. 8- Web page maintenance class from 10-12 pm- Alles, Reinking, J., and Briant.
- Jan. 11- School/ public librarians meeting from 2-3 at our library (Peppard, Pure, Miller, Stafford and Briant.) – Fifties group meeting from 7-8:30 pm – 12 attended.
- Jan. 12- NJLA Public Relations Committee at Monroe Township Public Library from 10-12 pm- Briant
- Jan. 14- NJLA Investment, Budget and New Home Committees meetings at Somerset County Library in Bridgewater – Briant attended all day. Teen Knitting group from 7-8:30 pm – 12 teens attended.
- Jan. 15- Teen movie night from 6:30-8:30 pm – (Braverman) 11 attended.
- Jan. 18 – Adult Book Club (A Tree Grows in Brooklyn) from 7-8:30 pm (Frontino- 7 attended.)
- Jan. 19- Staff meeting from 1-2:15 pm- 12 attended.
- Jan. 20- Mousing, Computer and Basic PC class from 10:30-12 pm (Pure)-2 attended.
- - Friends of the Library meeting at Cherry Hill Library for presentation on state of the state of NJ Libraries from 10-11:30 am– Blake, State Librarian, and Briant, NJLA President presented. – 50 attended.
- Jan. 21- Haddonfield Friends of the Library meeting from 7-8:45 pm- 10 attended.
- Jan. 22- Mousing, Computer and Basic PC class from 6:30-8 pm- (Pure) - 4 attended. NJLA Executive Board meeting at West Orange Public Library from 10-12 pm- Briant.
- Jan. 23- Lions Club breakfast at HF Presbyterian Church from 9-11 am (Kearney, Reynolds, Burmaster, and Briant attended.) Floor stripping and waxing at the library in basement from 4 pm – 4 am.
- Jan. 24- Floor stripping and waxing in basement of library from 5 pm – 2 am.
- Jan. 26- Library Board of Trustees meeting from 8-9:15 pm – 10 attended.
- Jan. 27- Basic PC tutorial and practice class from 10:30-12 pm – 1 attended. Floor stripping and waxing at the library in basement from 7:00-11:30 pm.
- Jan. 28- Per Capita State Aid meeting at State Library in Trenton from 2- 4 pm (Briant)
- Jan. 29- Webinar on Social Media Strategies and Libraries from 10-12 pm- Briant listened to.

Updates on the Building/ Architects Work

I spoke to the architect on Feb. 17. He met with the Borough Commissioners on Feb. 16 to give them an update on the additional sites under consideration, 117-121 Kings Highway and the Allen Avenue site. I am given to understand that the reports that he made will be available to the Library Board at some future time. He did not make a specific recommendation concerning the sites. He outlined the pros and cons of both sites and compared the pros and cons to this site. Basically each site has some pros and cons. New construction on the Allen Avenue site would provide the best library for the future. However, it would have a higher cost. We will hear more about this in due time.

Our floors in the basement have been completely stripped and waxed over a three day period. I am gathering information on maintenance costs to keep the floors in decent condition. This includes exploring cooperative service with the Haddonfield School system.

I haven't heard anymore more about the final work of the Sites Subcommittee or the Citizen Library Advisory Committee.

The roof has been a concern during all of this snow. I reported to the Head of Public Works that there was a lot of snow on the roof. I also copied Sharon McCullough, Mayor Colombi and Gene Kain. There has been some leakage in the teen corner area where it leaked in the past. We have placed tubs outside to collect water on the Tanner St. side by the emergency exit. There was some crumbling of small pieces of concrete above the Tanner St. entrance, due to the amount of dripping water. All of this was reported. I continue to empty the buckets on a daily basis. This is not a good situation and I hope the roof gets taken care of immediately after the snow is gone.

Survey of Circulation and Library Issues.

I developed an electronic survey to send to NJ public libraries that are comparable to us for current data on borrowing and public services. The staff reviewed it and their suggestions were integrated - some good suggestions. I will be bringing recommendations back in the future months as we need to update some of our policies, procedures, and services. The staff will be involved in formulating the recommendations. We will also review the community survey that the Burgers conducted for general public feedback to integrate to the recommendations.

Financial Matters

We are in receipt of what appears to be the final distribution of the Holgate Estate. The check of \$127,000 was received and deposited to the Haddonfield Foundation. We are also in receipt of \$575 for CDs from a class action suit. The State Library distributed these funds to eligible public libraries. This will help with our CD collection. The auditor will begin the library audit on Feb. 19. This has been postponed twice due to snow.

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I am awaiting word from the Haddonfield Foundation about our agreement.

NJLA has just received word that a budget cut of \$931,000 will be made to the NJ Library Network. The network comprises the State Library, 4 Regional Library Cooperatives, and thousands of member libraries. This is a mid year cut for the period ending June 30, 2010. Cuts to the NJ Library Network over the past five years have been up to 25%. I urge all board members to sign up as NJ Library Champions if you have not already. As you know, we are having a statewide campaign to sign up Library Champions to help with legislative and funding issues.

In our local library, our most recent loss is Heritage Quest, one of our most used databases. This is due to the loss of this funding. We may lose more databases. The State Library, the SJRLC and the other three Cooperatives, which provide local services such as delivery, Internet Access, Interlibrary Loan, Reference, per capital State Aid funding, much of our Continuing Education, and Trustee education, could be on the verge of being decimated. We know that all departments are taking cuts. However, since statewide library funding was flat for all but 2 of the past 23 years, a 25% cut to flat funding is very crippling. Most state agencies did not have flat funding for most of those 20 + years. Your advocacy counts!

Pam and I are working on the State Aid report, which gets filed in early April. Pam Alles does a great job on this complex report.

Website Traffic

A positive note is that traffic on our website is up significantly in January. The new design and content do encourage greater use. This is the feedback that we are receiving.

Board Meetings

Mary Eklund and John Burmaster came in last week for the orientation that I give for new library board members. They have some very good ideas and had good questions. They will give some of their ideas at the meeting. I did point out that the board acts as one body and takes positions as an official body.

Gene Kain and I also had a very good meeting. I wanted to make sure I understand his expectations as our new board president. We did confer a lot over the recent bad weather which resulted in the library being closed for 2 days during the blizzard.

By-Laws

I sent out the Board by-laws with the revision made at our last meeting. I will send the final copy to you once the revisions are approved. Please review them for the meeting.

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Programs

Our adult cultural programs continue. On March 17, we have Dr. Marc Mappen doing an author discussion and book signing on his new book "NJ: More than the Soprano State" from 7-8:30 pm. On April 14, local author Pam Jenoff will give an author talk on her latest book.

The Friends of the Library are having local author Dave Kinney at their April 18, annual program at the Markheim. We are negotiating to bring in Matt Quick for a teen book program in early June. Erica Braverman has planned a digital story book contest for Teen Tech Week from March 7-13. She is meeting with the Teen Advisory Board on a monthly basis. Our Excel classes are going very well. We owe Phil Shapiro a great deal of thanks for teaching these classes. Five students attended today's Excel for Beginners class. They are giving rave reviews.

I have enclosed a story from the Courier Post of Dot Peppard doing a story hour and about children's services at Haddonfield Public Library. The weekend knitting program that Dot set in motion is going well. It has met once and 16 attended. We have a lot of talent on our staff and in the community. This is adding a vital component to the library's programs and contributions to learning and culture in the community.

Miscellaneous

Ann Kearney did send a letter out to Mr. Burriss regarding the Board's position on Boxwood Hall. I am still trying to arrange a meeting with local reporters and board members to create a Haddonfield Library story and update.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Briant
Library Director