

Meetings Attended / Events at the Library and in the Community

- January 1- Library closed for New Year's Day holiday.
- Jan. 4- NJLA Funding Task Force meeting from 10-12:30 pm at South Brunswick Library (Briant)
- Jan. 5- Tech Services Dept. meeting from 10:15-11:00 am (Frontino, Reinking, J., Brady, C., Stapleford, S., Alles, Pam, and Briant, S.; Poetry group meeting from 7-8 pm – 5 attended.
- Jan. 6- Site visit to Collingswood Library to see Teen area from 3:30-4:40 pm (Frontino and Briant.)
- Jan. 10- Fifties Group meeting from 7-8:30 pm – 12 attended.
- Jan. 12- Library opened at 1 pm due to snow. Introduction to the Computer Class cancelled due to late opening.
- Jan. 13- Board orientation for John Piotrowski from 4-5 pm (Briant, Piotrowski)
- Jan. 14- NJLA Public Policy and Advocacy meetings at Princeton Public Library all day.
- Jan. 17- Library closed for Martin Luther King Day – furlough / budget day.
- Jan. 18- NJLA Exec. Board telephone conference call for the monthly meeting from 11-12 pm (Briant)
- Jan. 19- Staff meeting from 9:30-11 am – 11 attended. ; Tom Belton author program on “Protecting New Jersey's Environment” from 7-8:30 pm – rescheduled from Jan. 12- 16 attended.
- Jan. 20- Friends of the Library meeting from 7-8 pm- 8 attended.
- Jan. 25- Library Board meeting from 8-9 am – 9 attended.
- Jan. 26- Snow storm – library closed at 5 pm
- Jan. 27- Counting Opinions webinar on statistics from 2:30-3:40 pm (Briant); Library closed all day due to snow storm. TAPs meeting cancelled.
- Jan. 28- NJLA Election 2011 telephone conference from 10:30-11:30 am (Briant as chair.)
- Jan. 29- People to People group meeting from 2:30-4:30 pm- 10 attended.
- Jan. 31- Visit to Assemblyman Greenwald from 11-12 pm (Briant, Peiffer (NJ State Library), and Tumulty – NJ Library Association.)

Teen Project/ Balcony Update / Teen Gaming

A few remaining furniture items are coming in. The tables and chairs are now in place in the balcony. So far the community really likes the new look. Teens have been coming in since better weather came. The electrical work is still being finalized in the meeting room for the gaming. Final paint touch up related to the balcony will be done this week. We are looking at an open house during National Library Week, April 11-18. Discussion on this is underway, especially with the Friends. Your ideas are welcome.

Banking Services

The transition to banking with Susquehanna Bank is mostly complete. The accounts are being finalized. Pam Alles worked closely with the local banking representatives to make the transition smooth.

Budget Review / Legislative Issues

We are all awaiting Governor Christie's budget address on Feb. 22. We hope that statewide library funding will not take another large hit, like in 2010 (43% budget cut.) We also hope that there will be some state aid for municipalities to ease the situation. There are a number of bills being introduced on pension and health insurance reforms. These promise to have a significant impact on public employees. I understand that the Borough's budget is on a timeline to be introduced earlier this year, perhaps by the end of March. Hopefully we will have information on our budget sooner this year.

The bill to make public library funding a dedicated tax is close to being reconciled in the state senate. My understanding is that it will probably be cap neutral.

The local Budget advisory committee working with Commissioner Jeff Kasko is meeting again. John Burmaster is on that committee. He can keep us informed on issues that relate to the library and its budget.

Congressman Scott Garrett of northern NJ introduced a provision to eliminate all federal funds (LSTA) for library services. He received so many calls and emails from his constituents and NJ residents that he has decided not to proceed. As you will recall, the federal funds give us many of our electronic resources, the State Library, and other cooperative resources that we depend upon.

Bancroft Stakeholder Meetings

The Borough Commissioners have set up a planning process for the redevelopment of Bancroft. The Friends of the Library were invited to a stakeholders meeting on Feb. 16. A number of them attended. The Library Board has not been invited. I requested clarification that the Library Board should not be included but did not receive one. The Friends will meet this evening and discuss any position they might have on the issue.

Architect and the Advisory Committee

The advisory committee working with Anthony Iovino on exploring Allen Avenue as a possible site for a new library will meet on Feb. 18, from 12-3 pm. Bill Brookover is chairing the group. The first meeting will be organizational in nature. It also includes a walking tour of the Allen Avenue site. More information when we meet.

OUTSPOKEN LIBRARY

Our library recently received a new workstation from the NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center to serve people with visual impairment, a physical handicap, or with learning disabilities. The staff has had initial training. We are working out some technical glitches. Jeannie Reinking and Pam Alles are working diligently and capably with the State Library to fix these problems.

This kiosk allows people to download more than 18,000 digital books to a flash drive and then to a home computer. It also provides access to broadcasted audio coverage of local and national newspapers. We will also have reader devices for people who choose to receive materials by mail. We are pleased that we will be able to offer greater service to people with disabilities.

Library Review Network Board

I was asked to represent South Jersey on the Library Network Review Board, which advises the State Library on library issues. I did accept the appointment as it is important work. Also, since we only have one Regional Library Cooperative now, which is located in Middlesex County, it is even more important that South Jersey has representation. The group meets about four times a year.

My NJLA commitments as Past President are winding down. I am in the process of chairing a committee to ensure that the NJLA 2011 elections are on time. I am also chair of the Executive Board's Employee Relations Committee. I will go off the Executive Board in June.

Multi-Media Room:

We have almost completed making the front room of the first floor a multi-media area. Print Reference books are now considerably pared down. They are located in the non-fiction area. Our librarians, Jo-Ann Pure and Anne Frontino, did a fine job on this reference transition. Other staff members, Linda Roberts, Claire Stairiker, and Erica Braverman also were excellent contributors. Most of the teen books are now on the first floor in the teen nook area. Children's Librarian Dorothy Peppard will have more space in the children's stack area for children's books. As you know, she did a wonderful job of selecting the beautiful furnishings for the new teen loft.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Briant
Library Director
2/17/11