

HPL Library Director's Report for April 2010 – submitted for the May 25, Library Board of Trustees meeting by Susan Briant

April 2010 Meetings Attended / Events at the Library and in the Community

- April 1- NJLA Public Policy meeting at Princeton Public Library from 10-12 pm and Advocacy subcommittee meeting from 12:30-2 pm.
- April 2; closed at 5 pm for Good Friday and April 4- Library closed for Easter Sunday
- April 5- JerseyConnect meeting at Cherry Hill Library from 10-12 pm (Alles, Reinking and Briant attended.) Legislative visit with Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew at Millville office from 5-6 pm.
- April 6- Borough Management Training for Safety Committee in Barrington from 10:30-11:30 am. (Briant); Briant attended SJRLC Advocacy Committee meeting from 2:45 – 5 pm.
- April 7-Legislative visit with Senator James Beach in Cherry Hill from 12:30-1:15 pm (Kain and Briant attended.) – Poetry group met at library from 7-8 pm- 5 attended.
- NJLA Conference Committee meeting from 10-12 pm at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch from 10-12 pm.
- Excel Intermediate computer class at the library from 10:30-12 pm – 3 attended (given by Phil Shapiro.)
- April 11-18 – National Library Week – fine free
- April 13- TAB from 7-8 pm at the library – 3 attended with Braverman.
- April 14- JerseyConnect meeting at Ocean City Public Library from 10-12 pm- Briant; Pam Jenoff author program from 7-8 pm at the library – 10 attended.
- April 15 – JerseyConnect meeting at Wayne Public Library from 10-12 pm; Friends of the Library meeting from 7-8:15 pm – 13 attended.
- April 18- Friends of the Library annual program at the Markheim Art Center from 2-4 pm with author David Kinney – 48 attended.
- April 19- Library Book Club from 7-8:15 pm – Frontino and five attended; Fifties group meeting from 7-8:30 pm- 12 attended.
- April 20 – Library Board of Trustees meeting from 8-9 pm – 9 attended.
- April 21 – Bids for library roof opened and through out – 10 am at Borough Hall (Briant attended.) Word computer class from 10:30-12 pm – 0 showed up.
- April 22- NJLA / NJASL Conference call on Skype at 5 pm; TAPs meeting from 7-8:30 pm – 15 attended. (Word class at 6:30 pm – 0 showed up.)
- April 23- Bryan Miller had a cookout for the library staff from 1-2 pm- about 10 attended.
- April 25-28- NJLA Annual Conference in Long Branch- Briant attended entire conference and Jo-Ann Pure and Anne Frontino attended 4/28. Friends of the Library Betsy Anderson and Susan Reed also attended Lisa Scottoline keynote address on 4/28.
- April 29 – Rally phone conference call from 3-3:30 pm – Fruit Study group meeting from 6:30-8:30 pm – 12 attended.
- April 30- Girl Scouts tour of the NJ Room of the library from 6:15-7 pm (Pure and 10 attended.)

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News on the Roof / Building

The bids for the roof were rejected as the bids received were thought to be too high. A second set of bids went out on May 19. Responses are due back by June 3. The Borough Engineer told me that this set would be for an entire new scupper system and repair of the existing roof. I let the Borough Engineer and Administrator know that repair probably is not viable. He did admit that the roof was at the end of its life. Let's discuss what we can do to promote a better outcome.

I did speak to Alan Fegley about additional painting before he leaves the school district. We hope to work this out. We have a tentative plan for the teen areas of the library. Kathy Schalk Greene has offered to give us some advice on space planning of our existing facility. She is a noted expert and is reviewing our plan. Dot and Erica have done a fine job of developing the preliminary plan. As you will recall, the Friends of the Library applied for and receiving funding for this project through the annual house tour. We are looking forward to this extensive facelift during the summer.

Budget

I did recommend to Gene Kain that a Board Finance/ Budget committee be appointed to work on our 2010 budget. We don't anticipate adopting it until July. It would be good for this committee to review options and do proactive work. I think we can anticipate difficult budgets for the next few years. The committee can do preliminary work to make recommendations for the entire library board. I am soliciting staff ideas and more of this will be done.

On the state level, news is not good. Yesterday the tax revenues were released. They are lower than anticipated revenue so this is not good news. Our advocacy campaign has received positive reviews by legislators but it is all in the money. We do know that there are competing interests that have a higher priority than libraries. Our local budget will be affected by the loss of the statewide services that we depend on so heavily.

Teen Events

We are having Matt Quick do a book event for teens and families on June 3, at 7 pm. Erica Braverman and the TAB are also having a Battle of the Bands event here on June 5 from 11-3 pm. Thanks to Mayor Colombi for helping to arrange both of these events.

Medical Expenses

It looks like public employees will have to pay 1.5% toward their medical insurance as of June 1. I am finding out the details but my understanding is that this will be a deduction from eligible employees' paychecks.

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Audit Report

The auditor will make his final report at our May 25, meeting. The audit report is being sent ahead for your review.

Haddonfield Foundation Agreement

Bill Reynolds has some items regarding our agreement with the Foundation that he will bring up for discussion.

Discussion on Library Moving Forward

As you will recall, Gene Kain wants to have a board discussion on moving forward. Please remember to bring the plans and reports that the architect has done for this discussion. If you are not attending the meeting, let us know. We need a quorum to have a valuable discussion. The architect's plans are on our website. They were sent out to you last month with board materials. Let me know if you need any copies.

Birds

The library has a collection of stuffed birds. They have been in storage since the NJ Room was painted in 2008. The Haddonfield Memorial High School Environmental Department is interested in borrowing them for a long term loan. I would recommend accepting this offer as we don't have good storage and students would be able to learn about the birds in school. More discussion at the meeting. A letter from Mr. Ron Smith will be presented at the meeting. An agreement for loan could be done if you agree that this is a good idea.

Garden Club Proposal

The Haddonfield Garden Club would like to beautify the front of the library. They have talked to me about this and will present a proposal for the Board's consideration.

NJLA

The consolidation of the four regional library cooperatives that give us many of our services is moving forward unless funds are restored. There will be 2 service points in the state – 1 in the north (INFOLINK) and 1 in the south (State Library). The scale of available services will be considerably less and we are still hoping that this drastic measure won't be needed. In the event that it goes through as is, we will have certain core services through the summer and time to regroup. A2555, the bill to cut dedicated public library funding, does not seem to be getting traction so that is a ray of hope. More than 60,000 orange postcards in support of libraries have been collected. The May 6 rally in Trenton was attended by about 600 library supporters. We did get good coverage on NJN and in many newspapers. We have received favorable feedback from some legislators. It is all a matter of lack of money.

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The NJLA conference from April 26-28 was very good. Our Friends of the Library came up (Betsy Anderson and Susan Reed to hear Lisa Scottoline's keynote address. Anne Frontino and Jo-Ann Pure also attended the conference. I was very pleased with the quality of programs and exhibits for my presidential conference. Feedback has been positive although attendance was down. Thank you again for supporting my year as president of NJLA. However, membership is up over 1800 so that is excellent.

NJ Trustee Institute on Sept. 25

The NJ Trustee Institute is being held on Saturday, Sept. 25 at the Princeton Marriott at Forrestal Village. Information on this excellent conference, which is free for one trustee, will be forthcoming in July. Please think about attending it. It is a premier educational and networking opportunity for trustees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Briant
Library Director
May 21, 2009