

New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter



Books are “Hot”

Rosalind Reisner, Program Coordinator
Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative

Although we’ve all heard predictions about the demise of the book, the reality is that books – and authors – are more in the news than ever.

One Book programs and Oprah recommendations have encouraged people to read books. The big box bookstores have raised the profile of the book business. At Barnes & Noble and Borders, readers find a place where there are miles of shelves and displays, piles of popular books, comfortable chairs, coffee and goodies-all reasons to stay longer. Authors like Dan Brown and James Frey are headlines in our newspapers and topics in our conversations; new genres like graphic novels and “street lit” capture the attention of our customers; old genres like fantasy gain new fans in books like the Harry Potter series. Google’s plan to digitize books is hot news. Book clubs have blossomed, generating more books about the care and feeding (literally) of book groups. And Nancy Pearl has shown that we can all be national celebrities.

But, the Internet has changed how people get information and how they perceive our value as information providers, customers can access our resources without actually visiting the library, libraries are being pressured to keep up with new technologies and formats, and we hear that Generation X and the Millenials will make us change the way we offer services.

However, this environment also provides wonderful opportunities for Readers’ Advisory services to flourish. Matching readers with books, a core service of libraries, was eclipsed during the years

CONTENTS

- 2 *Message from President*
- 3 *Letter from Executive Director*
- 3 *From the Editor*
- 4 *From the Incoming President*
- 5 *News From NJLA*
- 5 *What About OBNJ?*
- 6 *What About the Book?*
- 7 *Highlight Reading!*
- 8 *What About the Book: Academically Speaking*
- 9 *Talk it Up! The Care and Feeding of Reading Groups*
- 10 *Honors and Awards*
- 10 *People in the News*
- 11 *Looking Further*
- 11 *Around the State*

C O N T I N U E D P . 4



Message from the **PRESIDENT**

People ask what is the future of the BOOK? And yes, innovative technologies will surely make the written word available in new ways, but I strongly believe that the printed book will not become extinct. Books enrich people's lives, give them pleasure and information. Plots, themes and characters anger readers or soothe souls. Books make people laugh out loud or bring tears to their eyes. They resonate with people - or not.

Besides listening to classical music, I love to read. How did I get so infatuated with the book? How did I become such an avid reader?

When I was little, my family would visit my grandparents, where books from my mother's childhood were scattered around the house. I remember listening to my grandmother read Louisa May Alcott's *Jack and Jill* to me and looking at the black and white pictures in the 1930 editions of Nancy Drew books. My mother read Golden Books, with illustrations by Garth Williams, to my sister and me. When I was in first grade and there was no library nearby, a bookmobile stopped weekly in our neighborhood. I remember how exciting it was to check out books from this library on wheels.

Over thirty years ago, I started to keep a list of every book I read for pleasure. I often look back to see how my reading tastes have changed, from books by women writers then a mystery phase. Now I use Nancy Pearl's Rule of 50. "If you still don't like a book after slogging through the first 50 pages, set it aside. If you're more than 50 years old, subtract your age from 100 and only grant it that many pages."

As I wind down my busy and rewarding year as NJLA's President, I am truly looking forward to having lots more time to read books.

But now, I would like to take the opportunity to thank many people who made the year rewarding and interesting. Their help was invaluable to me. My heartfelt thanks to Pat Tumulty, Executive Director of NJLA, and her staff in Trenton for all their guidance and assistance; all the NJLA Board Members who attended monthly meetings and voiced their opinions on numerous topics of concern; all the chairs, co-chairs and members of Committees, Sections, Roundtables, Sub-Committees, Task Forces and Ad Hoc Committees who diligently undertook and completed the nitty-gritty but important work of the Association; Norma Blake, State Librarian, Jeff Kesper, Director of the Library Development Bureau and to everyone else on the staff of the NJSL for all they did to keep communication and partnerships between the two organizations positive and flowing.

I would also like to thank all NJLA members for their support and their work. Everyone gave 100% and the Association is stronger for their involvement.

It was a fabulous year, and an opportunity of a lifetime! I met so many wonderful, dedicated people during this yearlong journey. I wish everyone well in the coming year and look forward to a continued relationship with everyone as our paths continue to cross as we work for NJLA and NJ libraries.

All my best –

**April L. Judge
President, NJLA**

NJ Libraries NEWSletter is published 4x/year.
Please email all submissions to:
newsletter_editor@njla.org
by January 23 (Spring);
April 23 (Summer);
July 23 (Fall); October 23 (Winter)

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Mission Statement of the New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter

The New Jersey Libraries Newsletter is one of the official publications of the New Jersey Library Association and serves as a vehicle for communication of library issues and activities among the members of NJLA.

Editorial Statement of the New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter

The New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter shall provide news of the New Jersey Library Association and information about statewide, regional and local library activities. News shall be as current as possible within the constraints of the publication schedule and the publication will serve as an archival record of significant and lasting library issues and topics. The New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter shall provide reports from officers, committees, roundtables, sections and other units of the NJ Library Association. It shall also publish reports on trends and practices in the library profession and articles on topics of interest to the New Jersey library community. Ephemeral issues and time-sensitive topics will be covered in the listserv or the Association website.

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From the Editor

What is it about the “book” that makes it so appealing, even addictive? For years, prognosticators have doomed the book in light of new technologies and the “paperless society,” yet it continues to awe and thrill all ages and thrives in many venues. At Gloucester County College, our circulation statistics are up and holding steady, even though we are an academic library and don’t even buy as many books as in the past. We offer many online databases, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs and yet our students still gravitate toward books. We belong to the LOGIN consortium (formerly GOLD) that holds over 600,00 items in its database and circulates approximately one million titles per year, and although some of the titles are media, most are print materials.

So where’s the magic? Books are paper and ink (text, photos, charts, graphics), whose pages are bound together in a portable format that doesn’t require batteries, wires, cables, charging, upgrades or a wireless connection. They have static images (no high-speed blinking images), are portable, stable (page10 won’t disappear unless you tear it out) and reliable - contents don’t

change daily. So if they’re so bland and unexciting, why do most people hate to throw out books? Instead, they “donate” them to libraries so we can do that distasteful job.

Is it because books are tangible, touchable and fairly permanent? Is it because when you read a book, you make a connection and when you see that book cover or title again, you re-live that experience again, the “catharsis” of which the Greeks spoke?

Findings from OCLC’s recent study *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources* www.oclc.org/reports/2005prceptions.htm confirm that “borrowing print books is the library service used most” and “books” are the library brand. Libraries need to capitalize on this perception.

Whatever the mystery ingredient, however, books continue to be popular. Millennials and seniors are reading books for pleasure (and information), but we also need to continually make people aware of the intrinsic joy of reading and the exhilaration of discussing those books with others.

This issue explores the topic - Is the book still viable? and looks at what libraries are doing to promote reading and the book. Book clubs, readers’ advisors and author lists are ways to bring and enhance the experience of the book to readers. Inside, you will find countless ways that NJ librarians and staff are doing this.

Jane L. Crocker, Editor

Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In the beginning of NJLA, there was only the book. History tells us that our original goal was to create libraries to allow NJ residents to share books. It was a simple goal, but library services and programs have expanded tremendously, and it is important to remember that our core service still revolves around circulating books. Although we are utilizing new technologies to bring information to peoples’ desktops, laptops, and iPods, it all started with, continues with, the book.

Books are the foundation of literacy. I still can’t foresee the day when storyhour will begin with each child holding a laptop and following along with *Good Night Moon*. If that happens, something very precious will have vanished from our culture.

The advancements of new technologies have left many pundits wondering about the future of the book. Fortunately, this “old” technology still has great appeal to most people. The advent of large bookstore chains and online book retailers indicate that it is a form of communication that people still value. Public library circulation statistics have risen over the past decade. People are still using libraries to get books. Libraries may be replacing cassettes and videos but book purchasing remains strong.

Many NJLA initiatives focus on our love of the “book.” The Garden State Children’s Book Awards was one of the first literary awards in which children voted on the books they liked best.

The popularity of that award resulted in the development of the Garden State Teen Book Awards, which allows teens to also vote for their favorite books.

“Books for Kids,” another program that focuses on books, is conducted by our Children’s Services Section and collects new or gently used books to be given to low income children during the holiday season. Thousands of books have been donated and, more importantly, thousands of kids have been given the joy of owning their own books. This year, NJLA will partner with the Trenton Thunder baseball team to sponsor a book drive at one of their games.

The One Book NJ program is another way in which NJLA joins readers with books.

The “Statewide Summer Reading” program, conducted by NJLA and the NJ State Library, attracts thousands of participants each year. Kids in this program read about a million books last year (don’t tell these kids that no one reads books anymore.) Youth services librarians use the summer reading program as an opportunity to engage kids (and their parents) with the wide-range of services available in our libraries, but the foundation of the summer reading programs is all about books.

NJLA’s new roundtable, “Readers’ Advisory Roundtable,” will share ideas on types of programs to connect customers with books. To date, approximately 90 members have joined this roundtable.

I cannot foresee a time when NJLA will not have programs that center on reading and books. Although we cannot predict the future, I hope that some future archivist will not look back and wonder why NJLA was so devoted to the book. To me it is our foundation. Read *Good Night Moon* to a child you know and build on that foundation.

Pat Tumulty, NJLA Executive Director

“Books are Hot”...continued from page 1

libraries worked to be the best information providers. Our customers need to know that libraries are places where conversations about books are encouraged, nurtured, and initiated. Encouraging reading and discussion of what we read creates community, improves literacy, and brings people to our libraries.

It can be scary to be a readers' advisor – suggesting books to people we hardly know. But the benefits are wonderful—for our customers, libraries, and society. Reading teaches us about ourselves and others, connects us with great ideas and insights, improves literacy, and helps with the socialization of new Americans. There's something extraordinary about experiencing the re-creation of reality on the printed page. How many of us still own novels that we read years ago but can't bear to part with, even though we may never read them again?

I've always remembered the start of the quote inscribed above the door of the Brooklyn PL that impressed me as a teenager; “Here are enshrined the longings of great hearts...” Books touch our hearts and minds in strange and mysterious ways. How wonderful to be able to foster that connection!

From the Incoming President

Joan E. Bernstein, President-Elect, NJLA
2006 Library Journal Mover and Shaker
Chair, Advisory Council, RSVP of Burlington County



Joan E. Bernstein,
President-Elect, NJLA

I hope you enjoyed the NJLA annual conference this year as much as I did. Overwhelmingly, the comments I have heard so far are that it was that it was one of the best ever, due, in large part, to the wide array of terrific program offerings.

Congratulations to the Conference Committee, chaired by Cindy Czesak, and also to all of the committees, sections and roundtables that sponsored programs this year! Your contributions made the conference a great experience for all of us.

As I begin my presidency, I think back fondly to the committees on which I have served over the years. I joined my first committee, Personnel Administration, in 1996. I valued the time I spent on that committee because of the opportunity it gave me to work with, and network with, colleagues whom I would otherwise not have met. I've made many friends over the years since then through committee work and through serving as a member of NJLA's Executive Board. My career and my life have been made much richer because of my involvement in NJLA.

A few years ago, I decided to step back from NJLA and take a breather. We had a major project underway at my library that placed extraordinary demands on my time, and so I thought I

would let some other people “step up to the plate” and get involved with the organization. I did that for two years and realized how much I missed NJLA. There's a special energy that runs through the organization and I missed feeling it and being stimulated by it.

I especially missed the talented and motivated colleagues who volunteer their time to help librarians and libraries through their work in the organization.

When I was able to devote the time, I renewed my NJLA involvement, and decided to accept the nomination to run for president. I guess it was a combination of being ready to take on a new challenge and a sense of obligation to offer my services to an organization that has enriched my professional life so much.

I encourage you to join an NJLA committee or roundtable this year, especially if you have not been active in the past. I'll guarantee that you'll meet some incredible, exciting colleagues, and that your efforts will strengthen both NJLA as an organization, and you as a professional. Who knows? Maybe you, too, will love your NJLA experiences so much that you'll decide to run for president.

President Joan Bernstein's Installation Speech will be presented in the Fall Issue of the Newsletter, together with Committee/Roundtable Chairs and Section Officers.

25 Year NJLA Members

NJLA acknowledges the 25-year members from South Jersey. The members were honored at the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative's Planning Day on March 2, 2006 at the Pine Hill Golf Club in Blackwood, NJ. Photo by Pete Bromberg, SJRLC.



(pictured from left) Karen Avenick, library consultant; Jane Crocker, Gloucester County College Library; Doug Rauschenberger Haddonfield PL; Ginny Ciocci, Cherry Hill Free PL; Karen George, Atlantic County Library System; and Karen Hyman, SJRLC.

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NEWS from NJLA

SECTIONS, ROUNDTABLES, COMMITTEES

Member Services Committee

Now is the time to renew your 2006-07 NJLA membership. Remember that NJLA helps you develop your career, enhances your skills, keeps you informed of current trends and important issues and serves as our professional advocate. Renew today and support your NJLA. For more information, contact Judith Mansbach, Branch Coordinator, Edison Township PL, Co-Chair Member Services Committee at: (732) 287-2297 or jellmans@lmxac.org

Ways and Means Committee – NJLA Store Now Online

“The two things I talk about when I go back West is how friendly the folks in NJ are and how great the NJLA store is. I've been to conferences across the country and no one has anything like this!” *Nancy Pearl, librarian, author, lecturer, and action figure.*

Did you know that you can shop the NJLA store from the comfort of your home or library? It is now online at: www.njla.org/store While it cannot offer the phenomenal variety of the physical store (we're trying!) you will find a variety of throws, totes, ties, and scarves – and soon watches and jewelry will be available.

Shopping is easy and safe. Print out the order form, fill it out, and mail or fax it to the NJLA office, or call and order over the phone. MasterCard, Visa, and checks are accepted.

So if you need a gift for a retiring colleague, a new library school graduate, an anniversary present for a staff member, or simply a gift for yourself, go to the online NJLA store.

Reference Section News

The Reference Section and the Reader's Advisory Roundtable are co-sponsoring a workshop on writing book reviews and using them to market your collection, on Monday, October 23 at the Bridgewater Branch of the Somerset County Library System.

The Section, together with Infolink, is planning a mid-winter workshop on notary services, including training and issues involved in providing the service.

Two proposals for the 2007 Annual Conference are being discussed: a program by Sophie Brookover, Camden County Library System, on the incorporation of popular culture into our work, and the US Census Bureau is interested in making a presentation at conference.

Anyone interested in participating in the Reference Section is invited to attend our meetings. The next meeting is planned for sometime in August. Comments on the above programs, or suggestions for other programs are welcomed. For more information, contact Section President Paul Schroeder at: pschroed@hUBLIB.lib.nj.us or Section V-P Sherry Kowalwski at: kowalski@main.morris.org

Check out the latest issue of our newsletter – The Reference Section Quarterly at: www.njla.org/sections/reference/newsletter.pdf Submissions are welcome. See the newsletter for guidelines.

What About One Book NJ?

Pat Vasilik, Children's Coordinator
Clifton PL

In 2003, NJLA, with the generous assistance of the NJ State Library, a grant from AT&T and some smaller donations from other companies, launched the first One Book NJ program. Of course, our state program was not content to just encourage adults to read and talk about one book. Our program expanded to include readers of all ages by adding a young adult selection and two selections for children, one for older children and a read-to-me selection for our youngest book lovers.

In that first year, over 600 programs statewide were done. In its four years, the program has been scaled back, but not its enthusiasm. This year we featured YA author, Joyce McDonald. She spoke to an audience at The Freehold Mall, which graciously allowed us program space. Shoppers and library lovers alike received free copies of the One Book NJ selections, and free autographed copies of *Swallowing Stones*. Shoppers stopped by to hear Ms. McDonald read a selection from her book and to answer questions. We gave away lots of books and talked to a lot of “regular” people about the program. Mike Rossi, the artist who has designed the poster for the past two years was there, autographing posters and posing for pictures.

Programs offered across the state have included the traditional book discussions and storyhours and some nontraditional ones. The Washington Township Library in Morris County had Jo Coudert, the co-author of *The Ditchdigger's Daughter* at their library. The Woodbridge PL presented a performance of *Amber Brown is Not a Crayon* done by the ArtsPower Theater group in May. Many libraries have had pizza parties, discussions over coffee and cake, and a make your own sundae program for kids. *Wild About Books* fits right into the summer reading theme!

If your library has done or is planning to do a One Book program, please post the program information on the One Book NJ calendar.

The calendar (and programming ideas) can be found on the OBNJ website, www.onebooknewjersey.org Or, if you have suggestions for a book, or any other ideas, use the contact email address on this website.



What About the Book?

Arlene Sahraie, Library Services Director
Bergen County Cooperative Library System

At BCCLS, the book (in all formats) rules! 2006 is BCCLS' Year of the Spoken Word and we are committed to initiatives that promote reading and books.

"Selected Shorts," National Public Radio's program celebrating the short story, is scheduled for June at the Millburn Library. In the fall, we will host an online book discussion group (**One Book BCCLS**), that will bring people and books together.

"Invite an Author" is a monthly email that informs BCCLS librarians about authors who are willing to speak at library events. In 2006, we highlighted the following authors:

Irene Kelly, a Jersey native who has written three children's books about animals, might be perfect if you're looking for programming to complement this year's Statewide Summer Reading theme: "Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales." Her website is www.irenekellybooks.com and her latest book is *A Small Dog's Big Life: Around the World with Owney*. Contact Irene at irenekelly1@mac.com

Joan Gould's *Spinning Straw into Gold*, is an excellent choice for a non-fiction selection for book clubs. Joan won't charge any library a fee, but may require travel expenses. Her website is: www.joangould.com or contact her at joan@joangould.com

Michelle Blake and husband **Dennis McFarland** live in Massachusetts but will do online chat or "visit" by speakerphone. Michelle is the author of *The Book of Light*, *Earth Has No Sorrow*, and *The Tentmaker* and Dennis authored *Prince Edward*, *Singing Boy*, *A Face at the Window*, *School for the Blind*, and *The Music Room*. Contact them at michelle.blake@comcast.net

Katharine Weber's latest novel, *Triangle*, is due out in June. Ms. Weber, a Yale professor, is also the author of *The Little Women*, *The Music Lesson*, and *Objects in Mirror are Closer Than They Appear*. Visit her website www.katharineweber.com or contact Katharine at katweber@snet.net

My list of sixty-five authors interested in working with NJ libraries includes:

Sandra Benitez, author of *Night of the Radishes*, *Weight of All Things*, *Bitter Grounds*, and *A Place Where the Sea Remembers*, lives in Minnesota but is available for online and speakerphone visits. Visit Sandra's website at: www.sandrabenitez.com
Contact her at sandraabenitez@msn.com

Josh Braff, author of *The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green*, lives in California but is a Jersey boy whose family still lives here. If he's visiting, he'll make an effort to do a program for you. Contact Josh at joshbraff@sbcglobal.net

Judsen Culbreth, author of *The Boomers' Guide to Online Dating* has done library programs with enthusiastic audience turnout. Visit her website at: www.judsendculbreth.com or contact her at judsen@comcast.net

Joan Cusack Handler, poet and educator, does grant funded poetry workshops for libraries and schools. Visit: cavankerrypress.org or contact Joan at joan@cavankerrypress.org

Janice Harayda, author of *Manhattan on the Rocks* and *The Accidental Bride*, is the Jersey resident who asked why more libraries don't invite authors to do programs. When I told her that money and fear of a poor turnout were concerns, Jan responded that sometimes "authors go to Barnes and Noble and six people turn out. Ask us to come!" Visit www.janiceharayda.com or contact her at janiceharayda@aol.com

Mickey Pearlman, author of *What to Read: The Essential Guide for Reading Group Members and Other Book Lovers* and guru of all things book club, gives brilliant presentations on how to build a better book club and be a better reader. Visit www.mickeypearlman.com or contact her at drmlp@hotmail.com

Saralee Rosenberg, author of *Claire Voyant*, and *A Little Help from Above*, (both optioned for TV) is sure to keep groups laughing while discussing life's profound issues. Visit Saralee's website at: www.saraleerosenberg.com or contact her at saraleerosenberg@aol.com

Abby Werlock, author of the soon to be released *Facts On File Companion to the American Novel*, and *Facts On File Companion to the American Short Story* has plenty to say about great literature and can be reached at abby@werlock.com

The full "Invite an Author" list is at: www.bccls.org/arlene/InviteAnAuthor.html For more information, email me at arlene@bccls.org

To the question, "What about the book?"
these authors responded:

Stories help us know what's happening to
others...[and]...might help with what's
happening to us.

Books and libraries will be with us forever."

– Sandra Benitez

"Nothing--no DVD, CD, blog,
e-mail correspondence, iPod,
BlackBerry...replaces a reader's
relationship with a given book...
Without our libraries, we are lost."

– Mickey Pearlman

"The book as object, will always be
relevant to the serious reader...fiction
and biography...will always be best
experienced in this traditional
format...[and] there will, I believe...
be an enduring appreciation and demand
for...the book you hold in your hands,
the pages you turn, the paper and
glue and ink you smell and see.

– Katharine Weber

Highlight Reading!

Wendy Bloom, Director
Ramsey Free PL

At the Ramsey Free PL in Bergen County, “What About the Book?” means “Highlight Reading!” We transformed an entire section of periodical shelving into a four-segment book display opportunity.

One section is always *Staff Picks*. Woe to anyone who attempts to change that section because we hear the protests from our patrons immediately. Staff Picks is closest to the Circulation Desk, our answer to the impulse purchase area at the supermarket. We have had copies of *The Da Vinci Code* on that shelf since it came off reserve and they still fly out the door. So do classics like *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, perennial favorites like *The Remains of the Day* and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and anything we can grab by sure-fire authors like Anne Tyler or Alice Hoffman. Titles don't have to be fiction, just guaranteed to catch the reader. Try *The Kite Runner*, *The Lovely Bones*, *Three Junos* or *The Perfect Storm*. You'll discover that there actually are people who haven't yet read them.

We often use free posters for inspiration. Issues of *American Libraries* frequently include one and you can always pick them up at conferences. “National Poetry Month” in April gets our patrons to read outside their ordinary genre, but not just *Leaves of Grass*. Put Jack Prelutsky or Shel Silverstein out for adults, and Allen Ginsburg and Sylvia Plath to put them in perspective. We add haiku, how to write poetry books, biographies of poets and a circulating copy of *Poet's Marketplace* too. You never know what will inspire NJ's next William Carlos Williams.

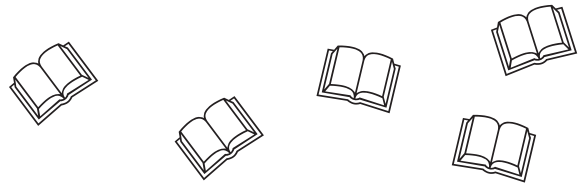
Seasonal themes are popular throughout the year, but we use *Chase's Calendar of Events* to tweak the usual suspects. Sure, March is “National Women's History Month,” but it is also “Small

Press Month” and includes “National Pig Day.” Think of the fun you can have with a display of titles like *Pigs in Heaven*, *Trying to Save Piggy Sneed*, *Sinister Pig* and *Babe*.

Enticing reading through media really works too. We use a “Book into Movies, Movies into Books” circle with both on the shelf. You don't need to know which came first, but novelized screenplays make very visual books that easily capture reluctant readers. An effective display can also include your audiobook versions.

Ramsey Library is a member of BCCLS, whose website supports books and reading in multiple ways: the “Book of the Day” selection also provides a complete archive; BCCLSVisor, is a Reader's Advisory service, a themed bibliography is offered every month, with annotated selections and cover art linking to the library catalog and an archive of reading group selections from member libraries is posted along with reading group and book sale information, best seller lists, a link to NoveList, and of course, *One Book NJ*. Take a look at the web site: www.bccls.org

Librarians are passionate about books, so it's easy to spread that enthusiasm. Try it!



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What About the Book: Academically Speaking

Denise M. Marshall, Reference Librarian/Head of Information Literacy
College at Florham, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Well, what about the book at academic libraries? In the midst of dire predictions that the book is dead, that little electronic gadgets and widgets will be the new reading tools, and that libraries consequently will die, the book seems to be holding its own. Our Director of Libraries at FDU, Dr. James Marcum, has been pushing book-related events. The concept of a book event where reading is an integral part of the expectations for the audience was a difficult sell, but we are pursuing that goal.

Discussions. Our first book event involved forming a partnership with CHRMS (Center for Human Resource Management Studies), a highly active group on campus. We sponsored breakfast talks with business leaders and presentations by entrepreneurs. Our collaboration led to “Books and Ideas Discussions” at the library, with several programs held on both campuses. Discussions were led by scholars in the book’s field while books were chosen by a committee representing CHRMS, the library and most recently ISE (Institute for Sustainable Enterprise). Since 2003, book discussions have been scheduled once or twice a semester. Titles include; Re-Thinking Science: Knowledge and the Public in an Age of Uncertainty by Helga Nowotny, Peter Scott and Michael Gibbons; Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich; Linked: How Everything Is Connected to Everything Else and What It Means for Business, Science, and Everyday Life by Albert-Laszlo Barabasi; and Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All American Meal by Eric Schlosser (which coincided with the movie, “Super Size Me” by Morgan Spurlock.)

The Library’s latest and most successful book event was Coming of Age in a Globalized World: The Next Generation by J. Michael Adams and Angelo Carfagna. Director Marcum presided at a full house: Adams, the President of FDU, and Carfagna began with a brief explanation of their impetus for writing the book, followed by a question and answer session led by a member of the ISE group. Everyone was asked to come up with a question or comment and these were quickly noted on flip charts and later addressed by the authors. This approach kept the audience engaged and the discussion lively.

Readings and Signings. The Library at Florham has hosted a number of book signings and talks by authors affiliated with the school and the community. **Dr. Harry Keyishian**, a renowned Shakespeare scholar, read from and discussed his book, Screening Politics: The Politician in American Movies, 1931-2001. **Jane Rawlings** offered readings from her book, Penelopeia: A Novel in Verse. Rawlings patterned her novel after Homer’s “Odyssey,” according to Eleanor Friedl, a curator of special collections at the FDU Florham library. “After her reading, Rawlings discussed her research methods and the development process she followed in writing the book. Author **Gordon T. Ward** followed in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, using a bicycle, his feet and a canoe. On the way, he had memorable adventures and gained new insights about our land; its inhabitants, historic and current; and about himself. Ward, a native of NJ, has written about his adventures in Life on the Shoulder: Rediscovery and Inspiration Along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Retracing the 1800-mile trail allowed Ward to compare and contrast the experiences of Lewis and Clark 200 years ago with his today. His journey was “a discovery of self and my connection with everything outside of my being. The spiritual lessons on this journey made me understand . . . how much energy is wasted on worry.” **René Steinke** gave a reading and talk on her second novel, Holy Skirts, which was named one of five finalists for this year’s National Book Award in Fiction. Steinke teaches in both our MFA and BA creative writing programs, and is editor-in-chief of our prestigious journal, The Literary Review. Holy Skirts is based on the life of the flamboyant Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven and set in Greenwich Village in the early 20th century.

Faculty Authors. We acknowledge our faculty authors on the Library homepage <http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=1863> and have also partnered with the University Provost and the Senior V-P for Academic Affairs to host a reception and book talk. The wine and cheese reception, which will become an annual event, was highlighted by the authors who discussed their inspiration for their books, their process, or their most significant experience while working on it.

Book Exchange. Taking a leaf from public libraries, Florham has set up a bookcase in the highly trafficked computer lab where “leave one, take one” is the rule. At first, there was not much traffic, but the area gets more attention now and books are arriving and leaving.

Novel Read. The Freshman writing program at Florham will begin (fall 2006) engaging its students through the “Novel Read” program, in which each Freshman will receive a copy of The Namesake, by Pulitzer prizewinner, Jhumpa Lahiri at summer Orientation, and be expected to have it read by September. The Library will focus on the book in our Freshmen BI sessions. In the fall and spring, the writing program and the library will launch book discussions on this book.

The Future. We hope that this will be a launching pad to discuss books that students are reading in classes. Since I am multidisciplinary, I am hoping that any future books can be approached from many angles at once, perhaps even pairing a novel and a film for discussion.

Meanwhile, it is still a difficult, but hopeful endeavor. Book groups are all the rage now—even online. It’s the popular culture thing to do. I have a degree in Popular Culture, so I hope to expand and grow a reading culture. Besides, I love books too.

UPCOMING ISSUES

Fall '06

The Library as Place

Winter '06

21st Century Reference

Spring '07

Professional Development
and Training

Summer '07

Recruitment and Retention

Talk It Up! The Care and Feeding of Reading Groups

C. L. Quillen, Point Pleasant Borough Branch
Ocean County Library

Because reading groups are more popular than ever before and many libraries support them in their community or offer their own, the Readers' Advisory Roundtable and the Professional Development Committee sponsored this pre-conference at its 2006 NJLA Spring Conference. Mickey Pearlman, author of "What to Read: The Essential Guide for Reading Group Members and Other Book Lovers," spoke. In her opinion, the question "Did you like the book?" should be replaced with "What is the writer trying to tell you?" as that question opens up the discussion. Pearlman spoke about some conventions that are used in literary fiction, and encouraged groups to explore the names that authors give their characters.

Barbara Drummond-Mead, publisher of *Reading Group Choices*, described the qualities they look for when deciding what to include in each year's edition - strong themes, terrific plots, a sense of setting, and a powerful voice. She suggested that reading group leaders try to take their members outside their comfort level when making their selections and that titles be chosen a year in advance. Drummond-Mead also recommended that someone lead each discussion, and that authors attend meetings occasionally.

Martha Burns spoke on ways of promoting reading groups: host a community reads event, keep lists of reading group choices, design bulletin boards, and ask publishers to co-host an author event. She strongly believes that reading groups need to establish ground rules and stick to them. Alice Dillon, Martha's sister, came up with the idea to designate October as National Reading Group Month, and it has been registered with Chase's Calendar and together they authored, *The Reading Group Journal: Notes in the Margin*.

A panel of three librarians, (Pamela Groves from Princeton PL, Jeri [Triano] Gunther from Ocean County Library, and Marianne Kranz from Morris County Library), then discussed their experiences. Groves recently started doing story discussions with an intergenerational audience. Because the stories are read at the start of the discussion, she's able to pull people in on the spur of the moment. She also has a successful book group for home-schooled children.

Gunther is leading several different discussions with teens including a mother/daughter book club, a "We Got Issues" group, and "Guys Read, Too." She identified a number of misconceptions about working with teens: it **isn't** just about the books and reading; the type of food **is** important; it really **doesn't** matter if you've read the book because the discussion **isn't** really about the book; and believe it or not, teens **DO** want adults present (mother/daughter book club.)

Kranz has a number of rules that she follows with the book groups: start on time, stay on topic, read the book, select paperbacks with less than 500 pages, and don't use canned discussion questions. Kranz has discovered that her groups discuss what they want. She pointed out that it's not just what the author brings to the reader; it's what the reader brings to the book.

Nancy Pearl, discussed how bringing people together to talk about books builds community. Pearl gave her advice for handling the person who dominates the discussion. She suggested sitting next to that person and placing your hand on his or her arm because you'll feel the arm tense right before they start to talk. When you feel that happen, turn and suggest that someone else talk. She added that you may need to keep your hand on his or her arm for the entire meeting! Pearl gave helpful hints: ask what they think the author would say about an issue or what would the main character do in those circumstances. She suggested that the leader ask everyone to come with one question.

All the speakers felt that talking about books creates community and fills an important need in our emotional and intellectual lives. Talk it up!

"Kranz has a number of rules that she follows with the book groups: start on time, stay on topic, read the book, select paperbacks with less than 500 pages, and don't use canned discussion questions."

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People in the News

Valerie Bell, Ocean County Library Chief Librarian of Branch Services, and **Joan Bernstein**, Director of the Mount Laurel Library and incoming President of NJLA, were named 2006 “Mover and Shakers” by **Library Journal**, a distinction given annually to only 50 librarians in the U.S. who are shaping the future of libraries.

Bell, an “organizer extraordinaire” founded and co-chaired Ocean County Library’s Diversity Initiative “Connecting People...Building Community.” She was also recognized for coordinating activities of the individual Friends of the Library groups throughout the system.

Bernstein was recognized for her “Trading Spaces” project. Using retail-design techniques, Bernstein helped make the library more attractive and more efficient in using space with limited funding.

Julie DuBois has been promoted to Head, Youth Services of the Mount Laurel Library. She completed her MLS degree from Southern Connecticut State University last spring, and will be continuing her graduate studies this September in the Rutgers-Camden Department of English.

Robert Lackie, Instruction and Reference Librarian at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ, is the 2006 recipient of the Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship. Given annually to honor an individual for contributing significantly to the public recognition and appreciation of librarianship through professional performance, teaching, and/or writing, it consists of \$1,000 and a citation of achievement.

Dr. Betty J. Turock is the 2006 recipient of ALA’s Joseph W. Lippincott Award, which is awarded for distinguished service to the profession of librarianship. “Dr. Betty J. Turock’s contributions to both the ALA specifically and to the profession of librarianship... embody the intent of the Lippincott Award,” said Lippincott Jury Chair Charles Harmon of Neal-Schuman Publishers in New York City.

Honors and Awards

The following awards and honors were presented at the 2006 Spring Conference. Congratulations all!

Library Service Awards

Trustee Recognition Award

Clement Alexander Price, Newark PL

Susan Swartzburg Award

Historic Preservation

Gary Saretzky, Monmouth County

Archives

Public Relations Awards

Total operating budget less \$ 500.00

Program Announcement

Caldwell PL

Newsletter

Sadie Pope Dowdell

Fundraising Literature

Linwood Free PL

Total operating budget of \$ 500,000 to \$ 1,000,000

Program Announcement

West Milford Township Library

Website

Camden County College



Current recipient Gary Saretzky is presented award by Elsaly Palmisano, first recipient (2003) of the Swartzburg Award

Total operating budget of \$ 1,000,000 and over

Fundraising Literature

Princeton PL

Newsletter

South Brunswick PL

Program Announcement

Ocean County Library

Service Brochure

Morris County library

Library Champion Awards

Somerset Hills American Association of University Women

Marlene Z. Asselta President of the Southern NJ Development Council

2006 Journalism Awards

Power of the Press Award

“A Great Newark Hero,” an Op-Ed piece on the life of Charles F. Cummings by Philip Roth in the Newark Star Ledger

Body of Work Award

Bergen Record and The Passaic Herald News

President’s Award

Heidi Cramer, Newark PL

Librarian of the Year Award, 2006

Bonnie Kunzel, NJ State Library

New Executive Board Members

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the NJLA Executive Board. **Michele Reutty** of Hasbrouck Heights Free PL is the new VP/President-elect; **Heide Cramer**, Newark PL is Second V-P; **Nicole Cooke**, Montclair State University is Secretary and **Keith McCoy**, Roselle Free PL is Treasurer.

New Members-at-large are: **Pamela Holmes**, East Orange PL; **Karen Klapperstuck**, Bradley Beach PL, and **Mary Romance**, Roxbury PL.

Isn't it time you got involved? Incoming President Joan Bernstein invites you to join a committee – go to: www.njla.org/committees

Looking FURTHER



BOOKS/ARTICLES

Herald, Diana Tixier. Genreflecting: A Guide to Reading Interests in Genre Fiction. 5th ed. Englewood: Libraries Unlimited, 2000. "Highly recommended...." – Booklist.

---. Teen Genreflecting. Englewood: Libraries Unlimited, 2003. "...well-organized professional guide that works equally well as a collection development tool." – School Library Journal.

John, Lauren Zina. Running Book Discussion Groups: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians. NY: Neal-Schuman, 2006. Any library starting or running book discussion groups will want this practical guide.

Pearl, Nancy. Now Read This II: A Guide to Mainstream Fiction. Englewood: Libraries Unlimited, 2002. "...librarians and booksellers can recommend mainstream fiction to persons who want to find something else "like that title." Lists 500 mainstream novels published between 1990 and 2001 – Booklist.

Pearlman, Mickey. What to Read: The Essential Guide for Reading Group Members and Other Book Lovers. Rev. ed. New York: Harper Paperbacks, 1999.

The Readers' Advisory's Companion. Ed. Kenneth D. Shearer and Robert Burgin. Englewood: Libraries Unlimited, 2001. "...most inclusive collection of its kind, and most entries have full bibliographies..." – Library Journal.

Saricks, Joyce G. The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction. Chicago: ALA, 2001. "...helps librarians painlessly discover the specific appeal of 15 different popular fiction genres, what the benchmark titles are for each, and how to talk to people about the books they love." – Library Journal.

Fister, Barbara, and Barry Trott. "Reading as a Contact Sport." Reference & User Services Quarterly 44 (Summer 2005): 303-309. Details the social aspects of a highly successful online community of mystery readers.

McKee, Beverly. "Adventures with a High School Book Club." Library Media Connection 23.4 (Jan. 2005): 44-46. Discusses factors to be considered by school librarians when planning a high school book club, focusing on the experience at Oliver High School, an inner city school in Pittsburgh, PA.

Starkey, Neal. "Online Book-Clubbing Made Easy." American Libraries 36.8 (Sept. 2005): 50-51.

WEBSITES

The Academy of American Poets. 2006. 2 May 2006 www.poets.org Follow the link for "Poetry Near You," and see how to start your own poetry book club.

Book-Clubs-Resource.com 2005. 2 May 2006 www.book-clubs-resource.com a complete guide to book clubs and reading groups. Outstanding collection of links and information for readers. Includes information about discount book clubs.

BookSpot.com: Book reviews, poetry, literary criticism, authors & more. 2006. 1 May 2006 www.bookspot.com/ Provides discussion guides, information for book group leaders, and information about the book business.

"Readers' Advisory News." Libraries Unlimited. 2006. 1 May 2006 <http://lu.com//cf> Readers' Advisor News, a quarterly e-newsletter published by Libraries Unlimited, publisher of the Genreflecting Readers' Advisory Series.

Reader's Advisory: The Complete Spectrum. 2006. South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative. 1 May 2006 www.sjrllc.org/htm Handouts from the workshop "Readers' Advisory: The Complete Spectrum" held by the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative featuring Mary K. Chelton and Duncan Smith.

Webliography and bibliography created by Rosalind Reisner, Program Coordinator, Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative, Freehold, NJ 07728 roz@cjrllc.org and James Smolens, Adjunct Librarian, Gloucester County College Library, Sewell, NJ 08080 Jsmolens@gccnj.edu

Around THE STATE

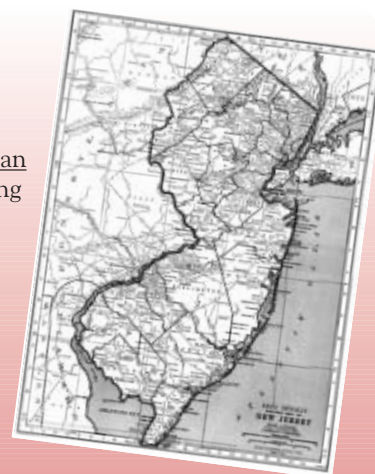
- An excellent two-page article on NJKI (NJ Knowledge Initiative) appeared in the April issue of NJ Business Magazine.
- The 2006 Showcase of New and Renovated Facilities featured the Cherry Hill PL.
- The Glassboro PL celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 2, 2006

- The April issue of American Libraries featured the following articles about NJ libraries:

Joan Bernstein and Kathy Schalk-Greene of the Mount Laurel PL article, "Extreme Library Makeover: One Year Later."

Leslie Burger and Nicholas Garrison's article entitled "Construction Funding 101."

Joseph Rizzo's (NJ architect) article, entitled "Preserving the Past by Looking Into the Future."



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