



Newsletter of the
South Jersey
Regional Library Cooperative
Spring 2001

Connections

15 Years: A Personal Perspective from Karen Hyman

15 years is a long time. I was 39 years old when I began as SJRLC Executive Director. My daughters were in high school and lived at home. My parents and sister were all alive. I was single. The SJRLC has been a constant in my life during changes in all of those categories, but not much has been constant about the Cooperative. We have changed exponentially since 1986. The constants, however have been the secret to our success:

- **We've always been a community.** Before the SJRLC existed, there was a community of library staff from all types of libraries in South Jersey, who knew each other and worked together. We just made it better.
- **We've always been independent.** Down here in the "lone star" region, we've combined the advantages of "geographic undesirability", super originality, and native thrift to fashion ingenious solutions, sometimes beneath the bureaucratic radar.
- **We've always adapted.** With the wherewithal provided by the SJRLC, we've been able to bring the best to South Jersey and to borrow from the finest.
- **We've always been visionary** – looking outward and ahead for new perspectives.
- **We've been committed to the best for the people of South Jersey.** Our first mission statement talks about them ... not us.



- **We've forged partnerships** everywhere possible and been our own best Advocates. We've been too busy and too focused for fighting but not afraid to stand up if we had to.
- **We've had an unbroken string of great leadership**, including nine stellar Presidents with whom it's been an inspiration and a pleasure to work, and a succession of fabulous boards and teams.
- **We've always hired strong staff** – people who would and could take us where we wanted to go – and we've worked hard to keep them.
- **We've focused on ideas** and we've found great ones from stars at all levels of member library organizations.
- **We've had more fun.** □

1 Happy 15th Anniversary!

2 Celebrating Success

3 Reading Program

4 Good-byes & Goofy Acts

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People use libraries.

Libraries use us.

Member Highlights

Many people have contributed to make SJRLC a 15-year success story.

Throughout this newsletter you'll find reminiscences from some of our members.

Member Highlights

William D. Paullin,

Assistant Director, Atlantic County Library System:

The Darwinian Theory states that in order for an organism to survive it must evolve through natural selection and adaptation to the environment.

The South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative is proof of this theorem. Region 6, as I know and love it, has been successful due to the ability of the leadership and membership to gauge the environment in which we exist and adapt the organization.

I have been present since the creation, when the Atlantic County Library System had the privilege of hosting the newly formed Region 6 meetings in our Hammonton Branch. This was one of the first successes of the cooperative, finding a meeting place that was central geographically.

Another early success was the hiring of an extremely capable and energetic Executive Director, Karen Hyman. The process brought a wide variety of candidates from all aspects of the library community. We chose wisely by picking Karen who has made a significant impact in the region, state and on a national level. She continues to represent SJRLC well.

Karen also made great choices in choosing her teammates at the cooperative. Both of her choices for the second professional librarian in the office were well made. Jeanne Robbana was an asset during her tenure with the cooperative. Kathy Schalk-Greene continues to provide excellent services to the membership and the New Jersey library community. Kathy's insight in the area of staff development is invaluable. Karen also has chosen the office support staff well. The individuals who have worked for the cooperative over the fifteen years have made it work seamlessly. It is an office that is both efficient and friendly.

The programs that the region has developed and provided have kept it at the top of the game. Each program was right for the time. The SJRLC has creatively evolved to provide the needed services of the membership and the New Jersey State Library Network. The SOJOURN ILL system was a success. The brokering of discounts for library online services was a success. The establishment of a statewide delivery system was a success. The expansion into the provision of Web Based Reference Services is visionary.

The major successes for the SJRLC happened because it is an organization able to adapt to the environment in which it exists. Sometimes the environment is hostile and sometimes it is supportive, but the SJRLC has shown it is able to deal with whatever comes their way and not just survive but thrive.

Kimberly Fogle, Our Lady of Lourdes School on Nursing Library:

I have to say what a big help it's been to have free access to certain EBSCO databases. What a benefit that has been to the region.

Nancy Forester, Director, Cumberland County Library:

Over the last 15 years, I can remember many "challenges" and the SJRLC's amazing ability to adapt to change--change in the needs of the libraries it serves, change in technologies that drive library service, and change in the priorities of state and local library leaders.

P.S. Perhaps I should mention (for a laugh) that when SJRLC was looking for space, the first office we looked at -- the one with the buckling paneling next to the sleazy motel.



Celebrating Success

We share the successes of our member libraries and staff:

Myron Estelle of the Cumberland County Library was cited for "service above and beyond the call of duty" as listmaster of SJRLC-L, the Cooperative's listserv.

Susan Briant, Pennsauken Free Public Library director was honored by the General Assembly of New Jersey as one of its "Women of Achievement." Assemblyman Jack Connors sponsored her selection.

Micki McIntyre became UMDNJ's HealthyNJ Librarian, responsible for New Jersey consumer health resource, www.HealthyNJ.org.

Jackie Gould, Clearview Regional High School, is President of the Educational Media Association of New Jersey during 2001-2002.

Camden County Freeholder **Riletta Cream** was named NJLA Library Champion. She was also outfitted with wings and a halo by the Camden County Library for being their Library Angel.

Gwen Carotenuto is the new director of the Westville Public Library.

Harrison Twp. School in Mullica Hill will host Herman Parish, author of the newest Amelia Bedelia books. *(continued on page 3)*

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Karen Avenick, Assistant Director of the Camden County Library, was chosen as New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) President Elect for 2002-2003.

UMDNJ's new Public Services Librarian is Lisa Price, formerly of the Mount Laurel Public Library.

Cumberland County Library got a grant from the NJ Historical Commission to put the holdings of the Cumberland County Historical Society Library on their CLUES database.

Claudia Sumler, Director, Camden County Library, was named NJLA Librarian of the Year 2001-2002. □



The 2001-2002 Reading Program, "The Art of Reading: Picture a Good Book," is sponsored by SJRLC's Youth Services Team.

The Program was developed by the 2001-2002 Reading Program Team, lead by: **Linda Meuse**, Cherry Hill Public Library, **Denise Saia**, Franklin Twp. Library and **Tricia Glave**, Burlington County Library. Graphics and layout were provided by **Randee Leightcap**, Community Relations, Atlantic County Library/Galloway.

The Reading Program Kit contains reading lists, activities, reproducible graphics, bookmarks and certificates. It is not dated with a year, so it is useful at anytime. SJRLC members may request a copy of the 2001 Kit from: Denise Saia, 856-694-2833, ftpl@yahoo.com.

Web graphics can be copied from www.sjrlc.org/rp.htm. □

Member Highlights

Deborah Ellis Dennis, Director, Moorestown Library:

I think SOJOURN is one of our greatest accomplishments from the negotiations with the State Library to establish it, to the technical aspects of creation of the database, to the expansion of ILL to libraries where it was either impossible or very difficult to offer fast reliable ILL, to the recent extensions into 2002. It was also a great catalyst to get the techies together to work on other technology projects for the Region.

Marge Golas, Supervisor, Highland Regional HS Library:

Thanks to the SJRLC for Comet delivery system, SOJOURN, and most of all...the free Ebsco online full text databases and discounted databases. What a great thing for small libraries, especially schools.

Carol McClain, Atlantic County Vocational Technical School Media Center:

SJRLC highlights for me have included:

- *Increasing the ease of interlibrary loan which has made my students and colleagues very happy; between that and the Internet (God bless it), I seldom have to say, "Sorry, we don't have that..."*
- *Witnessing and participating in consistent excellence in the development and operation of this organization.*

Joan Getaz, Director, Wolverton Library, Camden County College:

Highlights that come immediately to mind are:

- *Great speakers: George Pruitt, Bil Stahl, Pat Wagner, Rosemary Poverman., the librarians from New York State who described their pilot project that connected rural libraries to the Internet. One of those libraries was in my hometown in the Adirondacks. I remember that little public library. What a window on the world that Internet connection represents!*
- *Guidelines that made libraries and librarians stretch to meet them for Reference, Interlibrary Loan, Electronic Doorway Libraries.*
- *Positive reinforcement: Network Smart Awards, recognition of Library Champions, and Library Partnerships*
 - *Leadership training: how to use a process agenda, set goals, action steps. Your leadership of the cooperative was - and is - a model for all of us.*
 - *SOJOURN!!! It turned our library into a net lender.*

Connections is the newsletter of the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative (SJRLC). SJRLC is a multi-type library membership organization including 560 academic, institutional, public, school and special libraries in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties. SJRLC is part of the New Jersey Library Network. SJRLC services are funded from State tax funds appropriated for the New Jersey Library Network.

Member Highlights

Joan Robbins, Hammonton High School Library:

I think the best SJRLC service for my patrons was, and continues to be, the SOJOURN interlibrary loan catalog. Both students, staff, and administrators are dazzled by the ease, and speed, with which we can obtain items they need. Besides, it makes me look like "Wonder Woman."

The second greatest enhancement is the free EBSCOHost online databases. My budget would not have allowed for such a purchase. My students (and staff) rate this "Awesome!!"

There are so many other things--the collegiality and cooperation that the SJRLC has fostered among librarians from all types of libraries, training opportunities on cutting-edge technology and human resource issues, the vision for the future.

SJRLC has kept me "on my toes" professionally, has raised my consciousness about issues I might not have thought about as a school librarian, and taught me skills and strategies for planning, time management, reference interviews, making meetings work. SJRLC allowed me to develop leadership skills during my tenure on the Board that I have carried over into my professional and personal life.

Judy Olszewski, Supervisor Computer Operations, Cherry Hill Public Library:

I think that one of the best services (of the many that SJRLC provides) is the free and brokered databases that we have access to. I also think the inexpensive training classes offered are fantastic and are glad that you continue to provide them. □

Hello, I Must Be Going...

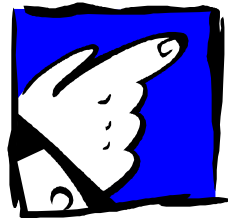
This is my last issue as editor of *Connections*. I have been proud and honored to be the Program Development Coordinator of the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative for the past 8 years. On June 4th, I'll start as the Assistant Director of the Mount Laurel Public Library.

My thanks to all of the members of the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative for countless examples of creative dedicated professionalism from all levels of library staff.

Thanks to my terrific co-workers over the years including Marion Gibson, Donna Hollowell, and Anne Marie Hering for bringing joy and a semblance of order to my day-to-day working life.

Special thanks to Karen Hyman, for nurturing my talents in training and project management, for expanding my vision of what libraries are and can become, and for giving me wings and letting me fly.

Karen has also tolerated much goofy behavior from me over the years--my evaluation raffles, my office basket of gifts, my balloon animal icebreakers. So for my Last Official Goofy Act here are...



Ten Things You Might Not Know About Kathy Schalk-Greene

10. She frequented the Chicago Public Library as a girl to gaze at Tiffany mosaics along the marble stairway and borrow Gilbert and Sullivan records.
9. She's kept every puppet given to her from the age of 5 and is a member of the Puppeteers of America.
8. She earned a degree in Film Theory and History from Southern Illinois University. She thinks her father looked like Buster Keaton.
7. Her first full time job was in a film library.
6. She met future husband, Rich Greene, in the library. (*Talk about customer service!*) He asked her out after they discussed 1930's Betty Boop cartoons.
5. She started her Masters in Information Studies at Drexel University after working at the film library for ten years.
4. She's been married for 21 years to the son of a librarian, Lois Greene, a retired director of Johnson Memorial Library in Deptford.
3. Her daughter Emily is named for a librarian's wife, Emily (wife of Walter) Luertzing. Emily Greene's first public appearance (*on the way home from the hospital, no less*) was at the Camden County Library.
2. She is the incoming President of CLENE, the Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange Round Table of the American Library Association.
1. She thinks librarianship is a noble profession. □