
SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

YOUTH NEWS

Fall/Winter 2007/2008

Letter from the Co-editors' Desk

After the long, hot summer, fall is the perfect time to cool down and try something new. If anyone has something to share regarding a program or activity you have implemented, or are thinking about sponsoring, please let us know. We want to continue providing useful information and new ideas to our colleagues so your input is very important. Contact either Ann Wodarczyk (awodarczyk@gcls.org) or Denise Saia (ftpl@yahoo.com) with your suggestions. Our next issue will be the Spring/Summer edition scheduled for mailing in mid-May.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Co-editors: Ann Wodarczyk and Denise Saia

Oh, Baby, Do We Have a Program for You!

"Infants are just blobs! What can you do with them?" This was a question I was asked by a fellow librarian at the NJLA Conference in Long Branch, where I was asked to do a poster presentation of my literacy grant entitled Read to Your Baby: Babies and Books from the Beginning. After an initial horrified reaction, I did stop to think about the question. While I knew the answer, I was betting not a lot of other people knew the value of baby literacy.

Early literacy (reading and writing) does not mean early reading instruction or teaching babies to read. It is the natural development of skills through the enjoyment of books, the importance of positive interactions between babies and parents/caregivers, and the critical role of literacy-rich experiences. Literacy development begins at birth and is closely linked to a baby's earliest experiences with books and stories. Babies learn language through social literacy experience – parents/caregivers interacting with them by using books. These experiences also serve to associate books with parental/caregiver affection, attention and approval. So this project is designed to encourage parents to engage in developmentally appropriate literacy activities with their babies since they are a critical part of the developmental equation.



Oh, Baby...Continued

Babies need human stimuli. They innately orient to faces and would rather listen to speech or singing than any other kind of sound. Reading to babies is an ideal form of stimulation because it engages visual, auditory, interactive and attention processes in a pleasurable context. Babies who are read to and engaged in lots of verbal interaction, show superior language and math skills when compared to children who are not as verbally engaged.

So what to do with that baby blob? Talk, sing, and tell nursery rhymes to your baby – that is how a baby bonds with the parents/caregivers and learns language. And it is never too early to share books with the baby: show the baby the book and point to pictures; touch the baby when sharing books; talk in a fun and excited voice as you tell a story about the pictures that get your baby's attention.

Each new infant to a Pitman resident or library card holder receives:

Read to Your Bunny Tote
Bib – pink or blue
Rock a Bye Baby Reader (book)
Baby Brochure – pink or blue
Oh Baby Library Card
General Information Library Brochure



At the present time, there are 63 babies registered with an *Oh Baby* library card. They will be tracked until their fifth birthday when they will receive a regular children's library card. Purchased with the grant besides the Baby Tote were additional board books, music CDs and DVDs suitable for infants and very young children, a parenting collection and also display furniture. Lapsits are conducted for children 0-2 on Tuesdays at 10:15 am and Wednesday at 1:15 pm at the McCowan Memorial Library. For additional information, please call the library at 856-589-1656.

Sharon Furgason, Director

2007 Book Evaluation Wrap-Up

On Friday, May 18, the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative's Book Evaluation Program had its final meeting of the 2006/2007 school year at Seneca High School. Thirty-one school, public and special librarians who are focused on children's and young adult services attended the meeting. Our guest speaker was Dar Hosta, children's author and illustrator. During her multimedia presentation, Dar focused on her life, the illustration process, and her Cultivate Creativity philosophy. Dar has written and illustrated four books including I Love the Night, I Love the Alphabet, Mavis and Her Marvelous Mooncakes, and her newest book, If I Were a Tree. Books were offered at discounted prices and Dar was available to sign them. To learn more about our guest speaker, visit her website at www.darhosta.com.

The SJRLC Book Evaluation Program benefits librarians in two ways. First, we get high school quality, newly published books to review. The reviews are written by South Jersey librarians and are posted at <http://www.njyac.org/bookeval/>. Anyone can search for our reviews. Secondly, for every two books that a librarian reviews, he/she gets to keep one instantly. The program now has 47 active reviewers. Last year, South Jersey librarians reviewed over 4500 books. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, please email Amy Rominiecki at arominiecki@lrhdsd.org.

Book Evaluation Schedule

South Jersey Group – all meetings are Wednesdays at 3:30 pm

November 7: Atlantic City Public Library, 1 North Tennessee Ave., Atlantic City. Contact: Jennifer Boyce, 609-345-2269

January 16: Wildwood High School Library, 4300 Pacific Ave., Wildwood. Contact: Kathy Fulginiti, 609-522-7922 x409 (snow date Jan. 23)

March 12: Cape May Special Services, 4 Moore Rd., Cape May Court House. Contact: Amy Hufana, 609-465-2720 x3310 (snow date Mar. 19)

West Jersey Group – all meetings are Fridays at 9:30 am

November 2: Haddon Township High School Library, 406 Memorial Ave., Westmont. Contact: Arlene Baker, 856-869-7793

January 18: South County Branch, Camden County Library, 35 Coopers Folly Rd., Atco. Contact: Janet Ralston, 856-753-2537 (snow date Jan. 25)

March 14: Waterford Township Library, 2204 Atco Ave., Atco. Contact: Eva Lynch, 856-767-7727 (snow date Mar. 21)

Making Literacy a Priority

The Woodbury Public Library has seen a growing number of literacy tutors instructing students at our library. In conversations with these tutors, it was clear that there was an increasing need for an expansion of our collection of books and audiovisual materials for those who are struggling with illiteracy or speak English as a second language. The library was awarded a grant of \$7,700 from the New Jersey State Library to address the community's literacy needs.

The goals of this grant are two-fold. First, to develop a collection to serve a wide group of library users of all ages and offer materials in many formats. Along with new books, this collection includes books on CD, classic books on DVD and finally a laptop computer and Rosetta Stone software that is used by tutors to instruct students in our quiet study rooms. The second goal is to promote this collection extensively through bibliographies and flyers to local schools and libraries in the county.

The response to this new collection has been very positive and the new materials have been shared by many other libraries in the county through interlibrary loan.

Jean Wipf, Director
Woodbury Library
856-845-2611



Books for Kids

The New Jersey Library Association's annual Books for Kids program is underway. Check the NJLA website or contact Carol Simon Levin at clevin@sclsnj.org for more information.

Libraries are urged to collect new, unwrapped books for children and young adults now through early December.



Visual Arts as Sources for Teaching at the Philadelphia Museum of Art

The Philadelphia Museum of Art offers many programs for teachers and students. One of them, VAST, Visual Arts as Sources for Teaching, is an intensive two week summer program that provides teachers in all subject areas with training to create opportunities to use art as an experiential and motivating force in their classrooms from pre-school through college. The program is called *Learning to Look*.

The Museum brings in guest speakers, such as educators from Metropolitan Museum of Art, professors in Art and Writing, working artists and the curators of various collections within the Museum, to share their expertise with teachers in using art in their various disciplines and grade levels.

Each section includes paintings, sculptures, buildings and artifacts from various cultures and time periods reinforcing the belief that creating art is something in which every culture and faith engages. The stories the art reveals show a common bond among all human beings.

In one section, *Telling a Story*, students study works of art from various periods and cultures and think about questions that will reveal a story such as: *What is happening? Who are the people in the painting? What emotions are evident on their faces? What do the colors used tell you about the emotions? What is the setting? What clues do the furnishings, clothing, place of residence, and/or activities tell you about the time, place or the level of financial situation? Tell me the story that you see in the painting.* Each participant in the exercise told a slightly different story that they saw in the painting.



Breaking Home Ties by Thomas Havenden

In another section entitled *Things We Use*, we studied a mosaic wall panel and tried to answer a series of questions such as: *What color is the background? What does it remind you of? What shape are the tiles? How many points does the large star in the center have? Are the designs inside the star, vases and borders simple or complicated? Geometric or freeform? Which lines and shapes are like plants? Why? What words would you use to describe how it would feel to be surrounded by these designs? What does this wall panel tell you about the people who made it?* Lessons in symmetry, geometric patterns, cultural motifs, values, and art as both home decoration and as a means to worship are visible in one work of art.



16th Century wall panel from Iran

Students were given opportunities to learn to make art, despite level of ability, such as creating a panel of canvas that would be included in a fabric quilt, tile making, and brush painting, and nothing spectacular is expected! A renowned teacher and author, Nigel Spivey, spoke and presented parts of his book and film, *How Art Made the World*, sections of which would be a fascinating and informative tool in middle and high school classrooms. Participants had time to explore the galleries on their own after sessions and/or after the day's classes were over.

The seminar is inspiring and worthwhile personally as well as professionally. You will find out more information by visiting: <http://www.philamuseum.org/education/vast.html>.

Lori Del Rossi
Paulsboro High School
ldelross@paulsboro.k12.nj.us

Summer Reading Program at the Franklin Township Library: Juvenile Programs

Get a Clue @your library®, the Summer Reading Program theme, proved to be very popular with our juvenile patrons. Our first activity, suitable for students in grades 1-3, was titled "It's a Mystery of a Program." All participants had to use their sense of touch and smell to identify several different objects concealed in boxes.

Juveniles in grades 4 and 5 were treated to a visit from three Franklin Township Police Department detectives who discussed how crimes are solved and how to take actual fingerprints.

All participants in the juvenile programs received vouchers for free ice cream cones, donated by a local ice cream parlor.

We also held drawings for patrons who guessed the mystery objects that were in the library's display case.

Diane Stockinger
Library Assistant
Franklin Township Library
856-694-2833

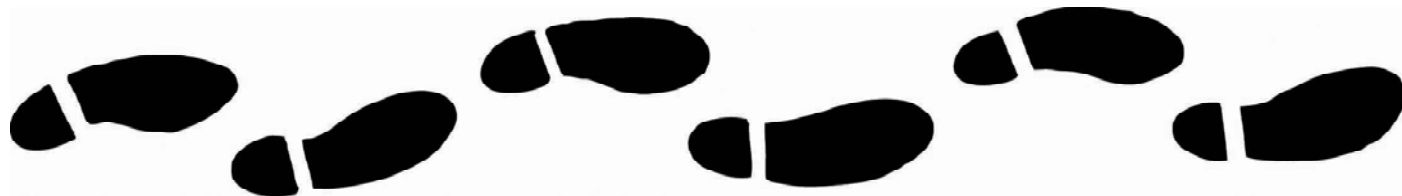
Summer Reading Program at The Franklin Township Library: Preschool Programs

Even the preschoolers had a chance to participate in the Summer Reading Program this year. A total of four storytimes were held that featured stories about guessing, "nosy" noses, shapes, and summer.

The children also had an opportunity to do a craft to correlate with the story theme, for example, construction paper cookies were made to tie in with Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar? Other crafts included flowers with cupcake holders that "smelled" lovely due to scented cotton balls, pretend magnifying glasses made with paper plates and tongue depressors, and a foam craft frog was made with a tongue that actually worked.

The four storytimes were a hit with preschoolers and their parents.

Linda McBride
Library Assistant/Children's Services
Franklin Township Library
856-694-2833



Summer Reading Program at the Franklin Township Library: Crafts

In keeping with the Summer reading theme, Get a Clue @your library®, our first walk-in craft involved creating puzzling and decoding items. These included I Spy bottles, puzzle piece jewelry, tangram puzzle (Grandfather Tang's Story by Ann Tompert), decoding wheel, and puzzle frames to hold pictures of favorite detectives. Additional walk-in craft sessions were held each Friday with themes such as Fun, Fun, Fun Surfin' Safari, Winter in July, and Marvelous Marine Makings.

The crafts were open to all ages and were held from 1-3 pm.

Ellen McCann
Library Assistant/Juvenile and Children's Services
Franklin Township Library
856-694-2833





Young Adult Summer Programs

I had the unique opportunity to work with Pat Collins and Phyllis Schroeder in developing the Gloucester County Library System-Mullica Hill's young adult summer programs. In getting started we brainstormed ideas. Our next step was to develop a teen survey which was distributed to Clearview High School students and other school classes that were visiting throughout the spring. After compiling a sample of the surveys, a list of programs was developed.

Since we were initiating a new program and we realized that sometimes teens perceive the library as not cool, we felt incentives for programs were a good idea. We found that local businesses, especially in Mullica Hill, were very generous with gift certificates, prizes and coupons. Additionally, at the Deptford Mall, privately-owned and a few chain stores donated gift certificates and prizes.

We also found offering teens free food during programs was a good idea. The local supermarket, pizzerias and pretzel shop donated items for many events. One afternoon, while working circulation, a group of boys came in and I invited them back for Food Fear Factor and pizza. I asked them to call some friends and we would feed them all. The boys returned with a nice group and they ended up being the only teens we had for the program. A simple invitation and the incentive of food and prizes made our program successful.

Every program received at least one prize and larger programs were given more. My favorite program was our Fear Food Factor program. Phyllis, Pat and I had scurried and found ten levels of increasingly difficult food items such as pork rinds, green olives, papaya, anchovies, frozen Brussels sprouts, and ending with a tuna fish milkshake. The rules were fun – they must eat everything on their plate and if they threw up, they were disqualified.

Another program I was involved in was the Ska Concert. This was a huge success with over a hundred teens attending. The four bands set up tables and sold their CDs and t-shirts. The kids had a great time and many sang along or danced. They loved the prizes, certificates, free books and book bags. Of course, food and drinks were available. The concert was free, but water, soda and soft pretzels were sold through the Friends of the Library to help supplement the costs of the bands.

Teens did not come for the movies, ancestry lesson, or the book discussions. They did enjoy the Sunday evening of video games sponsored by the local Game Crazy store, and some of them even brought their parents to the programs presented by the South Jersey Ghost Researchers and the Gloucester County Crime Scene Investigating team. Phyllis showed some teens how to make colors explode on tie-dyed t-shirts and taught others how to play pinochle.

We felt that the summer teen program was a success even though the survey indicated that teens would not sign up for a summer reading program. The hundreds of non-assigned books that circulated also showed that teens found the library a cool place to be this summer.

Carolyn Oldt
Gloucester County Library
Mullica Hill
856-223-6000

Youth Services Forum Workshop

The Youth Services Forum at the Monmouth County Headquarters on Wednesday, October 17, was very inspiring. The keynote speaker, Leslie Burger, spoke about how libraries can be a positive influence to the communities we serve. What will it take to keep that positive influence five years from today? Leslie remembered a program some years ago at the Princeton library where students were invited to have an overnight stay. A gentleman, Leslie sees from time to time, still reflects on that program and how the library has given him so many unique learning opportunities throughout his life. How does the public see us? We all have our part and opportunities to give to the people we serve. It could be making a special hat with a preschooler, homework help for a teen, a mom needing a book to read after the children are quietly tucked in bed, a father needing a book for simple recipes to cook for dinner, or just simply asking, "How are you doing today?"

Leslie also spoke about the words "juvenile" and "fine." Maybe the word "youth" could be used in place of juvenile and the words "late fee" could be used instead of fine. This sounds positive as opposed to feeling bad about not returning an item on time.

At the workshop, "If at First You Don't Succeed...Grant, Grant Again," Jessica Trujillo, from the New Brunswick Free Public Library, gave this advice to use when writing a grant – "Give the people what they ask for." Also consider how the grant will create opportunities for the people served. Jessica was successful in receiving a grant in the amount of \$43,000 from NASA.

Barbara Mease
Gloucester County Library
Mullica Hill
856-223-6000

South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative

YOUTH NEWS

Paint Works Corporate Center
10 Foster Avenue, Suite F-3
Gibbsboro, NJ 08026
www.sjrhc.org



YOUTH NEWS is the newsletter of the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative Youth Services Committee, Char: Denise Saia, Franklin Township Library, Franklinville. SJRLC Director: Karen D. Hyman. Telephone: (856) 346-1222, FAX: (856) 346-2839. The South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative is part of the New Jersey Library Network and serves the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem. SJRLC is supported from State funds appropriated for the New Jersey Library Network. YOUTH NEWS is published three times a year and is distributed to libraries as part of membership benefits. EDITORS: Ann Wodarczyk, Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill, NJ and Denise Saia, Franklin Township Library, Franklinville, NJ. Design and layout by Deborah Swierk, Franklin Township Library, Franklinville, based on a design by the Community Relations Department of the Atlantic County Library System.