

Director's Report, May 2016

	May 2015	May 2016
Children's books and magazines	3862	3963
Children's media	345	404
Adult books and periodicals	4081	4090
Adult media (DVDs, video games, MP3 and CD books, Music CD's)	4078	2916
eContent and Database Usage	771	1360
Young adult books	493	503
Periodicals in-house usage	310	297
Microfilm use	118	69
Reference Questions	1725	1960
Computer Assistance at Reference Desk	373	594
Adult Internet Usage	2761	2281
Children's Internet, iPad, Game Computers, Word Processing Usage	689	749
JPL's wireless usage (reports from our routers, hand devices too)	1818	2358
Children's program attendance, includes guitar classes/concert, and class visits	254	314
YA and Adult Program attendance (Library & Community)	208	467,
Young Adult Programs	20	74
Electronic Door Counter (half of entries recorded)	21,458	16,010

Adult Events Highlights



Games of Thrones PUB TRIVIA!
Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Presenters: Mari Zigas, Kate Cannarozzi, Genesis Jais
Attendance: 25

A great mix of pub trivia players, all in their 20s came to the Pointin Still just for the JPL librarians' presentation of their Game of Thrones trivia contest and accompanying memes projected on their screen tv. The trivia game was very clever, created by several staff members and presented by Mari, Kate and Gen. Laughter, bar food, and intense concentration alternated with jokes from the slightly tipsy

participants at the bar. Afterwards, someone who does trivia in another pub said we did a fantastic job. Pointin Still wants us back asap. The pub trivia activity was Kate Cannarozzi's idea. The next one is in July 19, Harry Potter theme.



(Team B working hard on their trivia questions)

(JPL's Mari Zigas and Genesis Jais – Pub Trivia presenters)

***Sinatra & His Friends of the '50's
Tuesday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m.***

Facilitator: Barb Schuit

Attendance: 59

Joe Gilligan and Donnie Fararro once again did a great job of making it a very enjoyable program with great music drawn from Sinatra, Dean Martin, Perry Como, and others of that era, as well as lots of fun jokes and information about the various artists whose music they were singing. They even had some of the audience members up and dancing with one of the songs, and everyone loved that! (Barb Schuit)

Open Mic Night

Thursday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m.

Facilitators: Sharon Castanteen and Kate Cannarozzi

Attendance: 32

Our headline act this month was Inma Heredia, Flamenco Dancer. Inma was not only a talented dancer, but she encouraged the audience to participate and dance with her. She had about 8 of us on stage and dancing during one number. I was sitting next to a woman who brought her mother. They danced and sang along with Inma. They thanked me for having a performer doing Spanish music. Their native language is Spanish and they knew all the songs!

One attendee who heard about us from Meetup.com, gave us a good review on Meetup.com the next day, saying, "This was fantástico!-" (Kate Cannarozzi)





Life Story Workshop: Then, Now, and Forever
Thursday, May 12, at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Barb Schuit

Total Attendance: 12

The presenter, Donna Atkins, did a very good job, was well prepared, and connected well with the participants. She had prepared a soft-cover binder for each participant with the outline of the basic topics that should be covered when trying to put together a life's worth of information and memories in an organized way. She gave time to briefly sketch in some of the information, and gave clear guidance as to the types of questions

they should answer for those who will want or need the information at a later time. She helped them to see that it isn't too daunting a task if approached in smaller, topical, sections. She walked us through the kinds of information that would be helpful to family members of future generations. (Barb Schuit)

Frida Kahlo-Inspired Still Life Drawing

Wednesday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Presented by: Barbara Freiberg (BA in Studio Art)

Facilitated by: Barb Schuit

Attendance: 12

It was a class to learn how to draw, using still-life paintings of famous artist Frida Kahlo as models for proportion and color. The participants were very interested in the concepts Barbara explained, and eagerly drew and colored their own copies of samples of Frida Kahlo's still life paintings. For most of the class, the "watercolor pencil crayons" were a new thing. They are colored pencils that, after coloring a picture, a slightly wet paintbrush can be used over the coloring to make it look like a watercolor painting. (Barb Schuit)



Creating a Job-Specific Cover Letter

May 24, 2016 7 pm - 8 pm

Presenter: Rachel Fuld-Cohen, Career Counselor

Facilitator: Catherine Folk-Pushee

Attendance: 9

Right from the beginning Rachel appeared very personable and energetic. She started by encouraging everyone to introduce themselves and say a little about their motivation for coming to the program. Then she jumped right in on the best practices for great cover letters.

First, don't reiterate what is in your resume, expand on specific skills relevant to the job. Give concrete examples of when and how you used those skills. At this point someone raised a good question; what if there are no skills listed in the ad? Rachel had a great response right away. She suggested talking to someone in a similar position or look up similar positions to find applicable skills. Then, Rachel outlined the structure of a cover letter and went into detail on how to fill in each section with the main focus on the body paragraph. She suggested creating a bank of short paragraphs each on a specific skill so when the time comes you can pull out a few relevant ones without recreating the wheel with each new application. I loved that piece of advice and there were quite a few heads nodding along with me. (Catherine Folk-Pushee)

Comment from participant: "Please have her back!"

Other Events, Clubs, etc.:

Book Clubs: 15, Movies: 15

ReServe 55+(6), Citizenship Class (13), Veteran's Counseling (5) Coloring Club(25):

Computer Skills, Job Search, and Inspect Your Gadget: Kathryn Cannarozzi, Genesis Jais , Catherine Folk-Pushee Total Attendance: 23

Individual computer instruction is for *Hackensack residents* only. This month included basic formatting in Word, resumes, cover letters, email, evaluating web results, YouTube, LinkedIn, tablets, Facebook, etc.

Highlight from Catherine Folk-Pushee:

I assisted a woman I met at my small business lunch and learn the previous month with further learning related to business start-up resources. She has an idea for a product and would like to turn it into her own small business. I reviewed some of the resources I covered in the workshop and gave advice on how she should proceed. I referred her to the Small Business Development Center for more specific advice and answers for her questions.

Highlight from Kate Cannarozzi: (Kate has been studying Intermediate Excel)

This month I helped a patron learn the basics of Excel for her job in medical/hospital billing. In particular we worked on understanding how a formula works and can be edited. We also worked with graphs and editing and formatting them. The patron was so happy to get free of cost personalized assistance that she offered to buy me dinner, which I, of course, politely declined.

Inspect Your Gadget Report (7 drop-in)

Some of the issues/questions addressed this month:

- Signing into wireless network
- How to look for printer drivers online and install them
- Specific smartphone features like notifications, clearing notifications, using maps
- Pros and cons of Google Play, Spotify, Pandora
- Helped a patron get ready for vacation by
 - Explaining airplane mode and keeping the wireless turned on.
 - Installing an SD card in her phone to have more space to take photos.
 - Move apps and install Google Translate

English Conversation, Computer Assistance in Spanish and English, and Bilingual Outreach. Michelle Acosta, Bilingual Library Associate
Attendance: 75

Michelle Acosta will be taking over Citizenship Classes from Isaac Annan, who has helped over 500 immigrants become naturalized citizens. Michelle has taken some initial training and is already making plans to expand the program.

Spanish Computer- Attendance= 7 (Email, Job Search, etc.)

English Computer – Attendance = 3 (Hoopla, Overdrive, saving music on a flashdrive, Job Search)

ESL conversation class – Attendance = 54. Nice weather always brings back students. Most of them do not have cars and use public transportation. I have been switching the format of this class. Instead of me picking the topic I let them pick. I choose between 6 different topics and they choose. I think that this past week we had a great conversation about laughter clubs. People join laughter clubs just to laugh (no comedians). They all thought that was the silliest thing. The class is very diverse. There are people from Europe, Middle East, South America and the Caribbean.

Family Reading Workshop – Attendance = 11 This workshop is designed to help enhance the quality reading time when caregivers read to their children.. Practicing at home with books given to them from the library. In the last session a parent asked to have a computer workshop for parents to teach their children about the good and the bad of the Internet.

Parents learned things like:

- PEER method - Practice, Evaluate, Expand and Repeat to ensure understanding
- CROWD method- completion questions, Recall questions, Open ended questions, WH- question and distancing questions
- Scaffolding
- Shared reading
- Dialogic reading
- Phonemes

Young Adult Programs
Report by Keri Adams, YA Librarian
Attendance: 24 in library & 50 outreach

YA Books for Adult Readers Book Club

5/14/16 - Blankets by Craig Thompson - 8

Teen Tuesday

5/3/16: Video Games - 11

5/10/16: Half Day Movie: The 5th Wave: 13 (Genesis ran for me since I was out)

5/17/16: Pop Culture Magnets - 7

5/24/16: Art Club – 4 (Genesis ran this since I was on vacation)

5/31/16 – No Teen Tuesday because there was no school due to a lack of snow day use. We are done for the year!

Lunch Table at Hackensack High School - 5/19/16 - 50 students

I got to see a lot of old favorite summer reading and teen Tuesday kids, most of whom were very excited about this year's summer reading program. A few signed up to volunteer.

I learned I received a \$1000 grant from the Hackensack Rotary Community Grants program for makerspace programming! This will enable us to buy a wide variety of STEAM activities for our teens including circuits, makey makeys, a sewing kit, button maker, green screen, simple robots and more. They will be primarily used during our Maker Day program during summer reading and can all continue to be used in future STEAM activities.

Children's Program Highlights, by Mari Zigas



May was a busy month not only with new programs bringing in more people, but attendance was up at most of the regular ones as well.

The regulars wait every week for Chess Club to meet (they always come in super early) – they love playing against Masshiel, our chess master, and the older kids are always so helpful with the younger beginners who have progressed so much since the fall.

Video Game Club may very well be a cult for these kids. They come down to the auditorium while I'm setting up every Wednesday and are so eager to play that they help set up everything so they can start early. The Xbox wrestling game is the most popular - picking their characters seem to be a live or die concept. Other kids use the Wii (Wii Sports and Just Dance are the usuals) and the laptops for Roblox and Minecraft. On a good day Video Games gets around 20 kids a week, more than any other program.

Preschool Story Hour is a hip-happening place on Wednesday mornings. The parents love the fresh new crafts and are so happy that their kids look forward to it every week. Some of the themes we did this month were kites, farm animals, flowers for Mother's Day, and the awesome ninjas.

Mother Goose is bringing in so many people that it's literally like a night club in that back corner. Even with the new songs, musical instruments and parachute, this program is going to be revamped throughout the summer to include puppets, manipulatives, and non-17th century songs that don't always end with a child getting punished.



I can't say enough good things about Bilingual Story Time. It's the most popular new program we have, and the kids and parents absolutely adore Gladys. We have been using the same themes from regular story hour, and some kids love it so much they come two days in a row. BST has the same format as regular story hour - 3 books, a short movie (in Spanish with English subtitles) and a craft. Because of this program's popularity Gladys will be running two new bilingual events in the summer.

Babette prepared and I ran Pop Culture Magnets, where kids used patterns and tiny beads to create characters, Pokemon, shapes, etc. fused together with an iron.

Besides melting the test one I made, it was an absolute hit and we will definitely do this program again in the fall. #winwinwin

Gladys organized our first-ever Cinco de Mayo event, where kids made sombreros out of paper plates and plastic cups, and decorated their own lucha masks while listening to Selena. It was a drop-in program after school and brought in kids from ages 5 to 12. So much fun and oddly relaxing.

We hosted our first family night, a Spaghetti Western Dinner and Movie. Gladys and I made about 10 pounds of spaghetti with meatless sauce and parmesan cheese. After dinner we showed Toy Story 2, the closest thing I could find to a kids' Western. Sadly we only had 5 in attendance, but are looking at other possible ways to bring in more parents to night events. One of the mothers came up to us and told us how she and her son had a great time and will spread the word around. Meetup.com and Macaroni Kid were suggested at the Programming Meeting.



This month also brought in a lot of teenage Special Needs groups, mainly from the Friendship House on Atlantic St. The kids are becoming extremely comfortable here and it's really nice to provide an inviting and fun place for them to spend time. The aids are constantly thanking us for being so understanding and good with the kids; it's very rewarding.

Student Guitar Concert, ages 8 to 18.

Saturday June 4, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Facilitators: Jorge Meneses, Kate Cannarozzi, Michelle Acosta

Attendance: 55



This concert is a culmination of 8 weeks of three levels of classes. Mr. Meneses offers these classes free of charge to the library and we restrict the classes to Hackensack resident children. The concert is always a time of pride and joy in seeing how much the children learn in such a



short time. This time, Mr. Meneses played his upright bass with a star pupil, together they played Latin Jazz to end the concert beautifully.

Outreach and Publicity

Hackensack Chronicle

May 20, 2016 issue

Photos and caption, Page 3

“Music Lessons at the Library”

Caption: “Instructor Jorge Meneses teaches lessons during a “Learn to Play the Guitar” program on May 14 at the Johnson Public Library.”

Hackensack Chronicle

May 27, 2016 issue

Photos and caption, page 3

“Celebrating the music of the 50s”

Caption: Donnie Farraro and Joe Gilligan perform hits from Frank Sinatra and others during a program called Sinatra and his Friends of the 50’s at the Johnson Public Library.

Professional Development

Staff/Trustee Name: Sharon Castanteen, Catherine Folk-Pushee, Cynthia Ortiz

Continuing Education Activity: New Jersey Library Association Conference

Sponsor: NJLA

Dates: May 17, 18

Length of Activity: SC, CO = 5 hours

CFP = 9 hours

Highlights:

Raspberry Pi Projects: A small mini-computer for \$35 can be a. hooked up to a keyboard and display and used for online gaming, can program robotics OR games, etc.

Keynote speaker: Jay Asher, author of a Pulitzer- prize winning young adult novel spoke about his writing process.

Getting to Yes: Tips for Selling Your Ideas to the People Who Matter

It's important to put yourself into the place of the person to whom you are presenting you idea and thinking about what their goals are, who do they answer to? Formulate the why, the goals before the how and how much.

Building Bridges: Library Services for the Incarcerated: NYPL, Elizabeth PL, Newark PL all have projects. (Her Story project, mentoring, advising people who have recently been released). Discarded children’s books can go to the local court where children are supervised during parents’ visits.

Libraries Don't Sell, so Why Market? Branding is superficial, better to create an identity. Many businesses are moving away from the word "customer". "Promoting" is a better word than "marketing".

How to (and When not to) Help with Job Search Assistance: Acronym = PLEASE = Provide a safe Place to explore options, Listen to the person's story, Enquire through questions, etc.

-You have to be certified to give formal assessments. Formal = 4-S Model by Nancy Schlossberg, Informal = O*Net Profiler or My Next Move.

-Always address depression and how to cope with it. Don't ask directly, just put the resources out there.

-The Re-entry Employment and Life Skills book from Impact Publications is a great resource to make available to the public.

How to Win Funding and Influence Politicians: EveryLibrary is an organization that negotiates with local politicians (EveryLibrary.org for librarians, votelibraries.org for the public).

The Journey to U.S. Citizenship: Suggested hosting a Naturalization Information Session. We are having one on July 6, 2016).

Patron-Employee Interactions: When Things Get Volatile:

One Highlight: Ask a person creating a scene at a service desk to step off to the side for a moment so you can talk to them individually. It deprives them of an audience and gives them a chance to calm down. Call someone else over to witness and cover the desk. "Can you come over and help out for a few minutes while I talk to this person?"

Best Practices in Communication: Best Practices: Use the same design principles you use on external communications to make staff news engaging and fun. Use cross training to foster communication. Have an open door policy, invite questions on changes and decisions.

Staff Name: Michelle Acosta

Continuing Education Activity: Bridges to Citizenship, Connecting Libraries and Adult Education Programs to Enhance Immigrant Education Services.

Sponsor: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Dates: May 18, 19, 9 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

- Information on the naturalization process and test
- Free materials for the library
- Opportunities to meet and interact with USCIS District Office Staff
- Tips to help design "citizenship corners" and immigrant-friendly programs
- Detailed overview of USCIS Citizenship Content Standards to Build a Comprehensive Curriculum
- Detailed descriptions of resources

Strategic Planning

Kristi Izzo and I are in the process of interviewing consultants. We have some recommendations from BCCLS Library directors. One consultant we interviewed suggested growing our email list for surveys with a raffle and I have begun working on that project. The same consultant recommended that our Planning Committee contain local officials and local organizations and schools, including FDU.

Building and Grounds

Carpeting – Children’s Department

The carpeting has been ordered, but has not arrived yet.

Elevator repair

Our freight elevator has been repaired and we are now efficiently receiving deliveries and putting our recycling into the van.

Landscaping, etc.

Our Maintenance Dept. trimmed the bushes around the entrance, pulled weeds, etc.

Children’s Department Screen

We now have a display screen in the children’s department to notify patrons about future programs and illustrate past classes and events.

Basement

NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) CBVI specifically requested us to be the recipients of their LEAP program technology grant. They tell us that there are many people in our area who could use this service.

This equipment would be reserved for training sessions, but otherwise would be available for use by the general public. A nonprofit assistive technology training organization, Advancing Opportunities (AO), provides the training for CBVI clients & TBBC members on the software and iPads.

JPL will be receiving:

Four computers, loaded with assistive software, 4 iPads, and 1 iPad charging station. The assistive software would include the most current versions of:

- JAWS
- Magic
- Talking Typer
- ZoomText

JPL would be responsible for:

- Hosting the training sessions and working with AO to schedule the classes
- Promotion of the LEAP Program in Hackensack
- Placing signs next to the computers that say “This computer is accessible with magnification and speech”

This equipment would be reserved for training sessions, but otherwise, would be available for use by the general public in your library.

Sound System

We have not yet received quotes for a sound and projection system in the auditorium. However our research show that it may cost between \$7,500 and \$10,000.

*Respectfully Yours,
Sharon Castanteen*