2016 Annual Report

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<tr>
<th>Total Circulation of Materials</th>
<th>January – December 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Books</td>
<td>56,491</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Media</td>
<td>5,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Books and Periodicals</td>
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<td>Adult Media (DVDs, video games. MP3, CD books, Music CD’s)</td>
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<td>Downloadable Music/Audiobooks/eBooks, and Database Usage</td>
<td>18,442</td>
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<td>Young Adult Books</td>
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<td>Periodicals In-House Usage</td>
<td>3,747</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microfilm Use</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Total</th>
<th>105,605</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reference Questions</td>
<td>22,971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Assistance at Reference Desk</td>
<td>6,626</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet Usage (children’s and adults)</td>
<td>29,870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Internet, iPad, Game Computers, Word Processing Usage</td>
<td>11,797</td>
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<tr>
<td>JPL’s wireless usage (counting handheld devices also)</td>
<td>23,460</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s program attendance, includes class visits, guitar classes, outreach visits</td>
<td>3,313</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adult and Adult Program Attendance (Library and Community)</td>
<td>5,854</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adult Programs</td>
<td>1,714</td>
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Winter 2016:

**Business Research Lecture**

*For Hispanic Institute for Research and Development*

**February 13, 2016 9 am-12 pm**

**Lecturer: Catherine Folk-Pushee, Adult Services Librarian**

**Attendance: 20**

My lecture is part of week two of a 13 week course. I teach the students how to perform research to develop their business plan. Some students already have a small business, others are still developing their idea. I began with an overview of what encompasses a business plan and pointed out a couple good articles for further reading. Next, I talked about some of the helpful resources in the area such as the Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Development Center, and Federal Small Business Association office and show them the websites. I spent a good amount of time on the business databases available to cardholders. Finally, I wrapped up with a short tour of the library so the class came away with an idea of how a library is organized and what is available at Hackensack. (Catherine Folk-Pushee)

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**Cultural/Informational Program Highlights**

Winter 2016:

**Love Framed in Black and White**

*Thursday, February 25, 2:00 p.m.*

**Presenter: Paula Wright**

**Facilitator: Barb Schuit**

**Attendance: 74**

Paula had inherited about 500 family photos from her grandma. She researched the story of her many-generations-back slave ancestor who was married, in a love relationship – not a forced arrangement – to a prominent white man in a brief period of history where such a union was permitted. She put together the fascinating story of how the time of Jim Crow and other dynamics of history affected these two amazing people. Apparently there is even a connection to Johnson Public Library as, if I understand correctly, one of the descendants of this marriage was the driver for Mr. Johnson at one point. This was an amazing program, and it was also so nice to see the real warmth and enjoyment of those in attendance. (Barb Schuit)
Games of Thrones PUB TRIVIA!
Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Presenters: Mari Zigas, Kate Cannarozzi, Genesis Jais
Attendance: 54
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.

Spring 2016:

Medicare P’s & Q’s – Parts, Plans & Your Questions
Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.
Facilitator: Barb Schuit
Total Attendance: 12
Dave Tirpak, the presenter did an excellent job of explaining the various facets of the Medicare program, and pertinent details that are helpful to people as they make individual / couple decisions about the various options available. To quote one attendee: “Excellent Program. Dave was very informative, bring him back!”. (Barb Schuit)

Spectrum for Living Recruitment Event
June 9, 2016 10 am - 2 pm
Presenters: Silma Gordon, Director and Kim Reitmeyer, VP Human Resources
Facilitator: Catherine Folk-Pushee, librarian
Spectrum is hiring for Direct Support Professionals to assist clients with special needs. Two Hackensack residents were hired through this job fair.
Summer 2016:

Interactive Elder Law & Estate Planning Workshop

Wednesday, August 10, at 7 p.m.
Presenter: Attorney Ben Eckman
Facilitator: Barb Schuit
Attendance: 36
Mr. Eckman gave very good general information, emphasizing the advantages of a Trust, with regard to protecting assets from taxes and being able to be protected as much as possible from the very high costs of nursing home care. He gave good examples of how being pro-active and planning in advance can save both money and harmony in families. (Barb Schuit)

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

Individual computer instruction is for Hackensack residents only. Topics include: Job search and resume writing, email, Word, Excel, LinkedIn, Craigslist, Angie’s List, Google Maps.

Summer 2016:

All About Twitter- How to use it/Why should you use it?
Wednesday, June 15, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Attendance: 26
The rescheduled Twitter program had even more people signed up for it than the first one and many were able to attend this. I was very nervous as this was the first tech program I had done in over four years to more than a small group of people, and Twitter is difficult to teach because there are so many interrelated parts. The response was fairly positive, although many participants suggested that the program went too fast because there was too much to cover. As several people requested I repeat the program again, I am going to do a two-part Twitter workshop sometime in the fall. (Keri Adams)
Hackensack Night Out
August 2nd, 2016

200 brochures were given out (I made a note to myself to bring more for next year)
Books, prizes and tote bags were given out to children
Programs and services were advertised to people

Many people were asking for the guitar classes
(Gladys, Genesis, and Michelle)

Young Adult Program Highlights
Keri Adams, YA Librarian/Head of Periodicals

Winter 2016:

The Anti-Valentine’s Day Party was a huge success. They had time to color in a fake valentine and fill out “break-up” mad libs. We did celebrity breakup trivia and six different teens got every answer right. Then we made catapults to shoot Sweethearts, which didn’t work very well but was fun to attempt. Last but everyone’s favorite, we iced broken heart cookies and got to eat them.

Spring 2016:

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.

Summer 2016:
The Hip Hop Dance and Scratch workshop was interesting because the dance part of it was amazing but the tech side proved to be a little too complicated for a two hour workshop. However, the dance workshop itself where Javon Harrison (a dance instructor for CMDE in Hackensack) taught the teens how to whip and nae nae was incredible. The teens really enjoyed the lesson. This is one program I would definitely repeat next year without the tech component because I think it would reach a large audience outside of the teens who usually participate.

This August capped off another great YA Summer Reading program! We had a large increase in attendance due to offering many more programs, and though we had slightly fewer individual students attend, we had a larger percentage of students who signed up for the program and then participated, in addition to a larger number of students who completed the program by reading a minimum of five books. We also had an extraordinarily large group of students who were on their second, third, fourth and in two cases, fifth year of summer reading, which accounts for our increase in high school aged participants.

Children’s Programs Highlights, 
Mari Zigas, Children’s Librarian

Winter 2016:

The Hackensack Cultural Arts Center had organized an Elephant & Piggie (from the fabulous Mo Willems series) play and offered to come and do a meet and greet for the kids while they had the costumes. Of course I immediately said yes because I knew the kids would love it. Greg Liosi did a wonderful story time (he read I Really Like Slop! and We Are in a Book!) and then brought out Elephant and Piggie who had been hiding in the back closet so the kids and parents could take pictures with them. The kids literally started screaming out of pure joy because Elephant and Piggie are pretty much the Beatles to them. It was such a great event and I even got my own picture with them :)
Fall 2016 Con’t:

Of course I saved the best for last. I could not be any more proud of my staff, coworkers, and volunteers for all the time and effort they put into the Haunted Library this year. Because of this we had over 300 children in attendance and while it was packed, I have never seen the library in this type of element. Since this year’s theme was a carnival, on the main floor we had events like Witch Pitch (throwing ping pong balls/eyeballs into cauldrons), Witch Hat Ring Toss, ghost darts, ghost bowling, Halloween Bean Bag Throwing, and Pin the Bow Tie on the Skeleton. In the Children’s Room we had a photo booth, face painting, crafts, and Spooky Storytelling. Downstairs we had Guess the Gross Food where kids put their hands into various decorated Tupperware that had cold spaghetti (hair), peeled grapes (eyeballs), and banana slices (tongues) to try and guess what part of the witch it was. We also had our annual scary maze where kids went into the auditorium in groups and came out terrified. I could go on and on about this event - kids and parents still come up to us and talk about how amazing it was. Job well done to everyone involved!

Spring 2016:

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.

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.

Summer 2016:
**Bilingual Science Club** was AWESOME and Gladys did a fantastic job coming up with all sorts of creative ideas. In July the kids made sprout houses out of sponges (weeks later we saw tiny alfalfa sprouts emerge), plastic out of milk and vinegar, floating balls (paper cones and straw), and - wait for it - rain in mason jars using shaving cream, water and blue food dye. I know a program is a hit when some of my most difficult-to-please kids can’t stop talking about it.

This was the first time I did a weekly *Makers* program and it’s been so much fun. We did the marshmallow challenge with toothpicks (good for ultra-competitive kids); made catapults out of popsicle sticks, plastic eggs and rubber bands (and after tested out how far they could shoot with mini marshmallows, M&Ms, cotton balls, etc.); and played with the MakeyMakey (one kid couldn’t stop playing Roblox with a penny acting as a mouse). All in all a really great time every week.

This year Wondergy did a Cool Science program at our annual *Summer Reading Club Party* and the kids loved them. The raffles were next (two $100 gift cards to Toys R Us, light sabers, mini guitars, sports ball sets, and a Minecraft handbook bundle), and then we gave out the reading certificates. Kids also got to take home a brand-new book of their choice, a gift bag, and ended the program with drinks and snacks.

The end of the summer reading club party was a bitter-sweet moment for the staff - this summer was packed every day and I cannot count the number of parents and kids who thanked us up and down and gave us hugs when it was all finished. Parents who saw us regularly were constantly complementing our hard work and the occasional homemade lunches that they made us didn’t hurt :)

The two children who won the Toys R Us gift cards were stunned and almost in tears - later their parents told us that they were beyond happy buying things for themselves and siblings with the gift cards that they earned. One of the moms even mentioned that her son had been wanting an expensive Lego set for so long and now he was finally able to get it. It’s moments like this that make our job worth it.

**Outreach and Publicity**

*Manuela Miracle, Public Relations/Government Document Librarian*

**Fall 2016:**
On Sept. 10th I coordinated our participation in the Senior Picnic, an annual event which hosts 3,000 Bergen County seniors. We primarily advertised our programs as well as our new Assistive Technology Center and the Paving Stone program.

In addition to utilizing our normal channels of information distribution to promote our programs, I connected with NJ 12 to ask them to cover our Assistive Technology Center grand opening. In my communication with NJ 12 I also discovered new ways to potentially have our bigger events covered. I continue to seek any additional channels for disseminating our information.

Manuela Miracle organized the book sale, Genesis Jais kept up a steady flow of raffle entries (for our newsletter email sign-up), and other staff members worked hard on selling books, our events, etc. You can see that we had large crowds enjoying the balloon artist, juggler, puppeteer, and dancers in our courtyard! Special thanks go to Maintenance for keeping the book trucks going out and Security for making sure the performers had a parking space.

Our sidewalk book sale was a successful event with many patrons visiting our booths and walking away with great bargains as well as October's program calendars.

Winter 2016:

Email Sign-up Raffle We held two raffles so far, Summer and Fall. We’ve added 601 Hackensack resident emails, and our total email list is now 6,577, includes adults, teens, and children’s event list. Pictured here is our happy raffle winner ($100 Visa Card):

Note from Manny: She was so happy. She said she'd been having a really bad patch and winning this raffle was the first good thing to happen to her in some time and it gave her just the moral boost she needed. A frequent patron she lives right down the street and loves to read science fiction. I gave her a Hoopla handout and she was pretty thrilled by it.
Sharon Castanteen
Director
castanteen@hackensack.bccls.org