

## Director's Report, April 2015

	April 2014	April 2015
Children's books and magazines	4986	4359
Children's media	443	353
Adult books and periodicals	4438	4165
Adult media (DVDs, video games, MP3 and CD books, Music CD's)	4132	3791
Downloadable/Database Usage Ebooks/music/audiobook/movies/mags	2109	BCCLS stats on Hack ebook,etc. loans n.a. yet
Young adult books	378	485
Periodicals in-house usage	356	391
Microfilm use	83	205
Reference Questions	2164	1626
Computer Assistance at Reference Desk	446	397
Adult Internet Usage	3675	2831
Children's Internet, iPad, Game Computers, Word Processing Usage	n.a.	671
JPL's wireless usage (counting hand- held devices also)	n.a.	1490
Children's program attendance, includes class visits, guitar classes, outreach visits	375	247
YA and Adult Program attendance (Library & Community)	608	447
Adult Program Attendance (Library only)	503	268
Young Adult Programs and Outreach	67	21
Electronic Door Counter	n.a.	21260

*Note: April Wireless statistics available through new Meraki Router. State requires us to count this.*

### Adult Program Highlights

#### ***Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop***

***Monday, April 20, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.***

***Instructor: Hackensack Riverkeeper  
Staff (Caitlin and Annabelle)***

***Attendance: 30***

So much clean water is wasted, especially in the city. Because of all the impermeable surfaces, water just runs



off in the sewer, which can overflow into the river, and pollute it (there are safeguards, but not enough). Anything we can do to minimize the runoff is helpful. The attendees learned how to conserve the water that comes off the roof to water their lawn, their garden. They worked on a 55-gallon (washed!) pickle barrel, with the help of the Riverkeeper's instructions and implements and hardware to make their own rain barrels. There were individuals, couples, and one family with young children who participated in the project.

***Story 101 – A 5-week Course for Aspiring Writers***

***Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. – April 14, 21,***

***Presenter: Michael Potter, 3-time winner of New Jersey's VSA wordsmith competition***

***Facilitator: Kate Cannarozzi***

***Attendance: 28***

Michael began the first class with a detailed explanation of how to get published. I think he intuitively knew that motivation for a writer is that it will be shared, appreciated, maybe even bring some monetary compensation. His stories



about this kind of process were interesting and very informative. He went on to the first exercise, a man and a woman meet in the park, write two paragraphs about that. The class read their pieces aloud, as they would at every subsequent meeting, to be critiqued by fellow writers and hints from Michael on how to tighten up and enliven their writing. The final project is a 6 page story, "Mother is Coming To Visit". Michael helps the class by breaking the story into three parts.

***Last Chance Advice!***

***Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 - 8:30 pm***

***Presenter: Philip Roventini, CPA/PFS***

***Facilitator: Barb Schuit***

***Attendance: 14***

*Right from the start, people were asking good questions, and Phil answered all questions, as well as giving a basic information PowerPoint (during which lots of questions were asked!). He presented such topics as Current Tax Rates, Medicare Surtax, Long term Capital Gains, Estate Tax Rates, and effects of the Affordable Care Act. Those in attendance responded very well to Phil, and he answered all questions very well, at an understandable, practical level. (Barb Schuit)*



***Comments on evaluation form:***

- Great presentation. Very good information. Explanations were great and easy to understand [tax] language.
- Yes, he was good. Thanks.
- Very interesting and informative.
- Wish the seminar was longer
- Very good info on taxes

**Songwriting Workshop**  
**Thursday, April 23, 2:00 to 3:00**  
**p.m.**

**Presenter-Alice Leon**

**Facilitator: Barb Schuit**

**Attendance: 8**

*Alice used her guitar and voice to demonstrate different "moods" of music -- happy, sad, reflective, etc. -- and explained the major / minor key emotional component of songs. She then talked a bit about various kinds of themes and how to start brainstorming ideas and phrases that might become part of a song.*



*Alice used the big flip chart pad on the tripod to record what ideas/phrases we could suggest as part of the theme phrase that the group had selected from Alice's suggested options. Then she worked on putting the words into a simple song which came together after just a few minutes of her expertise. She will record the song and anyone who gave their email addresses to her will receive an online copy of her recorded version of the song. There was good conversation afterwards about the need to "just do it" if people are interested in songwriting -- not to try to write the next big hit, but just to begin to develop and practice this craft. Alice was a great presenter -- very personable, fun, and engaged with the small audience, and the audience responded very positively to her. (Barb Schuit)*

A patron came up to me after this workshop, she was so excited! "We wrote a song! It was great! So much fun".

### **Book Clubs and Movies:**

Book Clubs: 18    Movies: To Kill a Mockingbird: 12, Into the Woods- 24

### **Book Club Highlight:**

#### ***Special Movie: Slavery by Another Name***

**Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 pm.**

**Presenter: NAACP**

**Facilitator: Barb Schuit**

**Attendance: 14**

*The NAACP showed the PBS documentary film "Slavery by Another Name." It was very well done and very shocking. Maybe it's because I'm from another country and had never heard of this before, but I had no idea that this had happened so blatantly in US history, post abolition of slavery. The practice of "peonage" whereby black people could be accused of a crime, then taken to "work off their fine" for a non-existent crime by working hard labor in mines, on farms, etc., for years -- and basically indefinite servitude. This was a very impactful presentation, and I've requested that we purchase this film for JPL (there are currently 3 copies in BCCLS). (Barb Schuit)*

**Computer Skills, Job Search, and Inspect Your Gadget: Kathryn Cannarozzi, Genesis Jais and Catherine Folk-Pushee, Total Attendance: 45**

Individual Computer Assistance is limited to Hackensack residents. Topics this month included: word, PowerPoint, Resumes and Cover Letters, Job Search, Basic Internet Searching, Email.

**Highlight from Catherine Folk-Pushee:**

*Success! I haven't heard from any of my job seekers in a while and I always hope it's because they found something. However, I received a phone call at the end of April confirming that Yesenia Colon had landed a full-time job in her field as a medical assistant. She found the job through a staffing company. We had met in mid-April because she wanted some help with her resume. She felt like she was not getting the results she hoped for and wanted me to take a look. I had her change around some sections, trim it down a little, and get the layout and tenses consistent throughout. Otherwise it seemed like she was in pretty good shape. And she was!*

**Inspect Your Gadget Report - April**

- 14 people attended this month
- Most of the people that came in this month needed help with their ipads. We also helped multiple people signing in and loading their emails. We had a lot more people this month as compared to last month. Maybe the good weather has gotten people outside more. Most come with specific questions (if not I ask them to give me specific questions). (Genesis Jais)

**ESL and Spanish Computer Classes, ESL Volunteer Tutor Training, English Conversation, and Bilingual Outreach. Suspended due to Family Leave of staff member.**



**Young Adult Programs**

**Viktor Villanueva (Security Guard) filling in for Teen Tuesdays, Kate Cannarozzi filling in for YA book club.**

**Total Attendance: 21 Teen Tuesdays** (Internet, Online Gaming, Board Games)

**YA Books for Adult Readers: 7** attendees, they read Lips Touch Three times by Laini Taylor.

**Children's Program Highlights**

*Here's the latest from the Junior Department!*

*Preschool Story Hour is a big hit and very well-attended as we have freshened up the stories and the crafts. The kids are going away with cool artwork and enjoyable memories. Mother Goose Time is also in transition, but more chock full of laughs and fun. We have larger groups now that the weather is cooperating.*

*Lego Day is amazingly popular. Kids have told kids what fun it is, and via word of mouth, we have new additions every session. We have purchased new Lego sets and the creations are over the top! Not only are their architectural wonders, but the stories explaining them are so imaginative and funny.*

*Chess Club is steady and still popular. We will be taking a hiatus over the summer months and return in the autumn again. Newly purchased chess sets are coming in handy.*





*The Spring Egg Hunt was a total smash! We had a great group of kids, hunting for hidden eggs throughout the stacks, with the help of the Giant Bunny, who, I understand through the grapevine, was described as terrifying. Hey, I only had one kid cry and it was Nancy's granddaughter, so we're cool.*

*The Spring Bouquet Arts and Crafts program went very well, in spite of a small group. We still had fun, making colorful foam flowers on stems, tied together with a burst of curling ribbon. We needed the color and essence of springtime.*

*Rodney visited us mid-April again, and patiently listened to the stories he was told. What a good little guy; our kids love him.*

*(Photo: Microsoft mini-workshop, April 13)*

*Video Games on Wednesdays is a great mid-week break for all of us! The kids are still enjoying Wii games and the like, and the laptop availability. Minecraft remains the game of choice for solitary players, while the younger guys are into WWF. I refuse to join in on Mariocart: I either fall into lava or crash into fences. Mari is much better at it than me. However I will dance for comic relief. (Babette Smith)*

### ***Guitar Classes for Children***

***(Hackensack residents only)***

***Saturday, April 18 and 25***

***Instructor: Jorge Meneses***

***Facilitator: Kathryn Cannarozzi***

***Attendance: 40***

*Two parents arrived on the day of classes, but the beginner class was already full. In fact, parents were calling as late as the end of April to sign up their children. I have a waiting list, but no one has dropped out. We will call these parents first when we have the fall classes scheduled to see if they want to sign up.*

*The beginning class has a full 12 students and there are 8 returning students. Ashley and I called everyone from the previous class at least twice before the classes started, but it seems as if many of the students are no longer interested. It seems to work out well with one beginner class and one intermediate class. This is what we did last fall as well. Unless we have a large number of returning students from this beginner class, I suggest we continue in this model. (Kathryn Cannarozzi)*

## **Outreach and Publicity**

### ***Business Research Lecture***

***April 25, 2015 9 am-12 pm***

***Outreach program to: Hispanic Institute for Research and Development***

***Instructor: Catherine Folk-Pushee***

***Attendance: 23***

*Limbert Quispe, Program Coordinator at the Hispanic Institute, invited me back to HIRD this year to once again give a lecture on how to find and use resources when creating a business plan. The lecture is part of their 13-week Business Skills Development Course. I revised my presentation from last year to*

reflect current e-resources available through the library and some of the latest books on the topic. After introducing myself I began with an overview of the parts of a business plan, why it is so important to starting a business, and prepared them for the amount of research it would probably take to complete a good plan.

To demonstrate how to use the four business online resources I went to them live online. I asked the students for examples from the businesses they were considering beginning to see if we could find anything useful for them. This generated a lot of enthusiasm and I was able to find at least one interesting article or study or sample plan for everyone who offered a suggestion. I also pointed out how to make an account with EBSCO which created three of the four resources so students could save their searches and articles and set up alerts for ongoing research. (Catherine Folk-Pushee)

### ***Creative Placemaking Meeting***

***Thursday, April 30, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.***

***Facilitators: Upper Main Alliance, National Consortium for Placemaking, Leonardo Vazquez, AICP/PP***

***Library Representative: Genesis Jais***

***Attendance: 20***

*The creative placemaking meeting discussed the vision statement they had drafted in previous meetings, as well as some of the revisions they had made to it. They wanted to get a clear and concise focus for the group and their purpose to the town so that they can hopefully soon publish it and get more of the community involved.*

*Making the downtown an arts town was also discussed. The presenter, Leo, showed a PowerPoint regarding examples of street/town art that could possibly be implemented in the downtown - from statues, to murals in stark places to bring a little more life to them, to painting trees with bright non-toxic paint (I thought this was really cool), to taking some street parking to convert it to outdoor seating.*

*Since this plan would be ideally complete in 2025, the group believed it would be important to get input by the high schoolers as to what art and what direction they would like to see their city go in in the next couple of years. They are still working on how to reach the kids and how to get meaningful opinions from them.*

*The last portion of the meeting was a walking tour of Main Street. Al Dib showed us the many parts of Main Street that are going to be changing over the next couple of years while the presenter Leo pointed out great places to implement some of the kinds of art he showed us in his PowerPoint presentation. (Genesis Jais)*

### **Hackensack Chronicle**

**April 10, 2015**

**Front Page**

**Photo and caption on “Egg-cellent activity in the Library”.**

### **Hackensack Chronicle**

**April 24, 2015**

**Page 2**

**Photo and caption on program: “Spring book sale”.**

## **The Record**

**April 30, 2015**

**Page 35**

### **“Library’s Founder known for giving”**

A brief history of the early beginnings of the Johnson Public Library. A paper by one of our librarians, Kathryn Cannarozzi, was cited as a resource.

## **Professional Development**

### ***Active Shooter Training***

#### ***NJ State Library and Camelot Security***

***Employees: Viktor Villanueva and Jeff Compesi, Security Guards***

***Time: Three hours***

- ***160 incidents between 2000 and 2013***
- ***Library is a “soft target” (minimal or no active security measures)***
- ***Active shooter identification: apparel is the biggest indicator (i.e., out of ordinary clothing)***
- ***Active Shooter Protective measures***
  - ***Make a plan on how to exit the library for multiple situations***
  - ***Run/hide/fight: Run: Get safely away from shooter, Hide: Isolate Yourself form shooter, not limiting escape options, Fight: last option.***

### ***NJLA, New Jersey Library Association Conference***

***Tuesday, April 21, Wednesday, April 22***

***Presented By: NJLA***

***Staff and Trustees Attending: Sharon Castanteen, Cynthia Ortiz, Cathy Folk-Pushee, Barb Schuit***

**Highlights:**

- **Keynote Speaker: Rich Harwood, founder of The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, spoke on the role of librarians as core community leaders and change agents.**
- **Workshop: Social Work in Public Libraries: Did I Sign Up for This? Moderated by our librarian, Catherine Folk-Pushee. Our job has always been to connect people with information and resources, but should it include social services as well? Some libraries have a social worker on the premises regularly for drop-ins or appointments.**
- **Workshop: Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries. This was a presentation by the Aspen Institute, which is actually a Washington D.C.-based think tank. They did an independent study of libraries and communities, drawing from the business community and technology community. They found that libraries were a learning institution, not just an access institution.**

They published the result of their study into categories:

***Libraries as People:*** They found that libraries make communities stronger by connecting people to each other. Parents reading to children, teens learning how to write code, students meeting in study groups, job seekers working on resumes, entrepreneurs preparing presentations, researching with library databases, immigrants learning English, retirees learning about new online tools, etc.

*Libraries as Place:* The library is a place that promotes development in society. It is the family room of a community. It draws people together for diverse purposes. Provides a safe and trusted location for sharing information about community resources, adult education, creative exploration and presentation, etc.

*Library as Platform:* Bringing analytical understanding to disorganized and abundant streams of information. Connecting people seeking information to the resources, people or organizations that can provide it. Facilitating discovery and serendipitous encounters with information. Providing access to government services that are not at times delivered well by existing government agencies.

## ***12 Ways to More Effective Marketing***

***Provider: NJLA/Web Junction***

***April 8, 2015***

***Staff: Catherine Folk-Pushee***

- Stop writing a book!
- Keep sentences short for full comprehension
- Use your prime real estate wisely, i.e. library homepage, email subject and first sentence
- Get Help. Learn the skills or hire someone to do the job.
- Don't jump on marketing bandwagons without analysis first.

## **Building and Grounds**

### ***Mulch***

We usually wait for October to fill in our mulch because we buy in bulk and the DPW uses their dump truck to empty it for us. However, this winter must have worn away more than usual. We have a lot of bald spots, around the trees along the sidewalk, and some in the courtyard, especially by the front windows, so we are going to ask our landscaper for a quote.

### ***HVAC***

The 2002 Dodge Van needed brake pads this month, less than a year since the last ones. Unfortunately, we also discovered that JPL's new van is delayed until August.

### ***Leak in Basement, in the Old Maintenance Office***

We've already asked our landscaper, last year, to fill in the ground, in case the groundwater was getting in through unsettled ground/dirt from our construction a few years ago. But the problem is still there. Our next step is to call our mason to see if there is leaking in the wall.

### ***Tripping Hazard***

The pavers and surrounding concrete did not settle well. We are going to try the landscaper first, then the mason for quotes to repair.

***Respectfully Yours,  
Sharon Castanteen***