NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY UPDATE – August 2022

We had a number of excellent candidates for the Director of the State Library Information Center (SLIC), and I am pleased to announce that Maria Baratta has been selected to fill the vacancy. Maria has a wealth of experience in state government libraries and is keenly familiar with SLIC, having served as Associate Director for several years. Please join me in welcoming Maria to her new role, which starts August 15.

Our opening for a Shared Services Library Consultant is still accepting applications, and I encourage anyone with a background or interest in the topic to consider applying. The position will have a key role in initiatives related to e-content, statewide services and more. Salary is competitive and a hybrid work option is available.

It is hard to believe the summer is almost over – it went by so quickly. I had the opportunity to visit the new Montgomery Branch of the Somerset County Library during its opening week. It is a terrific model for a 21st century library building and full of the kinds of little touches that make public libraries so special. I was also able to see the marvelous work that happens at the Hoboken Public Library, including their book bike. It was a pleasure to visit these libraries and others this summer, and I look forward to continuing visits this fall.

Jen Nelson, State Librarian

Stay Informed

Library Director and Trustee Virtual Check ins
The director and trustee virtual check in with Bob Keith and Michele Stricker will resume in September, and continue on a monthly basis. We hope you have lots of questions for us!

Social Work Informed Libraries
Social Work Informed Library Services in NJ (SWILIBS-NJ) is in the planning phase. The project aims at strengthening public libraries’ capacity in providing social work informed library services for their communities by utilizing the knowledge and skills brought by social work student interns. The program also aims to provide support/guidance/mentorship necessary for social work students to fulfill their internship and career goals while working at their library sites. We plan on developing professional development curricula and training for both interns and library site supervisors which will include skills building for digital literacy and community engagement. For more information, please contact Mimi Lee, Director of Literacy and Learning, mlee@njstatelib.org.
2022 Summer Reading Program Survey Open
Attention all public library staff who played an active role in administering 2022 summer library programming! Please fill out the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) summer reading survey. This survey was created so CSLP can better assess the usefulness of the materials offered by the program on a national level to better serve you, the CSLP membership! Please wait until your summer program has ended to complete the survey. The deadline to complete the survey is September 9, 2022. Questions? Contact Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, rawlins@njstatelib.org. The survey link is on the NJ Summer Reading website.

Naloxone training
If you were not able to attend the August naloxone webinars held by Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, additional sessions will be held in October. Registration information will be shared through NJSL Direct and the NJSL’s communication channels in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the New Jersey Department of Human Services maintains a schedule of community naloxone webinars and in-person trainings on their website: https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/initiatives/naloxone.html. In addition, libraries are able to participate in New Jersey’s Naloxone Distribution Program to receive free doses of naloxone: https://dmhas.dhs.state.nj.us/NDP.

Talking Book & Braille Center Update
TBBC circulated 24,625 items last month – 24,513 audiobooks were circulated on just 3,505 digital cartridges, and 7 digital cartridges were used to circulate 32 volumes in Braille for patrons without the ability to download. Patrons using BARD downloaded 6,787 books – 6,485 audiobooks and 302 volumes in electronic Braille. TBBC added 46 new patrons and sent out 85 digital players. Additionally, LEAP classes are being finalized at seven libraries including TBBC, with classes beginning in mid-September.

You’re Invited

Trustee Institute
The bi-annual Trustee Institute will be held virtually on October 8th, from 9am – 4pm. Topics include EDI for Library Boards, Hiring Your Library Director, Censorship and Book Challenges, Writing Strategic and Capital Plans, and Library Law. Registration is open now at www.njstatelib.org/trusteeinstitute.

NJLibsGrowBiz Summit
The 2022 NJLibsGrowBiz Summit will be held virtually on September 15th, from 10am – 2pm. This mini-conference is focused on the value libraries bring to the small business owners and entrepreneurs in their communities. We will be paying particular focus on how entrepreneurship can change lives, empower people, and revitalize neighborhoods. Speakers will provide insight on the role libraries can play in economic...
development and share creative ways libraries can start or grow their business outreach and services. This year’s keynote will be Samira Cook Gaines, Managing Director of Strategic Partnerships at Rising Tide Capital, a nonprofit dedicated to fostering inclusive communities of resilient entrepreneurs catalyzing a thriving and sustainable economy for all. Other speakers will include representatives from ALA’s Libraries Build Business initiative, SCORE, and the New Jersey Business Action Center.

Here is the link to register: [https://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/consulting_services/business-technology-services/njlibsgrowbiz/](https://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/consulting_services/business-technology-services/njlibsgrowbiz/).

Questions and feedback can be shared with Andrea Levandowski, alevandowski@njstatelib.org.

**Get Involved**

**90-Second Newbery Award Film Festival Library Visits**

Are you interested in having 90-Second Newbery Award Film Festival founder James Kennedy come to your public or school library in person to visit the youth you serve to encourage them to make their own 90-Second Newbery Award winning films? The 90-Second Newbery Award Film Festival is an annual video contest in which kid filmmakers create short movies that tell the entire stories of Newbery Award-winning books in about 90 seconds (adults can help). These movies often have a creative twist—think Charlotte’s Web in the style of a horror movie, or Ramona and Her Father reimagined as a musical, or Bridge to Terabithia done in stop-motion animation!

The films they create will be shown as part of an in-person film festival in NJ sponsored by the NJ State Library in the spring (date TBA). Mr. Kennedy is happy to come show highlights from the Festival and share insights about youth submitting their own videos for the 2023 Festival. His presentation can be anywhere from 45 minutes to 90 minutes and he is available to do up to two presentations a day, ideally in the same geographic area of the state. These presentations for youth ages 9 – 17 (Gr. 4 – Gr. 12) can be anything from a library group or classroom sized presentation to a full assembly. If you are interested in having Mr. Kennedy come to your public or school library, please contact Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJ State Library, srawlins@njstatelib.org, with available dates and times.