From Trash to Treasure: Inexpensive Projects for Teens

By Susan Grotyohann, Reference and Young Adult Services Librarian, Monroe Township Library

Monroe Township in Middlesex County is well known for its over-55 adult communities. However, the local demographic has changed dramatically in my 10 years as young adult librarian. While the school-age population has steadily increased, it seems that teens’ schedules have grown busier as well! With dwindling attendance at in-house craft workshops, I switched to what I call “portable programming.” I’m creating take-home craft kits that are a big hit with my busy teens.

Trash Talk
My title is a little misleading—there’s no dumpster-diving required! By “trash” I mean free stuff from any source. People with talent and creativity are making amazing creations from all sorts of everyday things—juice boxes, gum wrappers, plastic bags, old CDs, yarn, jar lids, bottle caps—and keeping them out of landfills. Fully recycled crafts could be part of a series of programs on reducing waste. You can find some teachable ideas for serious projects by going to The New York Times (Continued on page 4).

Creating and Promoting Student Workshops at No Cost

By Nancy J. Weiner, Reference Librarian and Coordinator of User Education, William Paterson University

Planning academic workshops can seem like a daunting task, but you can do it even if you have no budget for programs.

Near the beginning of each semester, the David and Lorraine Cheng Library at William Paterson University offers a series of workshops that starts with a week of drop-in sessions promoted as “Discover Your Library Week.” To reach potential attendees, we email welcome letters to all new undergraduate and graduate students to announce the initial series and to provide links to the full workshop schedule for that semester. (See our current list at https://liberty.wpunj.edu/library/workshops/library-workshops.cfm.) (Continued on page 8)
Message from the PRESIDENT

Program Ideas Are Everywhere

It is safe to say that budget-friendly programs are always on our minds. With shrinking budgets and staffs, good programming often feels like a luxury. But it doesn’t have to feel that way. There are many ways to get great ideas for low-cost programming. Newsletters, newspapers, and magazines; conference programs and workshops; and your own passionate staff can be your most valuable resources.

In this issue of the newsletter you will read about some of the great programming ideas that our NJ library community implements every day. Whether you are looking at programming for children, teens, or adults, other librarians in NJLA are willing to share their ideas, successes, and challenges. Sometimes the specific program you hear about isn’t one that will work for you, but it might just be the inspiration that helps you think of one that will. You might not choose to do any of the teen crafts that Sue Grotyohann details in her feature, but it might give you an idea for all those extra craft pieces you have left over from a children’s program. The same is true of the kids’ programs that Chrissie McGovern mentions in her article. Or it could be just one sentence in Nancy Weiner’s feature that makes you see your programs or services in a whole new light.

How many conferences and workshops have you attended about doing programs on a shoestring? I know I have been to many, and occasionally the presenter sparks a great idea for me. For instance, after attending the Public Library Association conference in 2010 in Portland, Ore., I came home with the idea of having a storytime for grownups.

I’d gone to “Thrilling Tales and Selected Shorts: An Adult Storytime @ Your Library,” presented by David Wright of the Seattle Public Library. Seattle PL hosts this program at midday, and the attendees are often professionals who bring their lunches to come listen to a variety of stories. I wanted to try it at the Monroe Township Public Library and, of course, wanted it to be successful! It didn’t work very well in our library and I’d like to think it’s because we don’t have an urban, walking population that might want to go somewhere for lunch. But the truth is that it doesn’t matter why it didn’t work. The important point is that it didn’t cost a lot of money, just the time it took me to select short stories and to practice reading them out loud a few times.

Your own staff, both professionals and paraprofessionals, can be another source for ideas. What are they passionate about? Can one of your circulation staffers knit or sew? Might they be interested in offering a class for beginners? Someone in your reference department could be a musician who would love to host an open mic or music creation jam session. Don’t underestimate the interests and talents of your staff! Whatever you try might be a great idea or it might not work out, but trying the ideas lets your staff members know that you value them!

Good ideas for programs and events are everywhere. An article in the local newspaper might generate an idea you’ve never had before. Attending a workshop or conference program might inspire you to try something new. And talking with your staff and other librarians can be the key to discovering someone’s passion. You just need to be open to the possibilities.

Karen Klapperstuck

Finding Your Perfect Fit:
It can happen at our conference in Atlantic City, June 3–5!

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Miscommunication Leads to Missed Opportunities

Librarianship, like all professions, has its own language. There’s a shorthand, so to speak, that helps us communicate quickly with our colleagues. It has served us well. Unfortunately, this same shorthand may cause, as the saying goes, a “failure to communicate” with other professions. Are we saying the same words as these professions but really not meaning the same thing? This is not just a matter of semantics; it has real implications for the profession.

This year I have had the opportunity to chair an ALA taskforce that looks at the importance of school libraries and school librarians in the educational process. Through that work, I have been exposed to a whole new educational concept that I am embarrassed to say I had not heard of before. This “Common Core” is driving educational policy in 45 states (including NJ) and the District of Columbia. I realized that I had very little knowledge of this subject and its impact on not only school libraries but on all types of libraries. The Common Core standards prescribe educational goals for all students. For example, they concentrate on “higher level reading skills” with an emphasis on nonfiction information sources and research. Our ALA taskforce is working to ensure that librarians of all types understand how important the Common Core discussions are at the state and local levels. All librarians need to support having strong school library programs with degreed librarians to ensure that students get the full benefit of the Common Core standards.

Now this is where communication comes into play. When I look at the Common Core standards, I see a direct correlation between these standards and the role of a strong school library program to a school’s curriculum. Here’s an example: The Common Core standards for writing indicate that “Research—both short, focused projects (such as those commonly required in the workplace) and longer term in depth research—is emphasized throughout the standards but most prominently in the writing strand since a written analysis and presentation of findings is so often critical.” (www.corestandards.org)

Hasn’t teaching research been one of the fundamental roles of a school librarian? Unfortunately, I’ve learned through the taskforce that many states are beginning to eliminate school library positions because they don’t support the Common Core. Huh? What am I missing? As a degreed librarian, I definitely can see a strong role for school libraries under the Common Core, but unfortunately it seems that many educational policymakers do not.

If students do not get a strong foundation for research in school libraries, it will definitely impact academic and public libraries. We could have an entire generation that believes that Google is the only way to do research.

So I ask this question of all of us: How can we close this communication gap? I believe we are at a critical time for our profession. We will need to look closely at the language of our colleagues in other fields and to draw the connections between what we are doing in our libraries and their goals.

We have to start writing for their publications and going to their conferences. This misperception that libraries have nothing to contribute will lead to missed opportunities. We have to break down the barriers between our own profession and the ones we partner with.

Pat Tumulty

Programs That People Want

I don’t remember which conference it was or who the woman was. But some years ago in Long Branch I was talking to a librarian about programming. She did most of the planning for her library, and I asked her how she got ideas and decided which programs to put on.

I’m just paraphrasing, but her reply boiled down to, “Well, since I have to do the programs, I just pick things that interest me and that I want to try out.”

I’m sure she’s not the only one who does that. It’s a great way to go once in a while, especially if your enthusiasm improves the program (and/or keeps you sane through one more difficult day). But I hope that your norm is to ask members of your public what they want from the library.

Getting people’s opinions does add work, but it can pay for itself in other ways. What if you had a topic in mind—say, something for Arbor Day—then you survey the citizens and nobody wants to do Arbor Day? If you were customer-centric, you’d take the hint and not create the Arbor Day History Jamboree.

Ascertaining which activities the public wants and then offering them is smart:

◦ You don’t waste time creating an event that draws only few attendees.

◦ You become more relevant to your community (whether that’s a school, university, city, or office).

◦ You build a reputation for listening and for being responsive.

◦ You prove (yet again) that the library is a good steward of public monies.

◦ You avoid spending money on something that doesn’t pan out.

To conserve what precious little program budget you might have, ensure that every one you do serves your users.

Kathy Dempsey
The Basics of Craft Kits

My craft kits have three elements: base, background, and trim. Frequently, I start with a commercial base, such as a paper mache frame or box, or a wooden craft item that you can often find in catalogs like Oriental Trading and Discount School Supply, or at Michaels craft shops and local dollar stores. I’ve also had great results with items that staff members save for me including film canisters, old jeans, Altoids tins, and plastic flowerpots.

The second element is the background, and for this I love to scour book donations and discards for old atlases, vintage encyclopedias, dictionaries, and music books. Pages from these, with their retro fonts and black-and-white line drawings, are great for decoupage. Burlap, thin vinyl placemats, wallpaper, and fabric also make wonderful backgrounds for various crafts, and they are often cheap or free.

Finally, the embellishments are the trimmings that make the object fun. My favorite is old postage stamps—even boys will take a kit if it has stamps in it! Shells, twine, beads, plastic craft doodads, fabric, ribbon, and metal hardware are low-cost items, and you can get many similar materials for free. It’s the embellishments, simple or complicated, that add the perfect enhancement to just about anything.

Teen Take-Out Projects

Our Children’s Department has done “Craft in a Bag” programming for years in addition to their well-attended in-house craft events. So I decided to start “Teen Take-Out Projects” packed in Chinese food boxes. (The site www.papermart.com sells 50 one-and-one-half-pint boxes for $7.95 plus shipping.) When I run out of boxes, or the parts won’t fit, I use plastic zipper-seal bags. The kits are available to those in grades 6–12 to match the configuration of our middle and high schools. I generally make 18–24 kits and create two samples for display. I use this creative step to help me write instructions, since I’m not naturally crafty.

This take-out project box contained a flowerpot, burlap, embellishments, and herb seeds to plant.

Finally, it’s time to give the kits away. I’ve created “branded” templates for posters and fliers with clip art of take-out containers and chopsticks. Each time I’m releasing a new kit, I open the template and add the specific date and time that kids can start to pick them up since they’re available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Below, I’ve shared some ideas that have worked well for our Teen Take-Out Projects.

Recycle These Ideas

Winter Words Journal: I bought 24 paper mache journals from S&S Worldwide (http://tinyurl.com/btmwyza) for about $1.50 each and packaged them with several pages of charts and litho ads from a reissued 1868 World Almanac and a couple dozen scrapbooking words from a garage sale box. Then the teens could glue their favorite materials on the covers. This is a hugely popular and super simple item!

Pi Day Kit: I came across some chipboard mini-scrapbook shapes, the kind that come with a key ring, at a Michaels clearance sale. A package of four shapes was just 25 cents. I had been saving a book of differential equations with yellowed pages, and I used those pages to cover the apple shapes from the Michaels purchase. Then I simply cut a rim of red paper for the skin, folded green paper into 3D leaves, and added a printed Pi symbol for the center. Presto! I made Pi Day kits for less than 30¢ for March 14.

Glam Coin Canisters: Film canisters covered with alligator-printed gold vinyl cut from placemats and trimmed with left-over fake fur scraps make for a super glamorous container for quarters or small treasures. (Tip: I often use fancy names to mask humble origins!)

Mini Magnets: Bottle caps, spray painted to cover the beer logos, make a fun craft for any party, and it was one of the most popular features at our Hunger Games party. We gave out circular images, printed in color and sized to glue inside, and a strip of peel-and-press magnet to cut up for the backs.

Rustic Flowerpots: Plastic terracotta-colored flowerpots

(Continued from page 1)
can be stunning when wrapped with jute or burlap and decorated with natural items like shells, twigs, or acorn caps.

Denim Patches: I’ve done a lot with denim, including making punk and hippie patches. We package squares of old jeans with odds and ends of either safety pins and hardware or bright ribbon and rickrack scraps. Teens can add pictures using their own markers or paint pens.

Clipboard Crafts
I also offer what I call Clipboard Crafts. These don’t include materials but simply feature a pre-made sample and DIY instruction sheets for teens. I had a cute clipboard that was begging to be used, so I put a DIY poster on it to display with the sample, and thus a brand was created. Clipboard Crafts lend themselves very well to “nearly free” because you only need to make one sample item.

These crafts can be larger and more complex, too. Instructions for the Denim Gift Bag call for the leg from a pair of jeans being stitched or stapled inside on the cut end, decorated, and tied with ribbon or twine. Battling Snowmen instructions say to microwave a pair of Peeps snowmen holding plastic swords. “Thanksgiving Treats” is simply a recipe for caramel acorns that we got from www.lizbushong.com/PRESENTATION-FALL.html.

Keeping It Cheap
I haunt garage sales and thrift stores for supplies, but only because it’s my hobby. I do not recommend spending your own time and money! Instead, post requests on your staff bulletin board, seek out “empty nester” staff members and trusted patrons who are de-cluttering, and ask former Scout leaders for old boxes of supplies. Gardeners might have extra plastic pots, or you may know a garage sale junkie like me who will be on the lookout for fun items to share. It’s best to always ask for a sample first to make sure you are getting items that you really can use! Use your community and your co-workers, share what you are making, and don’t be afraid to ask people for favors!

One cautionary note: We, as librarians, tend to subsidize our institutions. This presents an artificially low picture of our budget needs to city government. Some libraries need to rely on recyclables because they do not have program budgets, but may become victims of their own success if they run out of free ideas. That said, sometimes getting support involves demonstrating needs, reasons, and results.

Where to Get Craft Ideas
My personal dexterity as a crafter is limited, but NJLA’s Statewide Summer Reading Committee, listservs, and the Children’s and Young Adult Sections are full of people who can work magic with recyclables. Just send a quick email with the question “What can I make with a bag of jam jars?” and wait for ideas! I also urge all those seeking inspiration to check www.pinterest.com, www.etsy.com, or Google Images for recycled crafts.

Lastly, I owe a huge debt to my colleagues at Monroe Township Library, who always create and share wonderful ideas and materials. They also help me make samples and pack kits when things get crazy. And kudos to the Young Adult Toolbox Panel of the NJLA YA Section for additional helpful hints!

Susan Grotyohann is the Reference and Young Adult Services Librarian at the Monroe Township Library. She holds an M.L.S. from Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She has worked with Monroe’s teens for 10 years, and really would like ideas for that bag of jam jars. Her email address is sgrot@monroetwplibrary.org.

... From Trash to Treasure ... Projects for Teens

My samples of the Winter Words Journal and Pi Day crafts

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Fun Kids' Programs That Don’t Break the Bank

By Chrissie McGovern, Youth Services Department Head, Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library

I’ve been working in Youth Services for 8 fun-filled years. At the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library (MAPL), we serve many children and run about 350-400 programs a year. Many of our favorites are budget-friendly programs, and I’ll share some of them here so you can try them, too.

Play-Doh is always fun. For under $10, we have the kids make their own Play-Doh-like clay with a simple recipe and they each get to take some home. Our Youth Services para-professional, Allyson Daly, established this program in 2009 and it has been a favorite ever since. Here’s the recipe:

Ingredients
1 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
1 tbsp. oil
1 tsp. cream of tartar
1/2 cup warm water and food coloring

Instructions
Mix all ingredients in large bowl. Knead with your hands. Add more flour if sticky, add more water if crumbly. Keep refrigerated in Ziploc bag when not in use!

While we primarily do this program for children from 18 months to 4 years old, we occasionally offer it to all ages and find that teens like making the dough just as much as toddlers and preschoolers. For setup, we use three long tables in a "U" shape and chairs for five participants to sit at each table. When children enter the program room, we give them an apron to wear. The first time we did this program, we made chef hats out of cardstock and crepe paper for each child to wear, but they were time-consuming to make.

Since there are five ingredients in the recipe, each child at a table gets to add an ingredient and mix. When we set up the room, we put each ingredient into a different kind of container, which helps the children know when to add each ingredient. Before we start, we also prepare a set of ingredients for the staff member who’s running the program so he or she can make a batch of dough and demonstrate when to add ingredients. That also gives the children a little bit more extra batch in case one is a dud.

While this program requires a lot of preparation, it is well worth it to see the smiles on the children’s faces. According to Hallmark’s Ultimate Holiday site (www.theultimateholidaysite.com/holidays/2013-9), Sept. 16 is National Play-Doh Day, so that’s the perfect time to try this out!

Balloon Art, for under $20, is one of our most entertaining programs that is also budget friendly. One of our part-time librarians, Linda Schroeder, handles this program. Linda taught herself how to make balloon animals using The Ultimate Balloon Book: 46 Projects to Blow Up, Bend & Twist by Shar Levine & Michael Ouchi. She usually runs this as a teen program, instructing them on how to make simple balloon animals and hats. The teens that have mastered balloon art will then help us make balloon animals for larger programs at the library. Balloons are usually $9.99 for a pack of 100 and pumps are $7-$10. You can purchase these at most party stores. Since we only own three pumps, Linda blows balloons up ahead of time for the program but she does teach the teens how to blow up balloons using the pump.

One of MAPL’s teens is all smiles after learning how to make a bee, a dog, and her own balloon hat!

Kool-Aid Painting, for under $10, is one of my all-time favorites! While it was originally intended for preschool children, older children and tweens enjoy this program as well. This drink mix favorite produces a beautiful watercolor for children to paint with. Using two cups of water, two packets of the same flavor of Kool-Aid, and a few drops of food coloring, you have enough of one color for 40–50 children to use as paint. We pour the Kool-Aid “paint” into smaller cups for the children to use and usually give them three different colors to work with. Lemonade, cherry, and orange are the flavors that turn out the best. We have tried grape and strawberry kiwi in the past, but the colors don’t come out right; the purple looks too brown and the green looks dingy.

We have found that giving children coloring sheets or a piece of paper with a picture that they can paint inside the lines works best. Using a plain white piece of paper may allow them to use their imagination, but then children usually wind up drenching the paper, and it can take a very long time for their masterpieces to dry.

If you are wondering why you need to add food coloring to the Kool-Aid and water mixture, it’s because the dye in the Kool-Aid packets is not strong enough to produce a good

(Continued on page 7)
color on paper, so adding a few drops of food coloring helps. The smell of painting with Kool-Aid is pleasant and when the paper dries, you can scratch and sniff.

Lego Fun, for under $20, is a fairly easy program to run. Lots of libraries have Lego programs for school-age children, but our Lego Fun focuses on preschoolers. A few years ago, we decided to paint with the Legos. Children dip the Legos in the paint on any side they want and then stamp them onto paper. It might sound strange, but the children have a wonderful time and the Legos make interesting designs. If you don’t have Legos, plastic cookie cutters also work well for painting. The children paint on a large piece of white bulletin board paper that we hang up in the Children’s Room when it’s dry. After the large white sheet is filled, they each paint a smaller sheet to take home.

I also made a Lego piñata, thanks to Family Fun magazine (http://funfamilycrafts.com/lego-pinata). I used a shirt box for the Lego body and cut up toilet paper rolls for the connectors. Once I had put everything together, I painted it and attached pieces of string to the bottom of the box so the children could pull on them to open the piñata. I then filled it with leftover summer reading prizes from years past.

When children arrived for this program, they played with Lego Duplos for about 10 minutes and then we pulled the strings of the piñata, so the messiest activity was left for the end. I gave each of the children a lunch bag for them to pick three things that fell from the piñata.

We recently received a Lego Duplo storytime kit for participating in the Read! Build! Play! project though Lego and the Association for Library Service to Children, so we’ll be seeing more Lego programs in our future. You can find more information on this project at http://readbuildplay.com.

Vehicle Day is a free program that children of all ages can enjoy. While this is one of the cheapest programs I’ve ever done, it was the most difficult to plan due to all of the communication involved. When trying to contact local groups that are run by volunteers, such as the fire department and emergency squad, it was difficult to figure out exactly who to contact since the person in charge can change frequently. In some cases, there was a Facebook page that I could send a message to through the library’s account.

Please don’t let the possibility of communication difficulties deter you. It turns out that the police departments of both towns I’d contacted put the event on their calendars and followed up with us at the last minute. The library Director, Kimberly Paone, assisted with contacting the fire department and the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office when she attended the townwide celebrations of Aberdeen Day and Matawan Day that were held around the date of Vehicle Day.

In the end, it all came together and we were able to secure five vehicles. The Matawan Police Department kindly closed off the street next to the library on an autumn day and two police cars (one from Matawan and one from Aberdeen), a street sweeper from the Matawan Department of Public Works, a Hummer from the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office, and a fire engine from the Matawan Fire Department were parked for kids and adults to explore. We offered vehicle-themed storytimes on the hour, and the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office set up a table where parents and adults could sign up for county-issued ID cards for themselves and their children. They also took the photos for the IDs while they were here and later mailed them to our patrons. When our staff sent thank-you notes to the groups that participated, our Friends of the Library group was kind enough to include a donation to the Matawan Fire Department.

As you can see, there are plenty of things you can do on a budget and I hope this article convinces you to try something new.

Chrissie McGovern is the Youth Services Department Head at the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library. She holds an M.L.I.S. from Rutgers University. For more budget-friendly programming ideas, you can visit her blog at http://funbrarian.blogspot.com. Her email address is cmcgovern@lmac.org.
We get additional no-cost promotion through the university’s electronic announcements, which let all faculty, staff, and students know about these sessions. We also place promotional images on the library’s homepage and incorporate them into the streaming loop of informational slides that runs on the library’s three flat-screen televisions. We modify the images and send them to staffers in other departments who are responsible for the flat-panel displays across campus, thereby maximizing the promotion beyond the library. In addition, the people in charge of our social media are using Cheng Library’s Facebook page more frequently to promote not only workshops but also other programs that are sponsored or held in the library.

Even When There Is Low Attendance, Free Workshops Offer Value
It does not take much effort from the library staff members responsible for promoting the workshops to create and disseminate this information, and most work is completed prior to the start of each semester. Other than staff time, there are no expenses incurred, making this a very budget-friendly process. This was certainly not the case when the library first began offering drop-in workshops more than 10 years ago, when people had to send letters out by standard mail and the library had to absorb the cost of printing the letters and the envelopes in addition to the postage.

From the initiation of the workshop series, attendance has never been very high and, during its early years, the costs associated with the mailings regularly exceeded the number of attendees. (The irony of relying on older modes of communication to promote the workshops was that, at that point in time, the week of drop-in sessions was designated as “E-Week” to introduce students, faculty, and staff to the library’s growing collection of electronic resources.)

Although the initial return on the time and expense that went into our promotional efforts was rather low, we did learn a few things over the years that helped us to decide to continue offering workshops at the beginning of, and throughout, each semester. First, there is almost always someone in attendance and there is little to no impact on staffing since the full-time reference librarians who conduct the sessions easily incorporate them into their schedules. What we also discovered is that when you only have a handful of attendees, the presenter can tailor the session to incorporate examples of interest to the listeners. This has proven to be especially useful to graduate students and returning students who may have been out of school for some time. In addition, the welcome message that we send to students often leads to requests for individual appointments from those who are unable to attend the scheduled sessions.

Another benefit of promoting the workshop series has been the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues, and some of the workshops that we currently offer are co-sponsored by other departments and programs on campus. For example, our business-oriented workshops are also part of a Professional Enrichment Program (PEP) coordinated by the College of Business. This ensures attendance at almost every session, since business majors are required to accumulate PEP points in order to graduate.

We have also learned that planning and scheduling “drop-in” workshops allows the librarians to develop new sessions to meet the needs of our students, faculty, and staff, and can oftentimes be incorporated into course-related instruction. Workshops we offered this past semester included the ever-popular RefWorks as well as sessions on the library’s growing e-book and streaming video collections. While many of the sessions focus on specific databases that Cheng subscribes to, librarians are also encouraged to explore new resources, such as freely available GIS applications or the latest census data. Over time, some of our workshops have even been put online through our LibGuides subscription, which makes them available to all users at any date and time.

Although we try out new topics each semester, we also repeat those that have been popular in the past, especially those that are well attended. This makes it very easy to update the schedule each semester since the workshop descriptions already exist and promoters only need to change the dates and times. Reserving a room or a lab for a workshop can often be the most difficult part!

With staff members who are willing and able to develop the creative content as part of their duties, there are no real costs involved in our ongoing workshop series. Many of the technological resources we rely on are available to most libraries, and a motivated staff is all that is necessary to make it happen. So even if you don’t get the attendance that you hope for, a small investment of time can make a big difference, even if it is just one person at a time.

Nancy J. Weiner is a Reference Librarian and Coordinator of User Education at the David and Lorraine Cheng Library at William Paterson University in Wayne. Nancy has a M.L.S. from Rutgers University and an M.A. in media studies from William Paterson University. Her email address is weinern@wpunj.edu.
Membership Mixers

By Michael Maziekien, Member Services Committee

The Member Services Committee has been organizing get-togethers to give NJLA members the chance to hang out away from work, enjoy some food and beverages, and get to know each other socially.

On Friday, Feb. 22, North Jersey libraries were represented in style at the Member Services Morris County Mixer. Attendees from Morris, Bergen, and Middlesex county libraries met up at Vanderbilt’s Sports and Spirits in Florham Park for dinner, drinks, excellent conversation, billiards, and a large quantity of chocolate fondue.

Under the leadership of Laverne Mann, Member Services has organized a series of blockbuster events, including January’s Monster Mini-Golf Tournament in Marlboro.

What’s next for Member Services? Right now, as our Annual Conference in Atlantic City nears, watch for news of meet-ups on June 3 and 4, as well as the annual Leadership Bonfire. And keep your eye on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/NJLA-Member-Services/352477471445864) for updates on upcoming events. (You can also see more photos there.)

All NJLA members are invited and encouraged to join in the fun—it’s one of the benefits of belonging to our association!

Annual Appeal Success

By Joan E. Bernstein, Fundraising Subcommittee

Our 2012 Annual Appeal was the best ever. Thanks to the donations of 120 members, we raised more than $10,000. Two very important donors, Sharon Karmazin and Betty Turock, offered us challenges that equaled a total of $3,750. They matched all individual contributions that exceeded the amount given last year. In addition, there was the stipulation that all Executive Board members donate. We are pleased to report that we met and, in fact, exceeded the challenge amount in increased or new contributions. This was the first time that NJLA was offered a challenge grant as part of its fundraising efforts and we are very appreciative of the generosity of these two members.

Also, we’d like to acknowledge three additional exceptionally generous donors, Jack Livingstone, Linda Klapperstuck, and one donor who prefers to remain anonymous.

The Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association is deeply grateful in its thanks to all donors for their generosity. The funds will supplement NJLA’s income for the operating support of the association, and will make it possible for the organization to continue to support and advocate at the highest level for librarians and libraries in New Jersey in the coming year.

Please check the NJLA website for acknowledgements of all our Annual Appeal donors.

http://njla.org/content/annual-appeal-donors

Mini-golf booty: Irene Goldberg and a guest at the event both won some cold cash in a friendly wager for making a hole-in-one, while Tyler Rousseau was crowned with a zany horned helmet for getting the lowest score of the night.

"Monstrous" mini-golf

Amos, the abolitionist

To purchase this DVD and other educational resources, visit shopPBS.org/teachershop or other authorized distributor sites.
Honors and Awards

Sophie Brookover, Program Coordinator & Social Media Manager for LibraryLinkNJ, was selected as the 2012 recipient of the President’s Award by the New Jersey Association of School Librarians.

Cheryl O’Connor, Executive Director of LibraryLinkNJ, was honored by VALE (Virtual Academic Library Environment) at its Annual Conference in early January. VALE recognized O’Connor for her years of commitment to libraries and cooperation among libraries in general, and to academic libraries and VALE in particular.

Lilia Pavlovsky of the School of Communication and Information (SCI) at Rutgers University has been named Library Journal's Teaching Award Winner for 2012.

Congratulations to five New Jersey public libraries named “America’s Star Libraries” by Library Journal: Avalon PL, Bernardsville PL, Mercer County Library, Princeton PL, and Roseland PL. This distinction is given based on quantities of services provided by public libraries.

In the Media

Tonya Badillo, the Assistant Director at Long Branch PL and one of NJLA's Rising Stars, was featured in an article in the Asbury Park Press in December. Read the article at http://tinyurl.com/bblpsbx.


Appointments and Elections

Michael Banick has been appointed the Director of Millburn PL starting in March 2013. He was previously the Director of Mountainside PL.

Samantha McCoy is the new Director of Lee Memorial Library in Allendale.

Kathleen McGrail has been appointed the Director of Upper Saddle River PL.

Darren Miguez is the new Director at Old Bridge PL.

Manny Paredes is the new Director at Monroe Twp. Library in Gloucester County. He was previously Director at Cherry Hill PL. Laverne Mann will take his place as the new Director in Cherry Hill. To read an article about Mann's appointment on Philly.com, go to http://tinyurl.com/b6gueht.

Lori-Ann Quinn has been appointed the Director at Waldwick PL. She was previously Head of Circulation and Technical Services at Glen Rock Public Library.

Christy Sayre accepted the position of Library System Manager at the Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium in January. She was previously the Integrated Services Librarian at PALS Plus in Clifton.

Joe Toth has accepted the position of Director of Library Services at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Celebrations

Totowa PL celebrated its grand re-opening in October after extensive renovations.

Resignations/Retirements

Patricia Boyd retired as Director of Waldwick PL.

Laura Gewissler, Director of the Georgian Court University Library, took a new position at the University of Vermont. She was a librarian at Georgian Court for 25 years and had served as Director since September 2011.

Elizabeth Lillie recently retired as Director of Monroe Twp. Library in Gloucester County.

Barbara Newmark Kruger has retired as Director of Upper Saddle River PL.

Pat Pelak retired as Director of Little Falls PL.

Bill Swinson, Director of Millburn PL, plans to retire in March 2013.

Carol Wolf is retiring from Gloucester County Library after many years of service.

Compiled by Mary Marks, Associate University Librarian, Fairleigh Dickinson University Library in Madison.
Want a great way to raise funds for the library?

Innovative Document Imaging, a leader in the preservation of library historical collections, has partnered with local libraries in New Jersey. We are now offering a unique opportunity for local town residents to obtain professional digital imaging services to preserve their own valuable records.

**What this means to you:**
For every sale, a contribution of 20% will be credited back towards your library.

Contact Marty Tannenbaum:
martyt@idiimage.com for more information regarding this fundraising opportunity!

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Phone: 800–380–9058 • 732–613–7170 • Fax: 732–613–2788
www.idiimage.com
By Kathy Dempsey, Newsletter Editor

Here are a few bonus ideas for programs!

Apples: Did you know there are thousands of types of apples? Ask a Garden State farmer to talk about some (and bring samples).

Birthday Bashes: Note birthdays of famous people by giving brief informational talks or showing YouTube videos. Get material from your own historical databases. Have kids draw pictures of the birthday person. Buy or make mini cupcakes for attendees.

Fly with NASA: NASA’s website (www.nasa.gov) is packed with interesting stuff and has a whole section for educators. There are teaching materials, audio and video clips, podcasts, apps, and even free ebooks.

Open Mic nights: An open room, a microphone, and a little publicity are all you need to host poetry or music events.

Use Vendor Freebies: More and more vendors are offering extra resources to increase usage of their materials. For instance, Gale Cengage Learning has links to various tools at www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources. They include downloadable bookmarks and screen backgrounds, activities, quizzes, etc. Other vendors do this too; search their sites for freebies.

Bring the Zoo to You: Many zoos and animal parks will bring animals to your site for educational programs. There’s usually a fee, but you could recoup expenses by seeking grants, partnering with nearby libraries or schools, or asking a civic organization to sponsor the visit.

You can find lots more ideas, tools, and case studies at the ALA site www.programminglibrarian.org!