

WAVELENGTH:

• A LOOK BACK AT 2013 •

ACLS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

VIRTUALLY UNSTOPPABLE

The popularity of **digital resources** grew dramatically in 2013. An impressive 60% increase in the number of checkouts from the virtual collection was tallied. The variety of digital resources available through the library system increased as well with the addition of Zinio and IndieFlix. **Zinio** provided thousands of free digital magazines that can be read on a Mac or Windows computer or downloaded on a variety of mobile devices with Internet capability for online and offline viewing, while **IndieFlix** allowed the streaming of thousands of short, independent, and foreign films and documentaries from more than 50 countries to any Internet-connected device free of charge with no checkouts, returns, or waiting times.

All digital media became easier to access on the **library system's re-vamped website** that debuted in October. A major redesign of the website provided the opportunity to create a more attractive, streamlined look and to make the site more user-friendly by grouping items together in ways that library users would expect. Perhaps the biggest advantage of the new website is how well it is viewed on portable devices such as mobile phones, tablets, eReaders, and the like. As more and more people step away from their PCs and laptops, mobile devices account for an increasing percentage of all web browsing.

Can't make it to Sundance, Cannes, or Tribeca? Watch the films—Action and Adventure to Zombies—on IndieFlix instead! Go to www.atlantic-library.org/indieflix to see what's available. Want the convenience of reading magazines—American Craft to Yoga Journal—on your mobile device? Go to www.atlanticlibrary.org/zinio_magazines to get started!



SHARING THE STORIES

Your stories matter. That simple statement is how the **Sandy Stories Project** began. The Sandy Stories Project was launched to document in a lasting way the impact the storm had on the community of **Brigantine**. A major story gathering effort commenced, and locals were asked to share their experiences on video to chronicle the heartbreak, healing, and hope that played out in the wake of Sandy. A total of sixty-four residents, business owners, first responders, and recovery volunteers were interviewed and spoke about their journey through the storm and its aftermath, recording a wide range of emotions and situations. Despite the difficulties shared by most, the video is a testament to the resilience and strength of the people of Brigantine. Professional video editor Taylor Van Nest, a Brigantine native and former library employee, and Beth Bliss, Atlantic County Library System/Brigantine Manager served as editor and producer of the documentary which premiered in January 2014. Copies of the video are available for a donation to the **Atlantic County Library Foundation** by contacting the Brigantine branch.

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BACK WHERE THEY BELONG

At long last, **Atlantic County Library System/Brigantine** reopened after nearly a year of work to repair the damage from Hurricane Sandy. While the Library Outpost in the Brigantine Beach Community Center* filled the bill in the meantime, library workers and users were thrilled to be back in their permanent digs. Operations resumed at 201 15th Street South on September 20, and a Grand Reopening Celebration was held on November 13. The celebration featured a caution tape cutting instead of a ribbon cutting, brief remarks by local dignitaries and community leaders, light refreshments, and a festive atmosphere. The Atlantic County Library Foundation provided a Kindle Fire for a door prize which was won fittingly enough by a New Jersey Hope and Healing worker, Jordan Brunette.

Many different public and private agencies played a part in keeping library service going and getting the storm-damaged building open again. County and City workers, along with a host of volunteers, worked to get the facility back in shape. And the branch received unexpected help from a host of contributors, including: a \$500 donation from The Friends of the St. Martin (Miss.) Library; four dehumidifiers from Blankets for Brigantine; boxes of craft supplies gathered by a Girl Scout in Warren County, NJ; memorial donations to honor a long-time patron; and a \$1,000 grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities to offset book sale revenue losses. Thanks to a massive team effort, extraordinary challenges were met—and library services remained a steady presence in Brigantine.

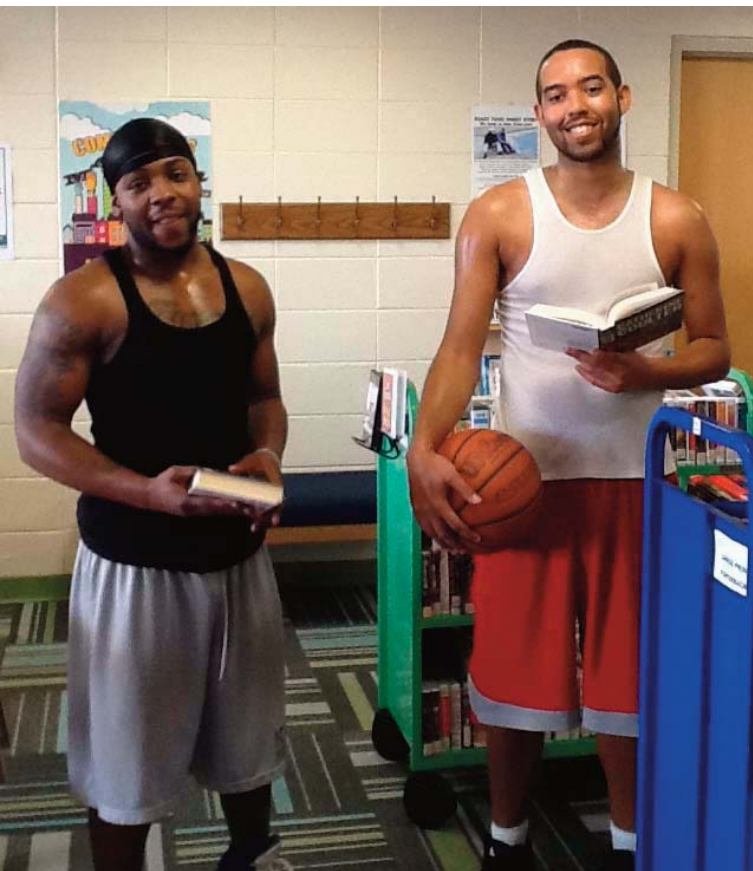


*Many thanks go to Jim Mogan and the rest of the staff at the Brigantine Beach Community Center for being such welcoming and gracious hosts to the library branch during its relocation. Library events such as Your Calm After the Storm, presented in partnership with BrigStrong and the Brigantine Municipal Alliance and facilitated by the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, continue to be held at the community center.



GET CAUGHT READING

Get Caught Reading is a nationwide campaign to remind people of all ages how much fun it is to read. Did we catch you reading this year?



BY THE NUMBERS*

874,655 ITEMS CHECKED OUT

781,035 VISITORS

499,342 VOLUMES OWNED

180,097 INTERNET APPOINTMENTS

64,473 MUSIC/BOOK/MAGAZINE DOWNLOADS

58,855 CARD HOLDERS

35,410 WIFI SESSIONS

978 PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

493 PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

134 PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

10 BRANCHES

1 COMMUNITY READING CENTER

1 TEMPORARY OUTPOST

1 BOOKMOBILE

* DURING 2013



CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

Miss New Jersey Cara McCollum brought her platform "Giving the Gift of Reading" promoting youth literacy to three Atlantic County Library System locations—the Longport and Mays Landing branches and the bookmobile stop at the Milanese School in Buena—in 2013. While she visited the Longport branch, a television crew filmed a segment for a special that aired with the Miss America pageant in September. Miss New Jersey returns to the area to visit other Atlantic County Library System locations in 2014.



FIRST GRADE... FIRST STEPS

First graders in Hamilton Township received colorful backpacks in March 2013 as part of the Atlantic County Library Foundation's "First Grade...First steps begin at the library" program which began in 2003. Staff members from the library system visited the first graders in the Hamilton Township School District and at St. Vincent de Paul Regional School to hand out backpacks full of goodies, including the book *The Riverbank* by Kenneth Grahame, and information about the Atlantic County Library System. The First Grade...First Steps program introduces first graders to the wonders that can be found at their local library in the hope they will begin a tradition of lifelong learning by using the library. For more information on the Atlantic County Library Foundation visit www.aclf.us or ask for details at your local Atlantic County Library System branch.



Dig into Reading

2013 Summer Reading Program

Kids were encouraged to **Dig Into Reading**, teens to go **Beneath the Surface**, and adults to explore **Ground-breaking Reads**—all at their local branch during the Atlantic County Library System’s summer reading program. Paleontologist Dr. Matthew Bonan of Richard Stockton College of New Jersey fascinated audiences at several branches with his presentations that featured real dinosaur bones. Over 5,300 people attended 333 programs and events throughout the library system, and more than 1,100 summer reading program participants read over 13,500 books!



SUBIN BUYS BINS

It may sound like a new tongue twister, but Atlantic County Library System/Ventnor was able to acquire new book bins for the children’s section of the library branch thanks to a generous donation by former Ventnor resident Ellen Subin (seen here with librarian Kim Strenger). Her donation to the Atlantic County Library Foundation funded the purchase of the bins that allow small children to easily browse through picture books organized into categories such as transportation, concepts, or music. Libraries using the bin system have seen a dramatic increase in the number of children’s books checked out.

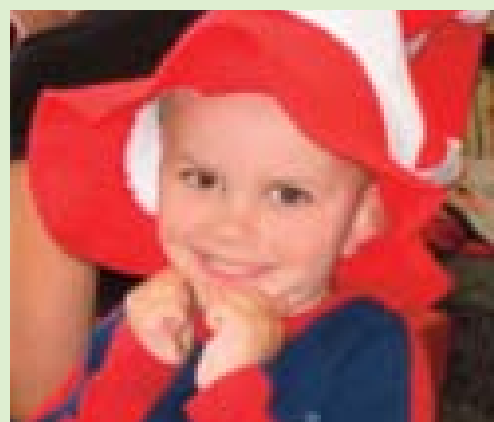
SANDY PAGES



The **Longport branch’s Sandy Pages Book Club** was invited to Lisa Scottoline’s 8th annual Big Book Club Party on her 44-acre Paoli, Pennsylvania farm. The event is a way for Scottoline to honor book clubs that have supported her throughout her career and features a personal welcome and remarks from Scottoline and her daughter and sometime collaborator Francesca Serritella. The Big Book Club Party happened to be held on the 90th birthday of Scottoline’s mother Mary—who made an appearance and was treated to a Happy Birthday serenade by the 500 gathered guests!

SEEN AROUND THE LIBRARY

Throughout the year, Atlantic County Library System locations present a wide range of programs for all ages. Go to www.atlanticlibrary.org and click on Calendar of Events to learn about upcoming programs in your area.



TEEN ARTS

In 2013, more than 1,000 students and scores of workshop leaders, reviewers, critiquers, and volunteers participated in the Teen Arts Festival which was held at 15 venues in downtown Hammonton. Open to any high school aged student in public or private school, as well as home-schooled students and those who are involved in extra-curricular private instruction, the one-day festival featured activities in dance, theater, music, film, photography, creative writing, and visual arts. First held in 1969, the festival is coordinated by the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs in collaboration with the Noyes Museum of Art/Stockton College, Hammonton Arts Center, The Eagle Theatre, Hammonton Art District, MainStreet Hammonton, and other arts and educational organizations. Funding is provided in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



ATLANTIC COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

www.atlanticlibrary.org

Brigantine, 201 15th Street South, 266-0110
M, T, F & SAT: 9 am – 5 pm, W & TH: 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Elizabeth Bliss, BrigantineBranch@aclsys.org

Buena Community Reading Center, Buena Regional High School, 125 Weymouth Road
Hours may vary according to school schedule.
Please call (856) 697-2400, extension 8231, or (609) 625-2776, extension 6338.

Egg Harbor City, 134 Philadelphia Avenue, 804-1063
M, W, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, T & TH 12 pm – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Maura Monte, EggHarborCityBranch@aclsys.org

Egg Harbor Township, 1 Swift Avenue, 927-8664
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Ruth Conrad, EggHarborTownshipBranch@aclsys.org

Galloway Township, 306 East Jimmie Leeds Road, 652-2352
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Patricia Morrow, GallowayTownshipBranch@aclsys.org

Hammonton, 451 Egg Harbor Road, 561-2264
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Catharine Ostrum, HammontonBranch@aclsys.org

Longport, 2305 Atlantic Avenue, 487-0272
M – SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Summer: M 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Kathryn Gindin, LongportBranch@aclsys.org

Mays Landing, 40 Farragut Avenue, 625-2776, 646-8699
M – TH 9 am – 9 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Donna Cameron, MaysLandingBranch@aclsys.org

Outreach Services Section, (609) 625-2776, extension 6338
for information on Books by Mail and Bookmobile services.
Section Manager: Mary Beth Fine, OutreachServices@aclsys.org

Pleasantville, 33 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, 641-1778
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Pamela Saunders, PleasantvilleBranch@aclsys.org

Reference Center, 40 Farragut Avenue, Mays Landing, 625-2776, extension 6310

Somers Point, 801 Shore Road, 927-7113
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Mary Jane Bolden, SomersPointBranch@aclsys.org

Ventnor, 6500 Atlantic Avenue, 823-4614
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Ellen Eisen, VentnorBranch@aclsys.org

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Chairperson: Jody Turner
Freeholder Member: Colin G. Bell
Luann Amodeo, Don Morgenweck,
Susan M. Sless, Grant Wilinski, Michelle Wilson

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

Karen L. George, Director
Gair Helfrich, Assistant Director
Regina Bell, Chief Librarian
Ellen Eisen, Librarian 4
Carolina Ramos, Accountant

ATLANTIC COUNTY OFFICE OF CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS

40 Farragut Avenue, Mays Landing, 625-2776, extension 6314
Administrator: Cynthia Mason Purdie, cmasonpurdie@aclsys.org
www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs

CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson: June Gray Sheridan
Freeholder Member: Will Pauls
Aurora Boyette, Vonnie Clark, Michael Cool, Cynthia M. Domino,
Gabriel J. Donio, Gary Giberson



All locations are accessible to the handicapped

WHAT'S BETTER THAN A LIBRARY?

What's better than a library?...[A Library in a Library!](#) Library in a Library is a new partnership between the Atlantic County Library System and Atlantic Cape to provide leisure and recreational reading for the college community of students, faculty and staff. A collection of over 100 best sellers, fiction, mystery, biography, and nonfiction titles was unveiled during the summer of 2013 in a dedicated space in the William Spangler Library at Atlantic Cape's Mays Landing campus.



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Community
Relations staff:
Beverly Bird,
Bernard DeLury
John King
Lisa Warker

Atlantic County
Library System
40 Farragut Ave.
Mays Landing, NJ
08330

