



ATLANTIC COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM/BRIGANTINE
 201 15TH ST. SOUTH, BRIGANTINE, NJ 08203
 (609) 266-0110

BRANCH ENEWSLETTER - MAY 2014

OUR NEWS FOR YOU



Library Staffer Nominated for RITA Award

Local Author Beth Ciotta ...

Brigantine's own Beth Ciotta (right) was a finalist in the Romance Writers of America's 2014 RITA Awards for her book, *His Clockwork Canary*.

The RITA, presented by the Romance Writers of America, is their highest award of distinction in romance fiction, and recognizes excellence in published romance novels and novellas. Winners will be announced at RWA's national conference in San Antonio on July 26, 2014. Congratulations Beth and good luck in July!



Children's Room Tree

When you and your children come to the library, be sure to add something to our special tree. Our tree had its roots as a Thankful Tree in November.



Each month we have a different theme.



In January the children added mittens, and in February they decorated hearts. March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb.

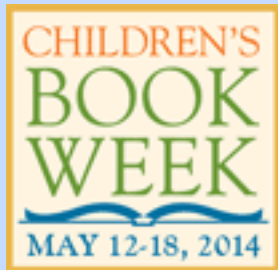
Stop by to see how your children can participate in the coming months!

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: Closed

See our complete calendar of events at:
atlanticlibrary.org

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You know what you like. Make your voice be heard! Children and teens have the opportunity to vote online for their favorite books. You can vote until May 12th at: www.bookweekonline.com/voting

Book Discussion Group for Adults



Join our growing and lively book discussion group for adults on the second Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in the Brigantine Beach Community Center, 265 42nd St.

Registration required. Call (609) 266-0110 for details.

In May we will discuss *Light Between Oceans*.

News you can use ...

Storytime with Miss Bonnie

Suggested for ages 3-5. Join Miss Bonnie to hear stories, sing songs, & make a quick craft on Fridays in the kids' room at the Brigantine Branch. Two chances to join us – 10:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

On May 16th, come celebrate Children's Book Week at Storytime. We will be reading some of our very favorite children's books and creating our own little "books".

Seashore Purls

The "Seashore Purls" meet each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Brigantine Beach Community Center, 265 42nd St. The "Purls" knit, crochet and also create hairpin lace. Want to learn pattern reading? This group can help. All skill levels are welcome.

Your Calm After the Storm - Hurricane Sandy

Your Calm After the Storm, the Hurricane Sandy resource and recovery group, meets every Wednesday at the Brigantine Beach Community Center, 265 42nd Street (Lou Wagenheim Drive). The program is facilitated by the Mental Health Association in New Jersey. Your Calm After the Storm is presented by Atlantic County Library System/Brigantine in partnership with BrigStrong and the Brigantine Municipal Alliance. Light refreshments are provided.

Join us each Wednesday evening for information sharing & stress relief sessions. The schedule is as follows:

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. - Case management intake

6:30 - 6:45 p.m. - Updates from BrigStrong, Brigantine's long-term recovery group

6:45 - 8:00 p.m. - Get useful suggestions for coping with and solving your Sandy-related issues.

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Atlantic County Library System/Brigantine is LibraryAware Community Award 2014 Honoree

In March 2014, our Brigantine Branch was recognized by the *Library Journal* for their community work in response to the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Following is an excerpt from the article by John Berry published on March 27th:



Atlantic County Library System's (ACLS) Brigantine branch was one of many libraries in communities damaged by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. In response, the library created the Sandy Stories Project (SSP), a feature film documenting the impact. Other branches may replicate this pilot program in the future, but the project's footprint goes well beyond the library. ACLS partnered with local businesses and community agencies such as BrigStrong (the town's long-term recovery group); city officials; New Jersey Hope and Healing (NJ Hope), a FEMA-funded peer counseling effort; Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (Stockton); and local schools. Those relationships continue beyond the documentary.

The library now cosponsors with NJ Hope and BrigStrong a support group for Sandy survivors. NJ Hope established a table in the library's lobby that is staffed several days each week (pictured). A Stockton professor who also works with the American Red Cross is using interview footage in research to inform future disaster response and preparedness efforts, inspiring the library to plan a follow-up project. And ACLS was invited to pilot a series of "mental health first aid" workshops for library employees; the results will be presented at the New Jersey Library Association's convention in June.



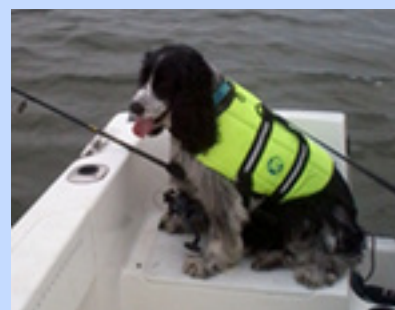
The library "inspired other entities in the region to think of story-gathering as a means of chronicling and healing," Beth Bliss, Brigantine branch manager, told LJ. NJ Hope incorporated "Tell us your story" into events throughout the state, and Stockton began collecting its own stories. For using the library's role as aggregator and sharer of stories to heal its community, among other initiatives, ACLS is the 2014 LibraryAware Community Award second-place winner and will receive a \$7,500 prize.

Citation for above article: Engaging Everyone In Town | 2014 LibraryAware Community Award, lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/03/awards/engaging-everyone-in-town-2014-libraryaware-community-award/, John N. Berry III, March 27, 2014

Read and Romp with Bambi, the Dog who Reads - with You!

We hope you can join us on May 3 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Children's Room and meet Bambi!

Suggested for ages 3-9. Join Bambi, our Springer Spaniel friend, who listens to you read -- and plays with you, too!



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Staff Favorites - Spring Picks

Jean Marie - *12 Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup.

"I was fascinated to read from the perspective of linguistic expression a century and a half ago."

Linda - *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch

"The writing was beautiful. I would stop after each paragraph and be amazed at the way she described things."

Gina - *The Good Luck Girls of Shipwreck Lane* by Kelly Harms

"I really enjoyed the story. It was funny, sweet and also really showed how two such totally different people can come together to become good friends, almost like family."

Bonnie - *Beth Ciotta's Cupcake Lover's Series: Fool for Love, The Trouble With Love, and Anything but Love*

"I am not usually a fan of the romance genre but I enjoyed the well-drawn characters and the story lines."

Trish - *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.

"This was the first dystopian future I ever read and its plausibility and clarity have stayed with me."

Beth B. - *Open This Little Book*, by Jesse Klausmeier, (Illustrated by Suzy Lee).

Wait a minute. The cover of this delightful children's picture book measures 8"x11" – so why is it called "little?" Well . . . you have to open it to find out, as the title commands! The Klausmeier-Lee team has created a truly unique reading experience for young and old alike. With *OTLB*, the reader gets not just one, but SIX books in one neat package, ranging from 9-1/2" to 3" – one tucked inside the next. The true success of this work is not only the nesting of these little books, but the wonderfully tight narrative structure of the animal creatures who journey through them, and the sense of community that emerges. The tale ends with a delightful invitation for readers to keep reading.

Happily, our library has a connection with Ms. Klausmeier, who has shared some photos that tell us about her journey toward the creation of a dream she's had since she was five years old!

Shown in the image at right, Jesse Klausmeier, with her grandma, Iyla, holding the cover of the book as it was first conceived when she was 5.



Before and after: A drawing of Jesse Klausmeier's first concept for *Open This Little Book* (as *The Little Red Book*), created at age 5; and the book as published with illustrator Suzy Lee in 2013.



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