



ATLANTIC COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM/EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP
 1 SWIFT AVE., EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NJ 08234
 (609) 927-8664

BRANCH eNEWSLETTER JANUARY - MARCH 2014

OUR NEWS FOR YOU

Spring Events Lineup at Egg Harbor Township

Atlantic County Library System/Egg Harbor Township branch for all age groups. Listed below are some of our events planned for toddlers, kids, teens, adults and families. For more information and to register for any of our programs, call the library at (609) 927-8664. We hope to see you here!



- **Toddler Storytimes**
 Tuesdays, January 14 - March 11 at 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays, January 16 - March 13 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Bedtime Storytimes**
 Wednesdays, January 15 - March 12 at 6:00 p.m. (PJs welcome!)
- **Book Club Discussion**
 Thursday, January 2 at 6:30 p.m. - *A Christmas Secret* by Anne Perry
 Thursday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. - *Lean In* by Cheryl Sandberg
 Thursday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. - *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake
- **Practice SAT**
 Take a practice SAT exam on Saturday, January 18 at 10:00 a.m. Registration is required.
- **Teen Meets**
 Join us on Thursdays, January 23, February 20 and March 20 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Cocoa, Cookies and a Movie**
 This family program is open to all ages on Monday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Valentine's Day Craft**
 Suggested for ages 6 to 11, registration is required for this program. Event is held Saturday, February 8 at 11:00 a.m.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 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

After Hours Teen Murder Mystery

Murder! Mystery! Intrigue!

On Friday, February 21, from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m., the library will be scene to all of these. This event is open to all teens. Be sure to sign up for a role on February 20 and then, on Friday, watch your back!

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Fun Library Fact!



Valentine's day is on Friday, February 14th this year.

One of the world's most notorious romancers was Giovanni Giacomo Casanova, more commonly known as "Casanova," who lived and wrote memoirs detailing his 18th century love life.

What does this have to do with Libraries, you might ask?

Well, as it turns out, Casanova wrote the majority of his Memoirs in a...(drumroll)..library while he was a cataloger for a wealthy Count. Other famous library workers include Lewis Carroll—author of the beloved, *Alice in Wonderland* books and Jacob Grimm—collector of fairytales, and author, with his brother, of *Grimm's Fairy Tales*.

Source: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/21437/quick-10-10-surprising-former-librarians#ixzz2jh2unWeD>

Kids Spooked by EHT's Haunted Reference Room

On Friday, October 25th, 23 kids and 7 parents came to Atlantic County Library System/Egg Harbor Township to experience tricks and treats during an After-Hours Halloween party. For the event, the reference room, usually unexciting with a few people working silently at desks, was transformed into a haunted farm. The farm was complete with a trail of hay lit by tea lights leading to a large circle. In the circle kids gathered to listen to legends, both well and lesser-known, of the Jersey devil.



A crow perched on the window looking out at the "haunted" library grounds, tombstones, and several flickering Jack-O-Lanterns added to the eerie aura.

Kids sat, huddled together in hay, as staff members—Mike Stirm, Amanda Vigue, and Ruth Conrad—unfolded spine-tingling tales of the local legend; tales that were brought to life by outdoor "appearances" of the Jersey Devil himself!

The zombies, Darth Vaders and Mr. Potato Heads, and who attended were also treated to pizza, candy corn bingo, and musical chairs.



A blueprint of the reference room as it looked for this event is shown at left.

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A Keychain is Worth a Thousand Words...

Here is a collage of 8 key chains belonging to patrons of the Atlantic County Library System/ Egg Harbor Township.



At the library, we encounter many chains of various shapes, sizes, and objects when we are handed them to scan keychain library cards. Some of them are practical, silly, or just perplexing — but each seems to reveal something about its owner.

We have, on one chain, a miniature measuring tape (practical), on another, 2 strings of Jack-Sparrow-like beads (silly), and on yet another, an enormous plastic key which couldn't possibly unlock anything.

Yet, as one library employee pointed out, this seemingly pointless item may in fact be a homing beacon for an owner looking for his or her keychain in a cramped pocketbook.

Can you find yours in the collage?



All fans of George R.R. Martin's epic fantasy series are hereby invited to **A Night of Ice and Fire** on Thursday, March 13th starting at 6pm.

We will celebrate the books and upcoming 4th season of the television series with a Kings-landing style feast, costume contest, and trivia. There will also be a coat-of-arms creation station where attendees can create their own series-themed heraldry.

Fans of both the books and television series are welcome! Registration is required and costumes are encouraged.

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A Review of **S** by J.J. Abrams and Doug Dorst

By Michael Stirm, Library Assistant
Atlantic County Library System/Egg Harbor Township

What happens when you put J.J. Abrams, quite possibly this generation's Steven Spielberg, and Doug Dorst, author, Jeopardy champion, and professor of creative writing at Texas State University—in a room together? Well, you get **S**, one of the most unique and lovely works of literature that this reader has had the pleasure of experiencing.

Unique: **S** is unlike anything you've probably read before. It comes packaged in a black cover slip with a huge "S"—the signature "S" which appears again and again throughout the book.



But **S** is not the book...it is the title of the package. The book, just one of 23 literary objects that make up **S**, is called *The Ship of Theseus*, supposedly published in 1949 by a supposed V.M. Straka. There is a lot of supposition here, and that's because—no surprise for fans of Abrams's show, "Lost,"—there is a huge mystery element to **S**.

There is the mystery of the actual identity of the author, Straka. There is the mystery of the identity of the editor of *Ship of Theseus*, Straka's last work. And there is the mystery of the messages that are encoded in the editor's footnotes, messages that are intended for the real V.M. Straka, whoever that may be.

"S" is also the alias of the main character in *Ship of Theseus*, a man without an identity, without a memory, who, near the beginning of the story, finds himself prisoner on a boat as ghastly as *The Flying Dutchman* in Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.

When you open *Ship of Theseus*, you will notice extensive marginalia written on nearly every page. And this is supposed to be a library book! Tisk... Tisk... The individuals responsible for the marginalia, and for unraveling the mysteries surrounding "S," are a college undergraduate English major named Jen and an expunged graduate student named Eric.

What you have here is two texts, then: the book, *Ship of Theseus*, and the dialogue (and eventual romance) that develop between the two "real-world" characters, Eric and Jen. Abrams has called **S** his "love letter to the written word." I call it one of the most strangely-fascinating and gripping things I've read; the only thing that comes close to it is probably the film, "The Neverending Story," where one character's reading of a book has a direct influence on how the story unfolds. In this case, it is the mystery of "S," its author's identity, and the implications of unmasking this famously controversial persona that are tied to the scholarly efforts of the two readers. *Ship of Theseus* comes in at 456 pages. There's also the folder of supplemental materials in **S**, including handwritten letters between Jen and Eric, clippings from newspapers, and yes, even a real napkin with a map drawn on it.

If you can put up with the occasional bizarreness of the main text and "S's" story—which at times strays into and beyond "Twilight Zone," territory, you're in for a real treat.

Be aware, however, that this is not a beach read. **S** is more suited to cold winter nights, when you can curl up, settle in, and commit to reading a good book. But **S** is more than just a good book; it is, in the truest sense, a reading experience.

See our complete Calendar of Events at: www.atlanticlibrary.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January, February, & March 2014

For Kids

TODDLER STORYTIME

Tuesdays, January 14-March 11, 10:30 am
Thursdays, January 16-March 13, 10:30 am
Suggested for ages 2-5.

Registration required for either session.
Bring your little ones to hear stories, play games & do crafts.

BEDTIME STORYTIME

Wednesdays, January 15-March 12, 6 pm
Suggested for ages 2-5.
Registration required.

Wear your pajamas to hear stories
& have a snack!

VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT

Saturday, February 8, 11 am
Suggested for ages 6-11.
Registration required.

ATLANTIC COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM/
EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP
1 Swift Avenue, 927-8664

For Teens

KAPLAN PRACTICE SAT TEST

Saturday, January 18, 10 am-2:30 pm
Suggested for ages 13-18.
Registration required & begins 3 weeks
before the program.

Try your hand at a full-length
practice SAT to see how you do!
Remember to bring a scientific calculator.

TEEN MEET

Thursdays, January 23, February 20, March
20, 6 pm
Suggested for ages 13-18.
Play games, plan events
& chat with other teens.

TEEN AFTER-HOURS MURDER MYSTERY

Friday, February 21, 4:30-7:30 pm
Open to all teens.
Registration required.
You **MUST** attend the Teen Meet on 2/20
to get your role.
Eat a meal, have fun
& possibly solve a mystery!

For Adults

COMPUTER LITERACY & TRAINING

January-March

During regular hours

Open to adults.

Call for an appointment for an individualized one-on-one session.

Learn the basics of Word, email & Internet searching.

BOOK CLUB

Thursday, January 2, 6:30 pm:

A Christmas Secret by Anne Perry

Thursday, February 6, 6:30 pm:

Lean In by Cheryl Sandberg

Thursday, March 6, 6:30 pm

The Postmistress by Sarah Blake

Open to adults; all are welcome

A NIGHT OF ICE & FIRE

Thursday, March 13, 6-8 pm

Open to adults; come in costume!

Registration requested.

Food, events & trivia based on the popular series *Song of Ice and Fire*

by George R. R. Martin.

Enjoy a night at the Great Hall of Westeros in anticipation of the 4th season of *Game of Thrones*.

For Families

COCOA, COOKIES & A MOVIE

Monday, January 27, 6-7:30 pm

Open to all ages.

Enjoy hot chocolate, sweets & a family favorite!

For online program registration or for information on events held at other Atlantic County Library System locations, go to www.atlanticlibrary.org and click on Calendar of Events.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

ALL BRANCHES CLOSED:
NEW YEAR'S DAY
Wednesday, January 1, 2014

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
Monday, January 20

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
Monday, February 10

PRESIDENT'S DAY
Monday, February 17

January						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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February						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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March						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

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Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson
Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders