



GLOUCESTER COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

Mullica Hill Branch

Administrative Headquarters
389 Wolfert Station Road
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
856-223-6000

Glassboro Branch

101 Rowan Boulevard
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Greenwich Branch

411 Swedesboro Road
Greenwich, NJ 08027

Logan Branch

498 Beckett Road
Logan, NJ 08085

Margaret Dombrosky

Swedesboro Public Library

1442 Kings Highway
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

Director:

Carolyn S. Oldt

Assistant Director:

Judith Pissano

Follow Us!



@GloucesterCountyLibrary

@GCLibS

@GloucesterCountyLibrarySystem



Commission Director Frank J. DiMarco
Commissioner Joann Gattinelli, Library Liaison



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Library Equal Access Program (LEAP)

GCLS partnered with The New Jersey State Library: Talking Book and Braille Center (TBBC), Gloucester County Division of Aging, and Gloucester County Transportation to become the first Library Equal Access Program (LEAP) library in Gloucester County. LEAP provides for those aged 55 and over, with vision impairment, the opportunity to take technology classes using assistive technology with a TBBC instructor in our Mullica Hill headquarters location. Gloucester County Division of Transportation provides free transportation to residents to attend LEAP classes.

Longwood Community Read: A Celebration of Foodways and Culture

All branches participated in programs surrounding culture, food and gardening. Longwood Gardens provided a four person pass to the first 12 people participating in the sponsored programs. This is the second year for this initiative.

GCLS Mobile e-Bikes

Public community events were used to connect with library patrons and potential patrons, and help advocate for the library. The GCLS Mobile e-Bikes were brought out to many of these events this year including:

- Saturday, June 10 - Glassboro Day
- Saturday, June 10 - Clayton Day
- Saturday, July 1 - Independence Day Parade in Greenwich
- Saturday, July 15 - Butterfly Festival at Red Bank Battlefield
- Thursday, July 27 - Dancing in the Park at Swedesboro Auction Park



Glassboro Public Library Anticipated Move

The Glassboro Public Library opened on September 23, 1956, in the Glassboro Police Reserve's meeting room. Since then the library has moved three times, the last time in 1979 into the old Acme that was built in 1952. The Glassboro Public Library became a branch of the Gloucester County Library System in 1996. With

the support of Gloucester County and the Borough of Glassboro, The GCLS Glassboro Public Library will soon be moving to a new space on Rowan Boulevard. In preparation, Gloucester County Building & Grounds moved many items from Glassboro into storage and to other library sites.

Expanded Collections

All GCLS Branches house a Library of Things (LOT). GCLS is now loaning out hotspots, iPads, yard games, puzzles, board games, and STEAM/STEM kits. Youth Services across the system have added Wonderbooks and Vox Books to our LOT collections. They are a combination picture book and audiobook. Youth Services have also added Worry Woos to our collections. Worry Woos are a social emotional learning kit for children that includes a plush stuffed Worry Woo monster and children's book. They are used to help children address their emotions on subjects such as loneliness, frustration, and worry.

GRANTS

Due to the initiative and hard work of GCLS staff in 2023, the library received grants and awards valued at approximately \$31,908.

NJ Maker's Day Mini Grant - **\$500**

Library Equal Access Program (LEAP) Library - **\$8,360**

The Yiddish Book Center's "Stories of Exile" Reading Groups for Public Libraries - approx. **\$2,500**

Creative Aging Initiative, NJ State Council of the Arts - **\$10,000**

NJ STEM Mini Grant - **\$250**

LLNJ Professional Development Subsidy Grant - **\$500**

Gloucester County Insurance Commission Wellness Incentive Program Grant - **\$1,000**

NJ Council for Humanities Action Grant - **\$3,000**

J. A. Montgomery Consulting Safety Grant - **\$4,398**

The Starnet Library Network Grant, Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) training and solar eclipse glasses - **\$1,400**

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

- GCLS Staff participated in multiple Job Fairs in coordination with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the American Job Center at Gloucester County, the Gloucester County Workforce Development Board, and Rowan College of South Jersey.
- GCLS staff attended the Donald Norcross Constituent Services Fair held at Camden County College on July 25.
- GCLS is pleased to continue to participate in the RCSJ Intern Scholarship Program. In 2023, four interns were placed at GCLS libraries.
- GCLS continues to issue courtesy "Database Only" cards to County departments participating in the Intern-Scholar program. This provides interns who do not reside in a GCLS member community with access to GCLS online training resources such as Gale Presents Udemy and Learning Express.
- GCLS Glassboro Branch and Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro Public Library partnered with the Food Bank of South Jersey (FBSJ) to offer free lunches and/or snacks throughout the summer months. In addition, GCLS collects reusable bags in bins provided by FBSJ and distributes them to local food distribution centers.
- The GCLS Social Media Team contributes a monthly article about library programs and services to "On the Route," the newsletter distributed on the Pureland East-West Community shuttle. Four GCLS branch libraries are on the shuttle route - Glassboro, Mullica Hill, Swedesboro and Logan.
- Assistant Director Judith Pissano presented at the Literacy NJ: Literacy for Life conference on Friday, April 28th. Judith provided a virtual presentation for low beginner ESL students titled: *Tips and Techniques: Tutoring Beginner ESL*.
- Cooperative efforts with the county, local government agencies and the education community allowed GCLS to achieve significant savings and to make more efficient use of library personnel and other library resources. Four

shared services agreements with the County of Gloucester are in place, pertaining to Purchasing & QPA Services, Security, Buildings and Grounds, and Human Resources.

- GCLS continues to work in close partnership with Rowan College of South Jersey to operate the GCLS InnovationStudio, a public makerspace that provides RCSJ students, faculty and members of the community access to cutting-edge technology and the opportunity to explore creative ideas.

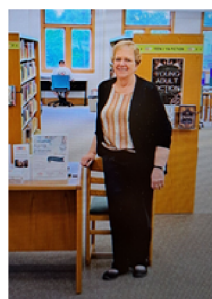
FRIENDS OF THE GCLS

- The Friends of the GCLS purchased museum passes for GCLS. Patrons may check out passes for free entry into eleven different local museums.
- Funding was provided for the 2023 annual subscription of Book Page, which is made available to patrons at all branches.
- Support was provided for the GCLS summer reading program. Numerous author visits were sponsored.
- Two AWE Learning children's computers were purchased for the Glassboro Branch.

VOLUNTEERS

- GCLS benefited from 1,885 hours of volunteer service in 2023. Volunteer, Judy Holmes, received the Volunteer of the Year award at the Volunteer Center of South Jersey awards banquet.
- GCLS partnered with The Archway Program to provide volunteer opportunities to adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. The individuals are volunteering at the GCLS Greenwich Branch twice a month.

RETIREMENTS



2023 saw three retirements from longtime GCLS employees. Nancy Polhamus retired after 31 years of service. Loretta Lisowski and Ben Carlton both retired after 11 years of service. Thank you for all your hard work!

2023 At a Glance

Gloucester County Library System



Reference Questions Answered

16,998



Librarian by Appointment

138



LibGuides

30



Databases

53

Summer Reading



414 Summer Reading Programs

7,929 Program Participants

117

Public-Access Computers

440 Community-Sponsored Programs with 16,388 Total Attendance

PATRON VISITS

255,710

webpage visits

285,528 times

71,368 times accessed from a **phone**

Circulation
334,194

Digital Items Borrowed

92,662

Social Followers



4,500

Likes

4,931

Followers



2,075

Followers



322

Subscribers



4,653

Newsletter Subscribers