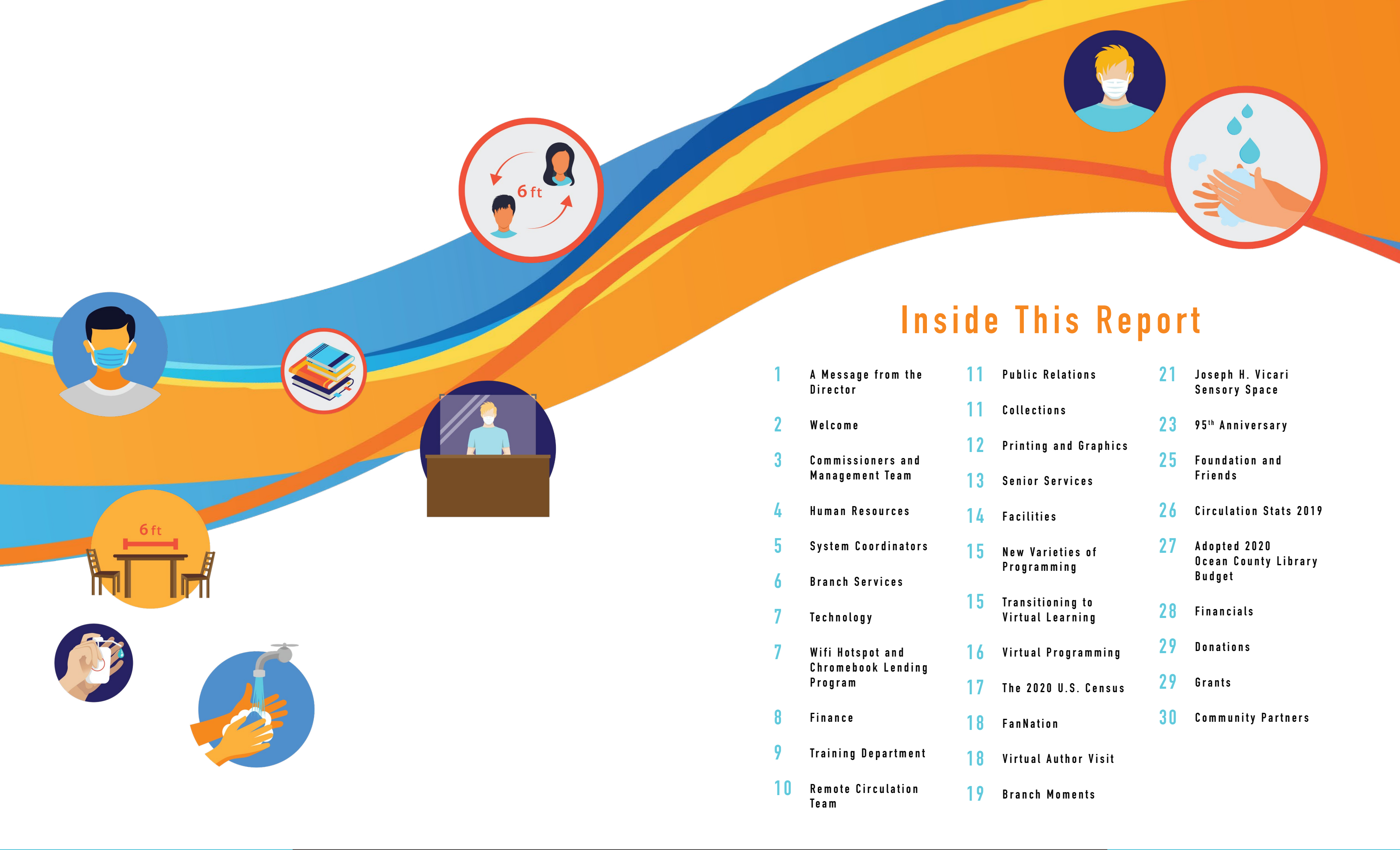




# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Ocean County Library · Connecting People, Building Community, Transforming Lives





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# A Message from the Director

In January 2020 we looked forward to celebrating Ocean County Library's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Little did we know that two months later we would face one of the greatest challenges in the history of our library, our county, and our country—the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Our county library system initially closed at the end of March for two-weeks, along with all libraries in the state of New Jersey, as per executive order of the Governor. We reopened to the public again in July following the lifting of the executive order.

Ocean County Library met the challenges of COVID-19 with unique solutions, preserving the health and safety of its employees, patrons, and visitors, and enhancing its role as a reliable, vital community resource during a time of crisis. This annual report tells that story.

I would like to thank the Ocean County Library's Management Team, our union leaders, and all our library supervisors and staff for working together

as a team to bring our services to the public in innovative ways when our doors were closed, and for developing the plan to reopen our doors to the public in a safe and responsible manner.

Our Ocean County Library Commission was invaluable in supporting, shaping and approving reopening plans for all 21 branches. I would like to thank Library Commission Chair Ruthanne Scaturro for her guidance and support this year.

The guidance of our Ocean County Administration and partnerships with our county departments were essential to our ability to provide public service to our residents during long and difficult months, and I thank them for their support.

Thank you to the Ocean County Board of Commissioners, and our liaison Joseph H. Vicari who kept the welfare of our staff and library system at the forefront.



As we conclude the historic days of 2020, we will keep in our hearts the memory of our family, friends, neighbors and community members who lost their lives due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We are grateful for the support of our Ocean County residents and look to the future with hope that by working together we can make our community a better place.

– **Susan Quinn**

*Ocean County Library Director*



“The Ocean County Library’s ability to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 is a shining example of public service and commitment.

As a lifelong educator and County Liaison to the Library system, I greatly admire the imagination from staffers in offering enlightenment, entertainment, and empowerment. We can be sure the strides taken by the Ocean County Library in 2020 will carry its role as a community partner and leader far into the future.”

– **Joseph H. Vicari**

*Ocean County Library Commission Liaison*

*Commissioner Joseph H. Vicari has served as a member of the Ocean County Board of Chosen Commissioners since 1981 and has served as Library Liaison since 2004.*

## Welcome

“As Chair of the Library Commission, I could not be prouder of the employees who adapted digital technology for development of original programs and expanded online resources, keeping people engaged with the system and connected to each other.

The Library system’s well-organized reopening process and its adherence to safety measures illustrate the legacy of care that has earned it a place of trust and honor in our communities.”

– **Ruthanne Scaturro**

*Ocean County Library Commission Chair*





# Commissioners and Management Team

The governing body for the Ocean County Library is the seven-member Ocean County Library Commission. Commissioners are unpaid volunteers, appointed for 5-years, who are responsible for the oversight of Library funds, property, and equipment, as well as determining the policies and rules governing Library services in promotion of the Library’s interests.

## 2020 Ocean County Library Commission

- Ruthanne Scaturro, *Chairperson*
- Christopher J. Mullins, *Vice Chairperson*
- Susan L. Hutler, *Ocean County Library Foundation Liaison*
- Sal Baglio
- Henry J. Mancini
- Bonnie R. Peterson
- Timothy McDonald

## Ocean County Library Administration

- Susan Quinn, *Library Director*
- Sara Siegler, *Assistant Library Director*
- Deborah Blackwell, *Training Officer*
- Joseph Cahill, *Maintenance Supervisor*
- Barry DePaul, *Assistant Maintenance Supervisor*
- Jennifer Doderer, *Personnel Director*
- Michael Erickson, *Assistant Maintenance Supervisor*
- David Evans, *Technology Manager*
- Jeri Gunther, *Chief Librarian, Administration*
- Rachael Lavoie-Dohn, *Chief Librarian, Toms River*
- Timothy Mailley, *Assistant Technology Manager*
- Rita Oakes, *Chief Librarian, Branch Services*
- Jennifer Woodman, *Budget Officer*



Library Commissioner Sal Baglio (left), accompanied by Commission Chair Ruthanne Scaturro (middle) and Library Director Susan Quinn (right) as he retires from the Ocean County Library Commission on December 31, 2020, after over nine years of dedicated service to the Ocean County Library having served as Library Commission Chair from 2014 –2016.

The Ocean County Library Commission adjusted to rapid changes during the COVID-19 pandemic which includes maintaining a virtual meeting schedule until the resumption of meetings in the Toms River Branch. The Commission lent an invaluable hand in supporting, shaping and approving reopening plans for all 21 branches.

# Office of the Director



Left to Right: Harry Applegate – Administrative Clerk, Susan Quinn – Library Director, Sara Siegler – Assistant Library Director, Kelly Nichols – Clerk 4

Ocean County Library met the challenges of COVID-19 with unique solutions, preserving the health and safety of its patrons and visitors and enhancing its role as a reliable, vital community resource. Using technology efficiently and creatively, the Ocean County Library continues to evolve with the times – beacons of information and social relevance that reach people wherever they are, underscoring the mission of ‘connecting people, building community, transforming lives’ during our 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

# Human Resources

“The work of Human Resources took on new dimensions in 2020. Regardless of conditions imposed by COVID-19, service to Ocean County Library employees continued without interruption. In addition, HR staffers disseminated health-related governmental directives and instructions, informed workers of test clinics, and maintained related records. We are proud to have assisted the Ocean County Clerk’s office in recruiting employees for support roles during the November general election balloting process, and eased workers’ transitions to and from their Library roles. All in all, it was a year of professional and personal challenge and growth.”

– Jennifer Doderer  
Personnel Director, Human Resources





## System Coordinators

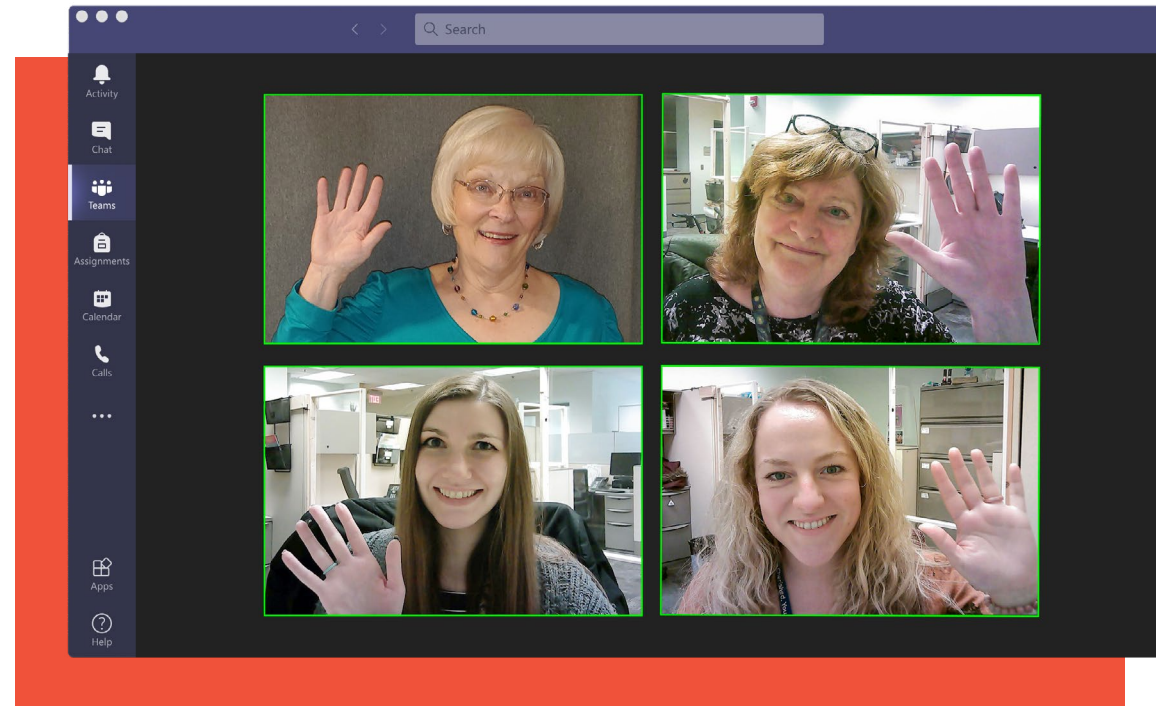
“As System Coordinators we collaborated to create comprehensive guidelines on virtual programming for our patrons. Microsoft Teams was instrumental to create a space where all staff could meet. We were also able to reinvent Microsoft Teams as

**“We are very proud and appreciative of the staff and their ability to adapt.”**

a platform to conduct virtual programs.

We helped the branches put their ideas into action and provided guidance and support in those endeavors. Creativity was encouraged in trying new things and learning how to move forward with this new way of programming. We continue to adapt, revise, and expand system programming as our circumstances continue to change. We are very proud and appreciative of the staff and their ability to adapt and their eagerness to maintain programming excellence for our patrons.”

– System Coordinators

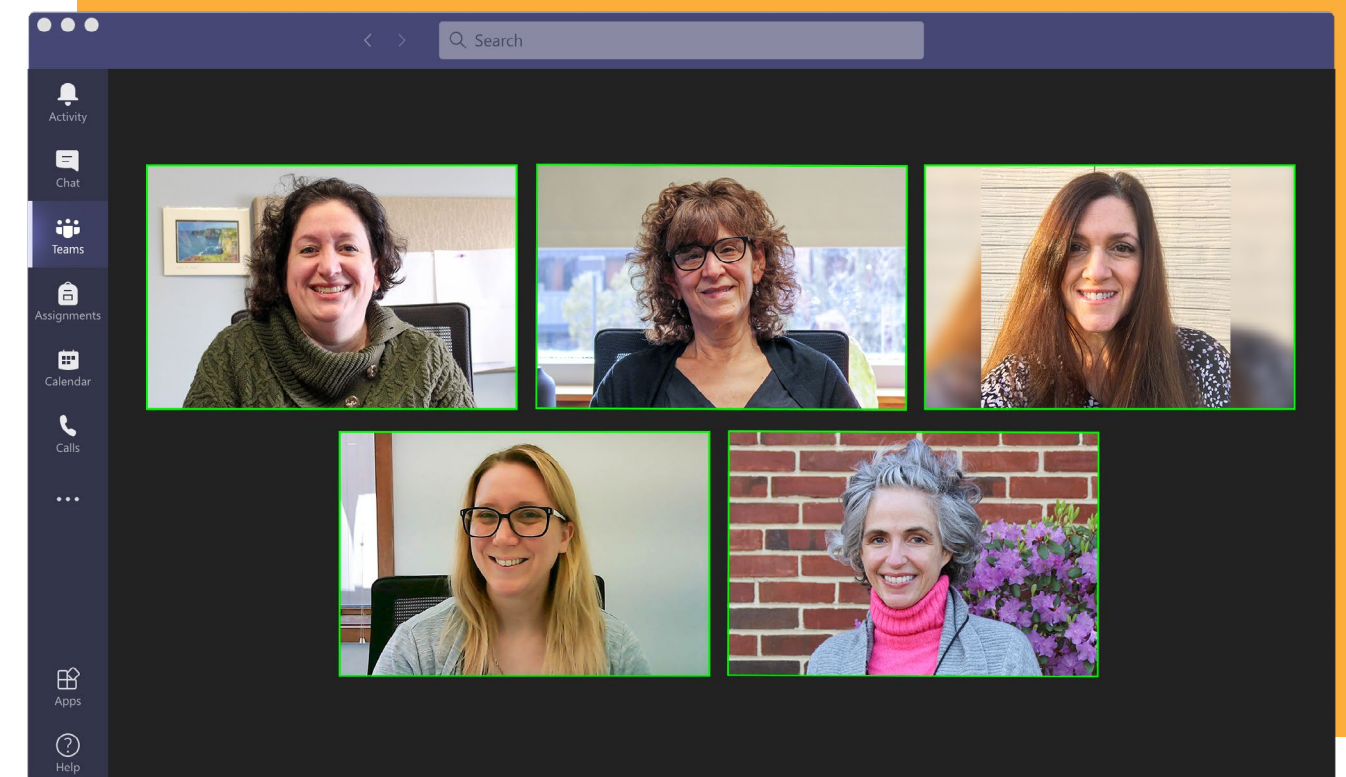


Top row: Judy Macaluso – Librarian 4, Senior Services, Jeannie Collacott – Librarian 4, Teen Services  
Bottom row: Katie McKnight – Librarian 4, Youth Services, Cosette Lyncheski – Librarian 4, Adult Services  
Not pictured: Elizabeth Cronin – Librarian 4, Information Services

## Branch Services

“During the middle of the year, when COVID-19 circumstances prevented on-site Library patronage, the Branch Services team ensured that staff kept their skills sharp through continuing informative, professional development training sessions. Our staff provided valuable feedback for strategic planning. The team also provided online customer services such as digital Library cards, materials, book lists, COVID-19 related resources, Chat/Text integrated inquiry service, and Concierge Readers Advisory. Additionally, the team provided a great number of web-based activities to engage patrons, including multiple reading challenges and a wide variety of virtual programs, such as our summer reading program and student-oriented Service and Achievement in the Library (S.A.I.L) activities.”

– Branch Services



Top row: Sara Siegler – Assistant Library Director, Jeri Gunther – Chief Librarian, Rachael LaVoie-Dohn – Chief Librarian, Toms River Branch Manager. Bottom row: Melissa Rutkowski – Librarian 4, Branch Services, Kelly-Ann Pennell – Librarian 4, Branch Services  
Not pictured: Nancy Bierbrauer – Administrative Clerk, Rita Oakes – Chief Librarian



“The migration of our SharePoint intranet into the Microsoft 365 Cloud and the addition of Polaris LEAP in 2019, placed us in a good position for adapting to the extended closure of our buildings due to the pandemic. Our pre-COVID-19 plans for 2020 were to introduce Microsoft Teams as a collaboration platform to allow our staff to work together among our 21 locations. The closure required us to pivot and roll out the platform in a matter of weeks to keep Library operations moving. The Technology team aims to meet the growing needs of virtual programming and provide new products and platforms that enable Library staff to deliver the exemplary service that our customers expect.”

– Technology Team

Wifi Hotspot and Chromebook Lending Program

The increase in popularity of the Library’s online resources and virtual programs in 2020, due in large part to pandemic-related quarantining, accelerated the pace of our Wi-Fi Hotspot and Chromebook lending project, which will be unveiled in 2021. According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey 2014-2018, 18.7% of Ocean County residents have no Internet access, and 12.2% have no home computer. The project provides both components, plus technical support, for patrons. Thanks to a generous \$10,000 donation from the Ocean County Library Foundation, the project will make 75 Chromebooks and 150 hotspots available to help our customers engage in meaningful activities, achieve educational goals, seek employment, and connect with loved ones.



Technology

Left to Right: Tim Mailley – Assistant Technology Manager  
Dave Evans – Technology Manager



Finance



Left to Right: Nancy-Ann Judson – Clerk, Jessica Nappi – Accountant, Lynne Borghesi – Clerk, Kevin Legendre – Supervisor of Accounts, Liza Lessard – Senior Accountant, Val Rosamilia – Principal Payroll Clerk, Jennifer Woodman

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going! The Ocean County Library Finance team is the hardest working, most dedicated and dependable group of amazing people with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work. They are quick to adapt and simply unstoppable regardless of even the most unexpected obstacles. Every day I am reminded of how truly fortunate our organization is to have the Ocean County Library Finance team work so seamlessly behind the scenes to maintain all financial operations.”

– Jennifer Woodman  
Budget Officer



“Collaboration among County entities is always a consideration in the event of emergency situations. The pandemic brought that potential into full focus, and the employees in each department responded impressively. The Library continues to demonstrate the teamwork that’s needed to endure a crisis of any kind.”

– Carl Block  
Ocean County Administrator





Left to Right: Molly Friedman, Deborah Blackwell

## Training Department

“2020, an unprecedented year filled with uncertainties, became a year for rethinking in the Training Department. As in-person trainings were cancelled, we began to redirect our energy to accommodate and anticipate the needs of staff in an exclusively virtual format. In a global pandemic, wellness, safety, and security were of the upmost importance. But we also recognized the need for communication, interpersonal skills, leadership and management skills, as we learned how to be socially distant, but closely connected. 2020 was fraught with adversity, change, and uncertainty, but through it all, Ocean County Library staff were developing, growing, and learning.”

–**Deborah Blackwell**  
Training Officer  
& **Molly Friedman**  
Library Assistant



“We’re indebted to the Ocean County Library administrators and staffers for their valuable roles in our longstanding partnership to provide residents with access to information about healthcare. Their dependability provided critical support in our efforts to equip residents with up-to-date details in the rapidly-changing conditions surrounding COVID-19.”

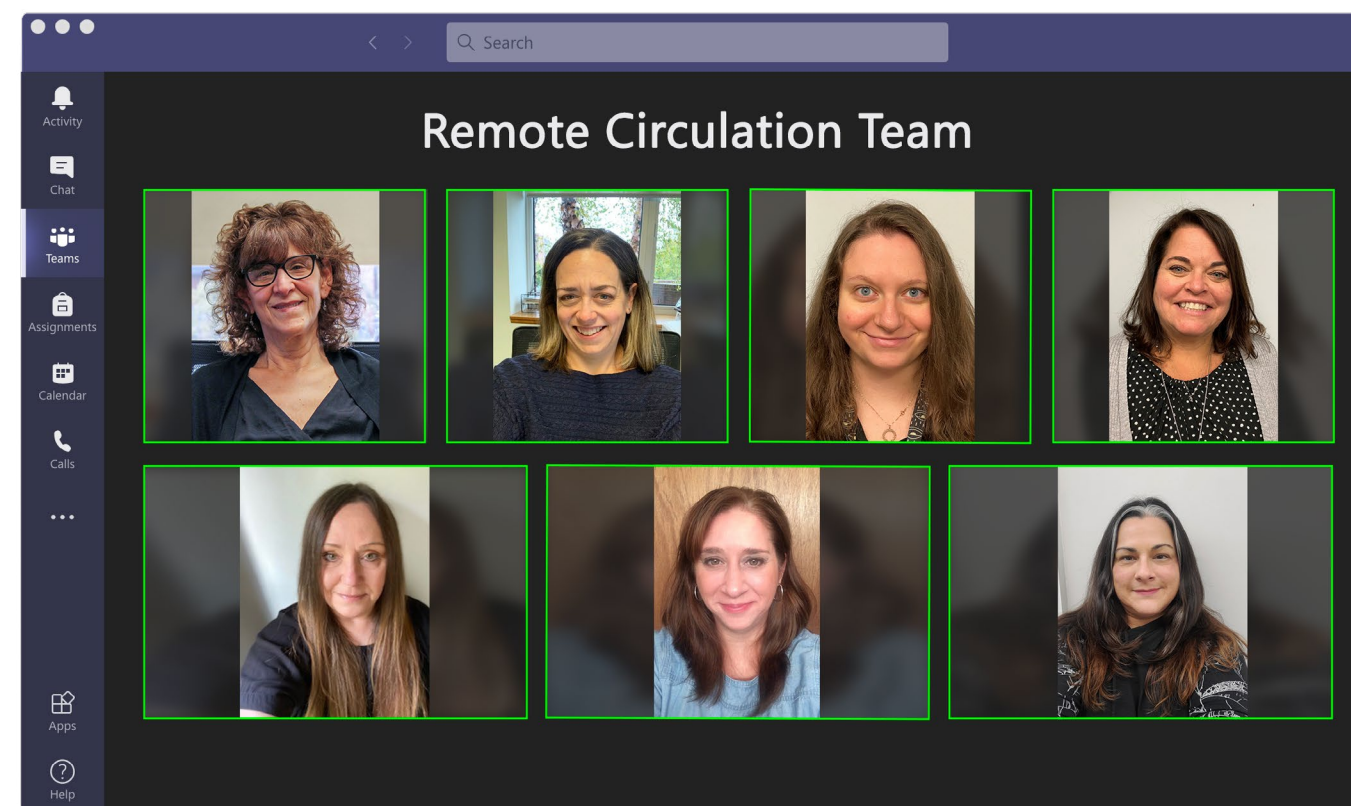
– **Dan Regenye**  
Public Health Coordinator, Health Officer,  
Ocean County Health Department

## Remote Circulation Team

Virtual Library Cards  
created in 2020:  
**4,256**

“The Remote Circulation Team used effective communication as we worked collaboratively and interdepartmentally to represent the best interests of the entire system by providing staff with updated policies, procedures, and services that would ensure an exceptional customer service experience for our patrons and staff.”

– Remote Circulation Team



Top row: Jeri Gunther – Chief Librarian, Christi Aldellizzi – Librarian 4, Valerie Wall – Senior Library Assistant, Suzanne Wright – Principal Library Assistant. Bottom row: Teresa Hess – Supervising Library Assistant, Carla Hendrickson – Principal Library Assistant, Rebecca Schoonmaker – Supervising Library Assistant



## Public Relations

“As the spread of COVID-19 prompted the closure of brick-and-mortar buildings, we spread the word that Ocean County Library was as accessible as ever through its mastery of technology. Instead of visiting the nearest branch for resources, information, services, and the newest titles, people quickly ventured to our website and social media platforms. ‘OCL: Wherever You Need To Be’ became our catchphrase.

Colleagues supplemented our efforts by highlighting each new virtual program, video series, contest, resource addition, and service expansion. Quarantine did not stop us from working as a team and collaborating with all departments and branches. We experienced a synergy with our colleagues that enhanced our perspectives and our work routines in ways that we can carry far into the future.”

### – Kathleen Sanchez

*Librarian 4, Public Relations*

*Left to Right: Thomas Mongelli – Clerk, Jamie Dunn – Librarian 2, Sherri Taliercio – Librarian, Kathleen Sanchez – Librarian 4, Scott Brown – Librarian 2, Elizabeth Mecca – Clerk*



## Collections

“In order to meet the needs of the communities we serve during challenging times, the Collections Department increased the purchase of digital materials and digital checkout limits to ensure our customers had access to the resources they needed and wanted while the physical Library was closed. We also continued to select physical materials to be delivered once we reopened.”

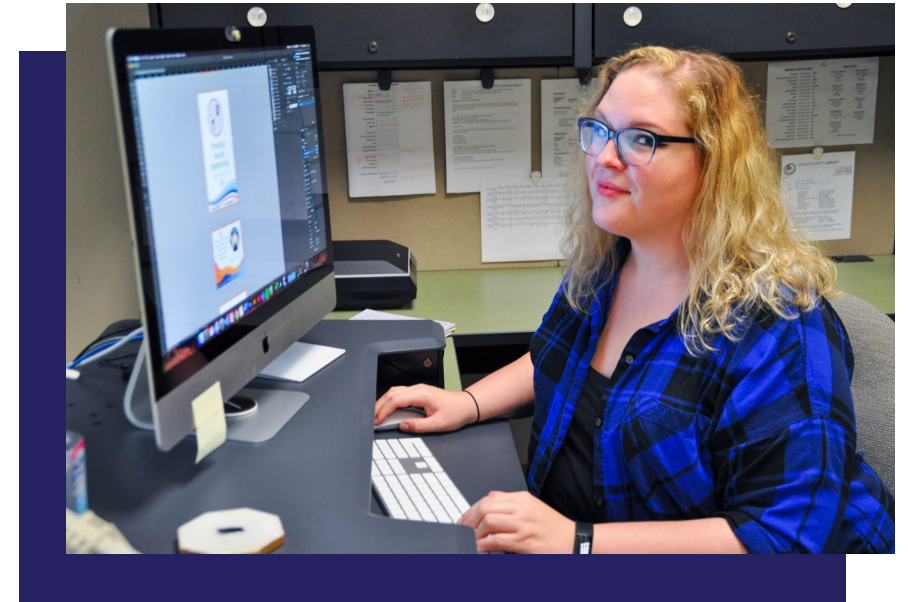
### – Christi Aldellizzi

*Librarian 4, Collections Supervisor*

*Left to Right: Christi Aldellizzi – Librarian 4, Elaine Olsen – Supervising Library Assistant, Chris Surbrug – Librarian 2, Marisa Ganguzzo – Librarian 3. Not pictured: Jennifer Holovack – Librarian 3, Christine Rodas – Librarian 3*



## Printing and Graphics



*Carly-Jean Booker*

“Reopening the Library to the public in the safest way possible was one of the top priorities for our organization, and use of proper signage played a vital role in the reopening efforts. It was important to create a signage campaign where the visuals would be easily

**“Reopening the Library to the public in the safest way possible was one of the top priorities for our organization, and use of proper signage played a vital role in the reopening efforts.”**

recognizable and understood, for the safety of our patrons and staff. Colors, graphics, designs, and fonts were taken into consideration to not only create a new, identifiable style for the COVID-19 signage, but to also be CDC compliant, positive in tone, and maintain Ocean County Library brand standards. While working from home, I collaborated with my superiors to develop the suite of signs used throughout the 21 branches, and continually adjusted and updated as the situation changed. I am proud to have contributed via the Printing & Graphics Department during this monumental time in our organization’s history.”

### – Carly-Jean Booker

*Graphic Artist 3, Printing and Graphics*



# Senior Services Homebound and Volunteer Services

“Homebound and Volunteer Services (HBVS) has been working hard to ensure that our patrons continue to have access to Library materials as safely as possible. Throughout the pandemic, HBVS staff assisted patrons who were ready to take the leap to digital products by supporting them over the phone. Out of an abundance of caution for our volunteers and customers, our Home Borrowers Program adapted to provide a mailing service, until it is safe for volunteers to visit our customers’ homes.

In order to continue providing a variety of materials to Ocean County Nursing and Life-Care Centers, we’ve implemented a contactless door-side pickup program for our facilities. We continue to monitor the safety procedures for our facilities, as well as the standards set by the Ocean County Library, to ensure exceptional service while adapting to an ever-changing situation.”

– Cait Byrnes

*Coordinator of Volunteers, Homebound & Volunteer Services*



Maria LaFace

“The pandemic-driven need for safe social distancing is a serious concern in Ocean County, which is home to more senior residents than any other county in New Jersey. The Ocean County Library is instrumental in our delivery of information to residents virtually. The Library’s cooperation in presenting our webinar about vital details for those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias is the start of a new, essential and lasting partnership.”

– Maria LaFace

*Director, Ocean County Senior Services*

*Left to right: Cait Byrnes, Mercedes Contreras – Library Assistant*



## Facilities

“When the Ocean County Library closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, its 21 branches were quiet on the outside. Inside, the Facilities team was busy, cleaning, sanitizing, and installing plexiglass shields on the circulation desks and other common interactive areas.

These areas varied in type and dimension, which required specific, individual plans to be made for each. Our team also ensured the protection of staff at all branches with personal protective equipment and, where possible, touchless entry/exit systems. In overcoming these challenges, Facilities created a blueprint for the future.”

– Joe Cahill

*Maintenance Supervisor*



Joe Cahill



Bill Armstrong

“It’s a pleasure and an honor to be part of the team that’s helping the Library maintain a safe and welcoming atmosphere. Building and installing transparent partitions is our visible way of assuring customers that their well-being is our priority.”

– Bill Armstrong

*Assistant Supervising Maintenance Repairer*



*Toms River's Mancini hall in use during the 2020 election.*

“When it became clear that the coronavirus pandemic would drastically change voting methods for the 2020 general election, we turned to the Ocean County Library for the extra space and personnel that we needed to function efficiently and reliably. The cooperation between our offices allowed County residents to be assured of the accuracy they expect in this extremely important civic process.”

– Scott Colabella

*Ocean County Clerk*



*Secure voting boxes were placed outside of our Library locations.*



## New Varieties of Programming

“It was very fulfilling for me to remain in contact with our school officials, enhance our support and services for them, and use my newfound knowledge to help them initiate virtual programming. Taking part in the launch of virtual programming was very exciting. Virtual programming and “Take & Make” kits inspired our imaginations. Our patrons made it a habit to visit their branches for the next project.”

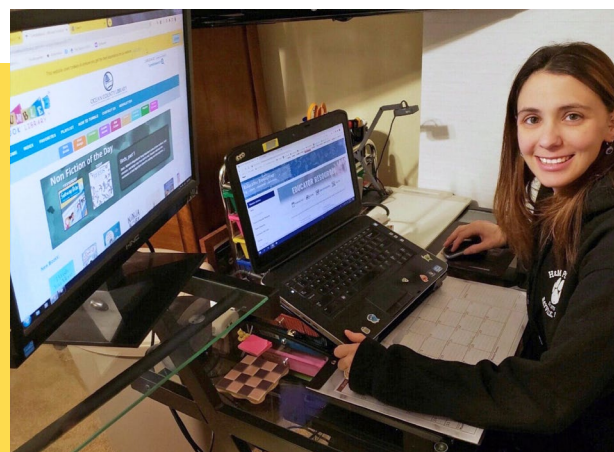
– Donna Majchrzak

Librarian 2



Donna Majchrzak

Logo designed by Taffy Riehl –  
Senior Clerk Typist, Printing and Graphics



Jennifer navigates the Education Initiative portal to enhance her lesson plans.

## Transitioning to Virtual Learning

“I want to thank the Ocean County Library for helping keep teachers and libraries connected through our unexpected closure and transition to virtual learning. The eNewsletters and social media posts kept my digital classroom materials fresh, educational, and entertaining for my students.”

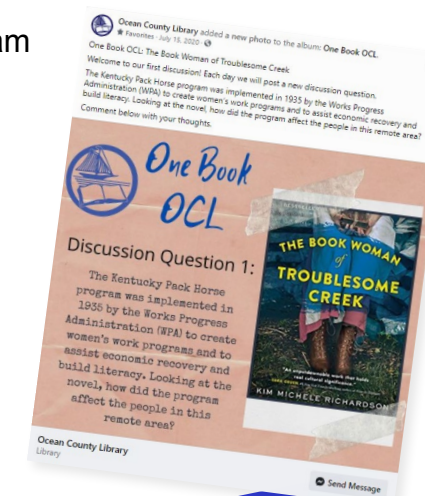
– Jennifer C.

Berkeley School District

## Virtual Programming

The 2020 coronavirus pandemic thrust virtual programming into the forefront of the Library’s ability to continue “connecting people...building community...transforming lives.” Staff developed a wellspring of ideas and used a continually growing base of social media platforms to bring them to life. New virtual programs, initiatives, and resources that symbolize the Library’s broadening customer base include:

- **One Book OCL:** The Library’s free, private online forum for book discussions and networking, available to members and non-members alike.
- **Virtual Teen Volunteering:** The Library modified its S.A.I.L. program to allow youths age 12-17 to build their resumes and community service hours online. 6,489 teens took part in overseeing the Library’s Beanstack reading challenges, and they read and critiqued new published works aimed at young adults.
- **YouTube:** OCL’s YouTube channel grew exponentially in 2020 with over 31,000 video views. It now houses well over 300 original videos, created by staff, to instruct, enlighten and entertain.
- **Concierge Service:** Virtual, personalized recommendations selected from the Ocean County Library’s millions of materials available in a variety of formats. Library staff work to find the best materials for you based on your preferences.
- **Additions to the Collection:** Virtual resources with new and exciting services like:
  - Live chess tutoring with brainfuse.
  - World Book eBooks enhance learning for grades K through 12 with more than 2,500 illustrated titles in multiple curriculum areas and reading levels.
  - Freegal® catalog contains more than 16 million songs, more than a million albums, more than 75,000 music videos and more than nine-thousand audio books from 100 countries, released through Sony Music Entertainment.





# The 2020 U.S. Census

Ocean County Library received grant funding from the New Jersey Department of State to support efforts to achieve a complete count for Census 2020. Outreach goals included: providing outreach and publicity, educating and motivating individuals to complete their Census questionnaires, and providing effective communication and information on Census 2020 to the communities and residents of Ocean County.



Prior to COVID-19 and the closure of the Library, branches held job fairs for recruiting and training Census workers, as well as informational programs for the public on the importance of the Census and the benefits of a complete count of residents. Programs included: “Census

Business Builder,” “You Count: Census 2020,” and “The U.S. Census, Then and Now.” Information Services maintained a Census Resource page for staff and the Ocean County Library website featured a prominent link for definitive Census information, which resulted in 1,624 page views. Promotional materials were distributed to all branches, and Census slides were prominently displayed on branch TV screens.

In-person programs and outreaches ceased with the Library’s closure on March 15 due to the pandemic. During this time, the Library ramped up the use of social media and sent press releases in English and Spanish to its media partners. Reference staff were able to field Census-related questions via Chat/Text.

Upon re-opening, 19 laptops purchased with grant funds were made available for public use. Staff greeters, mindful of social distancing and the requirement to wear masks, informed

customers of COVID-19 protocols and reminded them of the Census deadlines and/or directed them to the laptops. Census representatives staffed tables outside several Library branches throughout September and October as a final push.

Social media posts on  
Census awareness totaled:  
2,698 Instagram views  
5,187 Twitter views  
29,898 Facebook views

Social media posts on Census awareness totaled 2,698 Instagram views; 5,187 on Twitter; and 29,898 on Facebook. Grant funds also paid for online ads in the Latinos Unidos and The Jewish Journal, in an effort to reach under-represented members of Ocean County. Twenty-four of the 33 municipalities in Ocean County exceeded the self-reporting rate of the 2010 Census. Twelve towns achieved a response rate of over 70%.

## FanNation

“For the sixth annual “FanNation: The Geekstravaganza” we had to turn our all day in-person event into a week-long virtual event. We took many of our traditional FanNation programs and put a virtual spin on them—creating online escape rooms, scavenger hunts, crafting demos and more! We were even able to host our most popular event—our annual cosplay contest—by allowing our patrons to vote on their favorite cosplayer through an online poll. We featured all FanNation programming on our various social media platforms, which allowed patrons to participate in as many of the events as they wanted.”

– Jamie Dunn

Librarian 2  
FanNation Chair-Person

Left to Right: Cecilia Pasqualicchio – Librarian 2, Jamie Dunn

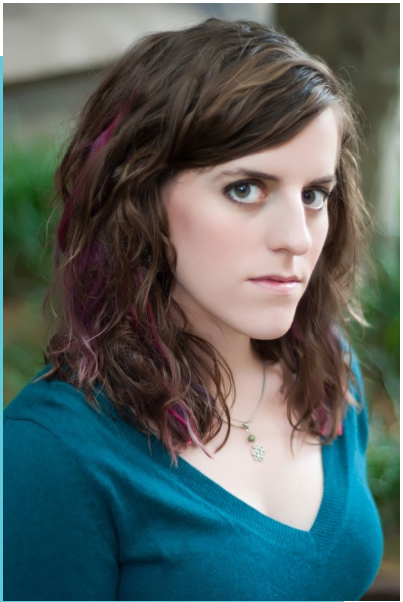


## Virtual Author Visit

“In advance of my virtual author visit, the Ocean County Library staff—particularly Cecilia Pasqualicchio—were incredibly patient, organized, and helpful. They created a safe space for my event, and I felt so welcomed by all. Libraries are becoming more and more essential every day, bringing people together for enriching events even when we are all stuck in our separate homes. I am so grateful to the Ocean County Library for connecting me with their patrons and for carrying on the grand tradition of libraries adapting to tirelessly serve their communities, no matter the circumstance.”

– Claire LeGrand

New York Times Best-Selling Author, Empirium Trilogy





# Branch Moments

Our staff brought out the true meaning of public service during the coronavirus pandemic. Every interaction with patrons and fellow staff members became an object lesson in the principles and ideals that guide the Library's mission. Their adaptability and professionalism allowed them to support the Ocean County Board of Elections during the 2020 General Election, helping to maintain its standards of accuracy and efficiency.

– **Rachael LaVoie-Dohn**

*Toms River Branch Manager, Chief Librarian*

& **Givane Hayes**

*Toms River Branch Assistant Manager, Librarian 4*



The staff of the **Tuckerton Branch** worked together to provide 30 unique Take & Make programs from September through December, half for children and half for adult. Many patrons engaged with the Library in new ways due to the projects.

One of the nicest memories of 2020 was Peto's Palette Pals, a collaboration between the John F. Peto Museum and the **Island Heights Branch**. The Library hosted this educational art series for all twelve of the sessions offered. It was enormously popular with parents and children. Seeing the children learn about and create their own art was inspiring. \*

In December, the **Berkeley Branch** held a multigenerational gingerbread house contest. Projects were displayed in the Library and over 250 votes were cast.

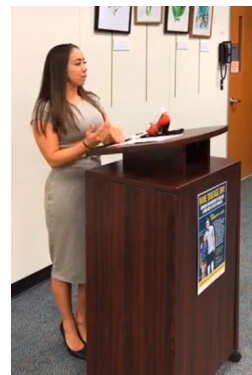


Manchester Staff members, Terri Fox-Cavalier, Maria Colon, and Elaine Masur went to the Manchester Township Elementary School's One Book One School event. **Manchester Branch** staff brought a Dan Gutman themed prize wheel and talked with hundreds of kids and their parents about Library resources. Manchester branch staff also got to meet author Dan Gutman. \*



The **Whiting Reading Center** was excited to reopen and share services with our patrons like computer use and online printing. We were so happy to see our 'regular' customers again.

Take & Make crafts were created for Bancroft NeuroRehab for the holidays by **Brick Branch** librarian, Melissa Freeman. Melissa first began doing crafts in the Library back in December of 2018, and this particular monthly program has been popular ever since. The staff and residents were very grateful to be able to still do a Library holiday craft even though the Library is not having in-house programs.



Amanda Rutherford's presentation "Living with Cystic Fibrosis," was streamed live at the **Jackson Branch**. The program received 2,000 views on Facebook. \*

The **Waretown Branch** hosted a Coffee with a Cop program every month with regular high attendance. Members of the community got the opportunity to connect with local police force for coffee, conversation, and questions. \*

In September 2020, **Stafford Branch** Youth Services' popular early childhood program, *Ready, Set, Read!*, went virtual. Each week for 3-weeks, a video was uploaded to OCL's YouTube channel with songs to correspond to the week's theme (shapes, counting, and building). Additionally, staff provided kits that could be picked up in branch with themed activities, song lyrics, and early literacy tips.



The **Long Beach Island Branch** explored *Patagonia: A Journey to the End of the World* through tastes of the region, food samples and information provided by Rafael Morillo from MKT Eatery. \*

The **Beachwood Branch** is proud of how our community adjusted to the necessary changes during 2020. Our customers expressed gratitude when the Branch reopened and embraced our Take & Make kits and other virtual Library services.



A local Girl Scout troop partnered with the **Plumsted Branch** to utilize one of OCL's maker kits, and learn all about coding using Ozobots. \*



The **Point Pleasant Beach Branch** hosted Yosi, the children's musician, in February. He performed to a packed house of very excited and happy children from the Point Pleasant Beach community. \*

**Point Pleasant Borough Branch** reconnected with the customers to reassure them their safety was at the upmost importance and could expect continued high standards of customer service at all times. This helped achieved some normalcy in customers already disrupted world; so many customers have expressed so much gratitude for the Library's dedicated services.

The **Lakewood Branch** continued its partnership with St. Francis Community Center and hosted 14 ESL classes per week until our COVID-19 closure. Teachers, students and staff are looking forward to some return to normalcy and being able to attend classes in person at the branch again. \*



The Friends of the **Little Egg Harbor Branch** sponsored an off-site performance of *The Underground Railroad* by Storyteller Michelle Washington Wilson. The Black History Month event was performed at the George J. Mitchell Community - Aftercare - School. \*

The last program at the **Barnegat Branch**, prior to closing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was a Teen Paint Party. It was held to celebrate both Youth Art Month and Women's History Month. Under the tutelage of local artist, Marty Mayo, teens painted portraits of author Toni Morrison. \*

For 2020, we were most proud of teamwork the **Upper Shores Branch & Bay Head Reading Center** staff exemplified. They showed resilience and flexibility during these trying time to ensure the branches were running as smooth and possible.

Virtual viewers attended *Dyslexia Tips that Work*. The **Lacey Branch** Librarians collaborated with Liz Barnes of Decoding Dyslexia NJ and Genny Schwarzbarg, a learning disabilities specialist.

\* Branch programming occurred prior to mandated system closure.



# Joseph H. Vicari Sensory Space

The Joseph H. Vicari Sensory Space, in the Ocean County Library Toms River Branch exponentially expands the Library's mission of "connecting people...building community...transforming lives."

"The Ocean County Library is a leader in recognizing a need and addressing it in an effort to make sure the Library is a place that everyone can visit," Ocean County Commissioner Joseph Vicari said. "There is a true sense of community that exists at all of our branches."

"The goal of the sensory space is to provide an area for children and adults with a variety of disabilities including autism spectrum disorders," said Ocean County Library Director Susan Quinn.

"The Library also provides resources that are designed to assist both the individual with autism and his or her caregivers during these challenging times," Quinn said.

The Library's Autism Resources Fair, traditionally held each April, inspired the concept.

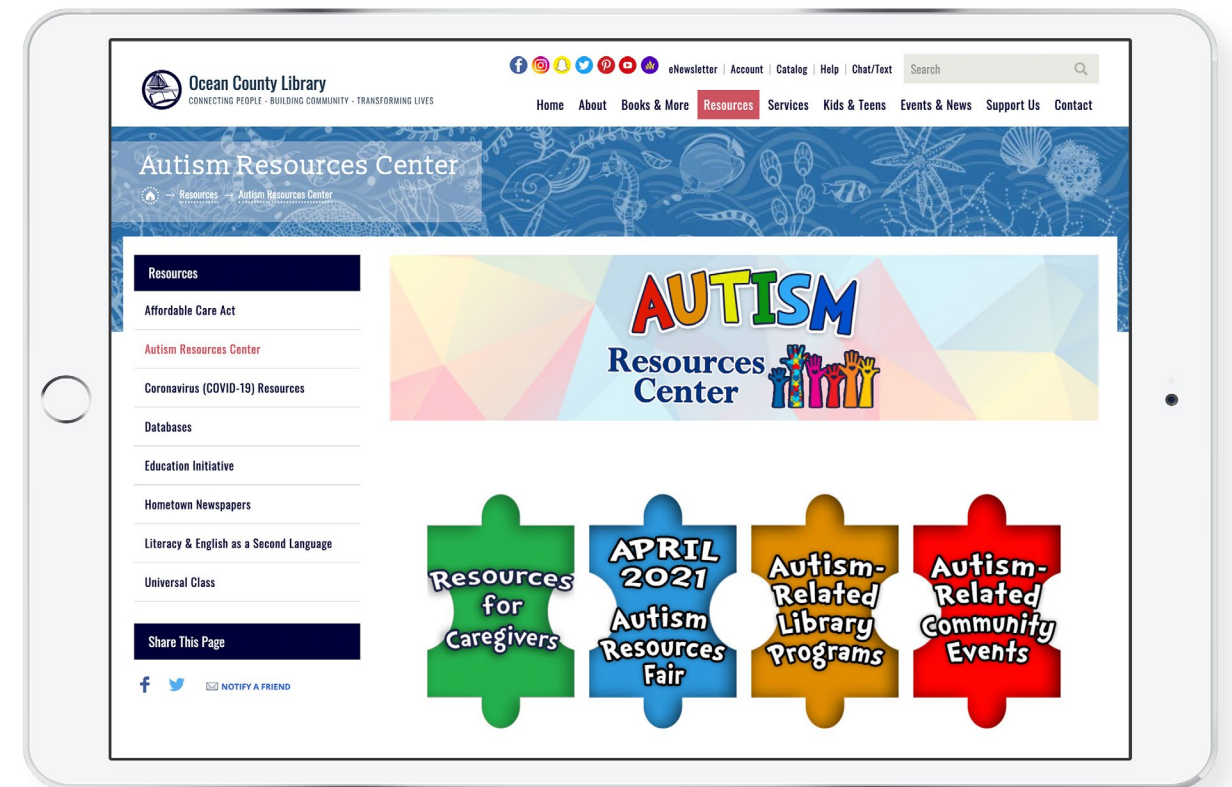
"The space is designed to develop the senses, encourage communication and social interactions, relieve stress and anxiety, and promote calmness and well-being. It sends a positive message to people with varying degrees of sensory processing who might feel inhibited in social environments," said Sara Siegler, Assistant Library Director.



Ocean County Commissioner Joseph H. Vicari with Ocean County Library Commission Chairperson Ruthanne Scaturro. Photo courtesy of Ocean County Public Relations.



To learn more about the innovative features in the sensory space, scan this QR code with your smartphone.



"The coronavirus has had drastic effects upon people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their caregivers. The disruption in routines was extremely difficult for individuals with ASD. Many caregivers also found themselves thrust into the roles of their children's teacher and therapists – experiences that presented their own challenges. Library staff on the Autism Resources committee curated resources designed to assist both the individual with autism, and his or her caregivers, by creating a resource center that is available 24/7 on the library's website."

## – Wendi Smolowitz

Information Services Librarian and Chair,  
Ocean County Library Autism Resources Fair

Key individuals in development of the space include: Joseph H. Vicari, Library Liaison, Ocean County Board of Commissioners, Ruthanne Scaturro, Chair, Ocean County Library Commission, Library Commissioner Susan Hutler, past chair Ocean County Library Commission, The Ocean County Library Commission, Library Director Susan Quinn; Assistant Library Director Sara Siegler; Facilities Manager Joe Cahill; Assistant Facilities Managers Michael Erickson and Barry DePaul; Toms River Branch Chief Librarian Rachel Lavoie-Dohn; Jackson Branch Librarian 2 Wendi Smolowitz, Chair of the Library's Autism Resources Committee; and Administrative Clerk Kelly Nichols.

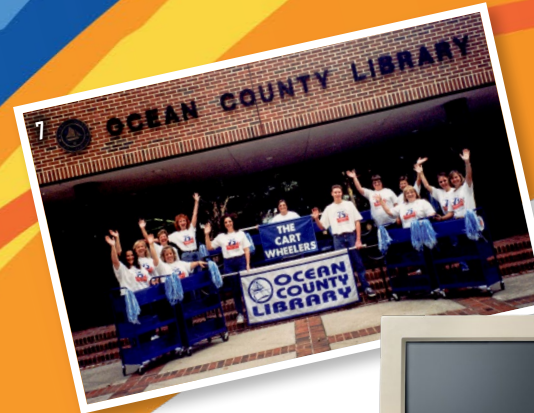
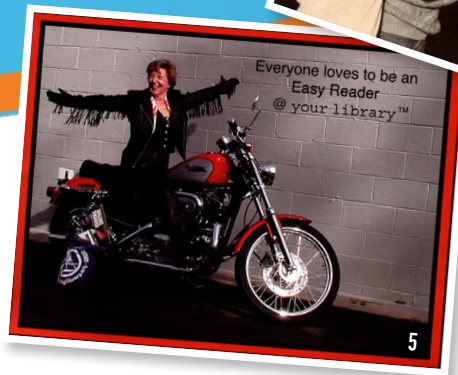
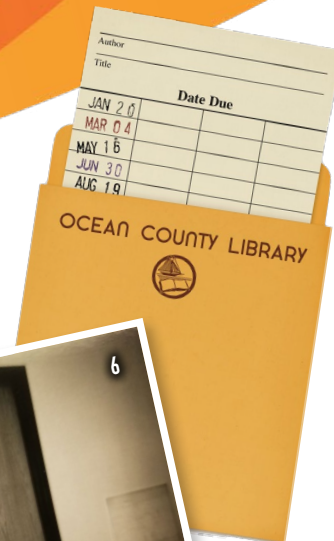
The project architect was Phil Reina, Yezzi Associates, LLC, of Toms River, in consultation with Principal and Executive Director Massimo Yezzi. Reina's previous experience in autism-sensitive design includes the Search Day School, Ocean Township, NJ.



# OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY

## 95th ANNIVERSARY

1925 2020



1) Unveiling of the new microfilm machine in the 1960s. 2) Commissioner Joseph Vicari (center left) pictured in 1981 with Library Commissioner Helen Mathis (left), Tuckerton Branch Manager Jacki McGorty (center right), and Library Director Herman Elstein. 3) Freeholder Director, Library Liaison, and Library "Champion" James J. Mancini, photographed with Elaine McConnell in 1996. 4) Staff member Sara Fields checks out books to a patron in the early 1970s. 5) Elaine McConnell (Library Director 1994 -2019) photographed in the 2003 "Easy Readers" promotional calendar. 6) Susan Hutler photographed in 1994. 2020 marked the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ms. Hutler's committed service to the Ocean County Library Commission. 7) Ocean County Library Cart Wheelers pose in the 1990s. 8) Staff members Frances McGuire, Janet Lambert, and Miriam Evans browse the stacks in the 1950s. 9) Librarian Sherman Howard looks through the card catalog in 1973.

When the Ocean County Library first began in 1925, Ocean County was home to nearly 30,000 individuals and families. The Library, in the Lonan building on the grounds of the County Courthouse, was open one day a week while a panel truck ferried literature to post offices, stores, and front porches throughout the county. The Library was a strong thread that connected the citizens of New Jersey's largest county.

Today, Ocean County's population has grown to just about 600,000, becoming a richly diverse community that welcomes new residents every day.

The Ocean County Library is now the largest Library system in New Jersey, continuing to be a strong thread for families, a neighborhood gathering spot, an institution of learning, a community leader, a support system for daily living, and a haven in which visitors are always welcome.

Our residents, as part of the Ocean County Library family, are the reason that we remain a focal point for people from all walks of life from preschoolers to seniors. Our residents are what keeps the Ocean County Library at the center of its community and the reason we have had 95 strong years and will continue to succeed and grow together.



## Foundation and Friends

Conditions that prevailed in 2020 allowed the Ocean County Library Foundation to devote time and energy to long-range planning, with an eye toward an eventual return to live events.

The Foundation undertakes a variety of fundraising and grant writing activities, using our skills at raising private and public funds to provide support for non-traditional Library programs and services not covered by tax dollars or budget. In 2020 the Ocean County Library Foundation was awarded the *OceanFirst Foundation Arts & Cultural Grant*.

The Ocean County Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that aims to enhance the services and opportunities offered to all Ocean County Library users. We support and believe in the Ocean County Library's mission of "Connecting People, Building Community, and Transforming Lives."



Ocean County Library Friends have continued to stay connected by holding group meetings virtually. They have ongoing communication with their branches to stay abreast of Library news. All Friends groups have been focusing on new memberships and renewals. As always, Friends are Library users whether by visiting the branch, using digital resources, or attending virtual programs. They always provide unwavering support and are ready and eager to resume their role as Ocean County Library's greatest champions.

## Circulation Statistics 2020

Branch	Check Outs 2020 <sup>1</sup>
Barnegat	92,209
Bay Head	5,192
Beachwood	16,709
Berkeley	88,608
Brick	364,446
Homebound Inst.	15,013
Island Heights	24,966
Jackson	262,236
Lacey	97,459
Lakewood	432,811
Little Egg Harbor <sup>2</sup>	80,832
Long Beach Island	50,082
Manchester	253,186
Plumsted	36,525
Pt Beach	26,952
Pt Boro	115,418
Stafford	106,392
Toms River	346,424
Tuckerton	26,326
Upper Shores	46,443
Waretown	28,373
Whiting	67,584
eMaterials <sup>3</sup>	570,106
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,154,292</b>

<sup>1</sup>The system was closed 3/15/2020 – 7/6/2020 as per Executive Order of the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

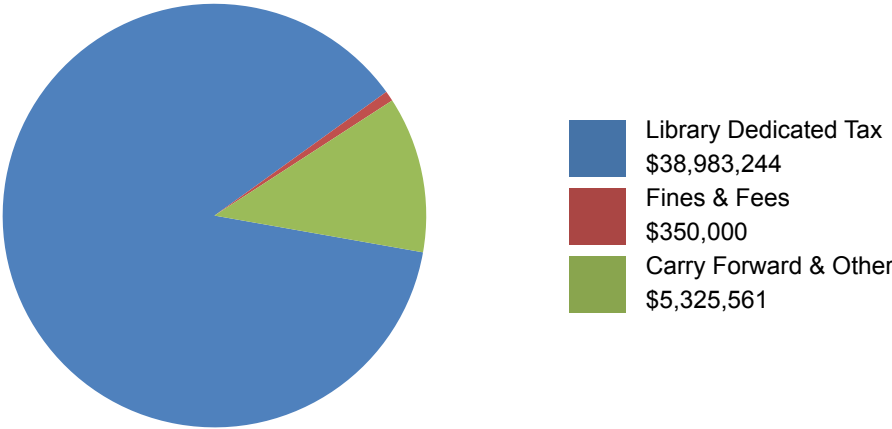
<sup>2</sup>Little Egg Harbor closed from 10/15/2019 - 1/20/2020 for electrical repair.

<sup>3</sup>All eMaterials: Overdrive, Hoopla, Kanopy, Flipster, Creativebug, Freegal, RBDigital AudioBooks and Magazines.

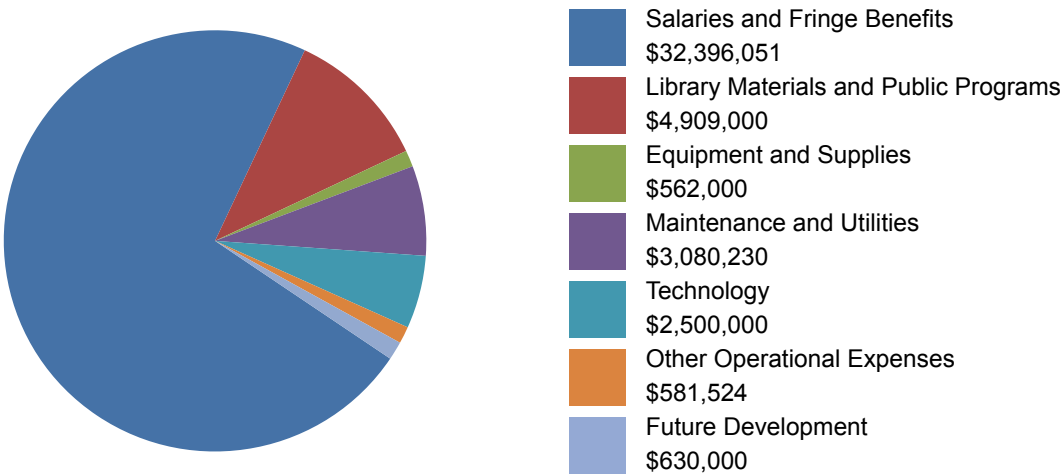


# Adopted 2020 Ocean County Library Budget

**2020 Anticipated Revenue**  
Total Anticipated Revenue: \$38,983,244



**2020 Anticipated Expenditures**  
Total Anticipated Expenditures: \$44,658,805



# Financials

**OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION**  
(A Component Unit of the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey)  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in  
Fund Balances - Regulatory Basis  
For the year ended December 31, 2020  
(With comparative totals for December 31, 2019)

	General (Unreserved) Fund	General (Reserved) Fund	2020 Total	2019 Total (Memorandum Only)
Revenues:				
Per capita aid	\$ -	\$ 249,331	\$ 249,331	\$ 252,106
Dedicated tax	38,983,244	-	38,983,244	38,029,847
Fines and fees	107,339	-	107,339	360,991
Added assessment tax	364,140	-	364,140	273,118
Copier fees	15,863	-	15,863	41,955
Grant revenue	-	22,683	22,683	21,826
Donations	-	40,148	40,148	56,773
Appropriation reserves	-	4,966,728	4,966,728	3,066,298
Building improvement	-	445,419	445,419	542,048
FEMA	-	-	-	43,316
Miscellaneous	171,415	737	172,152	153,110
Total revenues:	39,642,001	5,725,046	45,367,047	42,841,388
Expenditures:				
Salaries	17,861,287	-	17,861,287	17,967,189
Fringe benefits	8,888,210	713,971	9,602,181	9,865,045
Materials	2,412,920	948,317	3,361,237	4,434,094
Programs and public relations	51,591	6,676	58,267	216,225
Professional expenses and seminars	37,948	21,741	59,689	63,251
Professional services	161,453	25,537	186,990	200,921
Administrative services	97,876	4,545	102,421	65,567
Equipment	56,359	48,189	104,548	132,083
Supplies	199,272	19,215	218,487	316,010
Maintenance - buildings and grounds	918,480	75,420	993,900	1,173,975
Maintenance - equipment and vehicles	93,147	33,513	126,660	129,476
Utilities	800,362	184,036	984,398	1,092,802
Technology	1,492,783	438,537	1,931,320	1,924,786
Building improvement fund	-	518,441	518,441	247,176
Transfer to appropriation reserves	4,966,728	-	4,966,728	3,066,298
Total expenditures:	38,038,416	3,038,138	41,076,554	40,894,898
Excess revenues over expenditures	1,603,585	2,686,908	4,290,493	1,946,490
Fund balance, January 1	9,157,669	6,367,844	15,525,513	13,579,023
Transfers to unreserved funds	889,626	(889,626)	-	-
Transfers to reserved funds	(581,217)	581,217	-	-
Fund balance, December 31	\$ 11,069,663	\$ 8,746,343	\$ 19,816,006	\$ 15,525,513



## Donations

Ann Castagnola	Jacquelyn Wojak	Nicole's Boutique
Anthony Horan	James & Susann Cadmus	Ocean Acres Civic Association
Anthony Horan & Susan L. Trotter	Janet Gray	Ocean County Genealogical Society
Carole Pisani	Janice & Pamela Amatucci	Patricia Hill
Cathy Bordeman	Joan & William Falco	Paul Spychala & Debra Lynch
Craig Kodanko	Joan & Richard Kodanko	Peggy Rutledge
Curtis F. Watts	Joan E. Haefle	Richard & Donna Wilson
Doris & Edward Green	Joseph D. Pucilowski	Robert Cox
Dorothy M. Markelew	Judith & Russell Randolph	Servandian Araoz
Edward & Mary Rossi	June Lynn Finn	Sharon & Richard Gross
Elaine Kursch	Kristine & Martin Stadler	Sheila S. Michaud
Eric & Claudia Jacobs	Linda Bogden	Sylvia Loime
Frank S. Reufi	Madelyn Dunn	The Hecht Family
Hagerty Consulting Inc.	Margaret Ronan	The Stokes Family
Hecht Family Foundation	Marge Schweichert	Toms River Police Foundation
Italian Cultural Society of LBI	Maureen Jozwick	
	Nancy & Patrick Bracken	

Grants	2020 Census	NJ Department of State Complete Count Commission
	Facing History Ourselves	OCCares
	KearnyBank Foundation	Ocean First Grant
	National Endowment for the Humanities	The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read Grant
	National Writing Project	
	NJ Council for the Humanities	

## Community Partners

American Legion Post 351 (Seaside Heights)	Greater New Jersey Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association	New Jersey Institute for Disabilities (NJID)	RWJBarnabas Communities That Care
American Library Association	Great John Mathis Chapter National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution	O.C.E.A.N., INC.	Samaritan Healthcare & Hospice
ARC Journeys and Discovery	Hunger Foundation of Southern Ocean	Ocean County Health Department	SCORE of Ocean County
ARC of Toms River	Kean University	Ocean County Homeless Prevention and Assistance Coalition	ShopRite of Fischer Bay
Barnegat Communities That Care	Kids Growing Early Learning Center	Ocean County Juvenile Detention Center	Smart Start Academy
Better Business Bureau	Lakewood Head Start	Ocean County Office of Senior Services	St. Barnabas Food Pantry
Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey	Lakewood Neighbors	Ocean Mental Health Services	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)
Community Medical Center	Meals on Wheels of Ocean County	Ocean Township Municipal Alliance	The American Red Cross
Easterseals	National Alliance on Mental Illness-Ocean County	Ocean Township Police Department	The Garden Club of Long Beach Island
Garden State Community Bank	National Constitution Center	Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey	Veterans Administration
Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore		Rutgers Makerspace	Waretown Municipal Alliance
Good Shepard Lutheran Church			





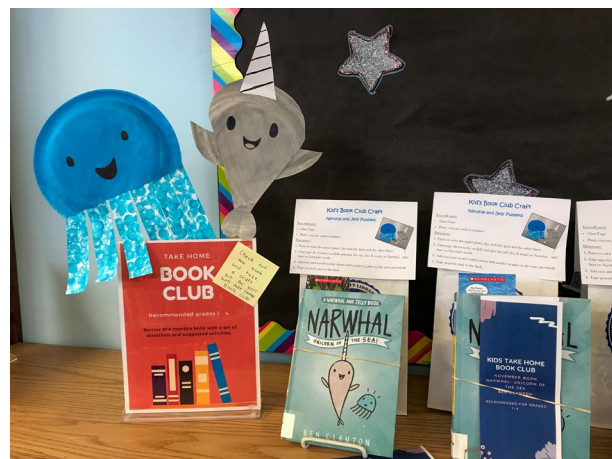


“It has been my pleasure to work with such a resilient, flexible, and committed staff during my thirty

years with the Ocean County Library. During the pandemic, they have consistently stepped up, regardless of what we’ve thrown at them, always eager to provide the best possible customer service. They have nurtured community partnerships; mastered the virtual environment for outreach, programming, team-building, and professional development; contributed to the success of the 2020 Census; and shared valuable insights for the Interim Strategic Plan.”

– **Rita Oakes**

*Chief Librarian, Branch Services*



*Long Beach Island Branch invited young readers to participate in our take home book club. Included in this book club kit is the book, a quiz about the book, a craft and a recipe.*



“The Ocean County Library is a beautiful community based resource that, as a single mother, has become a staple in my young sons life. At an early age, my son and I utilized the

Library (pre-pandemic) for their children’s programs, play and story time as well as a way to get out of the house while still utilizing my very tight budget. As my son grew, his involvement with the Ocean County Library system grew as well. We went from picture books, to young reader books, from play time to doing the Take & Makes, and from a cautionary uncertainty, to a place of comfort and routine. I am so appreciative of the Ocean County Library system, their abundant resources and smiling staff.”

– **Kaitlyn L.**

*Library Patron*



*The Point Pleasant Borough and Tuckerton Branches show off their 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary spirit.*

## Ocean County Library Staff,

Despite all the obstacles and uncertainties of 2020, you never wavered in your job of serving the public with excellence and dedication. Through your work you brought information, comfort, joy and happiness to our community in crisis.

Never underestimate the magnitude and importance of what you have done this year. This year may have been historic, but then again so were you.

Thank you  
for all you do.



<b>BARNEGAT BRANCH</b>	<b>112 Burr Street • 609-698-3331</b> Branch Manager: Rachel Cantor
<b>BAY HEAD READING CENTER</b>	<b>136 Meadow Avenue • 732-892-0662</b> Branch Manager: Laura Kostih
<b>BEACHWOOD BRANCH</b>	<b>126 Beachwood Blvd. • 732-244-4573</b> Branch Manager: Steven Copp
<b>BERKELEY BRANCH</b>	<b>30 Station Road • 732-269-2144</b> Branch Manager: Brooke Basista
<b>BRICK BRANCH</b>	<b>301 Chambers Bridge Road • 732-477-4513</b> Branch Manager: Nancy Bonta Voitko Evans
<b>ISLAND HEIGHTS BRANCH</b>	<b>121 Central Avenue • 732-270-6266</b> Branch Manager: Sally Harrison
<b>JACKSON BRANCH</b>	<b>2 Jackson Drive • 732-928-4400</b> Branch Manager: Karen Powell
<b>LACEY BRANCH</b>	<b>10 East Lacey Road • 609-693-8566</b> Branch Manager: Rebecca Leopold-Bunucci
<b>LAKEWOOD BRANCH</b>	<b>301 Lexington Avenue • 732-363-1435</b> Branch Manager: Cathi Sheridan
<b>LITTLE EGG HARBOR BRANCH</b>	<b>290 Mathistown Road • 609-294-1197</b> Branch Manager: Dawn Heyson
<b>LONG BEACH ISLAND BRANCH</b>	<b>217 S. Central Avenue • 609-494-2480</b> Branch Manager: Toni Smirniw
<b>MANCHESTER BRANCH</b>	<b>21 Colonial Drive • 732-657-7600</b> Branch Manager: Erin Batalla
<b>PLUMSTED BRANCH</b>	<b>119 Evergreen Road • 609-758-7888</b> Branch Manager: Alexandra Majeski
<b>POINT PLEASANT BEACH BRANCH</b>	<b>710 McLean Avenue • 732-892-4575</b> Branch Manager: Matthew Willbergh
<b>POINT PLEASANT BOROUGH BRANCH</b>	<b>834 Beaver Dam Road • 732-295-1555</b> Branch Manager: Kelsey Watkoskey
<b>STAFFORD BRANCH</b>	<b>129 N. Main Street • 609-597-3381</b> Branch Manager: Theresa Foster
<b>TUCKERTON BRANCH</b>	<b>380 Bay Avenue • 609-296-1470</b> Branch Manager: Cindy Simerlink
<b>UPPER SHORES BRANCH</b>	<b>112 Jersey City Avenue • 732-793-3996</b> Branch Manager: Laura Kostih
<b>WARETOWN BRANCH</b>	<b>112 Main Street • 609-693-5133</b> Branch Manager: Melanie Bobrowicz
<b>WHITING READING CENTER</b>	<b>400 Lacey Road, Suite #5 • 732-849-0391</b> Branch Manager: Erin Batalla

## **TOMS RIVER BRANCH & LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS**

**101 Washington Street • 732-349-6200**

Branch Manager: Rachael LaVoie-Dohn  
Assistant Branch Manager: Givane Hayes