

burlington county library system  
2018 annual report

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# inspiring curiosity



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BCLS Director Ranjna Das takes a moment to enjoy a fun picture book, just as many of our favorite little visitors do.

## Message from the Director

The year 2018 was a very exciting one for the Burlington County Library System. Beyond the highlights in the pages that follow, our library system took a closer look at our internal operations: how we better work together, how we can better serve the residents of Burlington County and how we can continue to make the library a vital part of the community.

As part of that self-evaluation, we revamped our business programs and partnerships, introduced new, vibrant, entertaining auditorium programs, rebranded important services such as our Library by Mail and Borrow a Book Club, and expanded our Mobile Library service around the county. The internal efforts we kicked off last year will continue to lead to results that we look forward to sharing in 2019 and beyond.

While we tackled these

new challenges, we also celebrated notable achievements and above all else, our mission remained the same - to meet the evolving and diverse needs of all library users. From curious toddlers, to tech-savvy teens, to adults just entering the workforce or settling into retirement, we continued to offer a wealth of "opportunities for learning, growth and personal development."

Once again, *Makers Faire* encouraged visitors to create, tinker and explore, *Summer Reading* helped youngsters beat the "summer slide," and *Fandom Fest* transformed the Burlington County Library into a bustling, mini-comic con for teens and adults. And audience members enjoyed breathtaking dance steps and electrifying music during our *Sundays on Stage*, *Fall Friday Nights* and *American Music Icons* performances in our award-winning auditorium.

We continued to expand the reach of our digital newsletter, saw our website traffic increase and amped up our outreach efforts.

At the same time, we upgraded our facilities by adding new furniture and equipment and began to lay the groundwork for some exciting future capital improvements.

As always, I'm thankful for the many talented and hardworking employees who continue deliver strong customer service to so many appreciative library visitors. Together, with the support of our volunteer Friends groups, the dedicated BCLS Foundation and other library advocates, I'm sure we will be celebrating even greater accomplishments in 2019.

Ranjna Das, Director  
Burlington County  
Library System

# Celebrating the

## AMERICAN Music Icons

Music lovers explored the history, contributions and roots of some of the most iconic performers to hit the American music scene when we introduced our special *American Music Icons* concert series in January.

Presented live on Friday nights, our free shows offered something for everyone. The audience sang along to "Sweet Caroline" when The Real Diamond performed a tribute to Neil Diamond, and enjoyed the music of the 27-time Grammy Award winner Ray Charles when Forever Ray took the stage. EarthWonderFire performed a mesmerizing Stevie Wonder tribute, and fan favorite Lou Dottoli charmed audiences with the music of Frank Sinatra and other entertainers of the era, including Tony Bennett and Dean Martin.



## SUNDAYS on Stage

Romantic music, enchanting ballets and even a touch of magic delighted audiences who turned out for our popular *Sundays on Stage* performances last year. Presented annually in two series installments, these culturally diverse, afternoon shows are always the perfect way to start (or end) the week, and admission is free.

We kicked off our first round of 2018 performances in February just in time for Valentine's Day when The Divine Hand Ensemble presented "The Dance of Romance" featuring enchanting songs and mesmerizing dance steps. Additional highlights included Latin American music, Celtic classics, jazz and modern folk tunes.

Round two began in September with performances that included Motown, soul, R&B, country, pop, and big band music, as well as Brazilian samba, Spanish flamenco and Hollywood dance moves. In all, audiences enjoyed 17 performances in 2018. Look for even more exciting talent to grace the stage in 2019, then sit back, relax and enjoy the shows!

Britishmania brought to life the experience of live Beatles concerts throughout the band's history.



# ARTS

## FALL Friday Nights

We continued to take library entertainment to the next level with our *Fall Friday Nights*, an outstanding series of concert performances that did not disappoint! The shows received high praise from music lovers who paid just \$10 per person, per performance to enjoy an exciting mix of talent close to home.

Our 2018 ticketholders enjoyed five exciting concerts, beginning with the Inca Band's tribute to Carlos Santana in September, followed by a memorable trip back to the '60s with Britishmania's tribute to the wonderful sound of The Beatles in November. Additional artists included To The Max performing a selection of hits from the Motown era, Ronstadt Revue's tribute to Linda Ronstadt, and Lou Dottoli's tribute to Tony Bennett, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra.



Marc Berger and band performed original music from his CD "RIDE."



Eco Del Sur played ancient Andean songs on traditional musical instruments.

# A Strong FOUNDATION



In November, the BCLS Foundation welcomed the Philly POPS Ensemble to the Burlington County Library stage for another exciting holiday performance. It was an evening filled with music, memorable moments, and festive fun - all to benefit the library system.

Formed in 2015, the BCLS Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that raises money to fund library services, resources and programs, and it continues to show its support in myriad of ways. The foundation's signature event, however, is its annual holiday concert. For the third year in a row, ticketholders were invited to sit back, relax and enjoy the sounds of the season as members of the fabulous Philly POPS performed live on the library stage in Westampton.

The ensemble of world-class musicians performed a dazzling mix of festive favorites to kick off the holidays. In addition, the foundation's president, Jessica Siragusa, presented the

first *Library Advocacy Award* to New Jersey State Senator Troy Singleton, Legislative District 7. The award recognized a Burlington County resident who demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and made significant contributions to literacy, library or educational efforts in the community.

The mission of the BCLS Foundation is to help shape libraries as a fundamental community resource for now and for future generations, and we are pleased to report it is doing just that! Thanks to generous donations from the foundation, we were able to add new books to our *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten* collection at all branches and STEM-based *Classroom Kits* to help teachers access resources. We are grateful to the foundation members for their continued support and we look forward to seeing what they will achieve in 2019. To learn more about this worthwhile organization of dedicated volunteers or to make a donation, please visit [bclsf.org](http://bclsf.org).



New Jersey State Senator Troy Singleton was honored at the third annual BCLS Foundation gala.

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The BCLS Foundation 2018 evening with the Philly POPS Ensemble was supported by:



and other generous benefactors.





In 2018, our multiple Friends groups raised \$89,103 to support their home libraries.



Friends groups often host used book sales (top left) as a way to support library programs, like a holiday sing-along with Ginger Coyle (above and left) and a *Summer Reading* program called *Sharks Rock* (far left).

# GIVING THANKS for Friends

At BCLS, we know the importance of Friends.

Year in and year out, our volunteer Friends groups work hard to support our libraries, and 2018 was no exception. Thanks to the dedication of countless folks who donate both their time and energy to assist us, we were able to continue to offer enhanced programming and services to the community.

In addition to the Friends of the Burlington County Library, Inc., volunteer groups operate out of the Bordentown, Cinnaminson, Evesham, Pinelands, Pemberton and

Riverton libraries. Throughout the year, they help with programming, collect, sort and sell books, DVDs, CDs and other items at popular library books sales, and hold other fundraising activities.

Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. Last year, the Friends of the Burlington County Library raised \$48,265. Through the group's generosity, we were able to present our spectacular fall *Sundays on*

*Stage* performances, exciting summer reading programs and more. In total, our Friends groups raised a whopping \$89,103 and the impact of their efforts is apparent throughout the system. From our *Museum Pass Program*, to special events, to library equipment, their hard work has paid off. As always, we're grateful for their unwavering support and glad to have so many Friends we can count on!





Reading, science, music and more keep kids engaged during the BCLS *Summer Reading* program.

## "Libraries ROCK!"

Last year, kids of all ages spent their summer finding out why "Libraries Rock!" That was the theme of the BCLS 2018 *Summer Reading* program - and with plenty of free activities focusing on science, nature and more for children to enjoy, it's no wonder the program proved to be another smash hit at all library branches.

Ultimately, 1,756 kids signed up with BCLS to read thousands of great books and attend hundreds of programs, including magic shows, science experiments, live performance and more while earning fun prizes.

# There's ALWAYS

## Learning to be a "Maker"

In March, we joined the state-wide celebration of makers when we hosted our Fourth Annual *Makers Faire* at the Burlington County Library. The popular event featuring hands-on tech fun, do-it-yourself projects, STEM activities and more drew quite a crowd. Nearly 1,000 attendees, including adults, teens and children of all ages, turned out to show their enthusiasm for creating!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Inc. and part of the *New Jersey Makers Day* celebration, our annual *Makers Faire* always features something for everyone. Visitors were able to create, tinker and explore at more than 35 stations set up inside the library. Attractions included 3D printing with NextFab of Philadelphia, remote control planes, recycled paper jewelry, stamp crafting, recycled robots, mini rockets, paper airplanes, record pressing, origami and more.



At our annual *Makers Faire* kids tried different hands-on activities at multiple learning stations (above and left).

# SOMETHING Going On



Robot Workshops teach kids basic coding and enhance critical thinking skills all while "playing" with cool tech toys.



## SUPERHERO for a day

Building on the success of our previous *Fandom Fests*, we once again transformed the floor of the Burlington County Library into a bustling mini-comic con for teens and adults in August.

Presented by BCLS and the Friends of the Burlington County Library, Inc., our fourth annual celebration of comics, anime, television, movies, video games and more drew hundreds of like-minded visitors anxious to join in the fandom fun.

The jam-packed schedule of activities included Fandom Jeopardy, a Pokémon trading card tournament, retro video gaming and more.

Special guest speakers included Dokudel, a local cosplay artist and voice actor; Amber Love, a podcaster, model and comics writer; Philip McNulty, animator, illustrator and comic book "geek;" and Ryan Brady of Camden's Comics who creates and publishes his own independent comic titles.

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"IT IS OUR DREAM to help every child in Burlington County master their literacy goals. I am proud to head a department that allows children to cultivate imagination through educational events, technology and books. I invite you to bring your little one to a story time, to explore math and reading exercises on AWE computers or set a goal of reading *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*. At the end of the day, investing in a child is investing into our community's future."

— Christina Nemphos  
BCLS Youth Services Coordinator



# Always at **YOUR**

“**AS THE BCLS PRODUCT MANAGER** for two of our most popular offerings, I’m thrilled with the expansions we made in 2018 to the Museum Pass Program and our Digital Library!

Our Museum Pass Program gives customers free access to arts, culture and educational experiences that they may not have the opportunity to otherwise enjoy. We now offer passes to more than 30 attractions based in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

And, as more and more readers are accessing content on the go, we expanded our digital collections to the meet this need. Your library card is the key to unlocking a number of services available 24/7 including streaming video with Kanopy, and the new easy-to-use reading app, Libby.”

– Christy Kaciuba  
*BCLS Product Manager:  
Museum Pass Program and Digital Library*

## Art, Science and **MORE**

Our popular *Museum Pass Program* became even more convenient to use, and our customers love it!

To date, cardholders can print out passes, or download them on smartphones for nine attractions without visiting a library. We continue to work with our museum

partners to simplify the reservation process by offering more downloadable passes.

In 2018, museum pass checkouts soared 47 percent from 3,600 the previous year to 6,800. Plus, we enhanced our collection by adding several new passes to exciting local attractions.

*The Museum Pass Program is made possible through funding from the library budget and the generous support of our Friends groups.*

### NEW PASSES Purchased in 2018!

- Eastern State Penitentiary
- African American Museum in Philadelphia
- Elmwood Park Zoo

## Most **Popular** Museum Passes

### Grounds for Sculpture

*Borrowed 1,849 times,  
systemwide*



### Academy of Natural Sciences

*Borrowed 916 times,  
systemwide*



### Garden State Discovery Museum

*Borrowed 822 times,  
systemwide*





# Service

## An Easy-to-Use Reading App

Whenever new eBooks and Audio eBooks become available at BCLS, our cardholders are ready. Often, the digital books are checked out immediately and waitlists develop.

Recognizing the increased popularity of our digital collection, BCLS added more titles from popular authors and included works representing many different voices and cultures. There was also a concerted effort to add Audio eBook versions of the titles

included in our *Borrow a Book Club* program.

While there are a number of ways for library customers to read or listen to eBooks, the favorite way is the free *Libby* app. With just a few taps, you can download a new book while relaxing on vacation or the whole family can listen to a story during the next road trip. *Libby* is available for Android, iOS, Windows 10, some Chromebooks and via web browser at [libbyapp.com](http://libbyapp.com).



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Most Borrowed eBooks for ADULTS

1. *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah
2. *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng
3. *The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn
4. *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate
5. *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult

#### Most Borrowed Audio eBooks for ADULTS

1. *The Girl Before* by JP Delaney
2. *Origin* by Dan Brown
3. *Hardcore Twenty-Four: A Stephanie Plum Novel* by Janet Evanovich
4. *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'engle
5. *Still Me* by Jojo Moyes

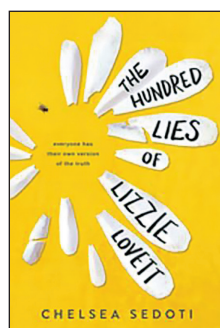


#### Most Borrowed eBook for OLDER KIDS

*A Wrinkle in Time*  
by Madeleine L'engle

#### Most Borrowed Audio eBook for OLDER KIDS

*The Dark Prophecy*  
by Rick Riordan



#### Most Borrowed eBook for TEENS

*The Hundred Lies of Lizzie Lovett*  
by Chelsea Sedoti

#### Most Borrowed Audio eBook for TEENS

*The Hate You Give*  
by Angie Thomas

# A YEAR of

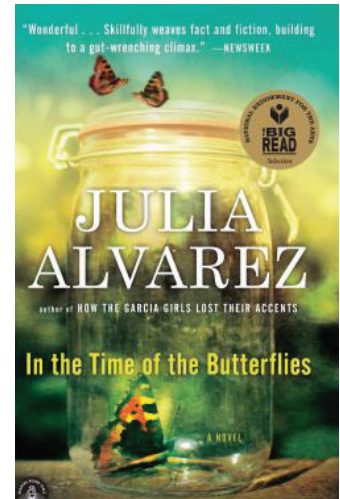
## NATIONAL GRANT Awarded to BCLS

Julia Alvarez's historical fiction *In the Time of the Butterflies* took center stage in **MARCH** when we presented the *NEA Big Read*, a month-long celebration held at all BCLS branches.

Based on the lives of four sisters who participated in underground efforts to topple Rafael Leonidas Trujillo's three-decade-long dictatorial regime in the Dominican Republic, the novel was the focus of multiple library events, including book discussions, films screenings, live performances and more. An initiative of

the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the *NEA Big Read* broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. BCLS was one of just 75 non-profit organizations nationwide which received grant funding to host the program.

It was the second time BCLS received funding to offer a series of programs focusing on a single *NEA Big Read* selection.



## Helping Others HELP Themselves



In **AUGUST**, BCLS collaborated with the Burlington County Adult Literacy Consortium to highlight English language learning opportunities available to adults. The Burlington County Adult Literacy Consortium includes Community District Alliance (CDA), Literacy New Jersey, RCBC Workforce Development Institute and the Willingboro Adult School.

Our first *Adult Literacy Resource Fair* enabled visitors to learn about English as a Second Language instruction, high school equivalency classes, resources for non-native speakers and more. Representatives from a dozen agencies who shared information about the services they provide also took the opportunity to network with one another and library staff during the event.

## MANHATTAN SHORT Film Festival RETURNS

Buoyed by the success of our first *MANHATTAN SHORT Film Festival* in 2017, movie buffs returned to the Burlington County Library in **SEPTEMBER** to view the nine finalists for 2018.

During three special showings, audience members joined amateur film critics from around the world to cast ballots for the entries they liked the best.

*MANHATTAN SHORT* is the only event of its kind and the films were screened simultaneously around the world at more than 350 venues across six continents from Sept. 27 to Oct. 7.

By virtue of its selection for the festival, each film was Oscar-qualified, meaning it was automatically eligible for an Academy Award nomination. In the end, one stood out. The 16-minute film "Fauve" about two boys who take turns outdoing each other in an abandoned surface mine until the stakes are suddenly raised was nominated for a 2019 Oscar for best live-action short.

No doubt, some of the local critics who had an opportunity to view the film on the library's big screen and cast their votes agree with the nomination!

# Highlights

## Read **EARLY** and Often

In **JANUARY**, BCLS kicked off the New Year by launching an exciting new program designed to promote strong early literacy skills. So far, more than 1,000 children have committed to reading *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (1KBBK)*. The program is part of a nationwide initiative and the concept is simple.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to pick up lots of books to read, or reread, to their preschoolers, toddlers and infants.

Every book a child is read counts toward the 1,000 milestone and that means library story times and other reading programs count too.

To generate excitement for the new 1KBBK program, special kick-off parties featuring stories, crafts and games were held. We're proud to be part of the successful initiative that's designed to promote reading readiness, encourage parent/child bonding and instill a lifelong love of reading.

Young "readers" are encouraged to log 1,000 books before starting kindergarten as a vital aid to build strong early literacy skills.



## She's Number **ONE!**

In **AUGUST**, 3-year-old Ava Duchini (right) became the first child in Burlington County to complete the 1KBBK program at the Bordentown Library. She was recognized by Senator Troy Singleton, Assemblyman Herb Conway and Assemblywoman Carol Murphy with a proclamation for her efforts.

We are so thrilled we were able to help Ava achieve her early literacy goals just in time for kindergarten!







There was lots of clucking about our new Chicken Fest, a fun, informative event that drew more than 75 backyard hen enthusiasts, vendors and experts ready to share tips about raising chickens and growing their own food.

Held at the Burlington County Library on **OCT. 27**, the program even featured a "Miss Queen of the Roost Contest." Now that's something to crow about!



## Streaming Video for CHILDREN

In **MAY**, we added a new feature to the BCLS website - *Kanopy Kids*, a popular on-demand video streaming service for preschool-age children and older. Now kids can log on their computers at home or at the library to access a wealth of age-appropriate animated stories, classic movies, family films, TV shows, language learning programs, history tales and more.

# bcls TEENS

## VOLUNTEER During School Break

Last **SUMMER**, 78 teens registered for the Burlington County Library's *Teen Volunteer Program*. Our teen volunteers completed more

than 800 hours of community service as they assisted library staff with programs, events, registering children for *Summer Reading* and more.



**PINELANDS LIBRARY** participated in Medford's Oktoberfest, signing up new customers for library cards.

## Legal Aid SERVICES

County residents looking for some free legal assistance got a hand from the Burlington County Bar Association when it teamed up with BCLS to provide free legal services at the Burlington County Library during its annual *Day of Service* held on **OCT. 26**.

Residents discussed simple wills, expungements, personal bankruptcy, foreclosures and more during the program that was presented in partnership with Rutgers Law School, Burlington County Superior Court and South Jersey Legal Services, Inc.

# At Our Libraries

## Ride Along in Our NEW Mobile Van

Ever since a Ford Model T began making the rounds in 1921, BCLS has been bringing books to Burlington County residents. In 2018, we took that service to the next level when we rolled out our newly designed mobile library. This state-of-the-art vehicle is well equipped for modern day needs as it weaves its way through the county each week to visit local neighborhoods, senior communities and other sites where cardholders are waiting. Here's a look at a typical day in the life of the BCLS Mobile Library:

**8:30 a.m.:** Staff prepares for the daily run at the Burlington County Library. We sort "hold" requests, call customers who have items we are bringing on the vehicle that day and check out materials. We load carts

with children's materials in preparation for a school visit and make sure the laptop, Chromebook and WiFi hotspot are fully charged and ready to go.

**9:30 a.m.:** On the road!

**10:20 - 10:50 a.m.:**

Our first stop is for the students of Pinelands Residential Community Home in Washington Township, which provides residential treatment for juvenile offenders. We drop off a large number of books and DVDs requested by the administrator while the students browse the DVD collection on the vehicle.

**11:10 - 11:40 a.m.:** Our next stop is the New Gretna Presbyterian Church in Bass River, a community stop. We chat with a few of the regular customers while they pick up their holds and

browse the mobile

collection. A customer in charge of a local book club picks up one of our Borrow a Book Club selections.

**1 p.m.:** After lunch, we head to northern Burlington County for a stop at Chesterfield Elementary School's summer camp program. We issue new cards to several students and point out books of interest on the special carts with juvenile materials.

**2:30 p.m.:** Our last stop is LIFE St. Francis in Bordentown, which provides all-inclusive care to the elderly. Using the mobile library's lift, we unload a cart with large print books to bring into the facility. We drop off holds for a patron who uses a wheelchair and exchange recommendations for good science fiction reading.

**3:30 p.m.:** It's time to return to the Burlington County Library. We check in the returned items, plug in the vehicle to recharge it and swap out the carts. We're ready for our next run!







BCLS is proud to support the *Little Free Library*® movement. Our staff worked to identify communities without access to a local library and as a result we installed two *Little Free Libraries* in **CHATSWORTH** (above) and Wrightstown. We look forward to installing additional libraries in 2019!

## Business Startup Series for **MILITARY** and **CIVIL SERVICE**

At the **PEMBERTON LIBRARY**, we partnered with UCEDC and the U.S. Small Business Administration to bring a *Business Startup Series* to life last fall. This three-part series was geared toward active and retired military, Civil Service and their families and prepared them for entrepreneurship.

## MAIN STREET *scavenger hunt*

If you visited **MEDFORD** on a Saturday in October, you may have seen a few library visitors on the hunt! Hosted by Pinelands Library, the Main Street Scavenger Hunt encouraged participants to learn more about the area by picking up clue sheets at the library and then collecting stamps from participating businesses. Completed sheets were entered into a raffle for a prize bag of local treats.



# NOTES from our Members

## VINCENTOWN

The **SALLY STRETCH KEEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY** hosted its *Local Art Exhibit and Sale*, which serves an important dual purpose. The show allows the public to view the works of local artisans and, from the sale of those works, raises funds to benefit the library.

The fifth annual two-day event was held in September and raised more than \$600.

## BEVERLY, CROSSWICKS and DELANCO

Three branch libraries were among 14 statewide to be awarded funds from the Tischler Memorial Grant Program, presented by the New Jersey State Library. The grant provided funding to smaller libraries to allow them to further develop their collections.



# Bits and

# PIECES



Teens visiting the Bordentown Library can cozy up in a stunning new reading nook installed especially for them.

## New SPACES, Fresh PLACES

Visitors to the Bordentown and Riverton libraries may notice a few changes. As part of ongoing plans to maintain and improve BCLS facilities to meet the growing needs of the community, both locations received upgrades last year.

At the Riverton Library, visitors will find new, comfortable furniture offering relaxing places to sit and read. At the Bordentown Library, the design team created an area just for teens to study or gather. Behind the scenes, the Cinnaminson Library got a makeover too. New desks were installed and a fresh coat of paint was added to the upstairs staff room.

Look for more updates to BCLS library spaces and places in the coming year.

## Community OUTREACH @ 143 EVENTS!

Once again, BCLS staff looked beyond our buildings to connect with Burlington County residents in 2018. Throughout the year, we hit the road to festivals, fairs and community events that stretched from one end of the county to the other.

Our mission: to chat with as many visitors as possible about the wide range of BCLS programs and services available.

During our travels, we interacted with attendees, signed up 402 new cardholders, and collected emails from more than a thousand people interested in receiving our newsletter.

Visitors saw us at popular attractions such as the Lumberton Fall Festival and Paddle, the Mount Holly Car Show, National Night Out events and a host of other festivities where large crowds gathered. We look forward to stepping outside our libraries and meeting even more people in 2019.



Parents and kids can enjoy tech together with age-appropriate programs on AWE Early Literacy Computers, now available at all branches.

# NJLA and STEAM



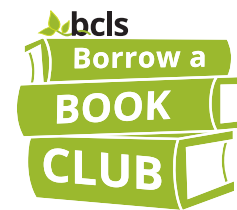
Examining the STEAM concept through a social lens was the focus of a panel discussion moderated by BCLS Librarian Megan Dehmelt at the 2018 New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference.

“Full STEAM Together: Social Justice in Programming” came together with the help of Lanora Melillo of the Scotch Plains Public Library and Doug Baldwin of the Piscataway Public Library. Presented to an audience of more than 50 people, the panel looked at STEAM program initiatives that encourage participants to bond while also working collaboratively on social justice related projects.

Panelists discussed how these programs boost self-confidence and self-awareness while also providing participants with the tools they need to succeed professionally and to affect change.

Working with colleagues from other libraries and networking with the panelists proved to be a “fantastic” experience for Dehmelt, who said, “we each had a slightly different point of view that, I think, allowed for a very diverse panel and a great discussion.”

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Megan Dehmelt has worked as a librarian for BCLS since 2016 in both Youth and Teen Services.



Book groups who use our convenient *Borrow a Book Club (BABC)* service found new titles to choose from last year. The *BABC* service provides cardholders with multiple copies of a single book in a labeled, canvas bag that also contains helpful aids for organizing and running a successful book discussion group. The bags may be checked out for eight weeks at a time.

In 2018, we enhanced the *BABC* offerings by adding more than a dozen new fiction and nonfiction titles to the already generous collection.

The new titles included *If You Leave Me* by Crystal Hana Kim, *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover, and *The Nightingale: A Novel* by Kristin Hannah and more. To browse the full catalog of *BABC* selections, visit the online catalog or check out the printable titles list available on the BCLS website.



In an effort to increase awareness of the BCLS mail delivery service, we gave the program a new name and a fresh look in 2018.

Formerly known as **Library in a Bag**, the rebranded *Library by Mail* service now features an easily recognizable logo resembling a green postage stamp adorned with the outline of a book. By using the service, cardholders in good standing can receive home delivery of requested materials, including books and movies. There is a \$1 per item service fee, which is waived for homebound customers who provide a completed Homebound Customer Certification form signed by a physician.



# RESERVATIONS

## at Your Fingertips

Students, work groups and others looking for a quiet place to gather can now reserve library space in advance with just a few keystrokes.

In January, we introduced a new online reservation system for the study and meeting rooms available at select BCLS locations. The number of people taking advantage of the new system continues to climb, freeing up reference staff from handling the reservations by phone and enabling them to devote their time to other library inquiries.

To access the online calendar, customers can simply visit the BCLS website and click

“Reserve Space at Your Library.” From there it’s easy to explore all the areas available throughout the library system, including quiet study rooms, larger meeting rooms and the Burlington County Library Auditorium.

There is no charge to reserve the smaller study rooms. Rental fees for the Burlington County Library meeting rooms and the 250-seat auditorium, which are available to organizations that further the educational, cultural and civic needs of the county, are outlined on the website. BCLS reservation policies are also readily available.

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## FACE FORWARD with BCLS Staff

In 2018, BCLS continued to tackle important short-term initiatives and advance long-term goals. At the same time, we said goodbye to some key staff members who announced their well-earned retirements, and we welcomed others to new positions.

At the Pinelands Library, Danielle Haubrich took the reins as the new branch manager. Meanwhile, Laurie Bowden assumed the role of branch manager at the Pemberton Library.

Other personnel changes throughout the system also helped strengthen our mission. We look forward to continuing to fine-tune our workforce in 2019 to meet the growing needs of the community.

## Polar Bear Cubs Take the **PLUNGE**



Youth Services in Westampton treated children to a pint-sized *Polar Bear Plunge* in February, allowing the library's tiniest visitors to (from top) play with "ice pellets," turn themselves into "reindeer," and sort through "snowballs" to find wintery objects.



# STATISTICS

## SOCIAL MEDIA



A 15.6% INCREASE  
in our followers  
@burlingtoncountylibrary

*Excitement over One Thousand Books Before Kindergarten gave our post regarding the program's kick-off reached more than 5,586 FB viewers.*



A 19% INCREASE  
in our followers @askbcls

*Our tweet about our YA Authorfest recorded 3,804 impressions, while one about FIRST Little Free Library® location in Chatsworth recorded 3,263.*



A 24.7% INCREASE  
in our followers @bclsreads

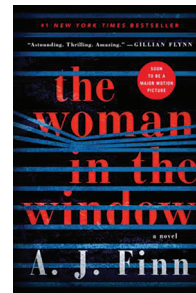
*A Book Face Friday post called "Crunch Time" reached 3,386 IGers and received 356 likes. And, in total, our Top Ten Book Face Friday photos reached 15,724 platform subscribers.*

#BCLSreads

#exploreBCLS

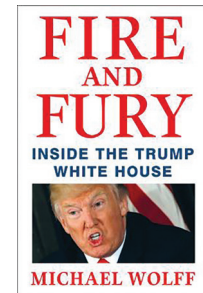
## MOST BORROWED BOOKS

### Fiction

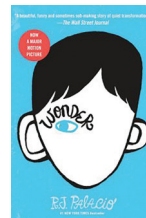


**ADULTS**  
Borrowed  
824 times

### Non-Fiction



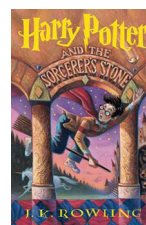
**ADULTS**  
Borrowed  
296 times



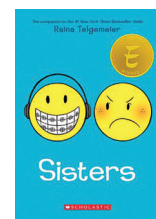
**TEENS**  
Borrowed  
265 times



**TEENS**  
Borrowed  
135 times



**OLDER KIDS**  
Borrowed  
522 times



**OLDER KIDS**  
Borrowed  
227 times

## MOST BORROWED ITEMS

### FILMS (all formats)



**DUNKIRK**  
Borrowed 443 times

### GAMES (all formats)



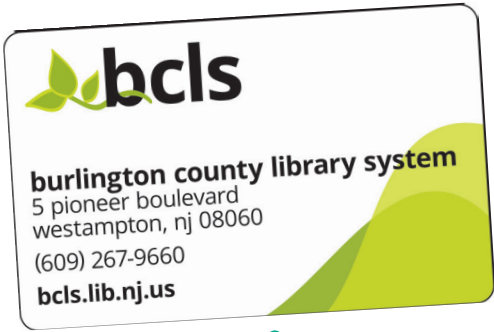
**MINECRAFT**  
Borrowed 146 times



**YOUNG KIDS**  
Borrowed  
318 times

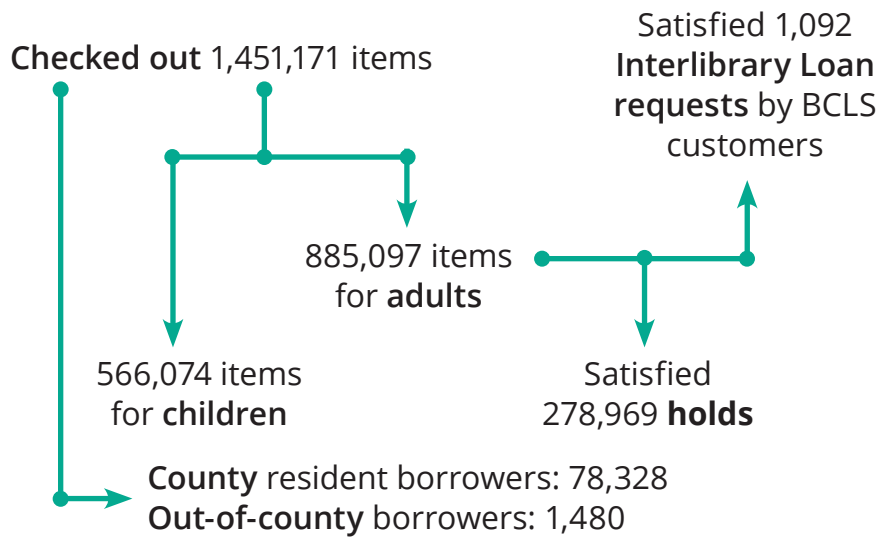


**YOUNG KIDS**  
Borrowed  
157 times



## CIRCULATION

Issued  
13,957  
NEW  
library cards

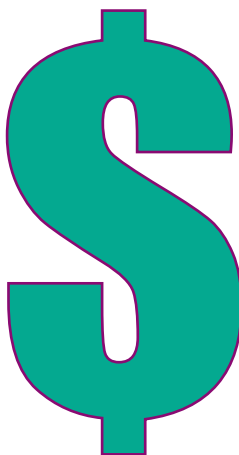


## NEWSLETTER

4,632 new subscribers began receiving our newsletter, taking our total distribution to 23,949.

58% of subscribers read the publication on their mobile devices.

Sign up at



## FINANCIALS

### INCOME

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| County tax     | \$ 10,460,000.00 |
| Grants and aid | \$ 136,403.00    |
| Fines and fees | \$ 256,922.29    |



## TECHNOLOGY

- 9,636,825 total Web page views
- 2,520,862 new visitors, a 46% increase
- 229 public-access computers
- Accessed by 148,109 users
- More than 174,800 wireless sessions logged

We posted  
100 blogs,  
including  
12 Staff  
Spotlights.



Visitors typically used desktop computers to access our website. But mobile use increased by as much as 21% during June, July and August, when Summer Reading took place.

# Holiday HITS



Holiday programs are big fun for little library-goers, and often include parades, live music and make-and-take seasonal crafts.



**Jon Chebra**  
*2019 Chairman*  
Burlington County  
Library Commission

"On behalf of the commission, we are thrilled to continue to communicate and represent the interests of Burlington County residents to foster an effective library system in 2019. We realize the importance of connecting the needs of library users with the spaces, programs and services that BCLS offers."



**Felicia Hopson**  
*2019 Library Liaison*  
Burlington County  
Board of Chosen  
Freeholders

"A library is an inspiring community hub that fosters culture, inspiration and literacy. We are fortunate to have a library system in Burlington County that offers robust, quality programs, services and resources. As the Burlington County Library freeholder liaison, I look forward the variety of high-caliber opportunities that will be provided to residents of all ages in 2019."



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# Our Locations

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**1. Burlington County Library**

5 Pioneer Boulevard, Westampton

**2. Beverly Library**

441 Cooper Street, Beverly

**3. Bordentown Library**

18 East Union Street, Bordentown

**4. Library Company  
of Burlington**

23 West Union Street, Burlington

**5. Cinnaminson Library**

1619 Riverton Road, Cinnaminson

**6. Crosswicks Library**

483 Main Street, Crosswicks

**7. Delanco Public Library**

1303 Burlington Avenue, Delanco

**8. Evesham Library**

984 Tuckerton Road, Marlton

**9. Florence Library**

1350 Hornberger Avenue, Roebling

**10. Maple Shade Library**

200 Stiles Avenue, Maple Shade

**11. Pemberton Library**

16 Broadway, Browns Mills

**12. Pinelands Library**

39 Allen Avenue, Medford

**13. Riverside Library**

10 Zurbrugg Way, Riverside

**14. Riverton Library**

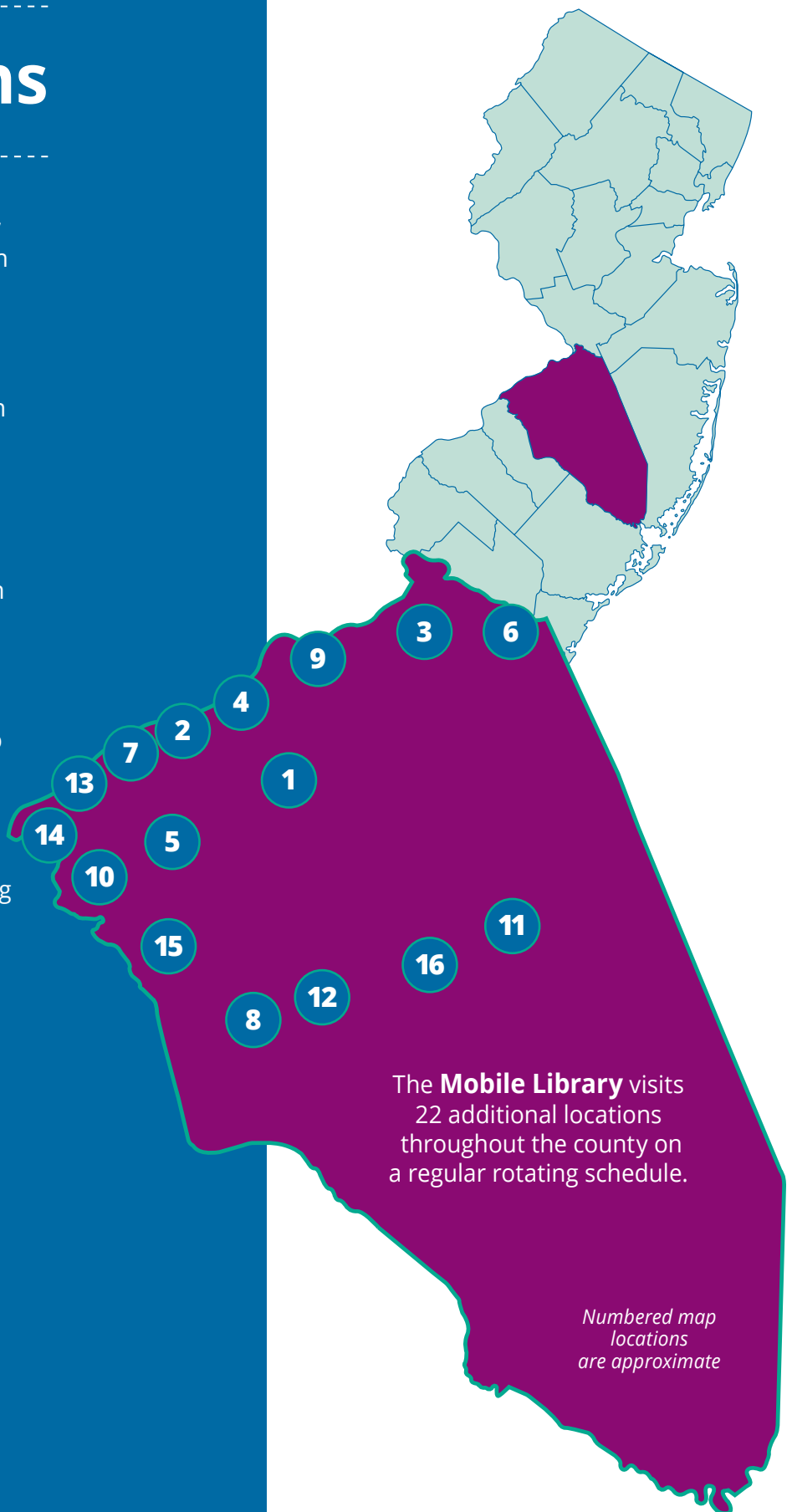
306 Main Street, Riverton

**15. Rowan College  
at Burlington County**

900 College Circle, Mt. Laurel

**16. Vincentown Library**

94 Main Street, Vincentown



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The mission of the  
Burlington County Library System  
is to enrich lives  
by providing opportunities for  
learning, growth and personal development.

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 [bcls.lib.nj.us](http://bcls.lib.nj.us)



In recognition of National Library Week, we asked customers,  
*"Where did your library lead you?"*  
Here are just a few of their great answers:

"The library lead me to volunteering, an interest in local history, and the ability to double my reading amount with audio eBooks."

– Nancy C.

"...to a book group, information, and a renewed interest in reading."

– Susan M.

"...to help. Our library always helps us."

– James L.

"...to learn to read and fun reading time with Mom and Dad."

– Jesse F. (child)

"...to healthy cooking for my diabetic dad."

– Leanne S.

"...to a library card."

– Alan B.

"...to the Internet, books and DVDs."

– DeShaun B.