**2018 Year in Review**

**Our Vision**
GCLS libraries are the center of an informed, engaged, and connected community.

**Our Mission**
The Gloucester County Library System provides welcoming community spaces where people gather to learn, create, and have fun.

**Commission Chair**
Mario DiLisciandro

**Branch Libraries**
- Mullica Hill HQ Branch
  389 Wolfert Station Rd, Mullica Hill
  Director: Ralph S. Bingham III
- Glassboro Branch
  2 Center St, Glassboro
  Manager: Loretta Lisowski
- Greenwich Branch
  411 Swedesboro Rd, Greenwich
  Manager: Patricia Collins
- Logan Branch
  241 Beckett Rd, Logan
  Manager: Carolyn Oldt
- Swedesboro Branch
  1442 Kings Highway, Swedesboro
  Manager: Judith Pissano

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**By the Numbers**
- GCLS libraries recorded 332,079 patron visits.
- GCLS libraries circulated a total of 374,702 items. Circulation of eContent was 46,296.
- Library staff answered 32,083 reference questions.
- The library webpage was accessed 298,841 times, of which 31.04% was via a mobile device.
- Over 1,647 recreational, cultural and educational programs for adults were offered at GCLS branches. More than 11,875 people attended these programs.
- Our Facebook page surpassed 2,200 likes. We have over 1,000 followers on Twitter and Pinterest.
- GCLS benefited from 3,317.25 hours of volunteer service.
- GCLS provided meeting room space for 1,039 community programs and 3,590 library programs, with a total attendance of 72,199.
- Library staff provided 1,943 children's programs in 2018, attended by 39,224 children and their caregivers.
- The GCLS Summer Reading Program registered 1,602 children and teens. They read 23,479 books during the six-week period. There were 413 special programs with 8,584 attendees.
- Our GCLS newsletter reaches more than 3,500 readers.
- There were 185 Librarian by Appointment sessions in 2018.
- GCLS currently offers 24 LibGuide online reference resources created by our reference staff.
- The library systems provides 61 online subscription databases, all available both within GCLS libraries and from home computers, and two additional databases available only within the GCLS libraries.
Events

NJ Makers Day
On March 10th, GCLS celebrated the 4th annual statewide NJ Makers Day. The Mullica Hill Branch offered a day of creative learning activities for children and adults, including high-tech activities and traditional crafts. Maker activities and programs took place at all GCLS branches. GCLS was a founding partner in the establishment of NJ Makers Day.

“Why Dinosaurs Matter”
World-renowned paleontologist Dr. Ken Lacovara, Founding Dean of the School of Earth & Environment at Rowan University and Director of the Jean & Ric Edelman Fossil Park, was hosted by the Greenwich Branch in April. Dr. Lacovara discussed his book, “Why Dinosaurs Matter,” and the discovery of Dreadnoughtus, a dinosaur weighing seven times more than T. Rex. Attendees were invited to bring their copy of his book for Dr. Lacovara’s autograph.

Annual Veterans Continental Breakfast
The Logan Branch held their annual Veterans Continental Breakfast and Program on November 7. Ninety first graders from Center Square School sang two patriotic songs led by music teacher, Robin Wilson. Library Commissioner, Gerry Michael spoke to the veterans, thanking them for their service, and Ben Carlton, historian/Logan Library staff member, gave a presentation about the Revolutionary War in Swedesboro and Woolwich Township.

GCLS Veterans Oral History Project
Eight additional interviews were recorded at the GCLS Logan Branch as part of the GCLS Veterans Oral History Project. Logan library manager Carolyn Oldt is the project manager, Logan library assistant Bennett Carlton served as the interviewer, and Mullica Hill library assistant Kevin Brown edited the recordings and created the DVDs. Our complete collection of interviews is available in the GCLS Archive.org repository.

Volunteers

◊ GCLS benefited from 3,317.25 hours of volunteer service in 2018.
◊ The Volunteer Center of South Jersey’s Spirit of Community Awards recognized the Friends of GCLS with the prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award for their 25 years of service to GCLS.

Technology

◊ GCLS provides a full-service Digital Services department to support the automation services of the library system.
◊ Twenty new computers were installed at the GCLS Logan Branch in 2018. All staff and public area computers were replaces as part of the five year GCLS computer upgrade pan.
◊ Five new computers to replace aging computers in the InnovationStudio and MakerStudio were installed.
◊ New digital signage program (RiseVision) was procured and implemented across all branches.
For a second year, the library partnered with the Food Bank of South Jersey, who provided, free of charge, lunch and afternoon snacks five days per week at Logan and one day per week at Glassboro during July and August in conjunction with the summer reading program.

GCLS is pleased to participate in the RCGC Intern Scholarship Program. In 2018, three Interns were placed at the GCLS InnovationStudio at RCGC, and Swedesboro and Logan libraries.

All Children’s programs are inclusive programs which are open to children affected by Autism and Asperger’s syndrome as well as children from the general public.

GCLS continues to offer the Special Olympics Young Athletes program for special needs children ages 2-7 and their families. It allows families to participate in sports for fun and just play for the sake of playing.
Grants

Due to the initiative and hard work of GCLS Staff, the library was awarded grants totaling $150,500 in 2018.

- **Community Library Adult Literacy & Career Pathway Grant** - $92,000
- **Career Connections** - $55,000
- **NJ State Library Literacy Collection Development Grant** - $2,000
- **NJ Makers Day Mini-Grant** - $500
- **Gloucester County Insurance Commission “Get Moving, Get Healthy NJ Workforce”** - $500
- **State of NJ Solid Waste Administration and Swedesboro Municipal Alliance - Clean Communities Initiative Grant** - $500

Spaces

- The **GCLS InnovationStudio**, located on the campus of RCGC, is a public makerspace that provides RCGC students, faculty and members of the community access to cutting-edge technology, fosters original thinking, and encourages innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The **Makerstudio@GCLS Digital Media Lab** offers a wide range of services to our patrons including analog to digital conversion for different media types (VHS tapes, cassettes, and vinyl records); professional level podcasting and music recording capabilities with the addition of high quality microphone and sound mixing equipment; and Virtual Reality experiences via an HTC Vive Virtual Reality Headset.
- The **CreativityStudio@GCLS** features a range of creative tools such as a 3D printer and 3D scanner as well as a virtual reality development kit, LEAP motion controller, HUE animation studio, and Ozobot bit 2.0.

Farewell

On July 31st, 2018, GCLS director, Anne M. Wodnick retired after 32 years of service to the library. Ms. Wodnick worked for the library since 1986, and served as Director for over eight years. We wish her a fond farewell and a happy retirement!

Our current Director, Ralph S. Bingham III, took on his new role on August 1st. We are pleased to offer him a warm welcome!