

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Mullica Hill Branch

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

Glassboro Branch

101 Rowan Boulevard
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Greenwich Branch

411 Swedesboro Road
Greenwich, NJ 08027

Logan Branch

498 Beckett Road
Logan, NJ 08085

Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro Public Library

1442 Kings Highway
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

Director:

Carolyn S. Oldt

Assistant Director:

Judith Pissano

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@GCLibS

@GloucesterCountyLibrarySystem



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



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

GCLS Clayton Library Groundbreaking

GCLS broke ground on the Clayton Library on Monday, May 12, 2025. By the end of 2025, the site work was nearly completed, and the exterior walls erected. Anticipated completion is late spring of 2026 with an opening in June.



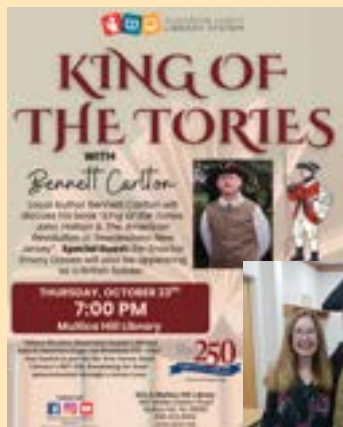
30th Anniversary of the GCLS Logan Twp Library

GCLS Logan Library celebrated its 30th anniversary in October 2025 with a celebration that included jazz music performed by Brian Betz, face painting, button making, cake and refreshments, and speeches by our County Commissioners and Library Director, Carolyn Oldt. Debbie Glackin, Logan Branch Manager, was presented with a Proclamation from the Board of Commissioners, a Resolution from the Gloucester County Library Commission, and a Joint Legislative Resolution from the Senate and General Assembly.



Prime Time Reading

GCLS Greenwich Library was awarded \$6,500 from New Jersey Council for the Humanities and \$3,300 from Paulsboro Refining Company for the Prime Time Reading Grant. This grant provided six weeks of programming for up to 25 families.



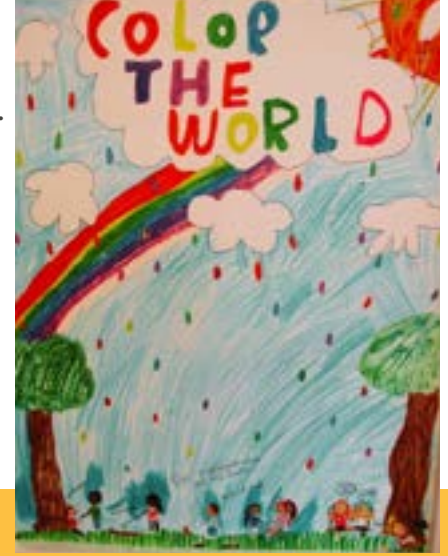
Rev 250

GCLS in Mullica Hill was awarded a \$9,500 REV250 Grant, beginning June 2025. Written by Adult Services Librarian, Beth DeGeorge, the program is entitled "Where We Live: Gloucester County's Pivotal Role in America's Fight for Freedom, 1777-1783". The Grant provided funding for the Library to provide informative and entertaining programs through a year-long celebration of the American Revolution. The Mullica Hill Library featured a full calendar of lectures, re-enactors, historic tours, book clubs, crafts, and musical presentations, for both young and old in order to keep the American Revolution alive, celebrate Gloucester County's rich history, and instill a strong sense of heritage and community to all Gloucester County residents.

SUMMER READING

Color Our World

The Gloucester County Library System participated in the New Jersey State Library 6-week 2025 Color Our World Summer Reading Program. Summer Reading engages the community and encourages children, teens and adults to read and prevent the “summer slide.” Children and teens are given summer reading bags, funded by the Friends of GCLS. Local businesses provide incentives, such as coupons for a free ice cream cone, while Rowan University’s Edelman Planetarium provided GCLS patrons two free shows.



1,477

Youth Participants

161

Adult Participants

385

Youth and Adult Programs

26,944

Books Read by Youth

541

Books Read by Adults

9,706

Program Attendance



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

GCLS partnered with organizations throughout the county and region to better serve the residents of the GCLS service area. These organizations included the GC Workforce Development Board, the GC One-Stop/America's Job Center, Literacy Volunteers of Gloucester County, Rowan University, the American Red Cross, Gloucester County Certified Gardeners, several chambers of commerce, the Southern New Jersey Development Council, and area schools and colleges. The Library is a member of LOGIN (Libraries of Gloucester/ Cumberland/Salem Information Network). Staff participated on committees organized by the New Jersey State Library, the New Jersey Library Association, and the LibraryLinkNJ Statewide Library Cooperative to improve library services to the residents of Gloucester County. Other partnerships included the following:

- GCLS Glassboro Library and Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro Public Library partnered with the **Food Bank of South Jersey** (FBSJ) to offer shelf sustainable snacks to help those with food insecurity through the summer months. In addition, GCLS collects reusable bags in bins provided by FBSJ and distributes them to local food distribution centers.
- Mullica Hill Youth Services partnered with Melodie Norton from **Acenda Health**. She is an early childhood specialist who is leading the First Year Friends, offering parents and caregivers a chance to connect, share experiences, and gain insights on parenting topics.
- In collaboration with the **American Red Cross**, GCLS Mullica Hill hosted four blood drives with 97 units of blood collected, helping up to 291 patients. GCLS Greenwich hosted six blood drives with 130 units of blood donations collected, helping up to 390 patients.
- GCLS partnered with **Gloucester County Animal Shelter** to collect pet supplies. Each location hosted an information table and was a drop off site. Also, all GCLS libraries are selling Animal Shelter T-shirts, the sales of which go directly to the animals.
- GCLS partnered with **Rutgers Cooperative Extension** for Functional Foods for Life programs.
- GCLS Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro Public Library partners with **WHYY** to provide supplemental material for the story walk. This story walk allows anyone to walk the path and read a children's book along the way.
- GCLS continues to participate in the **RCSJ Intern Scholarship Program**. In 2025, two interns were placed at GCLS libraries. At the request of Amy Mulholland, RCSJ Intern-Scholar Advisor, GCLS continues to issue courtesy "Database Only" cards to County departments participating in the Intern-Scholar program. This provides interns who do not reside in a GCLS member community with access to GCLS online training resources such as Universal Class and Learning Express.
- Greenwich Library partnered with **The Gibbstown Historical Society** for the History of Greenwich Township Police program.

AND OUTREACH

Staff at all branches helped to spread the word about the services offered at GCLS through outreach, collaboration, and participation in community events.

- GCLS staff participated in **Job Fairs** in coordination with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the American Job Center at Gloucester County, the Gloucester County Workforce Development Board, and Rowan College of South Jersey. These included:
 - WorkForce Development Mega Job Fair on March 7 at RCSJ.
 - Justice Job Fair on September 12 at RCSJ.
 - Workforce Development Mega Job Fair on October 10 at RCSJ.
- Head of Adult Services Andrew Brenza and Adult Services Librarian Rich Wiest attended the annual **Donald Norcross Constituent Service Fair** at Camden County College on July 21, 2025.
- Rich Wiest, Adult Services Librarian and Jim O'Connor, Library Associate, attended the Gloucester County Senior Health Fair on April 16. Robin Megow, Circulation Manager, and Andrew Brenza, Head of Adult Services attended the Senior Health Fair on April 23. Free books were distributed to the Seniors, who were surprised and happy to get them.
- Stephanie Smith, Head of Youth Services and Maddy Brozusky, Library Associate, attended **Mantua's Big Night Out**, an outreach event at Chestnut Branch Park. They marketed the library's summer reading programs and the Launchpad collection.
- McKenzi Taylor, Glassboro Branch Manager, and Carolyn Oldt, Director, attended **Clayton's Spring Spectacular** showcasing the new Clayton Library. Carolyn presented at the Clayton Board of Education, Clayton Municipal Council, and Senior Book Club, soliciting community input on future programming.
- Glassboro's staff participated in two **Summer Fest** events hosted in the Town Square.
- The **GCLS Mobile e-Bikes** were used to connect with library patrons, potential patrons, and to help advocate for the library at the following community events.
 - Saturday, June 7, Harrison Township Day at Ella Harris Park Mullica Hill.
 - Saturday, July 12, Butterfly Festival Red Bank Battlefield.
 - Monday, July 21, Peachwood Recreation Pool in Logan Twp.
 - Saturday, September 20, Logan Twp Day.
 - Saturday, September 6, Veterans Picnic 4H Fairgrounds Mullica Hill.
 - Saturday, October 11, South Harrison Fall Festival at Stewart Memorial Park.
 - Sunday, October 19, 18th Century Field Day & Fall Festival at Red Bank Battlefield.



GRANTS

Due to the initiative and hard work of GCLS staff in 2025, the library was awarded grants and awards valued at approximately \$327,918.53.

NJ State Council on the Arts, Local Arts Program - GCLS Logan Library was awarded **\$10,000** to provide 'Pop of Art' programs to adults. A local artist provided 10 2-hour classes teaching various artistic techniques.

JA Montgomery Munich Safety Grant - GCLS was awarded **\$11,320.53** for the purchase of an AED device for the Greenwich Branch and new security cameras for Logan Branch.

New Jersey State Library's Capital Projects Fund- Community Center Digital Connect - GCLS was awarded an additional **\$286,298** for furniture and equipment for the new library in Clayton, NJ.

Gloucester County Insurance Commission Wellness Grant - GCLS was awarded **\$1,000** to purchase indoor plants to distribute across our branch libraries.

NJ State Library's REV 250 Examining the Semiquincentennial Through a Jersey Lens Grant - GCLS Mullica Hill was awarded this **\$9,500** grant to provide programming to all from June 2025 through June 2026.

Prime Time Reading Grant - GCLS Greenwich Library was awarded **\$6,500** from New Jersey Council for the Humanities and **\$3,300** from Paulsboro Refining Company. This grant provided six weeks of programming for up to 25 families.

Friends of the Gloucester County Library System



- The Friends of Gloucester County Library held three book sales, and two costume jewelry sales which yielded a total profit of **\$12,447.10** to benefit library members with children's AWE computers, Museum Key software and 15 museum passes, with the newest being Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park, Eastern State Penitentiary, and Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum.
- The Friends repurposed a book drop at the shed at GCLS Mullica Hill Library, and hosted staff donation days each month at the shed, to facilitate donations from the community.
- Author visits are sponsored by the Friends of the Library allowing local authors an opportunity to discuss their books and offer book signings.
- Each summer, children and teens are given summer reading bags, funded by the Friends of the Library.

VOLUNTEERS

- GCLS benefited from 1,891 hours of volunteer service in 2025.
- GCLS congratulates Nancy Baldwin, adult volunteer at the GCLS Mullica Hill Library, and Sharon Cross, adult volunteer at the GCLS Logan Library, for being honored at the 2025 Spirit of Community Volunteer Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Volunteer Center of South Jersey.
- Volunteers shelved books, pulled holds, prepared crafts, and assisted with the GCLS Seed Bank, fulfilling 295 seed requests in 2025.



STAFF

GCLS staff members lend their talents to national and statewide library organizations. Staff involvement in professional associations allows for professional growth and has helped to raise the profile of GCLS. All GCLS staff are members of NJLA.

- GCLS staff members and Commissioners attended NJLA's annual conference in Atlantic City. Stephanie Smith, Head of Youth Services, and Crysta Miller, Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro Branch Manager, both presented during open sessions and Jim O'Connor, Library Associate, presented a poster session on seed banks. Katelyn Anderson, Logan Youth Services, won the Rising Star Award, nominated by Debbie Glackin, Logan Branch Manager, and Jim O'Connor.



- Crysta Miller, Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro Branch Manager, is certified as a volunteer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention organization and presented "Talk Saves Lives" during National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness month.



- Kaitlin McGee, Adult Services Librarian, offered a Mental Health presentation featuring the Gloucester County agency's Office of Mental Health, Division of Addiction Services and NJ4S.
- Cindy Simerlink, Greenwich Branch Manager, is a member of the NJLA Conference Committee and assists with the organization of NJLA annual conference.
- Stephanie Smith accepted the role as Member-at-Large for the NJLA Children's Services Section.
- Andrew Brenza accepted the role of President of the NJLA Admin & Management Section.
- Adult Services Librarian Rich Wiest is a member of ALA's Comics & Graphic Novel committee and on the Metadata and Cataloging committee.
- Crysta Miller, Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro Branch Manager, and Debbie Glackin, Logan Branch Manager, are members of the Greater Swedesboro Business Association.
- Judith Pissano, Assistant Director, helped to organize the County Luncheon at the NJLA conference.
- Carolyn Oldt, Director, participated in NJLA Public Policy and the County Director's monthly meeting.

Celebrating our retirees

In 2025, two employees retired with a total of 54 years of service. We thank them for their service!

Pat McCall - 29 years of service

Cindy Devereaux - 25 years of service as a Gloucester County employee

Remembered with Love

Sadly, Kyle Hasselman passed away on July 23, 2025. Kyle had worked at our Glassboro branch since 2022. This quilled dove was crafted in honour of Kyle by a patron in our Glassboro



Quilling Time group. A White Willow, donated by the Friends of GCLS, was planted during a ceremony in Kyle's memory.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS



247,552 Library Visits

Number of Programs

9,019



59,807



Attendance at Programs



Website Visits

234,379



6,003

Followers:



2,483



369

441,208

Total Checkouts

*Of these, 26% are e-checkouts

Top Museum Pass Checkouts

Please Touch Museum - 228

Battleship New Jersey - 102

Museum of the American Revolution - 60

Academy of Natural Sciences - 57

WheatonArts - 48



Top Title Checkouts of 2025



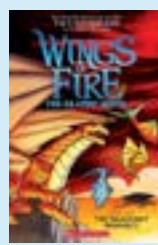
Adult Fiction



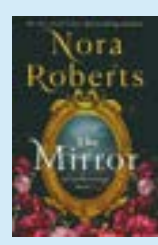
Adult Non-Fiction



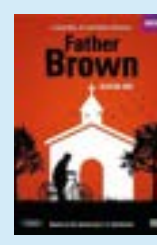
YA Fiction



Juvenile Fiction



Adult Audio



DVD



Music CD