

WAVELENGTH:

• A LOOK BACK AT 2012 •

ACLS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



BOOKS BY MAIL TURNING THIRTY

The library system's popular **Books by Mail** Service celebrated its **30th anniversary** in 2012. When the service began in **1982**, there was a small collection of paperback books that could be mailed directly to someone's home. Today, the service offers thousands of current items.

To mark the anniversary, Books by Mail users were asked to share a personal story about their Books by Mail experiences. Here are two of those stories:

Marie of Egg Harbor Township explained, *"I have been a regular member of Books By Mail since it was created. I have enjoyed this service for 30 years...Through books you can travel the world and get an insight of different customs and livelihoods."*

Dorothy of Absecon said, *"I look forward to the mailman bringing me books. I have a computer but only use it for email. I like to hold my book in my hands. I hope the library will always be there for me and the Books By Mail program."*

Books by Mail adds about sixty or seventy new items each month. Large print books and audiobooks are the most frequently requested items. Best sellers, paperbacks, DVDs, CDs and Playaways are all available for the asking. In fact, just about every item owned by the library system may be requested—the exception is Reference materials that must be used in the library.

The Books by Mail service works the same way as when it was introduced. Library materials are mailed directly to a person's home along with everything that's needed to mail them back. Postage is paid and shipping supplies are provided.

To find out more about Books by Mail, call the Atlantic County Library System Outreach Services Section at 609-625-2776, extension 6324 or go to www.atlantic-library.org/booksbymail.

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WEATHERING THE STORMS

Two severe weather events—the [derecho](#) in late June and [Hurricane Sandy](#) in late October—brought unique challenges to the Atlantic County Library System and showed that community members look to the library for the assistance and information that is vital to their daily lives.

Most library locations and collections suffered little or no damage from either event. But many staff and community members had severe damage to their residences and belongings, creating sustained hardships for many. Area residents flocked to library branches for information and assistance, as well as access to computers, electricity, and air conditioning. Post-Sandy, FEMA representatives touched base, saying that they go to libraries after disasters, as “the libraries always know what’s going on in town.”

Most branches were able to reopen just days after both weather emergencies. After the derecho, only the Egg Harbor Township and Mays Landing branches remained closed for any length of time. All branches except Brigantine opened after the states of emergency and travel bans were lifted following Sandy. (See a related story below about the Brigantine Library Outpost.) The bottom floor of the Brigantine building, a city-owned facility, and most of that floor’s contents including the elevator were lost.

Other branches were fortunate to have power and virtually no damage. The branches were able to provide gathering places for those seeking comfort and welcomed large numbers of people coming in to file FEMA applications and insurance reports on library computers, charge electronic devices, and use WiFi access. Many beleaguered residents stopped in simply to get away from the everyday stress caused when their homes were flooded or damaged.

The library’s food drive is one of many relief efforts that continue throughout the region. Nearly 3200 pounds of food had been collected and donated to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey – Southern Branch by the end of 2012.



LIBRARY OUTPOST

Due to continuing flood remediation work as a result of Superstorm Sandy, Atlantic County Library System/Brigantine was forced to temporarily relocate to a spot in the Brigantine Beach Community Center at 265 42nd Street. Christened the “Outpost”, it opened in December, providing island residents convenient access to library services, a small collection of materials to check out, and a few computers to use. Outpost visitors find books, movies, audiobooks, newspapers, and magazines on site. Storytime programs and occasional special events are held in another room at the community center. Initially, the Outpost was open during the day Monday through Saturday, but in mid-January it began opening and closing later on Thursday in order to add evening hours.



BY THE NUMBERS*

871,790 ITEMS CHECKED OUT

800,229 VISITORS

489,686 VOLUMES OWNED

157,883 INTERNET APPOINTMENTS

92,401 CARD HOLDERS

38,251 MUSIC/BOOK/MAGAZINE DOWNLOADS

26,435 WIFI SESSIONS

954 PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

413 PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

135 PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

10 BRANCHES

1 COMMUNITY READING CENTER

1 TEMPORARY OUTPOST

1 BOOKMOBILE

* DURING 2012

A VIRTUAL NEWSSTAND

The Atlantic County Library System now offers over 100 free digital magazine titles that can be read on a Mac or Windows computer or downloaded to an Internet-enabled device. Through [Zinio for Libraries](#), you can select as many digital magazines as you want, read them on as many devices as you want & keep them as long as you want.

You'll need your library card and an email address to set up an account to view the library's collection of free magazines, then you'll need to create a Zinio account (using the same email address) in order to read and manage your selections. There is a step by step guide to help you get started, and there are apps available for [Android](#), [Blackberry Playbook](#), [iPad](#), [iPhone](#), [iPod Touch](#) & [Kindle Fire](#). To learn more about downloading magazines, go to www.atlanticlibrary.org/services/zinio



A PIRATE'S TREASURE

First graders at the Port Republic School received colorful pirate-themed backpacks in November as part of the Atlantic County Library Foundation's "First Grade...First steps begin at the library" program. In March, first graders in the Egg Harbor Township School District were given their backpacks. The idea behind the project is to encourage first grade students to be involved in reading, and the goal is for all of the students to obtain library cards and become regular users of the library. For more information on the Atlantic County Library Foundation, visit www.atlanticlibrary.org/aclf or ask for details at your local Atlantic County Library System branch.



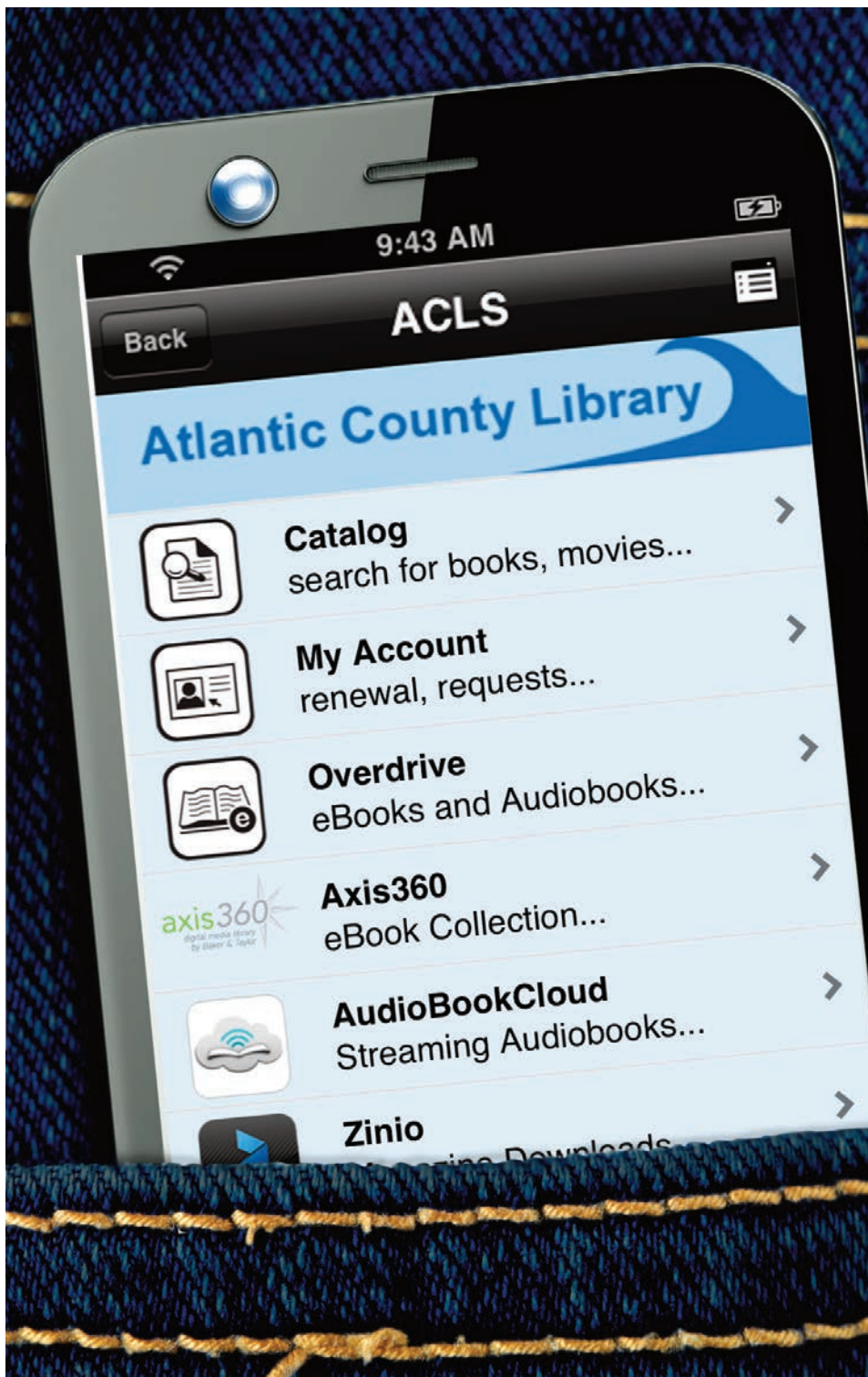


EBOOKS FOR KIDS

The Atlantic County Library System now offers [TumbleBookLibrary](#), a collection of about 550 animated, interactive eBooks specifically for young children. TumbleBooks can be viewed on a PC, MAC, or iPad. The collection of titles includes storybooks, read-alongs, non-fiction, language learning books in French and Spanish, and videos from National Geographic. Each book has puzzles and games to help reinforce the concepts introduced in the book. Most of the books allow the sound to be turned off so that kids can practice reading aloud or to themselves. The story can be stopped at any time to review unfamiliar words or to go back to a previous page. TumbleBookLibrary may be accessed by currently registered library users. To try it out, go to www.atlanticlibrary.org and click on Homework Help, and then select TumbleBookLibrary.

Summer Reading Program

The 2012 summer reading program featured unique themes tailored to three different age groups—[Dream Big, READ!](#) for kids, [Own the Night](#) for Teens, and [Between the Covers](#) for adults. Over 300 programs and activities drew 1,734 participants throughout the library system. A grand total of **13,290 books** were read with the Brigantine and Mays Landing branches again tallying the highest numbers of books read.



LANDING EVEN MORE JOBS

Thanks to continued funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (more commonly known as BTOP) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Atlantic County Library System was able to present even more It's Time to Land that Job and We Can Help! workshops during 2012. Four branches hosted nineteen of the job readiness workshops which were led by an Atlantic Cape Community College instructor who focused on skills to help job seekers improve their computer and job search abilities.

In addition, five branches scheduled job help seminars presented by the Atlantic County One-Stop Career Center. These seminars introduced participants to free services to help them find a job, including the state's new online job search tool, jobs4jersey.com, which has specialized resources for those looking for a job, exploring a new career, starting a business, looking for training, or reentering the work force as a veteran.

▲ PUT THE LIBRARY IN YOUR POCKET! ▶

The Atlantic County Library System app puts the library in your pocket! Introduced in the summer of 2012, the app lets you quickly and easily search the library catalog, check your record, renew the things you have checked out, and put items on hold with the app. Wherever you are, downloading audiobooks and eBooks; locating, calling or emailing a library branch; or accessing the library's calendar of events, Facebook or Twitter pages are simple to do. The free app is available for Apple iOS devices (iPhone, iPad, iPod) and Google Android devices (Nook, Kindle Fire, LG, Samsung, and more) through your app store. For more information about the app, visit www.atlanticlibrary.org/app.

SEEN AROUND THE LIBRARY

Atlantic County Library System locations present a wide range of programs for all ages throughout the year. To view the schedule of upcoming programs, go to www.atlanticlibrary.org and click on Calendar of Events.



ARTISTICALLY INCLINED ▼

The Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs continued its partnership with member organizations of the Art District of Hammonton to produce the annual Teen Arts Festival on Thursday, May 3, 2012. More than 1100 teens from 10 high schools and middle schools showcased their talents in dance, theater, vocal music, instrumental music, film, photography, creative writing, and the visual arts. Professional visual, performing, and literary artists led workshops and reviewed the performances and submissions from teens. For information on the 2013 Teen Arts Festival, go to www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs



ATLANTIC COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

www.atlanticlibrary.org

Brigantine, 201 15th Street South, 266-0110
M, T, F & SAT: 9 am – 5 pm, W & TH: 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Elizabeth Bliss, BrigantineBranch@acsys.org

Buena Community Reading Center, Buena Regional High School, 125 Weymouth Road
Hours may vary according to school schedule.
Please call (856) 697-2400, extension 8231, or (609) 625-2776, extension 6338.

Egg Harbor City, 134 Philadelphia Avenue, 804-1063
M, W, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, T & TH 12 pm – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Maura Monte, EggHarborCityBranch@acsys.org

Egg Harbor Township, 1 Swift Avenue, 927-8664
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Ruth Conrad, EggHarborTownshipBranch@acsys.org

Galloway Township, 306 East Jimmie Leeds Road, 652-2352
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Patricia Morrow, GallowayTownshipBranch@acsys.org

Hammonton, 451 Egg Harbor Road, 561-2264
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Catharine Ostrum, HammontonBranch@acsys.org

Longport, 2305 Atlantic Avenue, 487-0272
M – SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Summer: M 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Kathryn Gindin, LongportBranch@acsys.org

Mays Landing, 40 Farragut Avenue, 625-2776, 646-8699
M – TH 9 am – 9 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Donna Cameron, MaysLandingBranch@acsys.org

Outreach Services Section, (609) 625-2776, extension 6338
for information on Books by Mail and Bookmobile services.
Section Manager: Mary Beth Fine, OutreachServices@acsys.org

Pleasantville, 33 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, 641-1778
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Pamela Saunders, PleasantvilleBranch@acsys.org

Reference Center, 40 Farragut Avenue, Mays Landing, 625-2776, extension 6310
Section Manager: Regina Bell, askref@acsys.org

Somers Point, 801 Shore Road, 927-7113
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Mary Jane Bolden, SomersPointBranch@acsys.org

Ventnor, 6500 Atlantic Avenue, 823-4614
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Ellen Eisen, VentnorBranch@acsys.org

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Chairperson: Jody Turner
Freeholder Member: Colin G. Bell
Luann Amodeo, Muhammad Ayub, Edward R. Hitzel
Don Morgenweck, Susan M. Sless, , Michelle Wilson

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

Karen L. George, Director
Edwina Wilinski, Assistant Director
Gair Helfrich, Chief Librarian for Library Services
Brian Tomlinson, Fiscal Officer

ATLANTIC COUNTY OFFICE OF CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS

40 Farragut Avenue, Mays Landing, 625-2776, extension 6314
Administrator: Cynthia Mason Purdie, cmasonpurdie@acsys.org
www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs

CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Art Chairperson: Michael Cool
History Chairperson: June Gray Sheridan
Freeholder Member: Richard R. Dase
Aurora Boyette, Vonnie Clark, Cynthia M. Domino,
Gabriel J. Donio, Gary Giberson



All locations are accessible to the handicapped

RECIPE COLLECTION

Has your church, school, family, community group or civic organization created its own cookbook? If so, the Atlantic County Library System would love to have a copy of it. Donations of local cookbooks may be dropped off at any Atlantic County Library System location or the Bookmobile. Library branches are located in Brigantine, Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor Township, Galloway Township, Hammonton, Longport, Mays Landing, Pleasantville, Somers Point, and Ventnor. For a schedule of Bookmobile stops, call the library's Outreach Services Section at (609) 625-2776, extension 6338. You can browse the collection in the Mays Landing Reference Center.



Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson

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