

Time to Say Farewell: Director's Chat

From the Desk of Elizabeth McDermott



Sometimes you just happen to be in the right place at the right time. The Red Bank Public Library became my workplace and my passion in 2008 when I accepted a part-time position while pursuing my Masters in Library Science. Software consulting had been my career, and local and family history were my hobbies, so reinventing myself as a librarian was a good fit. Then suddenly, in 2014, I became the Library Director.

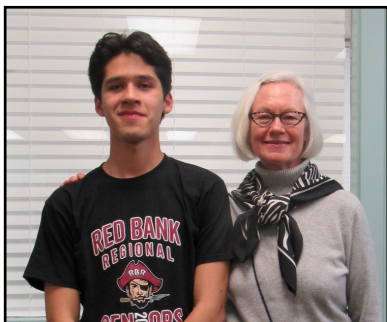
Being the Director of such an incredible Library has been an honor and privilege. But few people realize what it actually means to be a Director. During a historical period when the internet dominates the minds and experience of many people, providing a place of learning, of stimulation, of comfort and culture requires quite a juggling act. While the doors of the Library are open to everyone, some patrons prefer enjoying the numerous digital offerings at home. Providing displays, programs, books and movies that interest our community, challenge old concepts, and foster new ideas is just a small part of what it means to run a successful library.

Money is another key component of running a library—or rather, finding the money to run a library. The Red Bank community has been incredibly generous and supportive of its Library, and I would like to say “thank you.” As I take my leave as Director, I will remember the wonderful people that make the Library “the most remarkable place in town.”

Departing my post is made easier by two thoughts, one professional and the other quite personal. I am confident going forward that Library operations, growth, and fundraising will be guided by a carefully developed strategic plan endorsed by its Boards. And, as I look forward to retirement, I would like to share a quote from Shakespeare (As You Like It/Act II) provided by a dear friend and fellow retiree: “Our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything. I would not change it.”

Cathy Boyd Scholarship Recipient Brad Chavero

In 2015 a scholarship fund was created by family and friends to honor Cathy Boyd, a long time “Friend” of the Red Bank Public Library who passed away Nov. 22, 2015. The purpose of the scholarship was to provide a small stipend to a RBRHS Senior who was heading off to college. Finding a senior who loved the library or at least appreciated books was the goal of the committee who administered the fund. We were able to award a check to a worthy student in 2016, 2017 and now 2018.



This year the award goes to Brad Chavero, who has been a lifelong library visitor. Brad admits to not reading for pleasure for a few years in high school but credits his Advanced Placement English class this year for renewing his love of the written word. Brad is quite lucky to have his choice of top schools to attend in September. As an Engineering student, we hope he continues to find time to indulge in the pleasure of reading for fun!

Spring 2018

News from the
Red Bank
Public Library



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Special Programs



June 2 at 10:00 a.m. EISNERS OF RED BANK talk before the Red Bank Walking Tour. Local Resident and researcher Liam Collins will discuss the Eisner family history. Everyone, whether going on the tour or not is invited to attend. Registration is recommended on our website www.redbanklibrary.org.



June 13 at 7:00 p.m. SAFE Home Join NJ Clean Water Action Director and Red Bank Resident Amy Goldsmith in the Meeting Room to learn practical tips for reducing your use of toxic chemicals in house cleaning, pest control, and lawn and garden care. Registration is recommended on our website www.redbanklibrary.org.

Continuing Adult Programs

Senior Day every 2nd Thursday of the month. We will now FORGIVE FINES FOR SENIORS on this day! You must be 62 or older, & this does not include lost/missing items. Also, at 3:00 p.m. each Senior Day, join our **Handcrafting Group**. The Library will provide refreshments.

The **Artists' Workshop** meets the first Thursday of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Devote time to your art with the guidance of Joe Bergholm, Artist-in-Residence.

Computer Tutors are available for free one-on-one sessions by appointment. Learn computer and internet basics. Stop in and schedule time with one of our knowledgeable and patient volunteers at our Adult Reference Desk or call us at 732-842-0690x111.

Conversational English Group will begin on June 14 and will continue through the summer. These classes for adults 18 and over are held weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. by the Literacy Volunteers of Monmouth County at the Red Bank Public Library. Join at any time or contact the Literacy Volunteers of Monmouth County at 732-571-0209 or visit their website www.lvmonmouthnj.org.

Readin' on the River, our adult book discussion group, meets the third Wednesday of every month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Contact the Reference Desk for information.

Beginner Bridge Classes are now ongoing every Monday at 3:00 p.m. Come meet new friends and challenge your mind with instructor Pat Guadagno. Cards are provided & no prior experience is necessary. Call the Reference Desk for more information.

The **River Read Poetry Reading Series** meets on the second Saturday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sessions include featured readers and open-mic time. The public is invited and the programs are free. Come listen...come share. No registration required.

Yoga for Adults meets on the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The class is appropriate for all levels of yoga experience. Please bring your own yoga mat. This program is free and no registration is required. First come, first served. Limit of 20 people age 18 and over.

Let's Talk About Race is an award-winning discussion series that takes place on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to participate and explore issues of race, gender, class, and culture. Multi-media presentations, guest speakers, and panels support the themes of our discussions, including Women in the Workforce, The Challenges of Being Muslim in America, and Race in Education, to name a few.



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Back By Popular Demand, Historic Red Bank Walking Tours

The popular walking tour, led by lifelong resident Kathy Lou Colmorgen, will be back on Saturday mornings May 5 and June 2. The tours will begin at the Red Bank Public Library at 11 am and end at the Galleria at about 12:30. Registration is highly recommended and each tour is limited to only 20 people, so sign up early! Ms. Colmorgen has a wealth of information about Red Bank's past that she eagerly shares and she receives rave reviews after each tour.

If you aren't able to attend one of these tours, the library now has a self-guided historic tour map available in paper form at the library, or you can use it on-line from your cell phone or other mobile device. You can reach it from the library web page, going to the Local History tab and selecting Historic Red Bank Tour, or go directly to <http://redbanklibrary.org/local-history/historic-red-bank-tour.html>. The map is interactive and information on each site is available when you click on a number or on the name from the sliding side bar.

Library Receives Grant from Historical Commission

The Red Bank Public Library has received a grant for \$1500 from the Monmouth County Historical Commission. The grant will support the digitization of additional High School yearbooks, making them available on line. The Red Bank Public Library has previously digitized over 65 yearbooks, most from Red Bank Regional High School, allowing anyone in the world to access this material through the Library's web page. The earlier part of this project was made possible, in part, by a grant from the Investors Foundation supported by InvestorsBank. Check out the available collection at <http://www.digifind-it.com/redbank/home.php>.

The new grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission will allow the library to digitize another 15 yearbooks. This year, the emphasis will be on material from Red Bank Catholic High School, filling an ongoing demand. Last month, 500 people searched the yearbooks on line, showing how popular this service is. Yearbooks not only document the students and staff of the school, they also provide a view of the culture of the time. They are heavily in demand by people tracing their family history. The Library is very excited to be able to expand the amount of material available.

This grant is part of the 2018 Monmouth County History Regrant program funded by an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State. It does require a match, so the library is seeking additional donors to help add even more material. If you would like to help, please contact Barbara Pickell bpickell@lmxac.org.



Fun With The Sun

In April, the STAR Astronomy Club set up shop in the library parking lot to teach us about our sun and even give a glimpse of sunspot activity. It was a perfect day for crafts like making suns out of paper, eat snacks (Sun Chips!) and learning about our universe. Thank you, STAR Astronomy for a far-out day expanding our horizons!



Friends of the Red Bank Library

The Friends of the Red Bank Public Library are no longer accepting memberships. In a move to consolidate activities and improve efficiency, the Friends and the Foundation are discussing a merger. Over the years, the Friends of the Red Bank Public Library has been an important part of library, greatly enhancing the service the library was able to provide. Their fundraising activities not only helped support a wide variety of programs but their volunteer activities made many programs and services possible. Perhaps most importantly, they were always there raising awareness of the library in the community and standing as staunch advocates. In 2015, they were named the Friends Group of the Year by the Libraries of Middlesex County. Some of the praise from that nomination states "From children's programming to local history to cultural programs inside the library and out, there is no part of the Library's mission that hasn't been embraced and enhanced by the Friends."

Although the Friends will be missed as an autonomous organization, both the Friends and the Foundation believe that the change will allow continued support for the library in an efficient and effective manner. The formal arrangement has not yet been finalized, but it is hoped that the Friends will act as a committee of the Foundation and continue to support outreach activities and events such as the Townwide Yardsale, the bookmark contest, and the volunteer recognition luncheon. The Foundation will continue their fundraising initiatives and plan to add members to their Board who will represent the Friends' focus on friend-making through outreach and programming. All monies which have previously been received in support of the library, both from the Friends and the Foundation, will continue to be used as intended.

EISNER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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MISSION STATEMENT:
The Red Bank Public Library provides materials, information, technology and cultural opportunities to enrich, empower, educate and entertain people of all ages and backgrounds.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Thursday 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Spring Closings:

May 26—CLOSED Memorial Day Weekend

May 28—CLOSED Memorial Day

Multicultural Award

Our LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE series has won the NJ State Library Multicultural Award. The purpose of the award is to "recognize and encourage library programs that increase understanding and promote multiculturalism in New Jersey's public libraries," and this is certainly true of this series, Congratulations Adult Programming Coordinator Linda Hewitt & all who help make this program an ongoing success!

A Permanent Home for the Story Walk



This summer will mark the 3rd year of the Red Bank Public Library's Story Walk in Riverside Gardens Park, and we are thrilled that it will now have a permanent, year-round home. With a generous grant from the William Gross Foundation and permission from the Red Bank Borough Council, permanent fixtures will line the pathway leading down to the river and back up again so the public may take a stroll while reading a story book. Through our Story Walk, the Library is able to extend its reach into the community in a very interactive way—one that promotes literacy, fitness and community. Our Story Walk success has been recognized by the New Jersey Library Association, and the positive feedback from Red Bankers and visitors to our community has made this an initiative that has been admired and duplicated by other libraries and towns in NJ. Stay tuned for information about the upcoming Story Walk Kick-off and look forward to a summer of weekly stories followed by seasonal ones throughout the year.



RAD LAB Rocks the Children's Room this Summer

This summer the Children's Room will introduce a new and exciting initiative called the RAD LAB (Reading, Activity & Discovery). Its focus will be to offer programming that utilizes our outdoor space to introduce children to science, nature and art through activity-based workshops and hands-on projects that both educate and entertain. The RAD LAB is made possible through a \$5,000 challenge grant that the Library received from the Mary Owen Borden Foundation for the purpose of enhancing children's services. Matching funds were secured from generous donations to the Foundation for the Red Bank Public Library.

Our Children's Librarian, Sira Williams, conceived of the RAD LAB and has many wonderful plans for programs beginning this summer and continuing into the fall on the following themes: Art in Nature, Our RAD River: Getting to know the Navesink, Look Up: Stars, Birds, Bugs & Butterflies, and Let's Grow: Plants & Flowers. The funding will also allow for an educational mural to be installed outside the Children's Room, and self-directed activities will always be available to help our youngest patrons explore, discover and learn at the Library.

Miss Sira says, "Between the RAD LAB activities, our "Libraries Rock!" Summer Reading Program, and the Story Walks at Riverside Gardens and on the grounds of the Library, the Children's Room will be buzzing this summer!! I can't wait!" Make sure you keep an eye out for program details and stop by the Children's Room for a RAD experience this summer!

