

**New Jersey Library
Trustee Association**
P.O. Box 1505, Trenton, NJ 08607

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New Jersey Library Trustees Newsletter

Fall 2013

President's Column

by Margaret Shapiro, NJLTA President



What do we need libraries for anyway? Everyone has a computer now and access to the Internet. No one is

reading books anymore. Why do we (municipality) have to fund a library in town when there is one in the next town? Why can't we go back to the days of donations and volunteers?

As library trustees we have all heard things like this discussed in town hall meetings throughout New Jersey. Even our neighbors are wondering why tax dollars are diverted to fund libraries when there are so many other pending issues that require precious tax dollars.

Why do libraries matter? Pew Research says 94% of parents say libraries are important for their children. 70% of parents report their child visited a library in the past 12 months. That's incredible. Libraries carry on after school. They are great gathering places for school children after the bell rings.

Keith Richards said, "The public library is the great equalizer".

Libraries are sometimes the only means by which millions of people access computers, the internet and other technologies. Not everyone has an iPad, but you can use one at the library. Libraries are on the cutting edge of technology and social networking allowing people to connect when they don't have access at home.

Not everyone reads books anymore. That may be true, but libraries have the latest in music and DVD's and some even have the new 3D printers. Oh, and you can upload the latest books onto your tablet or e-reader.

Why should we fund a library when there are so many other pressing issues in town? The cost of your library is right there on your tax bill and it's just a fraction of the overall budget in your town. In my town the cost of the library is less than 2%! Where else can you get this much bang for the buck?

As for donations and volunteers, libraries have always found ways to do more with less. They work together and consolidate services. Advanced technology of the future requires library professionals with the



knowledge to help everyone in the community. Librarians can help you navigate the Internet, access government websites, apply for jobs and health care, take an online course. Libraries connect people; new moms, the elderly, immigrants and students of all ages. Some libraries are open 7 days a week. Where would you find capable volunteers to donate that many hours?

So stop and take a look around your library and those in your neighboring towns. Find out what's going on in libraries and the next time a friend or neighbor or council member asks you why you need a library in town, tell them it's the best place in town to meet people, access information, and participate in 21st century technology and economically, it's a bargain!

This is Margaret's last column as NJLTA President. She is concluding her term in office this year.



New Jersey Library Trustees Newsletter

Online Trustee Training for Continuing Education

The New Jersey State Library will once again be offering online trustee training through the Trustee Academy. The Trustee Academy features a series of online webinars for trustees developed by United for Libraries, the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations, a division of the American Library Association. Last year, 193 New Jersey library trustees completed a total of 320 online classes over the year. New Jersey had the highest participation of any state that licensed the webinars through United for Libraries. Topics include: Trustees Basics I & II; Working Effectively with the Library

Director; the Library's Budget; Advocating for Your Library; Evaluating the Library Director; and two specific classes for New Jersey trustees on Per Capita State Aid and New Jersey Library Law.

To register for a site license on a first-come, first served basis, please contact Beth Nawalinski, Director of Marketing & Communications, United for Libraries, 800-545-2433 Ext. 2161, bnawalinski@ala.org For additional questions contact Michele Stricker, Associate Director, Library Support Services, New Jersey State Library, mstricker@njstatelib.org.

Do We Have Your Email Address?

NJLTA sends our email messages to our members. Have you been getting yours? If not, please check with Pat Tumulty at ptumulty@njla.org and she will check our database and make sure we have your correct address. There are so many things going on that you don't want to miss out.





**Biographical Sketch of
Wayne Smith, Mayor**
Township of Irvington, New Jersey

increasing code enforcement that has resulted in about \$1.5 million in fines of neglectful property owners. His outstanding stewardship has not only delivered tangible results but high hopes for the future revitalization of Irvington.

In a nod to his undeniable popularity and the affirmation of the advancement of the Township of Irvington, Mayor Smith ran unopposed for a second term in May 2006 and assumed office in July 2006. He is the first chief executive of Irvington to accomplish the feat since Mayor Robert H. Miller in 1978. In November 2006, Mayor Smith was installed as the president and chairman of the 24-member NJ Urban Mayors' Association. On May 4, 2010 Mayor Smith was elected to an unprecedented 3rd term in office. As he continues to move Irvington forward on April 25, 2013 Mayor Smith was elected to represent the New Jersey Conference of Mayors as President.

Mayor Smith has been an active, prominent member of

Irvington's civic, political and social sectors throughout his 20 plus-year residency in the township. During this time, he has crafted key alliances with all levels of government, in addition to private enterprise. This ability to build consensus helped propel him to victory in 1996 as an Irvington Council Member At-Large. He was resoundingly re-elected two years later, and at that time, unanimously chosen by his colleagues to serve as president of the seven member legislative body.

During his political and civic careers, Mayor Smith has been covered by The Star-Ledger, WCBS-TV, WNBC-TV, WWOR-TV, News Channel 12 and other media outlets. In addition, his efforts have been rewarded with awards and honors from numerous organizations. His greatest reward, however, comes from the heartfelt commitment made every day to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the Township of Irvington.

Promoting an aggressive agenda for the rebirth of the Township of Irvington, Wayne Smith was elected as the 20th Mayor of the municipality in May 2002. His entire slate of council candidates—known as Team Irvington—was also elected, sealing the mandate for his leadership.

Mayor Smith's tenure has been characterized by bold, innovative leadership that has yielded significant progress for the Township of Irvington. His most noted accomplishments are: initiating the formation of the Anti-Crime Partnership that includes the NJ State Police, local, county and federal agencies; securing the \$4.4 million agreement to rebuild the Irvington Bus Terminal, which opened in April 2005; demolishing dozens of dilapidated, abandoned properties to pave the way for redevelopment; and drastically

NJLTA ANNUAL MEETING- SEPT. 21, 2013

MONROE TWP. LIBRARY (MIDDLESEX COUNTY)

4 Municipal Plaza, Monroe Twp., NJ

10:30 am – 12:30pm (Registration at 10:00 am)

Building Bridges between Municipal Government and Library

Agenda

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Wayne Smith, Mayor of the Township of Irvington and current president of the NJ Conference of Mayors

Election of NJLTA Officers

Tours of Studio M

New NJLTA Leadership to Be Elected

NJLTA will also elect new officers at its Sept 21 meeting. The new officers for the upcoming year are: Alison Bryan, Irvington Public Library, President; Patricia Pavlak, Cranford Public Library, first vice president; Carmine Borzelli, Bayonne Public Library, second vice-president; Ben Baum, Monroe Twp. Library, treasurer; and Art Carlson, Somerset County Library, secretary.

What are Makerspaces?

Have you heard about maker labs yet? What are they and how are they being used in public libraries? At the NJLTA annual meeting you will have the opportunity to see how the Monroe Twp. Public Library has developed this service for

its community. *Studio M*, a new maker lab, at Monroe Twp Library is dedicated to the discovery and implementation of popular and emergent technologies. *Studio M* provides library patrons with access to tools and hands-on learning opportunities. *Studio M* is also open for informal exploration. The four main areas of education and programming at the studio will be:

- Digital Photography/Video Creation and Modification: Bring your own photos to scan and edit or use the green screen and cameras in *Studio M* to create new videos, pictures and art.
- Music Creation (no instrument required): Use an iMac, midi keyboard, and software to create your own music or collaborate with musicians online.

- Basic Arduino Programming: Arduino is an open-source electronics prototyping platform. The Arduino Kits allow beginners to create and program electronic devices.
- 3D Design and Printing: Create and print 3D plastic prototypes, models or household items. Items are created from PLA filament, a renewable bioplastic.

Monroe Twp Library and the Piscataway Public Library were awarded *Innovation Awards* by NJ State Librarian Mary Chute for the development of maker labs in their libraries. Many of your staff will be talking to you about offering this service in your library. This is a terrific way to see one in operation.