

# The FRIEND

Friends of the Bergenfield Library — Vol. 5, No. 1, Winter 2012-2013



Dear Friends:

On Wednesday following Hurricane Sandy, a large sign hung in the Clinton Avenue window proclaiming that the library had power.

People saw the sign. And they came.

Folks who could not get to work used the library as a business space, working on computers, making calls and e-mailing associates. I have vivid memories of a woman pacing the hallway outside my office as she made call after call. Some people came to warm up and power up. People came prepared with multiple devices – laptop computers, cell phones, electronic games – and their own power strips. Some came to contact insurance companies, others to get in touch with families and friends, letting them know they were okay. Parents came with children to read, play and pass the time.

Every outlet, every table was in use. Everything that could be a seat was a seat, including step stools and the floor. People clustered around columns with outlets, and at outlets at the ends of halls and in corners that I didn't know existed.

Most of all, you could see the diversity of this community in the library: all ages, stages and ethnicities.

At one point I can remember thinking, "This is the way it is supposed to be."

Your library staff did a fabulous job welcoming everyone, helping them to find seats and places to plug in, making them feel like valued patrons instead of refugees. Early in my employ here in Bergenfield, I noticed the signs that read "Bergenfield, a Friendly Town." We were the Friendly Library That Could in those days following the storm. Thank you for helping us with your generous donations and support to make it so.

With all good wishes for the warmth of family, and especially Friends, during the holidays.

— *Sincerely, Mary Riskind, Library Director*

## *Look What You've Done...*

It's one thing to improve a Library. It's another to transform a community. And that's what you've done – and continue to do each time you support the Friends of the Bergenfield Library. We're an intermediary between you and your community. Everything you do for us, you do for yourself, your family, your friends and your neighbors.

Consider remembering the Friends of the Bergenfield Library, a 501(c)(3) organization, in your Will, or a side letter to your family asking that you be remembered by a tax-deductible memorial donation to the Friends.



**Sam Hill and Morgan Spitzer had fun at a particularly colorful Story Time.**

## Digital Smigital

Contrary to what many predicted, the digital age has not rendered the nation's 16,671 public libraries obsolete. Instead, it's brought a pulsing new energy as patrons use the free computers and Internet access to research term papers, look for jobs, update Facebook pages, and more.

— Christine Wicker,

*Parade Magazine, September 25, 2011*

My guess is it will be about 300 years until computers are as good as, say, your local reference library in search.

— Craig Silverstein,

*Google.com's Director of Technology*

# mángo<sup>®</sup>

languages

**M**ango is the sensational, new on-line language learning product that, thanks to the generosity of The Friends of the Bergenfield Library, will allow all Bergenfield Library card holders to practice and communicate in a slew of languages.

MANGO has ESL courses designed to help speakers of Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Arabic, French, Brazilian Portuguese, Japanese, Russian and several other languages.

English speakers in our patron population, at last count, have 45 different foreign language choices from MANGO.

— From the desk of Don Hansen, ESL Tutor News



The Friends' **Holiday Marketplace, Basket Raffle and Giving Tree** helped earn money for Library "extras." Thanks to all who participated.



FRIENDS OF THE BERGENFIELD LIBRARY

## GIVING TREE

Help us purchase a Nook and a Kindle for the Library.

For every \$5 Donation, take one ornament.  
Leave your payment at the Circulation Desk.