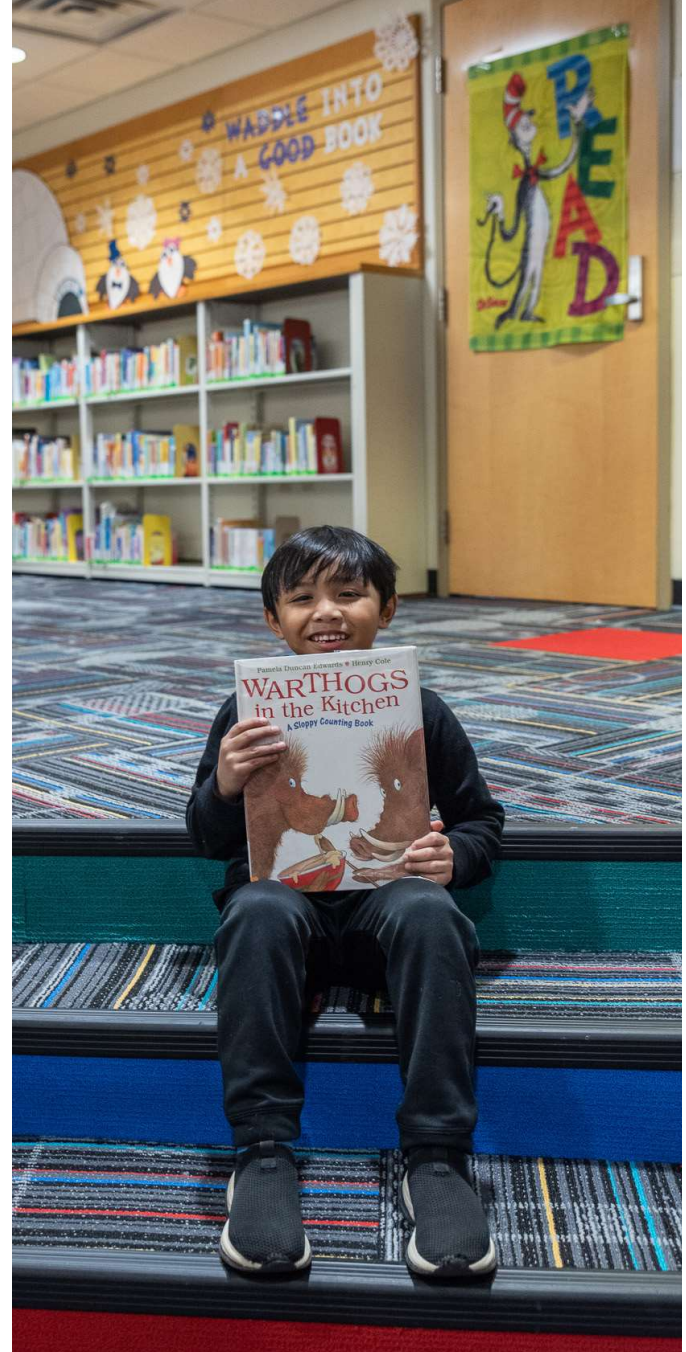


ANNUAL REPORT 2022

BERGENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY





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Report Prepared by:
Allison Ballo, *Library Director*
Julia Noelle Beredo, *Social Media & PR Assistant*
Bergenfield Public Library

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The Bergenfield Public Library provides educational opportunities, resources and services that enable residents of all ages to maximize their true potential and unlock the best in Bergenfield.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

"THE SECRET OF CHANGE IS TO FOCUS ALL OF YOUR ENERGY NOT ON FIGHTING THE OLD, BUT ON BUILDING THE NEW." - SOCRATES

As I was preparing to write this message, I decided to take a short walk around the Library building. When I think back to how things were earlier in 2022, it's amazing to see how the Library has evolved over the course of a year.

Some of the changes are obvious to the naked eye as soon as you walk through the door: all of the carpet and tile was replaced, the Children's Room has been refreshed and there are many new employees ready to help you.

You might be able to hear the difference as well: class visits from the various schools in the district have resumed and if you attend a concert or movie in the Friends Room, you may notice that things sound better thanks to an upgrade in our audio visual equipment.

Hopefully some of the updates we've implemented have made your life a little easier: passport appointments are now available on Sundays and our outside lockers are accessible for picking up your items at all hours of the day.

Some of these changes affected our collections as well: the Adult print collection was thoroughly audited to include more diverse selections that better reflect our multicultural community and our Library of Things was expanded to include items such as a power washer and inflatable movie screen.

As always, the Library is grateful to the Borough of Bergenfield and governing body for its continued financial support and for its significant capital contribution towards the carpet project.

I would also like to offer thanks to the Friends of the Bergenfield Library who graciously subsidized several of the other important changes in 2022, including the murals in the Children's Room and the audio visual equipment upgrade. The Friends help us purchase all of the proverbial "bells and whistles" that enhance the patron's experience and we are appreciative of their hard work and dedication to the Library.

At the end of the day, as Bergenfield continues to evolve, the Library staff and Board will quickly respond to the changing needs of our patrons. We look forward to serving you in 2023!

Allison Ballo
ALLISON BALLO
LIBRARY DIRECTOR



STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITY

how'd we do in 2022?

MISSION

“

The Bergenfield Public Library provides opportunities, resources and services that empower residents of all ages to maximize their true potential and unlock the best in Bergenfield.

”

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOAL ONE: LEAD THE COMMUNITY AS THE PRIMARY CULTURAL AND CIVIC CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

- Conducted diversity audit using Ingram Library Services iCurate inClusive service. This service reviewed the library's current adult print holdings, evaluated the gaps in the collections and suggested current titles that reflect more diverse categories. Categories include Asian interest, Black interest, Indigenous interest, Jewish interest, Latinx interest, LGBTQIA+ interest, Mental health, Middle Eastern interest, Multicultural, Muslim interest and Neuro and Physical diversity.
- Hosted a diverse slate of multicultural programs, including “Roots of Black Music” lecture and children's scavenger hunt (celebrating Black History month) and “Viva Vallenato cumbia band concert (celebrating Hispanic Heritage month)
- Launched recurring Children's bilingual storytime program series
- 134 children and 29 adults participated in this year's Summer Reading program and read a combined total of 1,817 books.
- Expanded the Library of Things collection to include:
 - Giant JENGA lawn game
 - Badminton and volleyball set
 - Inflatable movie screen and projector
 - Paper shredder
 - Pressure Washer
- Expanded online searchable local history archive with over 1,000 files (and growing!) Access the archive via <http://www.bergenfieldlibrary.org/localhistory/>





GOAL TWO: FOSTER A COMFORTABLE AND FRIENDLY SPACE

- Updated and replaced all carpet and VCT tile flooring in the building. Carpet tiles were installed for easier clean up and replacement.
- Refreshed the Children's Room. In addition to installing a more cheerful carpet, all of the cloth seating was reupholstered, the activity room was extensively cleaned out and two custom train-themed murals were mounted in the Children's Room (murals sponsored by the Friends of the Library.) A ribbon cutting ceremony to "reopen" the updated space was held on 12/5.
- Upgraded audio visual equipment in the Friends meeting room. This equipment was subsidized by the Friends of the Library.
- Installed a second self-checkout Meescan kiosk on the first floor
- Library staff participated as members in multiple BCCLS committees including: Policies and Procedures, Adult Services and Library Administration and Personnel

GOAL THREE: CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

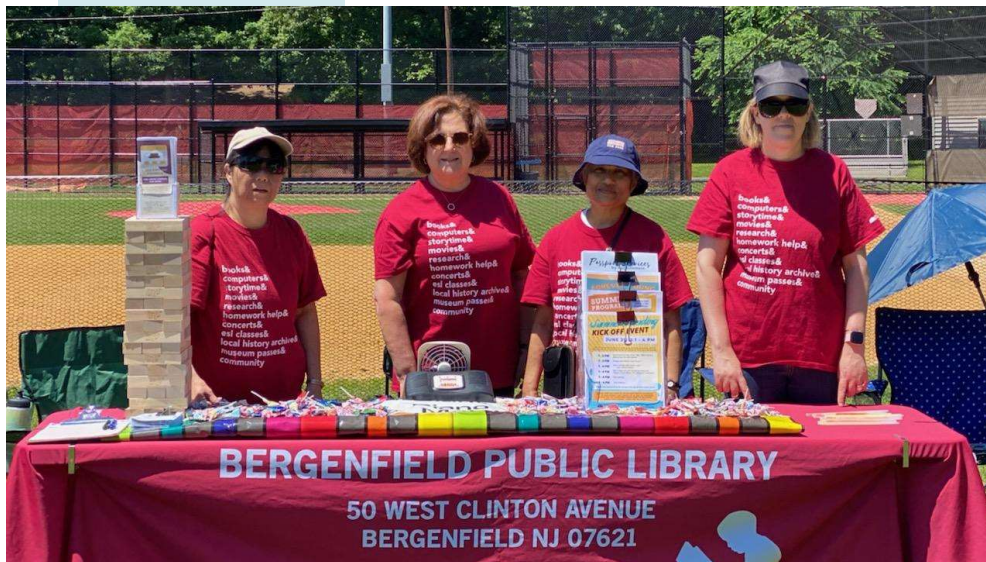
- Served as meeting site for Bergenfield's Stigma Free committee and multiple Girl Scouts troops
- Hosted Community Earth Day event in tandem with the Borough DPW, Environmental Committee, Green Team and school district
- Hosted in person class visits from Hoover, Washington and Lincoln elementary schools, Roy Brown middle school and students from TriValley and the Bear Den
- Youth Services staff participated in a panel discussion about banned books at Yavneh Academy.
- Youth Services staff coordinated a recurring story time series at the Bergenfield Lightbridge Academy daycare.
- Librarians compiled recommended reading lists for the Borough's Stigma Free committee for their Mental Health Awareness and Pride events.
- Participated in the Bergenfield School District's new teacher orientation
- Worked with the Filipino School of NY/NJ to provide pre-recorded "Kuwentuhang Pilipino Story Time" videos to be posted on the Library's Facebook page. The videos are posted on the 2nd Saturday of each month
- Partnered with Bergenfield Elks Lodge 1477 to host a model train program to celebrate the updated Children's Room.

GOAL FOUR: STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

- Executed direct mail “Welcome to Bergenfield” postcard campaign to new homeowners
- Library staff participated in the Bergenfield School District’s MLK Day of Service and the Borough’s Memorial Day Parade, Family Fun Day, Trunk or Treat and Holiday at the Park
- Reference staff assisted members from the Bergenfield Elks Lodge 1477 with their research for their upcoming 100th anniversary.
- Staff assisted local author Jay Levin with his research for a book about Bergenfield’s history (Arcadia Press.) Levin’s research was completed by the end of 2022, with a tentative Spring 2023 publication date.

GOAL FIVE: INCREASE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE, FISCAL STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Submitted proposal for AARP Community Challenge grant to subsidize the materials and labor costs for installing a permanent Story Walk at Coopers Pond.
- Installed Lyngsoe exterior lockers for all hours pick up. The lockers were subsidized by the NJ State Library ARPA grant.
- The Library’s passport program conducted 280 appointments and generated \$15,000 in revenue in 2022



2022 BY THE NUMBERS

ADULT & YOUTH SERVICES

- Staff answered 20,880 reference questions
- 22,561 people attended 285 library programs
- ESL tutors + students spent 3,177 hours in 739 tutoring sessions (in person and via Zoom)
- Students participated in 691 virtual tutoring sessions with Brainfuse
- 134 children and 29 adults participated in this year's Summer Reading program and read a combined total of 1,817 books

TECHNOLOGY

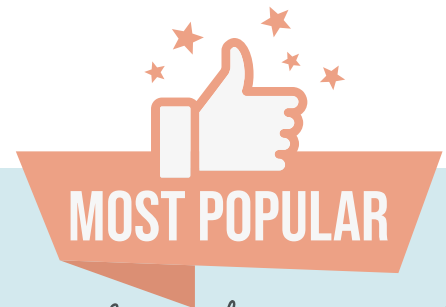
- 9,880 Computer Sessions
- 80,538 Wireless Sessions
- 20,503 eBook and eAudio items borrowed
- 1,775 movies downloaded off of Kanopy
- 13% increase in social media following (Facebook and Instagram)

COLLECTIONS

- 10,943 Bergenfield residents have library cards
- 197,717 items were checked out
- 88,985 library visits
- 43,802 items loaned to other BCCLS libraries

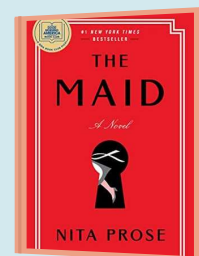
PUBLIC SERVICES

- 265 notary appointments
- 280 passport appointments
- 76 meeting room rentals
- 1,533 quiet study room bookings

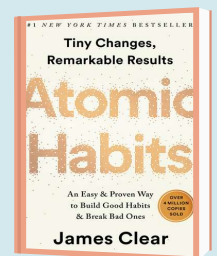


checkouts of 2022

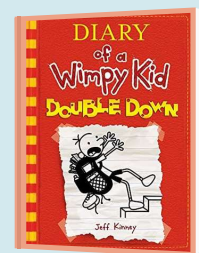
Adult
Fiction



Adult
Non-fiction



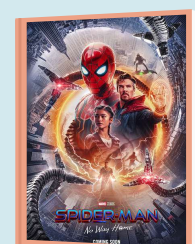
Children's
Fiction



Young Adult
Fiction

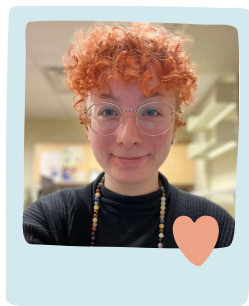


Film



MEET THE NEW STAFF

ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT



DEVON A. (SHE/THEY)

Adult Services Associate

Devon is a current graduate student at Syracuse University, studying for their Master of Library and Information Science. Devon has worked at other BCCLS libraries previously, and brings with them knowledge and enthusiasm on the importance of public libraries in the lives of our patrons. Devon is excited to curate fun and engaging adult programs this year at Bergenfield!



MINI P. (SHE/HER)

Library Associate

In addition to working at the Bergenfield Library, Mini works as a Part time Library Assistant at the Teaneck Public Library. Her hobbies are drawing, painting and singing. She is also a Zumba instructor. Mini is thankful to be part of her Reference department and be part of a friendly, family-like environment.



NAYDA R. (SHE/HER)

ESL Coordinator

A life-long lover of learning, libraries, diverse people and cultures, and being of service, Nayda's relevant library work and volunteer experience includes serving as the Adult Program Coordinator for the Montvale Free Public Library, a trustee of the Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation, and a volunteer ESL tutor through the Westwood Library. She studied in Madrid, Spain, where she earned a Master's degree in Spanish Literature from NYU.



SABRINA U. (SHE/HER)

Adult Services Librarian

Sabrina is a Coloradan who relocated to New Jersey this year with her husband and their 12-year-old cat. She received her Master's in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University in 2020. While reading is her favorite hobby, she also enjoys movies, video games, and travel. She's excited to grow at Bergenfield Public Library as an early-career librarian.

MEET THE NEW STAFF

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

PAIGE L. (SHE/HER)
Library Assistant

Originally from Texas, Paige has recently made NJ home. She loves reading and hanging out at libraries so it only made sense to work at one! Paige loves Bergenfield library and the great community.



JENNIFER M. (SHE/HER)
Library Assistant

Jennifer recently graduated from college as a biochemistry major. She has worked a few different jobs before, but what drew her to the library was a combination of nostalgia and a love for literature. Her favorite part of the job is being able to go through all the books and set aside whatever catches her eye so she can borrow it later. Outside of the library, she spends a lot of her time knitting or drawing.



YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RACHEL D. (SHE/HER)
Youth Services Associate

Rachel has been an elementary educator for the past 14 years. She has worked in NYC and Fair Lawn. She currently lives in Bergen County with her husband, two young children and dog, Nola. She loves to cook, travel, read and wander.



welcome to the library!

OUR UPDATED LOOK

before & after

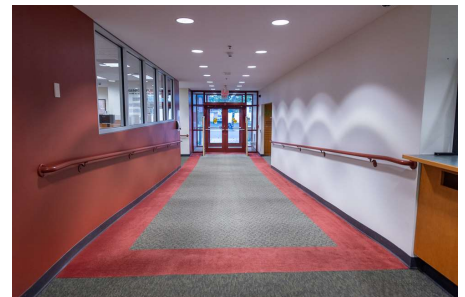
2nd Floor Lounge Area



Adult Reading Area



Anderson Avenue Entrance



Children's Room Floor



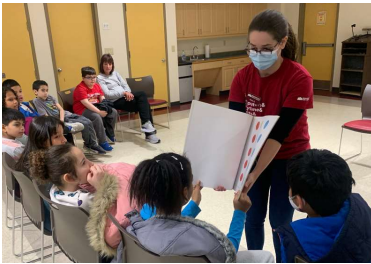
Children's Room Floor



Children's Activity Room



2022 PHOTO SNAPSHOTS



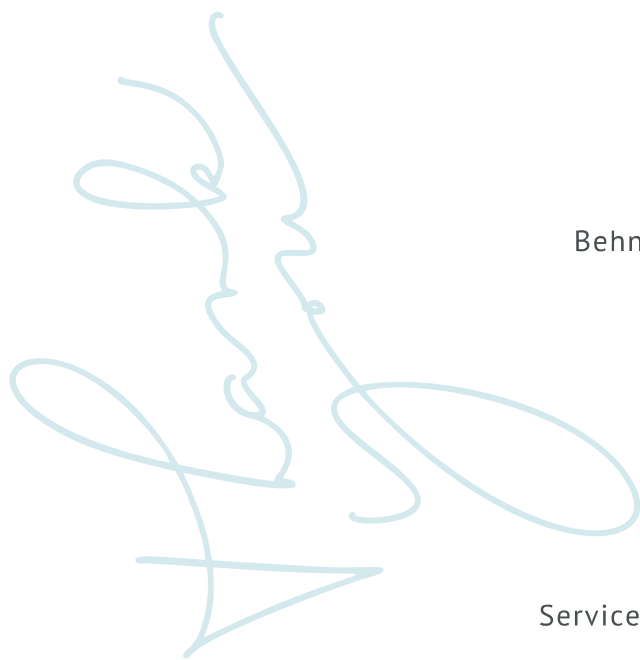
FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

We would like to thank these organizations for their generous support of the Friends of the Bergenfield Public Library as our 2022 Business Sponsors. Please support our local area businesses. For a full list including addresses and contacts, please go to: **bergenfieldlibrary.org/sponsors**

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