



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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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.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance." – Aristotle

After a decade of focus groups, grant writing, number crunching and planning, the Library was finally able to secure funding from both the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to perform several much needed building renovations and improvements in 2025. Our project was supported in part by federal award number CPFFNO185 awarded to the State of New Jersey by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Thanks to these grants, the Library was able to make the following enhancements in 2025:

- Complete renovation of the Young Adult Room, to include all new fixtures, furniture and technology equipment
- Creation of two new public meeting rooms
- Replacement and upgrade of building's security camera system
- Creation of new staff offices
- Installation of combination water fountain/bottle filler on the lower level
- Furniture and fixture upgrades including meeting room tables in the Friends Room, SMART Boards in both ESL classrooms and an exhibit case in the Children's Room.

These upgrades strengthen the Library in practical and meaningful ways. The refreshed Young Adult Room and added meeting spaces create more room for learning and connection. Updated security systems and new staff offices support smoother daily operations. And the technology and facility improvements, from SMART Boards to bottle fillers, make the building more welcoming and functional. Together, these enhancements prepare the Library to serve the community with greater flexibility and care in the years ahead.

As always, the Library is grateful to the Borough of Bergenfield and governing body for its continued financial support and for its assistance with the renovation logistics.

The Library Board and staff would also like to offer thanks to the Friends of the Bergenfield Library who graciously help us purchase all of the proverbial "bells and whistles" that enhance the patron's experience.

The Bergenfield Library thrives because our community believes in the quiet power of open access and welcoming spaces. As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our services, investing in our staff, and expanding opportunities for learning and connection. We're grateful to all who walk through our doors, partner with our work, or cheer us on from afar. Together, we'll keep shaping a library that reflects the curiosity, generosity, and spirit of Bergenfield.

Allison Ballo

Allison Ballo
Library Director

STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITY

HOW'D WE DO IN 2025?

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.



GOAL ONE

Lead the Community as The Primary Cultural and Civic Center for Lifelong Learning

- Hosted a diverse slate of multicultural programs, including Muslim Heritage month celebration, food taste test for teens (celebrating AAPI Heritage month), a concert to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month and a Diwali festival for Bergenfield families.
- 178 children and 77 adults participated in this year's Summer Reading program and read a combined total of 9,379 books.
- Hosted virtual author program through Library Speakers Consortium. Past author lectures include Jodi Picoult, Lisa Jewell and Katherine Applegate. This subscription is generously subsidized by the Friends of the Bergenfield Library.
- Added the 9/11 Memorial Museum, Jewish Museum and Newark Museum of Art to the Museum Pass program.
- Expanded the Library of Things collection to include a karaoke machine, sewing machine, green screen backdrop kit and folding tables.
- ESL tutors and students spent 4,301 hours together on 364 one on one classes, group conversation classes and US Citizenship classes.

STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITY

HOW'D WE DO IN 2025?

GOAL TWO

Foster a Comfortable and Friendly Space

- Hosted wedding of Bergenfield residents Arianne and Rob H. in August 2025. The couple started dating while attending Bergenfield High School and would frequently come to the Library afterschool.
- Addition of custom murals and play furniture in the Children's Room, subsidized by the Friends of the Library.
- Renovation of Young Adult Room and creation of 2 new Quiet Study rooms.
- Installation of combination water fountain/bottle filler on the lower level.
- Replacement and upgrade of building's security camera system.
- Library staff served on multiple BCCLS committees including: Diverse and Underserved Populations, Technology and Digital Services, Adult Services, Library Administration and Personnel and BCCLS' Executive Board.



STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITY

HOW'D WE DO IN 2025?

GOAL THREE

Create Opportunities for Collaboration

- Collaborations with the Bergenfield School District:
 - Hosted in person class visits from Washington and Jefferson elementary schools.
 - Participated in Read Across America Day at Hoover Elementary School and Bergenfield Head Start.
 - Served as host site for the Bergenfield School District's Gifted and Talented Elementary Art exhibition.
 - Youth Services staff conducted outreach visits to Bergenfield Head Start, Lightbridge Academy, Lincoln Elementary, Washington Elementary, Bergenfield High School.
 - Junior Library Council members created and distributed 170 "Welcome to Kindergarten" postcards and hosted a Food Drive for St. John the Evangelist Church.
 - Participated in the Bergenfield School District's new teacher orientation
 - Hosted weekly program for the Bergenfield SACC summer camp.
- Local Community Partnerships
 - Mayor's Wellness Committee - hosted multiple health-related series including chair yoga and the bar method.
 - Department of Public Works - the Library served as the host site for an annual shred event.
 - Stigma Free committee - co-hosted Drag Queen bingo program for adults as part of Pride month. The Library also served as the host site for the committee's Domestic Violence, Awareness and Protection Forum.
 - 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.



STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITY

HOW'D WE DO IN 2025?

GOAL FOUR

Strengthen Community Awareness and Engagement

- Executed direct mail "Welcome to Bergenfield" postcard campaign to new homeowners.
- Created 4-page specialty insert for the Borough's summer newsletter. This insert advertised all of our summer events and provided general information about the Library. This material was delivered to over 7,500 households.
- Library staff participated in the Bergenfield School District's MLK Day of Service and the Borough's Memorial Day Parade, Mayor's Wellness 5K race, Family Fun Day, Trunk or Treat and Holiday at the Park.



GOAL FIVE

Increase Operational Excellence, Fiscal Stability and Sustainability

- The Library's passport program conducted 1,080 appointments and generated over \$55,000 in revenue in 2025.
- Continued participation in the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System for reduced rates on electricity and natural gas.
- Became an affiliate with Bergen Community College's Federal Work Study program. The Library currently serves as a worksite for 3 BCC students.
- Established high interest savings account through NJ Cash Management Fund.
- The Fairleigh Dickinson University MSW social work intern met with 74 individuals, assisting with topics including Medicaid applications, navigating available senior services, food pantry access and naturalization applications.
- Became an affiliate with both Adelphi University and Montclair State University's Masters in Social Work graduate programs.

BY THE NUMBERS

2024

2025

Total Circulation



Door Count



Total Programs



Museum Passes



Program Attendance



Passport Appointments



eBook and eAudio Usage

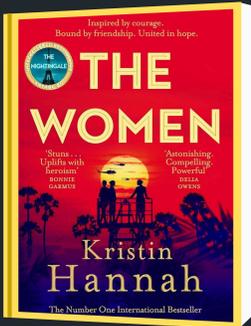


Quiet Study Room Rentals

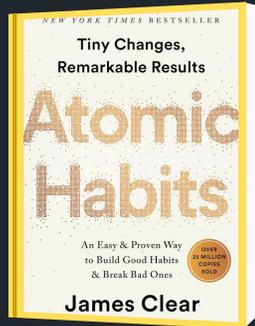


Average value of materials borrowed on a Library Card
\$702

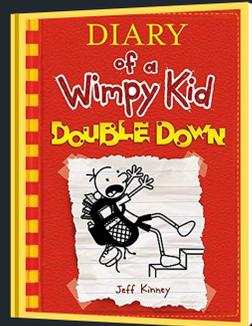
PATRON FAVES



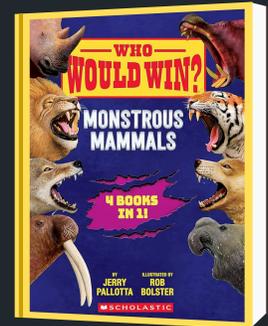
Adult Fiction



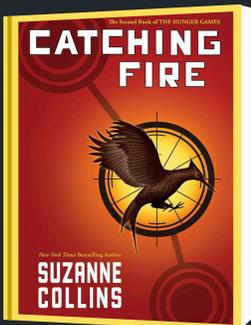
Adult Nonfiction



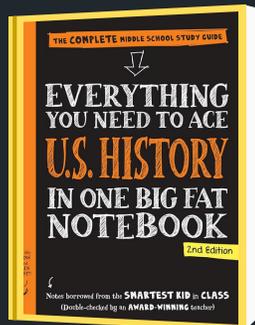
Children's Fiction



Children's Nonfiction



YA Fiction



YA Nonfiction



Movie



Museum Pass



Library of Things



Video Game

MEET THE NEW STAFF

The Library welcomed several staff members to the team in 2025. Here's a guide to some of the new faces you'll see around the building – stop by and say hi!



BELLA G. (SHE/HER)

Library Associate - Youth Services Department

As the new Library Assistant for the Youth Services Department, Bella has enjoyed starting to learn the ins and outs of the library world and found a new appreciation for waving at babies. In her free time, she likes writing, making art, playing Dungeons and Dragons, and being a general nuisance to her friends and family.



RENAE G. (SHE/HER)

Library Associate - Adult Services Department

Renae is an Adult Services Library Associate currently working in the Reference Department. She is currently an MLIS student at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. In her free time, Renae enjoys watching movies, dancing, and reading.



KAITLYN L. (SHE/HER)

Head of Lending Services Department

Kaitlyn Lopez is the new Head of Lending Services & Acquisitions. Born in Teaneck, Kaitlyn joined us in July after working as a Reference Librarian in Paterson. A graduate of Rutgers University and NYU, she's happy to be serving patrons of Bergen County and calling the county home again! Outside of work, she enjoys poetry, yoga and hiking, thrifting and spending time with her family (including her nephew/peanut Julian).

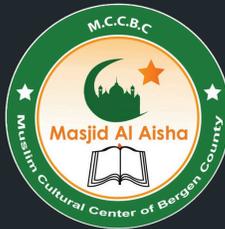


BRENDA O. (SHE/HER)

Library Assistant - Lending Services Department

Brenda enjoys going on walks, taking time to enjoy the little things, reading, and of course spending time with people that mean the most to her. She loves a thriller with a great twist. Books she tends to love are ones that have her feeling all sorts of emotions. Her favorite genres are thriller, dark romance and fantasy. Memoirs on audio are a must.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



FRIENDS BUSINESS SPONSORS 2025

BENEFACTOR LEVEL

- Arista Trophies & Awards
- Columbia Bank
- Dr. LaCap & Dr. Tong - Washington Dental Associates
- E.G. Enriquez & Co., Inc. / H&R Block
- GJEM Division - Otterstedt Insurance Agency
- Holy Name Medical Center
- Inserra Supermarkets
- McSpirit & Beckett Real Estate
- NVE Bank
- Public Service Electric & Gas Company
- Riewerts Memorial Home
- Scott Graphics Printing Co., Inc.
- Visions Federal Credit Union

GOLD LEVEL

- TPR Pizzeria, Restaurant & Bar

SILVER LEVEL

- American Pinoy Food Mart
- Bergenfield Lions Club
- Country Green
- Landscaping
- Dunkin Donuts / Baskin
- Robbins - Triple J. Family, Inc.
- East-West Electrical Contractors, Inc.

PLATINUM LEVEL

- AIM Neuro Rehab
- Arcari & Iovino Architects, P.C
- Armbruster Landscaping LLC
- Asian Pacific Travel & Services Inc.
- Behnke's Building Supply / Paramus Building Supply Co.
- Bergen New Bridge Medical Center
- Bergenfield Elks Lodge #1477
- & Bergenfield Antlers Lodge #35
- Dave Miller - RE/MAX Integrity
- Dr. George Freed, DMD, & Dr. Jeffrey Gliksman, DMD
- Fasano Shoes
- The Filipino School of NY & NJ
- Grand & Essex Market
- Lightbridge Academy of Bergenfield
- McDonald's of Bergenfield
- O'Neill Contracting, Inc.
- Russo Real Estate
- Service Excellence Organization, Inc.
- Shaw's Complete Security
- Spanish American Cultural Association of Bergenfield
- St. John's Golden Age Club
- Tommy Fox's Public House

We would like to thank these organizations for their generous support of the Friends of the Bergenfield Public Library as our 2025 Business Sponsors.

Please support our local area businesses. For a full list including addresses and contacts, please go to:

bergenfieldlibrary.org/sponsors

THANK YOU!

YOUNG ADULT ROOM RENOVATION



YOUNG ADULT ROOM RENOVATION

BEFORE



AFTER



STAFF OFFICE RENOVATION

BEFORE



AFTER

