

Youth Services

Discussion Leaders:

Maryjean Riou & Melissa Nemitz, Hunterdon County Lib. & Erica Krivopal, Piscataway PL

Upcoming Sessions: Tuesday, November 30, 2021, 2:00pm

Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 2:00pm

Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 2:00pm

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

6 participants

North Hunterdon Book Challenges

- Melissa shared some information about the North Hunterdon Book Challenges. Parents are fighting for certain LGBTQ books to be removed from the school library (Gender Queer, Lawn Boy, Fun Home, and This Book is Gay).
- There have also been threatening emails sent to the school librarian, Martha Hickson. The library is trying to find ways to support her, as it seems she is not getting enough support from her school. Melissa suggested sending letters of support to superintendent Jeffrey Bender (jbender@nhvweb.net) and assistant superintendent Rich Bergacs (rbergacs@nhvweb.net).
- MentorNJ is hosting a special online meetup designed to address issues of intellectual freedom and the unprecedented attacks not only on library materials themselves, but on the library workers purchasing, promoting, and defending them.
 - The recent increased instances of challenges to library materials across the country and here in New Jersey - as well as the accompanying aggressive behaviors targeted at library staff in the wake of such challenges - have presented unique and urgent challenges, concerns, and needs from our library community. Whether you are a library worker who has experienced such a challenge, are preparing for the possibility of one, or simply wish to offer your support and perspective, we encourage you to join us for this special one-hour Meetup where we will share our experiences, advice, and support. All New Jersey library workers are welcome.
 - **Discussion Leaders:** Darby Malvey, LibraryLinkNJ; Maryjean Riou, Hunterdon County Library System; Melissa Nemitz, Hunterdon County Library System
 - **Date:** Wednesday, November 10 from 4-5pm

Programming/Pandemic Talk

- Some libraries are encouraging masks, while others are still requiring masks. We discussed in-person, virtual, and hybrid programming as well.
- There are Makers Day concerns. What can we do besides make and take crafts? What if we are not ready for in-person programming? How can we make Makers Day engaging?
- We are still seeing less foot traffic in the buildings. Most of us still have limited seating/computers. There was a discussion about whether or not we should put toys back out in the Youth Services Departments.
- Halloween programming → costumes, decorating shirts, virtual guided spooky painting, fall festival, make and takes

July 28 - 4 attendees joined MentorNJ team members Maryjean Riou, Erica Krivopal, and Mi-Sun Lyu.

- Readsquared - mixed success using it
- Discussion of curbside pickup for crafts, now that libraries are open, can also pick up supplies inside the library
- Program ideas
 - Wednesday STEAM - staff creating STEAM video with a list of supplies, shared on YouTube
 - Virtual Escape Room
 - Craft & Tell - weekly craft talk, teens show off what they are working on at home, feature a guest speaker to highlight a specific project
- Lower attendance/participation
 - Kids missing weekly incentive
 - With people not coming to the building, they are not seeing signage or having interaction with staff
 - Some schools did not assign summer reading which may be impacting numbers
- Reopening conversations
 - Masks vs face shields
 - Quarantining items - most libraries are attempting to quarantine items touched by patrons browsing, as well as returned items
 - Travel bans and quarantining - list of states is growing; some libraries require you to fill out paperwork anytime you submit vacation time indicating if you are leaving the state
 - Sanitizing computers - covers for keyboard/mouse, handing out a wipe, sanitizing between users
 - More books on display around building to help with browsing, more face out
- Libraries are running summer programs for varying lengths this year (shorter, may have started it later)
- We will aim to have another meetup towards the end of August to discuss plans for September.

May 29, 2020

Co-hosted by MentorNJ Team Members - Maryjean Riou and Erica Krivopal

Discussion

- Reading to Rover program
 - Discussed possibility of doing 1-1 video by appointment
 - Could possibly utilize breakout rooms and have staff member pop into different rooms to monitor interactions
- Challenges
 - Curbside → not permitted, some libraries have stopped offering this service per executive orders
 - Discussion on returning to work, posing scheduling issues for existing programs
 - Discussion about staff morale and safety, concerns over this
 - Some issues with additional software requirements with [Project Gutenberg](#)
 - Free books, no copyright issues, fairytale options
- [The Reality of Now: Library Customer Service in a Pandemic](#) was highly recommended

- [Monster Mural](#) - coloring event
 - Self care activities could be a good idea
 - Encourage kids to read ANYTHING, they may not have access to books
 - STEM programming
 - Wizard School app
 - [Engaging Patrons in STEM, STEAM, and Maker Programming](#) - June 12 @ 10:30 - Emphasis on providing these styles of programs remotely and through virtual platforms
 - This is our last weekly meetup. We will try to meet once a month over the summer.
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Friday, May 22

8 participants joined MentorNJ team members Maryjean Riou and Erica Krivopal

Success stories

- Mail-a-hug → parent traces head and arms of a child, so you are mailing a hug to someone
- Scattergories
- Reaching teens through student led school newspapers
- Jester Jim performance - recommended, flexible with pricing

Promotion

- Virtual school visit
- Video to promote summer programming to be sent to schools

General discussion

- Some libraries are seeing participation in virtual programming from all over, like California and Russia
 - Prizes
 - Button maker → design button, magnet, keychain
 - Gift cards
 - 3D print prizes
 - DIY Harry Potter wands → easy craft
 - Flat stanley inspired project → distribute laminated unicorn or dragon, kids share pictures taken with it throughout summer
 - Bergen County Zoo
 - Virtual programs currently no charge
 - Carol Fusco 201-634-3125 cfusco@co.bergen.nj.us
 - Anime Club using Netflix party → need Netflix
 - Reopening discussion → shared concerns
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Friday, May 15

8 participants joined MentorNJ team members Maryjean Riou, Erica Krivopal, and Mi-Sun Lyu.

NJLA Virtual Keynote: Planning for Library Reopenings Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic (Friday, May 15)

- Participants recommended viewing the recording if you were unable to attend the live keynote.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the closing of physical libraries in New Jersey. During this presentation, one county library system director, three public library directors, and one academic library director will be discussing their plans for bringing staff, and eventually community members, back to the library. There will be time at the end of the discussion for questions and discussion. The purpose of this program is to share ideas that other administrators have for reopening, not to offer guidelines that libraries should be following.

Program Ideas

- Family Feud for teens
- Game of finding objects (like baby shower game where you search for items in your purse). Call out an item and teens would have to run to look for it. First one back to the screen was the winner.
- Scavenger hunt with preschoolers
- Kahoot.com - trivia
- Jackboxgames.com
- Roll20.net
- Fun Friday for elementary age kids → BINGO
 - Kids can draw their own boards and random number the boxes
 - Emailed certificate to winners to claim a prize when library reopens
- Scattergories
- Teach cursive writing over zoom.
 - Provide a practice paper
- Pen pal type program
- Read aloud - Borrow ebook, put it on screen (Zoom), everyone takes turns reading aloud
- Storytelling activities
- Writing program

Summer Reading prizes

- Challenge deciding how to get prizes to patrons
 - Mailing, arrange curbside pickup
- Budgets are posing an issue for some
- Private Event → if earn enough badges, you win a private event, like a storytime for just you and 5 friends, online dance party
- Books
 - Can take a photo of books to give options
 - Paperbacks can possibly be mailed
 - Baker and Taylor has a summer reading prize program
 - Bobbie Bensur, CATS Manager, Eastern Region - bobbie.bensur@baker-taylor.com, 207-560-7241

Advertising for summer reading

- Mailings to participants that have attended past programs
- Contacts in school
- Virtual backpacks in schools if an option
- Summer reading video to schools
- Virtual school visits may be possible

General Notes

- Attendance is still generally not high. We may see an increase when school is over, especially if there are no summer camps.
 - Some libraries are using READSquared, others Beanstack (already had contracts), google forms.
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Friday, May 8, 2020

15 participants including discussion leaders

READSquared Discussion

- Participants reported tech problems with live training.
- Found to be intuitive and user-friendly.
- Different user types--"superuser" recommended because admin users do not have access to full functionality.

Summer Reading Discussion

- Is anyone offering prizes?
 - Yes, some larger prizes already ordered (stuffed animals, etc) and waiting at loading dock in library
 - Yes, some smaller prizes ordered to be dropped off at kid's houses + yard signs for kids who read certain number of books
 - No, nothing ordered yet, may do some kind of cumulative gift such as a gift card
 - Yes, small prizes included with curbside holds pick-up
 - Decisions have to be made at the system level to ensure all branches can offer the same services so larger systems may not be able to be flexible
 - Discussion of printable window signs for reading certain number of books, downloadable bookmarks (double-sided) with list of books read
- Possibility of offering craft kits and related items for pick-up
- Feedback from patrons?
 - Teen Book Club prefers actual books
 - Many haven't advertised yet so no feedback received
- Gift Card Discussion
 - What amount do you give as a gift card?
 - Trivia contest, winner gets \$10
 - Grand prize, \$50 Amazon gift card
 - A lot of businesses won't give \$5 cards so it is difficult to use them as a "thank you for participating" gift, maybe t-shirt instead
 - Dairy Queen does a \$5 gift card
 - It is difficult to know what business to choose because patrons may not have access
 - Cannot rely on donated gift cards this year, need to buy them online
 - Has anyone done emailed gift cards?
 - Yes, for some nearby local businesses

Other Services

- Wellness checks
- Curbside pick-up by appointment, books remain outside for half hour only
- Themed storytime for Mother's Day on Sunday morning
 - Mother's Day craft: <https://www.busykidshappymom.org/i-love-you-sign-language-card/>
- Can you get into library to get books for storytime?
 - Some said yes, if needed, and librarian records storytime in the library
 - Some said no, we cannot get in to get books or craft supplies.
- Virtual programming?
 - Not expanding until back at the library, looking into live storytimes
- Is anyone working with kindergarten classes?
- Some offering appointment-only in-person services: legos, ttens to make a button etc, all limited to one family
- Planning Zoom meetings for outreach to nursery schools, YMCA middle school teachers

Video programs:

- Adobe Premier Pro (one month free)
- Divinci Resolve (free beta version)
- Apowersoft
- Kinemaster (
 - Free has watermark)
 - Monthly Subscription – \$4.99. Annual Subscription – \$39.99
- Screencast-O-Matic: <https://screencast-o-matic.com>
- Jing: <https://www.techsmith.com/jing.html>
- Wink: <http://www.debugmode.com/wink>
- Webinaria <http://www.webinaria.com>
- Active presenter, works nicely with youtube
- Free open source program named OBS (no watermark)
- May be able to use phone for basic editing
- Camtasia Studio <https://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.html>
- Adobe Captivate <http://www.adobe.com/products/captivate.html>
- ScreenFlow <https://www.telestream.net/screenflow/>
- 8 tips for teachers, librarians, and small business. How to make videos during coronavirus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAXYEDUM9Co>

Programming Suggestions:

- Jester Jim
- <https://www.luannadamsstoryteller.com/>

Friday, May 1, 2020

15 participants joined MentorNJ team members Maryjean Riou and Erica Krivopal.

We shared success stories:

- Book Club
- Planned Star Wars event on 5/2 for all-ages - trivia, fan films
- Sending patron emails about things to do
- Storytimes
- Scavenger hunt - kids send pictures of things they find
- Crafts

Suggestions for promotion/advertising

- Share Facebook posts to get more attention
- Contact local papers
- Newsletter to schools
- Social media, website
- Weekly/daily email newsletters

READSquared

- Some libraries will be using Beanstack, not READSquared, due to existing contracts
- From Sharon Rawlins about READSquared and training:

Here is the sign-up portal where you can register your library for READSquared:

<http://www.readsquared.com/NJ>

Once READSquared receives your sign-up request, your library's customized READSquared site will be configured within 48-72 hours. When your site is ready, you will receive an email with administrative access information from READSquared.

The registration page also includes a link (<https://join.me/READSquaredTraining>) where other staff can attend a training on how to customize READSquared for your library. Feel free to share it with other library staff. The only NJ training dates they can choose are:

May 5th – 10 am EST

May 6th – 1 pm EST

May 8th – 1 pm EST

May 11th – 10 am EST

They can sign up more than once, although the same information will be covered in each training.

In the trainings READSquared staff will cover how to setup and customize reading programs so they recommend any staff who are setting up their library's reading programs to attend one of the trainings.

READSquared will be recording one of the sessions and I will share the link when I receive it with you for anyone who wasn't able to attend any of the scheduled times. Library staff can also find a shorter prerecorded training in their admin control room under Help > Help Materials.

Summer Programming/Discussion

- Nothing in-person planned
- Jester Jim is sending a link for one library to use for kickoff event
- Baby storytime with Zoom

- Teens have been hard to connect with when not in the building, school work is time consuming
- Volunteering idea - have teens create instruction videos, like for using Libby
- Weekly lego challenge - ex: build something that flies, floats, etc.
- Challenge - We are competing with other free resources that places are putting out, we might see a surge of activity when these places resume charging for services again
- Storytime Resources - storyline, kidlit
- Escape rooms
 - Books Alive: Escape the Rhymes: <https://tinyurl.com/BooksAliveEscapetheRhymes>
 - Webinar: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgID=19400> (Hogwarts Digital Escape Room)
- Discussion about zoom and registration, concern over own patrons not being able to access programs

Discussion on reopening

- Concerns about quarantining books/materials when returned
- LibraryLinkNJ led taskforce will help guide reopening conversations
- [NJLA Virtual Keynote](#): Planning for Library Reopenings Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, March 15, 11-12pm
- No toys
- Removing furniture, computers
- Trying to normalize mask wearing for kids
 - Decorate a mask activity
- More customer service training needed to help deal with frustrated patrons - waiting on line to enter building (like grocery stores), limited services
- How to Sanitize Collections in a Pandemic
<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/how-to-sanitize-collections-covid-19/>
- Using plexi glass at circ, reference desks
- Local committees at consortium and local levels will be important to keep levels of service consistent
- A Phased Reopening Plan for Libraries:
<https://medium.com/@john.alan.thill/a-phased-reopening-plan-for-libraries-as-covid-19-restrictions-are-lifted-2d96885c0c1d>
- Staff training for new safety protocols needed

Friday, April 24, 2020

18 Participants joined MentorNJ team members Maryjean Riou and Erica Krivopal.

We discussed summer reading and programming in general:

- The New Jersey State Library is offering READsquared at NO COST to public libraries statewide. READsquared is an online reading program solution. For more information about READsquared: <https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/New-Jersey-State-Library-READsquared-Announcement.pdf>
 - Use this link to sign up for READsquared for your library: <http://www.readsquared.com/NJ>
- Discussion about virtual performances

- If you record a performance, you will need to discuss with performers how long you are allowed to use the recording, you may need to take it down after a specified amount of time
- Some performers are still figuring out how they can offer virtual programming. This is a challenge when trying to book programs now.
- Performers:
 - Jen Apgar shared information from Sharon Rawlins about a national list of performers who are willing to present virtual programming.
 - Liz Gibbons-Camp, Adult Services Coordinator at the Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library in Ohio and an ALA Emerging Leader, is compiling a national list of performers who are willing to present virtual programming during the public health emergency and beyond. This includes performers for all ages – children, teens and adults.
 - Liz asks that you consider reaching out to performers you've booked in the past, and asking them if they would consider performing virtually during this emergency or at other times. And if yes, to please add them to the list using this form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZwDPBs8UsSBIRH_248TivANLRM9LhsEIJPf78wbN-1I9_yA/viewform?usp=sf_link
 - By contributing to the form, you will also receive an email link to see the list as it grows. Once the list gets large enough, Liz will make it publicly accessible.
 - Contact Liz at egibbonscamp@crpc
 - Eyes of the Wild
 - Steve Woyce (magic) - <http://www.fulleffectproductions.net/LibraryHome.html>
 - Jester Jim - <https://www.jesterjim.com/>
 - Bendy Bookworm Yoga - <https://www.bendybookworm.com/>
 - EduHam at Home - <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-and-events/eduham-home>,
https://www.theatermania.com/broadway/news/hamilton-launches-eduham-at-home-program_90915.html
- Program ideas
 - Sharon Rawlins created a Google Doc with ideas for summer reading for youth. Anyone can edit the doc by going to this link:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mfWSjCRh_t0dBbecMnZ3BK4jaow49-vcFLY6gZgrR3k/edit#
 - Nintendo Switch tournaments
 - <https://www.thumbsticks.com/how-to-set-up-a-mario-kart-8-deluxe-tournament/>
 - Netflix parties
 - Fortnite trivia using Zoom
 - Collaborate with other libraries to connect kids/teens with new faces
 - Guests at story times, like Mayor or council members, could help you reach different audiences
 - Could outdoor space be utilized for in-person programs?
 - Back to school prep
 - Practice handwashing, hygiene
 - Interactive powerpoint presentation
 - Tips to parents on having conversations with kids on how things will look different (masks)
 - Practice hand raising if live programs
 - Crafternoons
 - Zoom was recommended.

- Focus camera on hands, kids can follow along, everyone shares crafts at end
 - Book Club
 - Zoom was recommended.
 - Could have everyone read same genre or a book in a popular series
- Challenges
 - Getting live participants
 - Reaching people without internet access, not engaging on social media, etc.
 - Ask schools to distribute flyers on resources
 - Ask buildings in town still open to post a flyer
- Using songs in story times
 - Discussion about using own voice without music to avoid copyright issues
 - Some artists have given permission for music to be used
 - <https://nancymusic.com/>
 - <https://laurieberkner.com/>
- Other shared resources
 - <https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=publisher-information-directory-copyright-storytime-social-media-permissions-covid-19>
 - Phone-a-Story - Denver Public Library shared about their Phone-a-story service where patrons call a phone number to hear a story read by a librarian.
 - Archived webinar: <https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/csl-news/webinar-archive-phone-a-story-simple-fun-on-call-away/>
 - Archived webinar, slides, and handouts that you can view at your convenience. <https://enetlearning.adobeconnect.com/pcq17wt4347/>

Friday, April 17, 2020

14 Participants joined MentorNJ team members Maryjean Riou, Erica Krivopal, and Mi-Sun Lyu to discuss success and challenges that Youth Services staff have been experiencing during this time.

- Online story times
 - Live (Facebook, Zoom) vs. Recorded (need to worry about copyright/permission)
 - Some have noted that they are not seeing as many participants join them live, but the videos are being viewed at a later time. This can be discouraging.
 - Zoom live worked well and allowed for interaction with participants. However, you may want a second staff member to assist (admitting participants to session, monitoring group chat to address any questions).
 - Recommended to simplify story times, instead of trying to recreate an in-person story time, as it is harder to hold the attention of kids.
 - TIP - have kids make shakers at home with toilet paper rolls, beans, and tape for story times.
 - Resources for finding books approved to use for story time
 - https://drive.google.com/open?id=14sKF93Q15buUUtJwrRvR8K8xAQdQSVss9Rzp69_oQRM

- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11jwq7_KbsGFbnsjNYLCgrRuJMREzHpOFtMyNWutDRY0/edit?fbclid=IwAR16Bend4yKgiGjV0mXTt8JVDXi380URwrvDIXirHMmd5idp5Dk07KJFFok#gid=0
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sxU02heqtCoZgi4HZ_f5f0rtN8S2ZuFFaLKT6S0U19A/edit?fbclid=IwAR1E3dViLrb67GdPdaDEhM4q7woP6MqYO2TiSL9_n_Z4HofMDt1D4Ufb3Oc#gid=0
 - <https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=tackling-copyright-concerns-when-taking-storytime-online>
- Oral stories
- You can curate a playlist of story time songs with instructions for parents/guardians on how they can incorporate the songs while reading to kids.
- Netflix Party can be used (ex: anime club)
- Book Clubs
 - Using Zoom
 - Can give a list of ebooks available for participants to choose from, use book genre or series (ex: Magic Tree House or Boxcar Children) to have the books connected
- Crafternoon
 - You can do a slow paced live stream so kids can do the craft with you in real time. Even if you record it, by going slowly, the kids can follow along with you at home. You will want to give instructions ahead of time so families can prep the supplies.
- It is important for people to see library staff faces! Our programs and videos do not have to be perfect!
- Summer Reading
 - Beanstack
 - Might not be accepting new libraries at this time, but it is a good resource.
 - Kids can get online badges in place of prizes.
 - Raffles → you can set parameters for the virtual drawings
 - Mobile app is improved and allows you to scan ISBN to easily log books (you would have to type in titles for ebooks which could be a barrier to parents)
 - You can add patron info on the staff side if parents are lacking access or skills to utilize Beanstack.
 - ReadSquared
 - You can also add patron info as a staff member
 - Program Ideas
 - The Summer Reading manual is being updated with virtual/online program ideas.
 - Virtual performances may be possible. You can ask performers to do a live performance or send in a video for participants.
 - If libraries are open, you can consider take-home kits with craft supplies and instructions
 - Programs to help kids adjust to life after quarantine, like adjusting to a full day of school again
 - Offer challenges (ex: legos) and encourage a show and tell either with pictures or a live stream
 - Sharon Rawlins will announce details of an online summer reading program for public libraries. The New Jersey State Library is in the process of securing a license.
 - Talking Book & Braille Center's Summer Reading program
 - The Talking Book & Braille Center does not do in-person programs.
 - 4-6 weeks

- Send out information weekly about things you can do at home, like a nature walk or nature scavenger hunt.
 - Bingo cards
 - Craft instructions with basic things likely to have at home
 - They typically have sent out letters, but will be utilizing email this year.
 - For more information, contact Jen Apgar at japgar@njstatelib.org.
- Talk to your schools! They might be able to help distribute information for your programs/summer reading.

Tuesday November 30, 2021

2-3PM

Maryjean Riou and Melissa Nemitz

5 in attendance

- Salem Free Public Library - Saturday 12/4 Yuletide Tour
- In-Person storytimes @ Swedesboro
 - 12 max per session, masks highly recommended but not required
 - Kids better with masks than adults
- Storytime take and make kits
 - Books, coloring page and craft
- PSE&G and Sesame Street partnership
 - Video series with a companion booklet
 - Staff supplement with storytime or booklists/ displays
 - <https://corporate.pseg.com/corporatecitizenship/educationandoutreach/letsgetreadyprogram>
- Hybrid programming
- Virtual volunteers
 - Literacy buddies via Googlemeet
 - One-on-one meetings w/ staff member present
 - Homework help via Zoom breakout rooms
- Makers Day 2022
 - In-person, small group demonstrations, masks required
 - Take and Makes

Tuesday December 21, 2021

2-3PM

Erica Krivopal, Melissa Nemitz, Maryjean Riou

Attendance: 9

- Job trends in YS positions in NJ libraries
 - The great resignation due to Covid
- Rise in cases? Response after Christmas break?
 - HCLS not requiring masks, just strongly recommended, no in-person programming AT ALL in January
 - Piscataway virtual only with an occasional in-person event, masks required
 - Princeton in-person storytime 2X a week, in-person TAB meetings alternating with virtual

- Successful virtual programs
 - Take and make art programs
 - Anime Club
 - Dungeons and Dragons
 - Passive, collaborative programs
 - Storytimes
 - Escape Rooms - YY from Princeton Public Library (Ylin@princetonlibrary.org)
 - <https://sites.google.com/princetonlibrary.org/ver-test/computer>
- Summer Reading
- Makers Day
 - Piscataway - as of right now, in-person and indoors but on a much smaller scale with the ability to go virtual
 - Possibility for outdoors, depending on weather
 - Take and makes
 - HCLS - mostly take and make, perhaps an in-person component depending on weather
- Take and Makes
 - Storytelling cards
 - Origami
 - Activity sheets, mazes
 - <https://picklebums.com/>
 - STEM kits
 - <https://sciencebob.com/>
 - Grab & Go crafts with recycled book pages
- Hybrid programs - OWL camera
 - <https://owllabs.com/products/meeting-owl-pro>

Tuesday January 25, 2022

2-3 PM

Erica Krivopal, Melissa Nemitz, Maryjean Riou

Attendance: 12

- YMAs 2022
 - <https://ala.unikron.com/>
- Popular YA programs
 - Take and makes with YouTube instructions
 - Coding with Scratch and beyond
 - Opportunities for volunteer hours
 - Virtual Anime Club via Netflix and Teleparty
- How to get ideas for programs
 - Pinterest
 - Ask your patrons
 - Collaborate with co-workers
 - Monthly themes/ holidays
 - <https://programminglibrarian.org/>
 - TAB

- Manga - super popular right now
 - Collection development procedures for large collections
- NJMD
 - Hand-sewn glove creature (Jenna, Verona)
 - Microwave kiln fused glass (Fran, Wharton)
 - Mini Snap circuits (Kristen, Caldwell)
 - Alcohol Ink, Acrylic Pour demo (Erica, Piscataway)
- Wordle in libraries
- Oceans of Possibilities, Summer 2022
- **Next Meet Up - February 22, 2PM**

Tuesday February 22, 2022

2-3PM

Erica Krivopal, Maryjean Riou, Melissa Nemitz, Darby Malvey

Attendance: 11

- Covid updates
 - In-person returning with masks
 - Continuing with take and makes
 - Some libraries following Governor's March 7th masks optional
- 2022 Conferences - looking forward to being back together in person
 - PLA
 - NJLA June 1-3, Harrah's Atlantic City
 - ALA
- Creative Place Making - West Orange
 - <https://podcasts.apple.com/ro/podcast/leo-vazquez-creative-placemaking-and-co-founding/id1593794377?i=1000540830252>
- Summer Reading 2022
 - Planning in progress but still far away
 - Outreach
 - Pre-filmed vs. Live Zoom
- March Programming
 - Teen Mental Health Awareness Day
 - DIY stress balls, bath bombs, etc.
 - Dungeons and Dragons
 - Storytimes
 - Outdoor, keeping kids corralled
 - Hula hoops, turf, sit upons, carpet squares
- **Next Meet Up - March 22, 2PM**

Tuesday March 22, 2022

2-3PM

Maryjean Riou, Darby Malvey, Erica Krivopal

Attendance: 10

- Mask updates: most libraries no longer require masks and are back to in-person, those who aren't predict they will be in-person soon
 - Hybrid programming is popular and many will continue as Covid numbers are predicted to rise over the summer
 - In-person program ideas: poetry cafe, DIY bath bomb, decorate house keys, string art, virtual gaming
 - Earth Day Programs: STEM Buddies, food waste gardening
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - Help in children's room, decorate teen space
 - Chess club
 - Speed rubiks cube club
 - Book reviews
 - Create kahoot games
 - Take and Make prep
 - Book buddies
 -
- Teen Spaces
 - Play lo-fi study music
 - Carve out a niche for them that they have ownership of
- Summer Reading
 - Jenkinson's Boardwalk passes
 - Jeninkon's Aquarium penguin visit
 - Ninja stress balls
 - Meditation program
 - Model magic sea creatures
 - Whale Mobile
 - <https://thewhalemobile.com/libraries-2022>
- Makers Day
 - In-person
 - Take and makes
 - Small group registered events
- School Book Banning updates
 - Rapid Regional Response Team
 - bit.ly/librrt

Tuesday May 24, 2022

2-3PM

Maryjean Riou, Melissa Nemitz, Darby Malvey

Attendance: 11

- In person meet up at conference: Thursday 11-11:50
- Summer Reading
 - In-person and hybrid virtual
 - Different ways to track summer reading
 - Scavenger Hunt
 - Sticker scenes

- Some opting to leave online tracking behind to encourage people to physically come back to the library
- Teen Volunteer jobs
 - <https://librarylinknj.org/calendar/skill-sharing-conversation-managing-motivating-volunteers>
- Reading Log preferences
 - Minutes vs. books
- Engaging Teen Readers
- School visits
 - In-person and virtual visits
- LibraryLinkNJ - Summer Book Bash for library workers
 - Author visits, giveaways
 - <https://librarylinknj.org/programs/summer-book-bash>

Tuesday September 27, 2022

2-3PM

Maryjean Riou, Erica Krivopal, Darby Malvey

Attendance: 11

Next Meeting October 25, 2022 @ 1:30 PM

- Back to school visits
 - In-person
 - Bring promotional materials for upcoming events and basic library information
 - Presentation to parents and staff
 - Tri-fold boards with information
 - Library card registration
 - How to get elementary school interested in visits?
 - Contact library media specialist or teacher
 - Outreach at sports games, other community events, shared community spaces (i.e. laundromat)
- October Programming
 - Costumes, crafts, storytimes
 - Take and Makes: Diwali and Halloween
 - Book clubs
 - Fall arts classes
 - PAWS to read
 - Story coders - coding for younger kids
 - DIY Spell books for teens - using withdrawn books
 - Passive programs: hidden ghosts, scavenger hunt
 - Spooky stories storytime
 - Spooky STEM Buddies
 - Pre-school sing-along
 - Weekly drop-in crafts
 - Sherlock Holmes Day
 - Escape room, games, fingerprinting, listening station, performer
- Homework help services
 - Literacy Buddies - homework help, ESL, reading (Swedesboro)
 - Brainfuse (Piscataway)

- Rutgers homework help volunteers (Piscataway)
- Tutor.com (Livingston)
- Discord for teens
 - Ringwood Library - parent feedback, if advertising doesn't reach parents then parents won't know about the information because communication via Discord is done strictly thru teens
 - Uses: D&D, chess, gaming
 - LibraryLinkNJ Skill-Sharing: Online Gaming
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EREJnlKBQU>
- Book Clubs
 - Talk to your patrons and find those who love to read, start with them and they will bring others
 - Bulk loans to provide books for registrants
 - Genre rather than assigned book
 - Bring your own book
 - FanFiction program
 - Themed nights - i.e. Percy Jackson, Harry Potter
- Jen from Talking Book and Braille Center
 - Friday @ 12 55th Anniversary Webinar
 - <https://www.njstatelib.org/news/celebrate-tbbcs-55th-anniversary-on-september-30th-1200-pm-100-pm/>
 -
- YS Forum 10/17 @ Monroe
 - <https://njla.memberclicks.net/youth-services-forum>

Tuesday October 25, 2022

1:30-2:30PM

Darby Malvey, Melissa Nemitz, Erica Krivopal, Maryjean Riou

Attendance: 5

Next Meeting: November 29, 2022 @ 1:30PM

- School Visits
 - Library tour program ideas
 - Bingo with leftover SR prizes
 - Storytime and snack
 - Craft activity
 - Button maker
- Storytime indoor vs. outdoor
 - Indoor has good attendance
 - Air purifier and fan for circulation
- Simple programming ideas
 - Hide and Seek character
 - Scavenger hunts
 - Question of the month
 - "Read and Do": themed activity bags with books and crafts
- Websites for inspiration
 - In-person craft show and tell?

Tuesday November 29, 2022

1:30-2:30PM

Darby Malvey, Maryjean Riou, Erica Krivopal

Attendance: 5

Next Meeting: No DECEMBER

- Holiday/ Winter programming
 - ornament/ decoration program
 - Recycled materials
 - Painted wood rounds
 - Decoupage
 - Holiday Concert
 - Corn ("It's Corn!") Craft
 - Candy Cane coding: binary code
 - Craft buffet featuring leftover crafts
 - Gingerbread display
 - Cardboard gingerbread house building
 - New Year Eve countdown craft
 - Card making
 - Winter Reading Challenge
 - Book displays
 - holidays : foods, history, traditions
 - Cookbooks
- Attendance: has it reached pre pandemic levels yet?
 - PPL: getting there but not as hectic
 - LPL: depends, hit or miss
 - What's worked in the past doesn't necessarily work now, staying flexible
 - A lot of registrants and no shows
 - Trouble getting teens in
 - Dungeons and Dragons
- Outreach
 - Conference program 2023
 - Piscataway: sponsoring author visit for schools
 - HCLS: Monthly HS visit for stress free program
 - Princeton: nursery visit

Tuesday May 23, 2023

1:30-2:30PM

Darby Malvey, Maryjean Riou

Attendance: Jen Apgar, Jane, Colleen, Teresa Cartlon

Next Meeting: NJLA, Friday June 2 9AM

- Non-traditional summer reading due to building issues
 - Readathon - digital platform and fundraiser
- Maker ideas for school library
 - Simple experiments
 - Spaghetti towers

- Take and Makes
 - Doodlebots
 - Egg carton seed starter
 - Keurig cup birdfeeders
- [Sparks \(kidsmakethingsbetter.com\)](http://kidsmakethingsbetter.com)
- Legos
- LittleBins for LittleHands
- Summer Reading Kick Off Crafts
 - Sand art
 - Spin art
 - <https://www.crayola.com/>
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