

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
March 2010

Assistant Library Director Floyd Saums to Retire on March 31, 2010

Floyd Saums will be retiring as the Assistant Library Director of the Hunterdon County Library on March 31, 2010. He has faithfully served our staff and library community for thirty-seven and one-half years. I would like to share the following thoughts he expressed to me in the letter announcing his plan to retire:

"It is hard to know where to start as I review my working life here. Obviously it has been a very agreeable experience, since I chose to spend virtually my entire working life here in one place, with one employer. I have, in this long tenure, had the unique experience of seeing the Library grow in ways that were unimaginable when I began as a temporary employee, hired to help move the library's books from the old library on Spring Street in Flemington into the new library building. I had no idea that I would ever stay so long! I have worked in every department except Youth Services over the years; starting out at the Circulation desk, then driving the bookmobile, becoming a "Junior Librarian" in the Reference Department, moving to the Extension Services Department as supervisor, ordering and cataloging books, and finally, assuming management duties as Assistant Library Director.

It has been deeply satisfying to me to have witnessed the tremendous growth, not only in buildings, but in the solid cooperation and fraternity among the libraries. Five of the libraries in our system, the North and South County branches, and the Bunnvale, Readington and Three Bridges libraries, did not exist when I started. The other community libraries were only very tenuously connected. The libraries have been forged into a system, with a wonderfully deep and broad collection of materials, traditional and up-to-the minute electronic, that the residents of the county are justifiably proud of, rely on, and use heavily.

I hope my contribution to the growth and success of the library has helped to provide the foundation for others to build on, to provide the high quality service to the residents of this county that they deserve, now and in the future. Ours is a service profession, and it has been my goal to always do my best to provide the very best service that I could, to our patrons, and to my employer."

Floyd's loyalty, diligence, and commitment to his work have enriched the lives of countless people over his remarkable career at HCL. He has been a trusted, invaluable partner and friend who has earned my deepest respect and admiration. I am especially indebted to him for the talents that he unselfishly applied to make a major contribution to the renovation and expansion of our Headquarters Library.

Floyd Saums is one of those rare individuals we sometimes have the good fortune to know who leave an indelible mark on the people and places in his life. He will be truly missed by all of us. Best wishes, Floyd, for a happy, healthy, and well-deserved retirement!

North County Branch

Branch Manager Amanda Philipp has been continuing to meet with NCB staff. It has been taking her a while to get together with everyone individually, especially since so many of the circulation staff are part-time. Nevertheless, she is enjoying finding out about their interests and discovering the details of their job duties.

NCB had some well-received programs. These included interactive Latin music with Jesse Rivera and *Space Hoaxes* with John Andrews. *The Singing Bowls* was the surprise program. It filled up so fast that a second program had to be added, which was then followed by a third when that one filled up!

Reference Department

Karen Kilpatrick has been doing lots of press release work, with the Friends book sale coming up on top of the library's regular programs. She has also been focused on Friends book sale preparatory work and distribution of promotional materials to all library locations in the system.

Cindy Knight put up an informational display on Hunterdon County's own Vera Farmiga, who was nominated for best supporting actress for her role in *Up in the Air*. Cindy and Linda Reynolds built an Academy Awards display around that idea, with biographical signs about the actress and interesting facts about the Oscars. Included in the display were Farmiga's other movies, classic Oscar-winning films, and a couple of dozen books which were made into movies. Many of the items were borrowed and patrons really enjoyed this display built around a local talent.

Youth Services Department

Storytimes for the Winter/Spring session are continuing with all time slots for all ages at all locations filled. Teen cafe at NCB held a *Mardi Gras Celebration* and a *Teen Writing Workshop*.

Polaris Upgrade

I would like to extend kudos to our library staff, the County IT Department, and Jennifer Winberry for our successful upgrade to Polaris 3.6. Under Jennifer's management, this project was completed on very short notice and in record time. We are now one of the first libraries in the country to be operating with this newest version of Polaris' automated system for our circulation, catalog, acquisitions, and many other functions.

National Library Week Happenings

HCL will be celebrating *National Library Week* April 11th through April 17th. *National Library Week* is a time set aside by the American Library Association to celebrate libraries and all they have to offer. Come in a check out our ever growing collection of the newest books, music CDs, DVDs and audio books, learn about our downloadable materials, use the Internet on one of the library's PCs or on your own laptop, search a database, ask a question or enjoy one of the many programs we have to offer. Patrons will be able to sign up to win a weekly prize at Headquarters, the North or South County Branches and the Bookmobile. Some of the exciting programs being offered this year include a *WDVR Variety Show* broadcast live from the Headquarters Library, Fred Miller, the Bill Noren Jazz Group, book signings and much, much more.

HCL's DVD Collection

DVDs Acquired in 2009₁:

	Titles		Items		Budgeted		Average Cost
Adult	874		4,022		\$78,785		\$19.59
Juvenile	530		3,161		\$50,775		\$16.06
Total	1,404		7,183		\$129,560		\$18.04

₁ Includes gifts. We will now be tracking the number of gifts for 2010.

Total Inventory of DVDs:

	Titles		Items
Adult	5,600		33,237
Juvenile	3,147		13,161
Total	8,747		46,398

Circulation of DVDs in 2009₂:

Adult			338,850
Juvenile			207,072
Total			545,922

₂ DVD circulation is 32.1% of HCL's total circulation.

Circulation Statistics

	Feb. 10	Jan. 10	% Change	Feb. 09	% Feb.	YTD 10	YTD 09	% YTD
Headquarters	52,788	55,124	-4.2%	52,299	0.9%	107,912	104,613	3.2%
North County	48,104	50,468	-4.7%	45,864	4.9%	98,572	95,254	3.5%
South County	10,495	9,196	14.1%	9,061	15.8%	19,691	18,595	5.9%
Bunnvale	3,550	3,546	0.1%	3,545	0.1%	7,096	7,357	-3.5%
Readington	6,252	6,568	-4.8%	6,711	-6.8%	12,820	14,222	-9.9%
Holland/Alexandria	4,399	4,523	-2.7%	4,473	-1.7%	8,922	9,266	-3.7%
Tewksbury	4,717	4,611	2.3%	4,627	1.9%	9,328	9,187	1.5%
Three Bridges	3,769	3,787	-0.5%	3,213	17.3%	7,556	6,308	19.8%
High Bridge	873	1,059	-17.6%	918	-4.9%	1,932	1,878	2.9%
Frenchtown	685	567	20.8%	711	-3.7%	1,252	1,345	-6.9%
Bookmobile	1,294	1,521	-14.9%	1,486	-12.9%	2,815	3,050	-7.7%
Total	136,926	140,970	-2.9%	132,908	3.0%	277,896	271,075	2.5%



