

“Libraries are the gateway to a better life for many immigrants.”

Dory Dickson, Co-founder and Director,
Migrant Worker Outreach & Haitian Migrant Worker Outreach

In communities across our country, it is often the librarians who organize English classes and conversation groups for newcomers. At the library, migrant workers and others can get assistance with resume writing, job searches, and learning computer skills. Story time is offered for preschoolers, plus arts & crafts and other activities for children and for adults. These activities can help people of all ages gain skills in a new language and make friends in a new place. Library staff help people find books and other materials for both leisure use and learning. They help immigrant families access resources which they might not otherwise even know existed. Some libraries have a bookmobile for outreach to farm workers and other groups.

On the following pages are three articles about Atlantic County Library, Hammonton Branch, excerpted from the journals we publish for free distribution to migrant workers.



At a migrant camp in Hammonton, New Jersey



Library, Hammonton, NJ – at the computer

Haitian Migrant Worker Journal

Also available in Haitian Creole

July 1, 2011 First Edition

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Workers, Welcome to New Jersey!

by Dory Dickson

When the buses and cars pulled away last August,
The migrant camps stood empty,
Wind blowing across the dirt yards,
Sunlight glaring down on hot roofs.

It was sad.
Everything looked empty.
Not even a whisper of your voices
Was left behind.

Every time I saw blueberries
In the grocery store,
Or at a fruit stand,
Or pictured in a magazine,

I thought of the heat,
Of people climbing down from the buses,
Wearily, at the end of the day,
Some a little dazed.

The winter passed,
Gallop and creep.
I was thinking about
The buses returning.

Now you're back,
Welcome! Welcome!
I am happy to see your faces.
I'm glad you're back!



Hammonton Branch Library Manager, Kitty Ostrum extends a warm welcome to seasonal farm workers. Here Junior Louis signs up to use one of the library computers.

Atlantic County Library

You do not need a library card to use the library or to sign up to use a computer. Summer library hours are Mon-Thur 9am-8pm and Fri-Sat 9am-5pm.

To obtain a library card, migrant workers can use a pay stub or an employee ID card, to show proof of temporary residency. You may also use any envelope that has been mailed to you at your New Jersey address this summer. Card holders may borrow books and movies from the library. Without a library card, anyone can still use the library to get on a computer, or to look at books and magazines. Atlantic County Library System has a reciprocity agreement with Burlington County Library System, so people living in either county may borrow books from most branch libraries once they get a card. Haitian Migrant Worker Outreach (HMWO) will return books to the library for

you, if you are at one of the camps Dory Dickson visits each week. Be sure to get a receipt from HMWO for any books you are having them return.

Library Branch Manager Kitty Ostrum says, "I'd like to see the migrant workers making more use of the library. We have a lot to offer. We have six computers now for public access and we will be getting more. We've had migrant workers who needed help setting up email and logging into existing accounts. We've helped people utilize FaceBook and MySpace and other social networking sites. Foreign language newspapers can also be accessed on line.

"The library system has a real emphasis on outreach, an emphasis on meeting the needs of all the people in our community, whether they live here year round or whether they work here as teachers or as migrant farm laborers. We're like a community center. We want to provide as much information and as many resources as possible to make people's lives easier. When communities change – services should reflect this change. All over New Jersey, library systems are serving increasing numbers of people whose primary language is not English."

The library offers special activities for children, including pre-schoolers. You do not need a card for your children to participate. You may pick up a

flier of children's activities at the library. The children's story time and library activities are especially helpful for pre-schoolers, to promote English language acquisition when English is not the primary language spoken at home.

Currently, the Atlantic County Library System has one book in Haitian Creole, an Oxford Picture Dictionary. They also have the Pimsleur Haitian Creole for English Speakers program on CDs. Kitty Ostrum reports that the library would be happy to accept donations of foreign language materials, including books, newspapers and magazines written in Haitian Creole. HMWO will be working with the library to write grant applications for the purchase of Haitian Creole books and materials, including bilingual materials in Haitian Creole and English. Please forward your suggestions for our purchase list to HMWO at P.O. Box 123, Medford, NJ 08055, or email your suggestions to:

Dory@HaitianMigrantWorkerOutreach.Org

You may also call Dory at 609-969-2480, or see her if you're at one of the camps she visits every week.

In closing, Kitty Ostrum tells us, "After working outside on a hot day, many library patrons like to just sit in the air conditioning and look at magazines."

We are sure our readers can appreciate that!

Welcome from NJ businesses

This year, Haitian Migrant Worker Outreach received donations of clothing, food, books and more, for distribution at migrant camps, from the following businesses, organizations and individuals:

United Methodist Church, Hammonton
 Calvary Lutheran Church, Medford
 Temple Emanuel, Cherry Hill
 Haitian Baptist Church, Willingboro
 Habitat for Humanity, Cinnaminson
 Swarthmore College Students, PA
 Swarthmore Public Library, PA
 Burlington County Library
 Pinelands Branch Library
 Cherry Hill Library
 TD Bank, Hammonton
 Wells Fargo Bank, Hammonton
 Sun Bank, Hammonton

Horizon Deli, Hammonton
 ShopRite, Hammonton
 ShopRite, Medford
 Wawa, Hammonton
 Napa Auto Parts, Hammonton
 Lynkris Hardware, Hammonton
 Penza Hardware, Hammonton
 Friends of HMWO, PA/NJ
 Kmart, Moorestown
 Walmart, Lumberton
 Walmart, Marlton
Walmart, Glenolden, PA

Migrant Teen Journal

Premiere Edition - Summer 2014

Distributed FREE at migrant camps in New Jersey

Come on down to the library!

By Donavon Dugard, (14) of NJ

Hey teens, if you're looking for a book to read this summer for school, or if you just want to chill with a Manga (Japanese comic book), come on down to the Atlantic County Library, Hammonton Branch. There is a vast assortment of Young Adult books that appeal to everyone; you'll find something to captivate your mind.

The library's collection for young adults includes the following great series: Vampire Diaries; Hunger Games; Gone; and (the much acclaimed) Beautiful Creatures! For those who are James Patterson fanatics, there are Witches and Wizards, Maximum Ride, and Daniel X. For the Manga lovers, there are many series to satisfy your tastes: Case Closed; Inuyasha; Black Butler; and Arata.

Librarian Rachel Simmons (pictured above), recommends these great titles: Full Metal Alchemist and Tsubasa. There are also some girl Manga titles: Otomen; Demon Love Spell; VB Rose; Skip Beat, and others. Best of all, you could read all these books at the library, where there is air conditioning on all summer. If you are not into books, you can use the computers there to check on your Instagram, FaceBook, or Twitter.

Editor's Note: You do not need to have a library card to sign up for a turn on one of the library computers. Seasonal workers (and their families) who do not live in NJ year-round, can get an Atlantic County Library, Hammonton Branch card by showing a current pay stub from a local employer.

Our mission statement

The mission of Migrant Worker Outreach is to welcome migrant workers and their families to New Jersey. We publish the Migrant Teen Journal to provide informative and entertaining reading, and to serve as a platform for young voices, particularly from Haitian American communities in the United States. Membership in Migrant Teen Journal is open to those ages 12 to 21 who travel with their families to perform seasonal work, and those in the same age group who live year-round in New Jersey, or in other states. For Migrant Teen Journal membership information, see Announcements.



Donavon Dugard, (14) of NJ, with Librarian Rachel Simmons



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All are welcome at Atlantic County Library in Hammonton

by Autumn Vasquez



(L-R) Autumn Vasquez and Librarian Rachel Simmons



If you are without a library card do not worry! You don't need a card to sign up to use one of the library's computers. But you will need a library card if you want to check out books to take with you. Librarian Rachel Simmons explains, "If you are in New Jersey as a migrant farm worker, bring one of your recent pay stubs to the library, along with other identification, and you can get a library card."

The library is open on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from nine a.m. till five p.m. and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from nine a.m. till eight p.m.. If you get off work early, due to the heat, come enjoy the air conditioning in the library. If there is rain and the blueberries are too wet to pick, come visit the library. All are welcome! The Hammonton library is located on Egg Harbor Road. For the exact location of the library, see the map on the back cover.

Simmons is the librarian in charge of the youth collection at Atlantic County Hammonton Library. When Simmons was in college she was reading novels by Stephen King and by JRR Tolkien, who wrote *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. She also enjoyed the CS Lewis series. "Books these days are more politically correct, multicultural, and more accepting towards the LGBTQ community," says Simmons. "I recommend the novels *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* which feature strong female characters."

Simmons brought up the author S.C. Hinton, who wrote the novel *Rumble Fish*, and other stories about teens who were outsiders. Hinton's publisher suggested that she use only initials in place of her first name to conceal her gender from readers of her first book. The publisher felt that since it was a story about boys, it might be better received if the readers assumed it was written by a man.

The library has different new programs from time to

time. They have craft nights and book discussion groups. Simmons confides, "I hope to get funding for more young adult activities which would include things like refreshments, games, drawing, crafting programs, and more!"

Simmons reports that the library's wide collection of manga books is very popular with young adults. Their collection includes graphic novels such as, *Naruto*, *Tokyo Pop*, *Skip Beat*, *Bleach*, *Fullmetal Alchemist*, *Blue Exorcist*, and *Ouran High School Host Club*. This section is in front of the children's room.

You can find popular novels such as *The Hunger Games*, *Allegiance*, and *Uglies*. Being a fan of the genre myself, I ask Simmons what she recommends. She suggests *Skip Beat*, a story which revolves around younger people in the entertainment industry who face revenge, have dreams, develop friendships, and in the process discover themselves. Another popular book series is *My Love Story*; these romantic novels focus on teenagers who are in high school. Simmons also recommends the *Tokyo Ghoul* series by Sui Ishida. This series is about ghouls who take on human form and who committ murders in their hunger for human flesh.

You might try checking out *Otaku USA*, a magazine that reviews anything within the anime/manga genre. Located on the periodical shelf, you may also find graphic novels by DC Comics and Marvel. At the library, you are welcome to watch DVD's including *Dragon Ball-Z*, *Hetalia Axis Powers*, *Attack on Titan*, and more!

The library is a wonderful place for teens, and for people of any age, to discover new things and pursue their interests, whether on the computer or by reading books, newspapers and magazines, or even by watching DVD's!

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**Autumn Vasquez, who interviewed Simmons for this piece, is a 2016 graduate of Hammonton High School. She will be attending Atlantic Cape Community College in the fall and is preparing for a career in event planning. This summer she is working at StoryBook Land and volunteering with Migrant Worker Outreach.*