

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Newark Public Library's Head of Reference Leslie Kahn
Named 2013 Librarian of the Year
by New Jersey Library Association



Leslie Kahn, head of reference services at the Newark Public Library and a part time librarian at the Plainfield campus of Union County College was honored as the New Jersey Library Association's 2013 Librarian of the Year at the association's recent annual conference held in Atlantic City. The award was created to recognize exemplary recent achievement by a working New Jersey Librarian making a significant contribution at any level of librarianship. The Librarian of the Year serves as a role model, enhancing the image of librarianship and advancing the positive visibility of libraries to the community.

A graduate of Douglass College of Rutgers University, Ms. Kahn received her Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Michigan. In accepting the award, she acknowledged her colleagues, the support of the institutions employing her, and all her teachers.

"We are so proud of Leslie and thrilled that she has been recognized by the New Jersey Library Association for her dedication to librarianship. She is the quintessential reference librarian: an avid searcher and researcher with the highest regard for our customers," said Wilma Grey, Director of The Newark Public Library.

Leslie Kahn has served many years as The Newark Public Library's head of reference. She is also the project director for a robust schedule of grant funded computer classes in the Newark Public Library's technology training center. She coordinates the contract with the New Jersey State Library to provide supplementary reference assistance to all libraries throughout the state. Additionally, she is an active participant in the New Jersey Library Association and has presided over several committees. Ms. Kahn is a frequent program presenter at professional conferences.

Having worked at The Newark Public Library since 1981, Ms. Kahn appreciates changes in library services: "When I first entered the field, librarians helped people to find sources of

information; now, we more actively locate information itself for our people communicating with us in person and by telephone, text, email, and social media. We are happy to empower the public with guidelines to finding whatever they need or want, and we are also glad to do the searching for them.”

Union County College Plainfield Campus Librarian Elsa Bruguier remarked, “Leslie Kahn’s classes in how best to use the library are popular, because she meets students where they are and understands their information seeking behaviors.”

A firm believer in Reference as an evolving program uniquely valuable to all citizens in a democracy, Ms. Kahn encourages everyone to take advantage of all the services in 21st century libraries.

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