

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC
Shirley Holly, President
Love, Loyalty, Friendship – The Bonds of Volunteerism

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Are you looking for a club program? Have you thought about what might be in your own backyard? A 3 April 2022 article in the *Home News Tribune*, "READ THIS," highlighted some of the history, architecture and books held in ten of New Jersey's libraries.

- The Flemington Free Public Library, dating back to 1799, had no permanent home for 77 years until wealthy farmer Hiram Deats donated land and Dr. William Bartles donated funds for construction. Deats stipulated that the building couldn't block his office view. The view remains unobstructed to this day.
- The Johnson Free Public Library in Hackensack was one of the first public libraries to designate a room for children.
- The Library Company of Burlington houses books older than its charter, one in Latin dating back to 1521. William Franklin, son of Benjamin, was the first to borrow a book.
- The New Brunswick Free Public Library received \$50,000 from Andrew Carnegie to build a library under the condition that the city would pay to maintain the building, controversial at the time.
- A portion of "The Amityville Horror" was filmed in Toms River's original library, the Bishop building.
- The Weehawken Public Library, home of brewer Wilhelm Peter who had immigrated from Germany, was built to look like a German castle. It was one of the few buildings saved from destruction when the Lincoln Tunnel was being built.

Take notice of buildings you pass by every day in your community – libraries, churches, meeting halls. Find out if someone is available to give a presentation on site or at a club meeting about their history, artifacts, or architecture. Yes, you may be surprised at what is in your own backyard.