

Put your culture on display at the library

When you enter the library and immediately look at the first aisle on your right, there is a sign telling you what we are celebrating this particular month. Next to the sign is a showcase of books related to that celebration. Each month of the year is designated to different occasions. With up to 50 choices sometimes, I try to select an occasion that presents a broad appeal to the community and also back it by a good choice of recent books to display.

This month I have decided to highlight Haitian heritage. New Jersey has the fourth-largest Haitian population in the country, with more than 60,000 New Jersey residents born in Haiti or of Haitian

LIBRARY MATTERS

BY LANA PEKER

ancestry. Most of them live in Essex and Union counties. West Orange's Haitian community is steadily growing as well. School district data shows that, for students whose first language is not English, the Haitian language is the second most popular language spoken at home after Spanish.

So, as I always do, I picked out some current books on the topic and put a colorful sign next to them. And then something wonderful happened. Seeing that we are

celebrating his heritage, one of our library staff members got very excited and offered to bring his own books from home.

I gladly accepted his offer and it also made me think of something. West Orange is certainly known for its diversity. In fact, last year Mt. Pleasant Elementary School in West Orange was named by Public School Review as one of the top 10 most diverse schools in the state. With so much ethnic variety and cultures present in-town, I'm sure many West Orange residents would love the opportunity to share their collection of items showcasing their heritage.

We decided to put the books offered by See **SHARE**, Page 14

for more news and photos.

EssexNewsDaily.com



PLEASE RECYCLE

©Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc.
2017 All Rights Reserved

Articles, pictures and advertisements herein are the exclusive property of Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. and any republication or broadcast without written permission is prohibited.