

September/October 2023

american libraries

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

2023 LIBRARY DESIGN showcase

**New Tactics to
Fight Book Bans**
p. 28

NEWSMAKER:
Rick Riordan p. 18

PLUS: Peace Collections, Antiques
Appraisals, Gravestone Recipes

p. 20

CELEBRATE BANNED BOOKS WEEK

OCTOBER 1-7, 2023

It's never been more important to show your support for the freedom to read! Use these materials to create vibrant displays, show your support, and ignite discussions. Learn more at ala.org/bbooks.



Let Freedom Read Poster



Let Freedom Read Bookmark



Let Freedom Read Multilingual Bookmark



Field Report 2022



Most Challenged Books of 2022 Bookmark



Let Freedom Read Stickers



Let Freedom Read Buttons



Let Freedom Read Bracelets



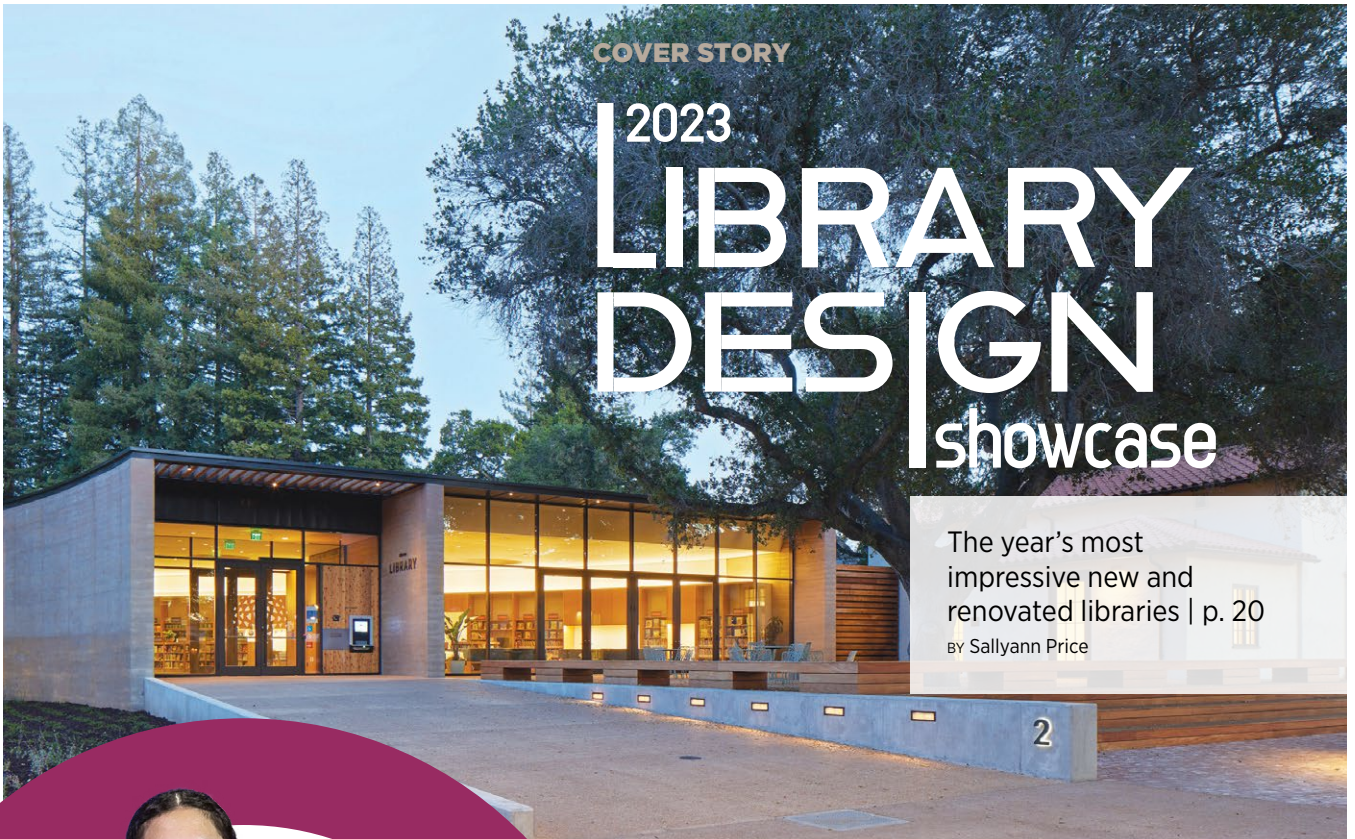
Let Freedom Read Library Card Art

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Honoring excellence and leadership in the profession

ON THE COVER: Middle Country Public Library in Centereach, New York.
Photo: Jeffrey Totaro

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What recipe would be on your gravestone?



Climate and Culture



Sanhita SinhaRoy

Many of the dozen buildings featured in our annual Library Design Showcase (cover story, p. 20) demonstrate a respect for architectural history and a special skill in adapting spaces to people, programming, and the environment. At Frisco (Tex.) Public Library, for example, the factory-turned-library's landscaping includes native plants and bioswales. As more communities grapple with the reality of climate change, these 12 libraries show that their sights are set on the future.

But the present, as always, has its own urgent demands. Banned Books Week takes place October 1–7, though the focus on protecting banned and challenged books has been a nonstop effort these past few years. In “How We Fight Back” (p. 28), Christina Sterbenz talks with people who have found ways to counter challenges and threats—and come out stronger. As she reports, “Library workers are finding new ways to protect themselves, the books they care so much about, and intellectual freedom in their communities.” The story makes clear: Much of the fight starts at the local level.

Among those featured in Sterbenz’s piece is Amanda Jones, who, along with more than 200 individuals and institutions, received one of ALA’s 2023 awards. Turn to our feature (p. 34) to read about those who were recently recognized for their service to librarianship and patrons.

If my 10-year-old son could give an award, it would go to bestselling author Rick Riordan, our Newsmaker this issue (p. 18). Best known for the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, Riordan spoke with Associate Editor Megan Bennett about his latest projects, what book bans say about our society, and the importance of school libraries.

Bennett was busy, reporting on two other stories this issue: “Keep the Peace” (p. 12), in time for International Day of Peace on September 21, and “Recipe in Peace” (Bookend, p. 48), in time for Halloween. Check out our team’s masthead answers at left for a selection of dearly departed dishes—perhaps an indication that an office potluck may be in order.

Sanhita

Efforts to protect banned and challenged books have been nonstop these past few years, and library workers are finding new ways to fight back.

A Welcoming Space

Celebrating the strength and transformative power of libraries



Emily Drabinski

The programming and resources we offer our communities may be different, but we all offer space, welcoming our communities to join us.

For me, the best part of any library visit is entering through the front door.

Whether it's marveling at the dome inside Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque, Iowa, the vibrant entrepreneurship lab at University of Rhode Island in Kingston, or the bright carpets and colorful student art at P.S. 128 in Manhattan, those first few moments through the door always call home the magic that happens inside our buildings.

We circulate bicycle repair kits in Cascade, Idaho; publish local history in Quezon City, Philippines; and host tango nights in New York City. The programming and resources we offer our communities may be different, but we all offer space, welcoming our communities to join us.

The Library Design Showcase in this issue celebrates some of the best of these library spaces (p. 20). The ALA/AIA Library Building Awards (p. 26) honor distinguished accomplishments in library architecture, and next year's ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Awards will highlight the best indoor spaces of the past two years.

As someone who has worked in libraries that looked like castles (Jefferson Market branch of New York Public Library), modernist triangles (Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York), and old department stores (Graduate Center of City University of New York), I am excited to feast my eyes on this year's selection.

Wendy Tressler, president of ALA's Core division, shared with me the history of these prizes. In 1957, the awards were transferred from ALA to its new Library Administration Division. After several name changes spanning over 60 years, in 2020, the Library Leadership and Management Association merged with two other ALA divisions—Association for Library Collections and Technical Services and Library Information Technology Association—to become Core. At the end of October, Core will celebrate its second in-person forum, in New Orleans. I attended last

year and encourage everyone who can to make the trip—you will learn so much about the systems and structures that make libraries go.

This history also reminds us that ALA, just like our libraries and communities, is always changing. Last spring, members affirmed a revised set of bylaws in a process shepherded by ALA Past President Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada. The Executive Board and Council, alongside ALA's committed staff members, are implementing those changes now. They are intended to make our governance structures more accessible and the Association more nimble, so that we can better respond to challenges as they emerge.

As library workers face pressing challenges related to climate change, funding, intellectual freedom, and, yes, the perennial need for more and better buildings and interiors, a stronger ALA is as important as ever.

In July 2022, I had the honor of visiting with Cheryl Heid, director of Grimes (Iowa) Public Library (GPL). ALA Executive Board member Sam Helmick and I donned hard hats and walked through the bones of a new building that quadruples the size of the library, with a sensory room, multiple meeting rooms that can be reserved after library hours, and a drive-through circulation window. Its roof is shaped like an open book that beckons from the highway. Heid told us about the dozens of conversations she had with patrons, community members, civic leaders, and government officials over the years to garner support for the new library. Just as much as it's being built nail by nail, GPL is also built handshake by handshake, phone call by phone call.

And that's how we'll build the power of the American Library Association too. **AL**

EMILY DRABINSKI is associate professor at Queens (N.Y.) College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.

The Good Fight

Lessons from health care in the battle against the censorship pandemic



Tracie D. Hall

Our very work and mission—which are built on the constitutional bedrocks of individual agency and intellectual freedom—have become embattled.

A year and a half into the COVID-19 crisis, Rajat Khosla, then–senior director of research, advocacy, and policy for Amnesty International, stated: “In the midst of a pandemic, journalists and health professionals have been silenced and imprisoned.... Approximately 5 million people have lost their lives to COVID-19, and lack of information will have likely been a contributory factor.”

By February 2020, a month before the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, more than 5,500 criminal investigations had been opened in China against health care professionals and journalists accused of “fabricating and deliberately disseminating false and harmful information” about the novel coronavirus. Many were detained and charged with causing fear and hysteria, according to Amnesty. As Khosla attested: “Throughout the pandemic, governments have launched an unprecedented attack on freedom of expression, severely curtailing peoples’ rights.”

Early on, US health care workers also found themselves restricted in speaking out about COVID-19 treatment and mitigation. Articles of the period describe the sector as being *muzzled* or *trapped* by the tension between the awareness-building necessary to perform their professional duties and the increasing politicization of disease control.

Library workers and ALA itself are caught in a similar situation. Our very work and mission—“to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all,” built on the constitutional bedrocks of individual agency and intellectual freedom—have become embattled.

We must understand this divisive and volatile era of book censorship as a long-tail effect of the same sentiments that denounced science as threatening to the status quo and sought to suppress public health information. How did the

health care sector go from being scapegoated, bullied, and silenced at the start of the pandemic to being deservedly heralded as heroes at its apex?

My last column looked at K–12 education, where intentional efforts to upskill and racially diversify teaching ranks proved prescient as teachers were forced to shift to remote instruction literally overnight. Schools where educators had a deeper understanding of the cultural contexts and lived experiences of their students were able to ensure better educational outcomes.

Nursing offers further lessons on how to not only weather the current culture war but come out stronger. In 2021, California-based nonprofit HealthImpact assessed the pandemic’s effects on the state’s nursing workforce and outlined a six-point strategy to advance health care and address health disparities that included exposing K–12 and second-career seekers to nursing; expanding and advancing nursing education; and increasing nurse retention and well-being.

This strategy has been adopted nationally and used to educate legislators and administrators. Despite the battle it faced at the beginning of the pandemic, the nursing field has resisted attempts to deprofessionalize, devalue, and de-diversify its work and workforce. Rather, it has used the challenges faced to widen workforce pipelines, broaden racial and ethnolinguistic representation, upskill workers, and increase their compensation.

Though still navigating occupational stress and turnover, nurses are better paid, more skilled, and arguably more highly regarded than ever before. Rather than retreat or change courses, the field held to its mission of advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public.

Let us as library workers remain similarly anchored in the good fight for information access. **AL**

TRACIE D. HALL is executive director of the American Library Association. Reach her at thall@ala.org.

This was such a great session! And pretty amazing hearing Idina Menzel sing the song from their book!

@JHMBIZLIBRARIAN
in response to "Finding Your Own Voice"
(The Scoop, June 24)

Great #alaac23 session write-up; much to consider!

@BECALZADA in response to "Rethinking Everything"
(The Scoop, June 25)

This is FANTASTIC.

DEBORAH ROSE
in response to "Fresh Ideas" (June, p. 16)

Diving Deeper on Diversity
American Libraries' June issue contained several articles addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in our library collections. While this is an easy place to address DEI in our libraries, it's not the most significant work we should be conducting.

DEI becomes most meaningful when it is a daily practice. This means beginning with an understanding of what DEI looks like, identifying biases and stereotypes that exist in our library's ecosystem, and then developing policies and practices that align with our vision and mission—including a diversity statement. Our library services should exist to protect all patrons' rights to access information, privacy, and safety rather than providing a comfortable workplace for librarians.

Diversity audits reveal which representations are lacking in our collections. How do libraries proceed with the qualitative data that they generate? Are audits also done to document the representation on their staffs? Are community members brought in to conduct audits to identify inaccessible areas or services, or where language needs are being ignored? Are events or displays uninviting or inclusive? Are the same white people repeatedly invited to provide professional development?

My work for the past 17 years has addressed representation in



books for youth, and we irrefutably need to build collections that allow young readers to explore perspectives and ways of being that historically haven't existed in our libraries. But the environment that we place those books in will speak volumes to our users.

I know this work isn't easy; I work in a library myself! If we're disrupting systems that have existed for years—if not decades—in our libraries, it's going to be uncomfortable. Change is never easy. Stopping, or even starting, with what's on the shelf is not enough.

Edith Campbell
Terre Haute, Indiana

Getting the Scoop

I wasn't lucky enough to attend ALA's Annual Conference, but AL's Daily Scoop emails are such a gift. I have a sense of the excitement in the crowd, am awed (as always) by what librarians do, and now have a laundry list of new books I want to read!

Denise Neary
Rockville, Maryland

Remembering Your 'Why'

This is for the library workers who are starting to ask themselves, "why bother?" Why bother putting so much effort and time into creating educational and fun programming when no one shows up? Why bother spending so much money on databases and expensive ebooks for just a few hits? Why bother dealing with a boss who doesn't acknowledge your hard work? It's a fair question and one that many of us have contemplated lately.

Burnout has become a popular topic over the last few years, but we librarians have always had to deal with a level of frustration and disappointment in our jobs. We are notoriously underfunded, and many of us wear too many hats. We aren't just librarians anymore—we're also social workers, teachers, and more and more frequently, defenders of our profession and existence.

So how do we stay motivated when it seems like we're working hard for nothing? I wish I had the definitive answer. When I asked

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this question on the ALA Connect discussion board, the most common answer was to remember your “why.” Remember why you became a librarian. Remember the moment it really clicked that this is what you love. That’s your motivation. Keep creating programs. Rally for more affordable resources. Leave a terrible boss if you must, but don’t leave the profession. None of the challenges of our profession will go away without people who really love being a librarian. This isn’t just a job for us. It’s our passion. It’s who we are.

Christine Rinaldi
Southington, Connecticut

Misguided Ruling

The *Hachette v. Internet Archive* decision in March is a low point in the battle over the most critical part of the library mission: providing nondiscriminatory, open, modern, and efficient access to materials for library patrons. In fact, it’s a blow to all nonprofit educational institutions with a mission to foster access. The court’s flawed analysis has the potential for grave effects on access-based missions in an increasingly license-mandated world.

Through the Copyright Act, Congress empowered libraries to fulfill their vital societal function by allowing access to their purchased materials. These laws are designed to protect the library mission from the pitfalls of traditional market economics, because libraries—unlike any other entity—have a specific mandate to cultivate and share information. These laws allow libraries to buy a book one time

and loan it to their community of readers. Nowhere in the law is there a requirement that libraries must keep repeatedly paying for that book. However, the court erroneously held that the market—comprising expensive, limited, non-negotiated, and highly profitable ebook licenses—is the default norm in which libraries are forced to participate.

The court is wrong. Under this flawed analysis, books that libraries have already purchased are unnecessarily restricted from modern lending systems like controlled digital lending (CDL). This decision places the library mission at the whim of corporate interests. The Internet Archive, like hundreds of US libraries, is a nonprofit institution. The public’s needs define its mission. By contrast, publishers are for-profit companies that answer to stockholders and corporate boards. Commercial entities should not be able to dictate how and when publicly oriented institutions like libraries can lend their purchased collections. Library collections are intended to be immune from market forces, not subject to them. Libraries should not have to rent (and re-rent) ebook licenses to provide digital access to physical books they have already purchased.

I look forward to the appeal. When publishers sued libraries over reasonable e-reserves policies, resulting in a 12-year-long litigation, we did not stop using e-reserves. In the same way, CDL will continue unfettered. The appellate courts and Congress have supported the library mission and will do so again.

Kyle K. Courtney
Cambridge, Massachusetts

What You’re Reading

1 Newsmaker: Ken Jennings The *Jeopardy!* star and host talks libraries and fictional afterlives. bit.ly/AL-Jennings

2 Fresh Ideas Community fridges give libraries a tool for fighting food insecurity. bit.ly/AL-Fresh

3 2023 Library Systems Report Marshall Breeding’s annual review of developments in the library tech industry. bit.ly/23-LSR

In Case You Missed It

2023 Annual Conference See what authors like Judy Blume, Rick Riordan, and Amanda Gorman had to say to librarians, and read our coverage of more than 40 sessions. bit.ly/AL-ALA23



The Colorful World of Comics

Episode 85 of the *Call Number* podcast features interviews with graphic novelists and librarians working to promote and preserve their work. bit.ly/AL-CallNumber85



2023 International Innovators

The ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects recognized outstanding projects from Taiwan and South Korea. bit.ly/AL-Intl23

Coming Soon

Special coverage of **Banned Books Week**, to be held October 1–7.

Our ninth annual **Holiday Gift Guide for Librarians and Book Lovers**.

Open Letter from Former President Obama Shows Support for Librarians

Former President Barack Obama published an open letter July 17 in support of US librarians in an era of increasingly frequent book challenges and politically motivated, highly personal attacks against those who resist them. His letter, in part, is as follows:

“Today, some of the books that shaped my life—and the lives of so many others—are being challenged by people who disagree with certain ideas or perspectives. It’s no coincidence that these ‘banned books’ are often written by or feature people of color, Indigenous people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community—though there have also been unfortunate instances in which books by conservative authors or books containing ‘triggering’ words or scenes have been targets for removal. Either way, the impulse seems to be to silence, rather than engage, rebut, learn from, or seek to understand views that don’t fit our own.

“I believe such an approach is profoundly misguided, and contrary to what has made this country great. As I’ve said before, not only is it important for young people from all walks of life to see themselves represented in the pages of books, but it’s also important for all of us to engage with different ideas and points of view.

“Nobody understands that more than you, our nation’s librarians. In a very real sense, you’re on the front lines—fighting every day to make the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas available to everyone. Your dedication and professional expertise allow us to freely read and consider information and ideas and decide for ourselves which ones we agree with.

“That’s why I want to take a moment to thank all of you for the work you do every day—work that is helping us understand each other and embrace our shared humanity.”

To read the full letter, visit bit.ly/AL-BOletter. ●

Nominations Open for I Love My Librarian Award

Nominations are open until September 30 for the 2024 I Love My Librarian Award. The award recognizes the outstanding public service contributions of librarians working in college, community college, university, public, and school libraries.

Ten librarians will each receive \$5,000 and be honored at the I Love My Librarian Award ceremony at the 2024 LibLearnX conference in Baltimore. Winners will also receive free full conference registration.

For more information, including instructions for nominations and full eligibility criteria, visit bit.ly/ILML2024.

ALA Seeks Nominees for Spring 2024 Ballot

ALA’s Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the offices of 2025–2026

ALA president and 2024–2027 councilor at large. Nominees will appear on the spring 2024 ballot.

The committee will select no fewer than 18 candidates for the 12 at-large ALA Council seats. The 2025–2026 president will also serve as 2024–2025 ALA president-elect.

Nominations and forms must be received by September 30. Candidates will be notified of their application status after the nomination period closes. Members who do not complete a nomination form or do not get selected may petition to run for office starting October 1.

For more information, visit bit.ly/ALA-PEC24.

Apply for Thinking Money for Kids Program Kits

Libraries are invited to apply for a Thinking Money for Kids Program Kit, a collection of resources to help public

libraries offer financial education for children ages 3–12.

The kits are an initiative of ALA’s Public Programs Office and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority’s Investor Education Foundation. They are designed by educational media specialists and vetted by children’s librarians and financial literacy experts. Each kit has an estimated value of \$2,000 and includes materials, tablets, program instructions, and more. Libraries will be able to keep their kits’ contents after the grant period is completed.

Approximately 200 public libraries, including tribal and state libraries, will be selected to receive a kit. The deadline to apply is September 8, and the programming period will run from September 2024 to December 2025.

For more information, including project guidelines, visit bit.ly/ALA-FINRAKits.

ALA Responds to Montana State Library Commission

On July 13, the ALA Executive Board issued a statement in response to the Montana State Library Commission's (MSLC) 5-1-1 decision to discontinue the Montana State Library's ALA membership because, as one commission member said at MSLC's July 11 meeting, the state library is forbidden to associate "with an organization led by a Marxist." ALA's response reads, in part:

"Through ALA membership, the Montana State Library has been able to join resourceful ALA divisions—such as the Public Library Association, Core, and United for Libraries—to get information specific to public libraries and library leadership. Joining these specialized groups is a benefit of ALA membership and provides tools, resources, and community specific to that type of library or role within the library.

"In the last two years, ALA has awarded more than \$218,000 to 23 Montana libraries via program grants ranging from \$6,000 for Digital Literacy Training Workshops to \$35,000 from ALA's COVID Library Relief Fund. Most recently, ALA announced a \$10,000 grant to a Montana tribal college library. For its services to the broader public, ALA has received numerous awards and recognition. This fall, ALA is slated to receive one of the nation's highest recognitions for its work in adult literacy, an area that the Montana Library Commission members cited as an area of priority during the July 11 hearing.

"Despite the decision in Montana this week, ALA remains committed to providing essential support, resources, and opportunities for every library and library worker in every state and territory across the nation to help them better serve their communities."

For ALA's full statement, visit bit.ly/ALA-MontState. The Montana Library Association's response to the decision is available at bit.ly/MLA-MSLCState. ●

Applications Open for 2024 Emerging Leaders

Applications are open for the 2024 class of ALA's Emerging Leaders program.

The program is designed to allow newer library workers across the US and Canada to participate in problem-solving workgroups, network with peers, and serve the profession in a leadership capacity. Participants are also encouraged to volunteer at ALA and other professional library-related organizations.

The deadline to apply is September 9. For more information, visit bit.ly/ALA-EL24.

New E-Rate Initiative Proposed

Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced on June 24 that she is proposing a new measure to modernize E-Rate funding rules.

The initiative, Learn Without Limits, would allow E-Rate program funds to be used to purchase Wi-Fi hotspots that could be loaned by school and public libraries for home use. It would also support the installation of Wi-Fi on school buses.

Additionally, on June 26, the Biden-Harris administration announced state

CALENDAR

SEPT.

Library Card Sign-Up Month

ala.org/librarycardsignup

SEPT. 20-23

ARSL Conference

Wichita, Kansas

arsl.org/2023-conference

OCT.

TeenTober

ala.org/yalsa/teentober

OCT. 1-7

Banned Books Week

bannedbooksweek.org

OCT. 4

Banned Websites

Awareness Day

ala.org/aasl/advocacy/bwad

OCT. 15-21

National Friends of Libraries Week

bit.ly/ALA-NFLW

OCT. 19-21

AASL National Conference

Tampa, Florida

bit.ly/AASL-NC23

OCT. 19-21

Core Forum

New Orleans

coreforum.org

OCT. 23-29

Open Access Week

openaccessweek.org

NOV. 10-12

YALSA's Young Adult Services Symposium

St. Louis

ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium

JAN. 19-22, 2024

2024 LibLearnX

Baltimore

alaliblearnx.org

APR. 2024

School Library Month

ala.org/aasl/advocacy/slm

APR. 3-5, 2024

PLA 2024 Conference

Columbus, Ohio

placonference.org

APR. 7-13, 2024

National Library Week

bit.ly/ALA-NLW

UPDATE

allocations for a \$42.5 billion high-speed internet grant program as part of its Investing in America Agenda. The program will ensure access to gigabit broadband service for libraries and other community institutions, a provision ALA has advocated for.

For more information, visit bit.ly/ALA-LWL.

Great Stories Club Grant Recipients Announced

On June 21, ALA announced it had selected 29 US libraries to receive grants for its new Great Stories Club (GSC) series, *Imagining Tomorrow: Building Inclusive Futures*. The series features science fiction books that explore questions of equity and identity, as well as alternate futures.

The selected libraries represent public, school, tribal, and special libraries that reach underserved and at-risk teens.

In many cases, the library will work with a partner organization, such as a juvenile justice facility, alternative high school, or shelter that serves unhoused young adults.

Grantees will receive books and host book discussions with groups of approximately 10 teens. They will also receive a \$500 programming stipend, online training, and resources and support throughout the grant term.

ALA's GSC has helped libraries engage young adults with literature since 2006. For more information, including the full list of grantees, visit bit.ly/ALA-GSC23.

Apply to Join ALA's Philanthropic Advisory Group

ALA members are invited to apply to join ALA's Philanthropic Advisory Group, which advises the ALA Executive Board on philanthropic projects and activities. All

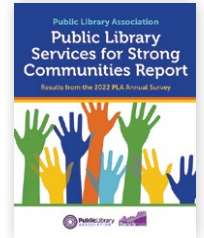
terms are for three years, with no advisor serving more than two consecutive terms.

The deadline to apply is September 29. For more information, including responsibilities and eligibility criteria, visit bit.ly/ALA-PAGApp.

PLA Releases Public Library Services Report

On June 21, the Public Library Association published the *Public Library Services for Strong Communities Report*. It covers a survey conducted in fall 2022 that explored different types of public library programs and services, partnerships with other organizations, and the state of library facilities.

The survey found that 99% of libraries have summer reading programs for



Congratulations to the Winners of the 2022 ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Awards

This biennial competition recognizes excellence in library interior design and promotes examples of extraordinary design reflected through innovative concepts in nine categories.

AECOM
Western Reserve Historical Society Research Library

Design Action
Waterway Library

Diamond Schmitt
North York Central Library Interior

Integrus Architecture
The Hive

Kennedy & Violich Architecture
Hayden Library

Mecanoo in collaboration with Beyer Blinder Belle
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL)

Quinn Evans
Fairfield Area Library

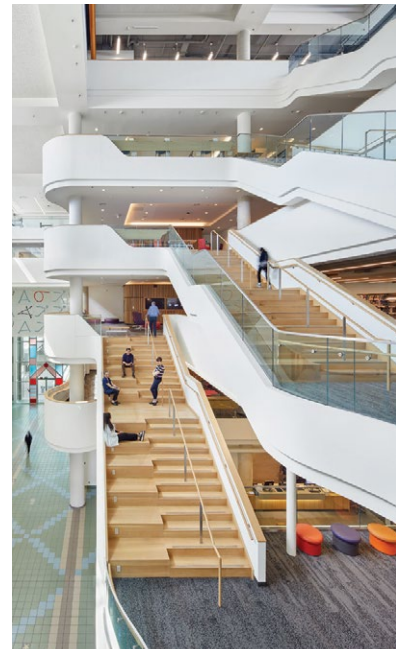
RDH Architects
Idea Exchange Old Post Office

Shepley Bulfinch
Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Utile, Inc
Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library



Visit the Winner's gallery and learn more here



Best of Competition 2022 ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Awards, North York Central Library Interior Renovation by Diamond Schmitt. Photo by: Lisa Logan Photography and Tom Alban Photography.

Submissions for the 2024 ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Awards opens January 24, 2024.

IIDA

For more information, visit iida.org/competitions

ALA American Library Association

ALA Reaffirms Freedom to Read Statement

On June 25, ALA and the Association of American Publishers (AAP) called on their stakeholders to affirm their commitment to the Freedom to Read Statement in the wake of threats to intellectual freedom. First published on June 25, 1953, the statement is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

ALA and AAP were joined by other organizations, including the Authors Guild (AG) and American Booksellers Association (ABA), in this call to action. The following is a joint statement, in part, from ALA Executive Director Tracie D. Hall; Allison K. Hill, CEO of ABA; Maria A. Pallante, president and CEO of AAP; and Mary Rasenberger, CEO of AG:

“Seventy years ago, fear, suspicion, and suppression fueled by McCarthyism was at a fever pitch—a serious situation that required a robust and vigorous affirmation of intellectual freedom and the constitutional protections that protect it. Today, as we grapple with a new wave of censorship in schools, libraries, and bookstores targeting a wide range of expression, including fiction and nonfiction, the Freedom to Read Statement remains an important defense of the freedom to write, publish, and inquire.”

For more information, including the full text of the Freedom to Read Statement and a list of signatories, visit bit.ly/FTRFMain. ●

children, teens, and adults; 78% of libraries offer job and career services; 68% of public libraries offer elections services; and 50% of libraries have special designations for emergencies, such

as serving as cooling or warming centers in extreme temperatures.

The survey is the third in a rotating series that examines the role of public libraries, their services, and their

resources and provides actionable data for decision making and advocacy.

For more information, including additional key findings in the report, visit bit.ly/PLA-PLSSCR23. AL

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SCAN ME

TRENDS



World War I-era peace pins housed at the Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford (Calif.) University. The pins belonged to pacifist and feminist activist Alice Park.

a nonviolent world. As all those who work with these collections can attest, the need for greater understanding of these materials and their history is especially valuable in the face of modern-day civil unrest and geopolitical conflict.

“How different things happened over time isn’t because of the great benevolence of US presidents or world leaders,” Mattson says. “It’s because they are pressured by people who make sacrifices, demands, and organize.”

‘A 360-degree view’

For more than a century, Stanford (Calif.) University has housed the Hoover Institution Library and Archives (HILA), a series of collections focused on the study of war, revolution, and peace.

Before he became president, Herbert Hoover—a Quaker and Stanford alumnus—established HILA in 1919 to preserve his archives on World War I and acquire others. During the war, Hoover spearheaded humanitarian efforts from London and the US. “He strongly believed if people studied this material, they wouldn’t be so quick to start more wars,” says Samira Bozorgi, HILA’s senior manager for engagement and outreach.

With more than 1 million volumes and 6,500 collections, HILA has evolved into a global collection with materials from the 19th century to present day. According

Keep the Peace

Special library collections highlight worldwide peace efforts

BY Megan Bennett

On a winter Chicago afternoon, near the end of her life, renowned social worker and activist Jane Addams started to burn her personal papers in her fireplace.

Lucy Biddle Lewis, a fellow peace activist, walked in on this happening. Lewis told her contemporaries that she saw Addams and begged her to stop because scholars could learn from her life and work. There’s no record of when this interaction took place, but in 1930, Addams began donating her materials to Swarthmore (Pa.) College, where Lewis was on the board of managers.

Addams’s donation was the start of what’s now known as

the Swarthmore Peace Collection, which has grown to nearly 4,000 collections of various sizes, including books, audiovisual materials, and other ephemera from peace activists and movements, mostly from the 20th century.

“It was a brutal century,” says Rachel Jurinich Mattson, former collection curator and director of Swarthmore College Library Special Collections. “Peace and social justice [efforts] were at the core of it and sometimes get ignored in the storytelling.”

Swarthmore is one of several institutions in the US that house peace-related collections—either historical archives or special libraries focused on cultivating

“Peace and social justice [efforts] were at the core of [the 20th century] and sometimes get ignored in the storytelling.”

RACHEL JURINICH MATTSON, former curator of Swarthmore Peace Collection

to Bozorgi, visitors come from a variety of disciplines that fall under pacifism and war studies. Some also have an interest in genealogy and want to research specific family members or the historical events they lived through. HILA collection highlights include approximately 130,000 prints of political posters—many representing peace efforts during the world wars and European revolutions—and the archives of California-based pacifist and suffragist Alice Park.

A rare and popular collection, Bozorgi says, is HILA’s delegation propaganda materials from the Paris Peace Conference, the meeting of world leaders from 1919 to 1920 following World War I. It includes pamphlets from delegates not included in major talks or decisions, like the Assyrians and Persians.

“It’s a 360-degree view,” Bozorgi says. “In order to do research, you don’t want to just go for the side you’re expecting. You want to be able to see from all angles from a certain moment or event in history.”

Mattson says scholars come from across the world to study

Swarthmore’s collection as well. Its specialty is antiwar and conscientious objection materials, including records and publications from organizations like the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and protest movements for specific wars, including Vietnam and, more recently, the post-September 11 invasion of the Middle East. It also holds civil rights materials, including a collection of newsletters sent during the 1955–1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott that organizers used to update supporters nationwide.

Reflective of its origins, the collection leans heavily into women-led activism—a way many women could engage politically even before earning the right to vote.

“Women were considered to be inherently peaceful creatures. That was one area they could safely journey into,” Mattson explains. “Of course, there was debate even about that—the propriety of women being in the public sphere.”

Promoting peace

The Cecilia Bard Multicultural Collection for Peace and Social Justice, a collection of children’s literature housed at Buffalo (N.Y.) State University’s (BSU) E. H. Butler Library, is designed to promote literacy and empathy.

Betty Cappella, a BSU distinguished professor emerita with a background in family counseling, views literacy as a social justice issue. “The lower the literacy rates, the more problems that come into play—especially violence,” she says.

Cappella founded the collection in 2004 alongside

Continued on page 15 ▶

BY THE NUMBERS

Indigenous History and Culture

1979

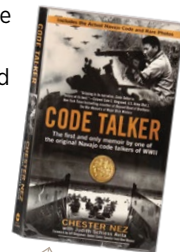
Year that the American Indian Library Association (AILA) was founded. AILA, an affiliate of ALA, is a membership group that supports individuals and institutions working to improve library services to American Indians and Alaska Natives and disseminate information about Indian cultures, languages, and values.

300

Number of tribes represented in the National Indian Law Library’s (NILL) collection of tribal codes, court opinions, and other legal materials. NILL, part of the Native American Rights Fund—a longstanding legal defense organization based in Boulder, Colorado—supports those researching federal Indian and tribal laws and provides updates on related legal decisions.

2011

Year that the first and only memoir was published by one of the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II. *Code Talker* by Chester Nez and Judith Schiess Avila recounts Nez’s experience in the US Marines Corps and how he and fellow Navajo speakers used coded versions of their language to send secret messages that couldn’t be deciphered by Axis forces.



3

Number of one-year terms Joy Harjo served as US poet laureate. Harjo, a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, was the first Native person appointed to the position and only the second US poet laureate to serve three terms. Her tenure concluded in 2022. ●





Another's Treasure

Hosting antiques appraisal events at the library

BY Taylor Hartz

A vintage Wells Fargo padlock that runs anywhere from \$50 to \$500. A pristine, late-19th-century glass bottle produced by a local company worth a grand. A 1930 baseball signed by 26 baseball players, including six future Hall of Famers—Jimmie Foxx, Lou Gehrig, Lefty Grove, Connie Mack, Babe Ruth, and Al Simmons—valued at \$20,000.

These were just some of the items brought in by library patrons during antiques appraisals held at Wilkes County (N.C.) Public Library (WCPL). “You wonder how some of these things end up in this small town in North Carolina,” says Nicole de Bruijn, WCPL’s technical services manager.

At antiques appraisals, appraisers examine rare and collectible items and determine their historical and monetary value. When held at the library, these events are an opportunity for patrons to engage with their community and get a history lesson.

With many people spending the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns tidying their homes and purging

old belongings tucked away in dark storage spaces or attics, antiques appraisals also give patrons a platform to showcase long-lost gems.

The Wilkes Friends of the Library (WFL) has hosted WCPL’s annual antique appraisals since 2006, an event that has regularly sold out. A set number of patrons purchase a ticket to have their item appraised, but others can attend to watch for free. After the pandemic halted library programming in 2020, WFL didn’t resume in-person events until an antiques appraisal in August 2022. WFL welcomed back a “full house,” says Suzanne Moore, WCPL county librarian.

“It was an anticipated event,” de Bruijn says. “It marked our return to normalcy post-COVID.”

Uncovering stories

Hinsdale (Ill.) Public Library (HPL) hosted its first antiques appraisals event in May 2022. Lizzy Boden, HPL’s adult services manager, says that it’s noticeable that residents have been “going through their stuff” following the pandemic: “People have been more interested

in going into boxes that were maybe left to them by their parents.”

Patrons often uncover stories from their and their families’ past based on what the appraiser can tell them about their item, Boden says. For example, one patron brought two silver candelabras. Rex Newell, an Indiana-based appraiser, shared with the crowd that they were made in Paris in 1880.

“There was a lot of family history in that room,” Boden adds.

Appraisers can also share insight into how they appraise or what they know about each item, making the events educational.

Boden says the event may return to HPL once a year since the community has been “clamoring for more.”

Virtual valuations

Appraisals can also work virtually with patrons who showcase their items over Zoom or another video platform.

Dover (N.H.) Public Library (DPL) hosted a virtual antiques appraisal in March 2021. Susan Dunker, DPL’s adult services librarian, says that as the library explored virtual programming at the beginning of the pandemic, she connected with Pennsylvania-based appraiser Mike Ivankovich, who offered his services at a small discount. By hosting the event virtually, DPL avoided paying travel costs.

“We’re trying to broaden our horizons a little bit more post-COVID and try things that we otherwise wouldn’t have tried,” Dunker says. “I honestly didn’t think it would work virtually, but it did.”

However, Dunker notes the virtual format occasionally made it difficult for the appraiser to see every fine detail on certain items. Her advice to libraries interested in hosting virtual appraisals is to

“People have been more interested in going into boxes that were maybe left to them by their parents.”

LIZZY BODEN, adult services manager at Hinsdale (Ill.) Public Library

ask participants to prepare a backup item, which can keep the event moving along.

Dunker also suggests that patrons avoid bringing stamps and coins and instead opt for larger items that the appraiser can see clearly on a computer screen.

A sense of community

To find an appraiser, Boden recommends contacting local antique shops or asking colleagues, which is how she came into contact with Newell. “There is a strong network of librarians who share information on presenters,” she says. De Bruijn also recommends library staff use a multimedia projector and a video camera (or a phone camera, in a pinch) for in-person appraisal events, so even a packed room can see items as they’re being appraised.

Whether the items—or their monetary values—are big or small, antique appraisals events bring the community together through a shared interest, de Bruijn says.

And at WCPL, who will bring what next is often buzzed about. “There’s a sense of community around the stories and what [patrons] learn,” de Bruijn says, “but also, what’s gonna happen this year? That keeps [patrons] coming back.” **AL**

TAYLOR HARTZ is a multimedia storyteller in New London, Connecticut. Additional reporting by *American Libraries* Associate Editor Diana Panunzial.



Swarthmore (Pa.) College’s Peace Collection includes materials from organizations like the War Resisters League (left) and Women’s Peace Society.

◀ Continued from page 13

Geraldine Bard, an English professor emerita whose late mother is the collection’s namesake. The collection is part of the nonprofit organization they cofounded, Project Flight, which offers reading programs for kids in need.

The Bard Collection is open to the public and holds 8,000 titles covering world cultures, religions, and LGBTQ+ and women’s issues. It is also meant to support BSU’s education program, Bard and Cappella say; education majors use the titles to help build lesson plans. Project Flight and BSU add hundreds of titles to the collection annually. Recent additions include books about the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

In response to the May 2022 mass shooting in Buffalo, during which a white supremacist opened fire in a supermarket and killed 10 Black community members, Bard and Cappella added the Literacy Library Collection for Equity, Social Justice, and Peace. This subcollection, also made available

in several local libraries, has a heightened focus on calls to action. Titles include *Peace, Love, Action: Everyday Acts of Goodness from A to Z* by Tanya Zabinski and *Making It Right: Building Peace, Settling Conflict* by Marilee Peters.

“This collection tells you how to stop bullying, what you can do in your community to stem violence, and how you can show an appreciation for someone who is maybe not of your color or religion,” Cappella says.

Peace and social justice movements are often “seeds that take a while to bear fruit,” Mattson notes. The libraries and archives that commemorate them allow for people, especially activists, to stay encouraged even in tough times.

“You have to know you’re part of a larger community of people—not just in this moment but going back in time—who have really struggled and suffered,” Mattson says. “It’s not always easy to make change, but it’s possible.” **AL**

MEGAN BENNETT is an associate editor at *American Libraries*.



Anna Pilston (right), branch librarian at Spartanburg County (S.C.) Public Libraries' Landrum Library, holds a Bag of Hope alongside a member of Operation Hope, a local nonprofit.

It's in the Bag

For one library system, a food and care product collection drive brings big results

Spartanburg County is the fifth most populated county in South Carolina—and it's growing. In 2022, it had close to 346,000 residents, but nearly 14% of them were living at or below the federal poverty line, with an estimated 11% of children experiencing food insecurity. To help address these issues of affordability and access, Spartanburg County Public Libraries (SCPL) started its Bags of Hope initiative in 2021, connecting food and other essential items to those in need.

BY Todd Stephens

Like many communities, Spartanburg County has seen an increase in people experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in the wake of the pandemic. Our county has been proactive in tackling those challenges, including securing \$2.1 million in federal grant funds to address homelessness and allocate more shelter space. With 10 locations spread over 819 square miles, SCPL has a reputation of providing safe spaces and being community hubs, making

us a natural partner in efforts to serve those in need.

One of our most successful initiatives has been our version of an existing nonprofit program called Bags of Hope. Our concept—a simple one that requires little or no library funding—is similar to other efforts that have been implemented by nonlibrary community organizations across the country to provide bags of food and other necessities to individuals who may be facing poverty.

When the idea of running a small-scale version of Bags of Hope was proposed by a staffer at one of our branch libraries in 2021, we decided to conduct the program system-wide for two months at a time. We called our first event “Hopesgiving” because it took place in November and December, during the holiday season. This year, we ran Bags of Hope in March and April, when fewer competing donation drives occur.

During the first month of each run, patrons, staffers, and other donors drop off individually packaged food and hygiene products—including granola bars, cups of soup, crackers, mini-toiletries, and utensils—at their local library branch. We promote the drive via our marketing channels, including social media, and directly to local businesses, some of whom provide bulk donations.

During the second month, we pack the donations and get them to designated partner organizations—food pantries, soup kitchens, community centers, and other nonprofits—to be distributed to those in need.

This year, we donated more than 740 gallon-sized zipper storage bags' worth of items. We also donated 47 large sacks and 16 boxes of food and supplies that were too big to fit into the bags.

The response to the program was immediate. One community partner wrote us to say, “How my heart is rejoicing at the Bags of Hope donation!” That single nonprofit, which runs a soup kitchen, serves food to several hundred people daily. A representative of another

Like many communities, our county has seen an increase in people experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in the wake of the pandemic.

nonprofit wrote, “They’re great to give [to] folks who may need something to help them through the day at work if they don’t have anything to eat, children at school without lunch, and senior citizens who can’t get to a grocery store.” This nonprofit provides multilevel services to local families experiencing financial hardship.

Running the program can be challenging. Libraries wanting to implement a similar program should consider the staff time required to collect donations, pack bags, and deliver items to local partners. Also, as libraries, we must always remember to keep track of the data needed to demonstrate our community impact. It’s a good idea to create an end-of-program report to share with board members, staff, and partners.

With donations distributed to 11 different nonprofits in Spartanburg County, our 2023 Bags of Hope operation touched hundreds of lives. We are planning another one in spring 2024.

The program is more than worthwhile, both for its service for our patrons in need and for the opportunity it creates to enhance community connections. **AL**

TODD STEPHENS has served as county librarian for Spartanburg County (S.C.) Public Libraries for more than 22 years.

GLOBAL REACH

A Mobile Collection

FINLAND Turku City Library (TCL) partnered with Toyota Auto Finland on a trial program to loan an electric car to patrons. During the three-week trial that began May 8, cardholders could borrow a Toyota bZ4X for up to six hours during weekdays and four and a half hours on the weekends. TCL Services Director Rebekka Pilppula said she believes the trial is the first of its kind in the world. The library



The electric Toyota bZ4X loaned by Turku (Finland) City Library to patrons during a three-week trial program.

loaned the vehicle 20 times during the trial and also hosted a community conversation to discuss future modes of transport.—*YLE News*, May 4; Turku City Library, June 6

KENYA The Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) is creating a virtual library with more than 200,000 digitized books, periodicals, research papers, and government publications. Claimed to be the first such collection in Africa, the library will be accessible

globally. Officials said the effort will help Kenyans participate in government, encourage a culture of literacy, and reduce concerns about losing information if old or rare materials are damaged. KNLS will also provide cloud-related systems to other government departments to help digitize services.—*Citizen Digital*, July 14

INDIA The David Sassoon Library and Reading Room in Mumbai reopened in June after a 16-month restoration. Built in 1867, the library is one of the oldest educational institutions in Mumbai’s Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The library has one of Asia’s oldest functioning reading rooms, and the restoration included rehousing nearly 30,000 historic books in five languages.—*The Indian Express*, June 3; *Architectural Digest India*, July 6

CANADA The national Library and Archives Canada recently acquired *The Green Interview*, a series of about 100 interviews and six documentaries on the future of life on the planet and humanity’s collective responsibility to protect it. Interviewees include Margaret Atwood, Jane Goodall, David Suzuki, Mohamed Hage, Gregory Cajete, Edmund Metatawabin, Todd Labrador, Albert Marshall, and others. Topics include climate change, environmental justice, lessons from Indigenous laws and ecology, and urban rooftop farming.

—*Library and Archives Canada*, June 9 ●

Rick Riordan

Bestselling author talks latest projects



Rick Riordan is best known for his Greek mythology-themed Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, which has since inspired a larger franchise. In May, he released *The Sun and the Star: A Nico di Angelo Adventure* (Hachette) with coauthor Mark Oshiro, a spin-off about the son of Hades and his boyfriend on a journey to the Underworld. And in late September, Riordan returns to his original protagonists with *The Chalice of the Gods* (Disney Hyperion), chronicling Percy's efforts to get into college.

Riordan, a former teacher, spoke with *American Libraries* about his newest works, the longevity of Percy Jackson, and how school libraries have been a sanctuary.

BY Megan Bennett

The Sun and the Star follows Nico, who has faced significant trauma and must learn to find “lightness” in the dark. How can this book help young readers experiencing trauma or grief? It's often easier to process our own trauma when we do so by proxy—especially in a fantasy world, where it doesn't feel quite as close and personal. When you watch a character go through something, you can learn from them and take lessons away.

The big lesson Nico learns is how to be comfortable with his authentic self, open to other people, and open

MORE ONLINE

For the extended interview, visit bit.ly/AL-Riordan after September 1.

to love. It's not an easy thing when you're a son of Hades, when you've lost a lot of

people in your life and basically been disappointed, let down, and hurt. How do you open yourself up after something like that? This is the book where he figures out how to do that.

The Chalice of the Gods is the first time in nearly 15 years that you've written a story from Percy Jackson's perspective. What can readers expect? It was a treat to go

back to Percy's voice. It always feels comfortable and familiar because he's so much a part of me and shares my sense of humor. I hope readers will get a sense of déjà vu in the best possible way and enjoy a reunion with these old friends. I know I did.

You are also an executive producer for the forthcoming Percy Jackson Disney+ series. Why do you think these stories still resonate nearly 20 years since the first book came out? When I write a book, I'm

not thinking about posterity. If the books are still resonating, it's because 12-year-olds are 12-year-olds. What they go through, at their core, isn't that different than it was in the 1920s, or the 1870s, or the 1960s. Some of these things are just universal. That's true of Greek mythology, too. These stories are 3,000–4,000 years old—why are we still telling them? I think because they speak to the human experience.

What do you make of the recent wave of book challenges and bans? It's a shame.

It's a symptom of a fundamental lack of

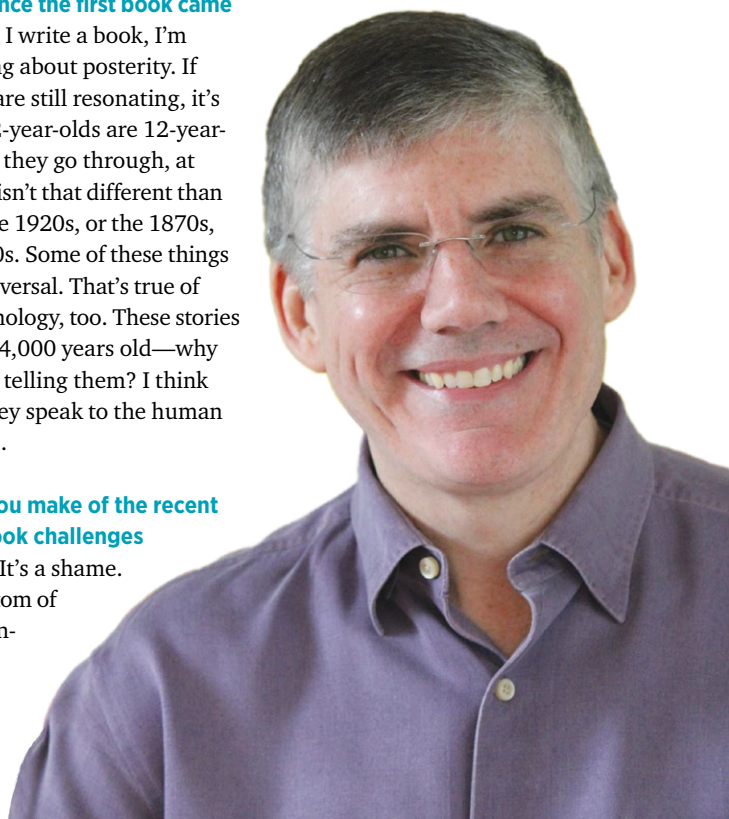
understanding of other people—a fundamental lack of empathy. And it makes me sad.

That's one area that libraries excel at: allowing access to lots of different opinions, worlds, and life experiences that you can learn about to become a better and more open person. Anything that takes that away makes us poorer as a society.

What role have libraries played in your life? I still have very fond

memories of my local branch library in San Antonio. It was a form of magic that you could go into this building, pick books, and they would just let you leave with them, read them, bring them back, and they would give you more.

The libraries at schools I found to be especially important to me because they were a sanctuary. They were a place where anyone could go and take a breath, relax, and explore a different world. There are a lot of times for students, especially those in middle school, when the library is critical. **AL**





“There’s no urgent need for AI to write a novel. The only people who might need that are the people who object to paying writers what they’re worth.”

Author **ALEXANDER CHEE**, in “Thousands of Authors Urge AI Companies to Stop Using Work without Permission,” NPR: *Morning Edition*, July 17.

“They told us it was a 100-year flood. Now, with climate change, it seems like the 100-year flood is going to be every 10 or 12 years.”

DANELLE SIMS, adult services librarian at Norman Williams Public Library in Woodstock, Vermont, in “Vermont’s Catastrophic Floods and the Spread of Unnatural Disasters,” *The New Yorker*, July 12.

“In an era when you can tell an algorithm not to show you something, it’s tempting to imagine continuing to cordon off the public square into 335 million carefully curated walled gardens of the self, an individualized America for every single person. But without public spaces where you can encounter new ideas, even by simply seeing the titles of books you might never read, you can never realize if the garden you’re in is the one you want to be in.”

Author **EMILY ST. JAMES**, “I Am Being Pushed Out of One of the Last Public Squares, the Library,” *The New York Times*, July 17.

“To have someone like President Obama appreciating the work that we do and also sharing our mission for intellectual freedom, it just couldn’t come at a better time.”

LINDA STEVENS, director of programs, partnerships, and outreach at Harris County (Tex.) Public Library, in “Obama Takes to TikTok to Support Libraries’ Fight against Book Bans,” *The Washington Post*, July 17.

“OTIS IS ONE OF OUR FAVORITES. I THINK HE’S COMING BACK THIS YEAR. HE’S 27 YEARS OLD, AND HE’S LOST SOME TEETH. HE CAME BACK LAST YEAR AND ALMOST WON THE CONTEST.”

Library director **BOB MCCALL**, preparing for his final Fat Bear Week (Oct. 5–11) before retirement, in “A Safe Place to See Bears: Saluda Library’s Katmai National Park Webcam,” *Hendersonville (N.C.) Times-News*, July 20.

2023 LIBRARY DESIGN

The year's most impressive new and renovated libraries

showcase

by Sallyann Price

Welcome to the 2023 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries that address patron needs in exciting and effective ways. This year's selections represent a return to prepandemic normalcy and demonstrate a firm step into the future, with physical spaces designed to draw in communities, celebrate local history, and acknowledge diverse natural environments. For these overhauls and expansions, form and functionality reign. **AL**

SALLYANN PRICE is a writer and editor based in Seattle.



LIVING HISTORY



◀ Cincinnati and Hamilton County (Ohio) Public Library, Walnut Hills branch

The oldest branch in its system and the first of several of Cincinnati's Carnegie libraries, Walnut Hills recently underwent its first significant improvements since its construction in 1906. The branch is now fully accessible. The architects preserved its French Renaissance-style details—red brick, a tile roof, and birch-stained mahogany interior paneling—while doubling its square footage, building more meeting and community spaces, and adding a parking lot. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Fishbeck, Interior Project Management **SIZE:** 22,820 square feet **COST:** \$12.3 million **PHOTO:** Kati Best Photography



◀ San Mateo County (Calif.) Libraries, Atherton branch

This light-filled library sits within this wooded northern California community's newly built civic center complex. The site features front and back porches for quiet reading and community connections, an indoor-outdoor makerspace, and a curved design that embraces the surrounding redwoods. The adjacent historic town hall, built in the 1920s, has been converted into the library's multipurpose event space, and retains elements of its classic California mission style. **PROJECT TYPE:** Adaptive reuse **ARCHITECT:** WRNS Studio **SIZE:** 11,874 square feet **COST:** \$20.1 million **PHOTO:** Bruce Damonte

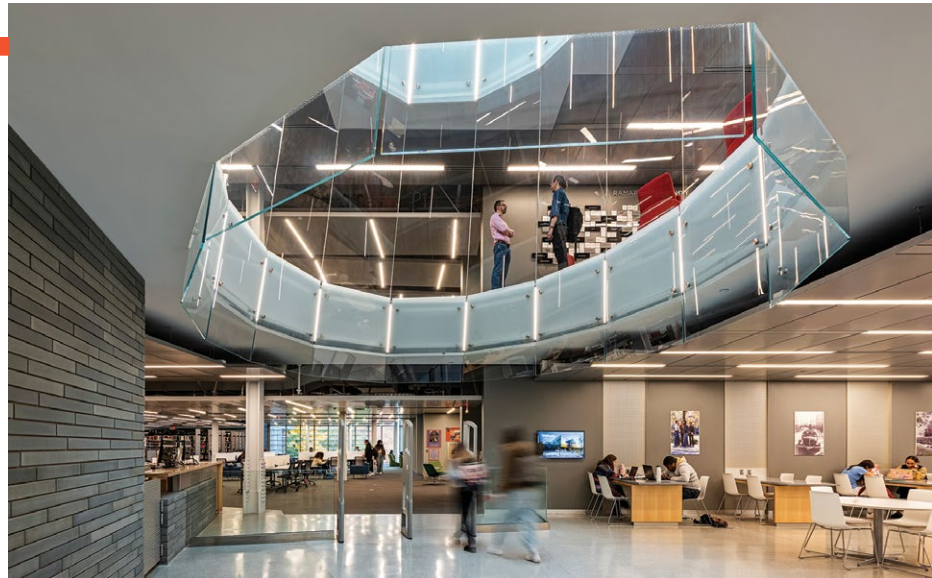
▲ Kanawha County (W.Va.) Public Library, Main Library in Charleston

The federal building in downtown Charleston, built in 1911, was originally used as a post office and courthouse. The local library acquired the limestone structure in the 1960s and renovated the interior extensively while preserving its classical façade. Its latest renovation involved adding a west wing to serve as a new entrance; a south wing featuring a café, makerspace, and teen area; and a sky bridge connecting the library to a parking garage. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Silling Architects **SIZE:** 80,000 square feet **COST:** \$32 million **PHOTO:** Josh Beeman Photography

SCHOOL DAYS

▶ Ramapo College of New Jersey, Peter P. Mercer Learning Commons in Mahwah

The renovation and expansion of the former George T. Potter Library, now part of the new Peter P. Mercer Learning Commons, turned the space into a collaborative study and technology center to meet students' evolving needs. The exterior aligns with the original design of neighboring buildings while the new slate-and-glass façade offers enhanced thermal performance, ample daylight, and mountain views. The library's sprawling physical collection has been centralized on the lowest level to make room for collaborative spaces and expanded technology infrastructure. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Bohlin Cywinski Jackson **SIZE:** 80,000 square feet **COST:** \$35 million **PHOTO:** Christian Phillips Photography



▼ Central Piedmont Community College, Hagemeyer Library in Charlotte, North Carolina

The Parr Center, the largest building constructed in Central Piedmont Community College's six-decade history, serves as its first-ever student union and gateway to central campus. The complex also includes a theater, an art gallery, a dining area, stunning views of downtown Charlotte, a redeveloped quad, and the new Hagemeyer Library. The library is now outfitted with a makerspace, podcasting and green-screen rooms, and plenty of indoor and outdoor study space. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECTS:** Morris-Berg Architects, Moody Nolan **SIZE:** 66,321 square feet **COST:** \$29.8 million **PHOTO:** Darnell Vennie





◀ University of Alabama, Angelo Bruno Business Library in Tuscaloosa

Though the exterior of this 1994 structure remains unchanged, the interior has been dramatically reimagined and reorganized to support students from the Culverhouse College of Business and the Manderson Graduate School of Business. The Jones Business Analytics Information Commons, a new addition, includes a large stock exchange ticker, and the Bloomberg Research Lab replicates real-time trading for students pursuing careers on Wall Street. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** B Group Architecture **SIZE:** 69,700 square feet **COST:** \$9 million **PHOTO:** Jonathan Norris Photography

SCENIC ROUTE

▶ Albuquerque Bernalillo County (N.Mex.) Library System, International District branch

The Caravan East nightclub on Route 66 was a country music destination for decades before closing its doors in 2016. The new library, built where Caravan East once stood, honors the nightclub's history with a wooden dance floor and a replica of its old sign. The branch also boasts a multigenerational activity room (the first such space in the system), an adult reading room that houses the library's world language collections, a central fireplace, and sweeping mountain views. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** RMKM Architecture **SIZE:** 25,000 square feet **COST:** \$15.7 million **PHOTO:** Patrick Coulie Photography





CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS

◀ Bullitt County (Ky.) Public Library, Central Library in Shepherdsville

The new Central Library was envisioned as an eco-friendly oasis in the heart of the town's main shopping corridor. It features a geothermal HVAC system, rain gardens, and 610 rooftop solar collectors, which produce an estimated 50% of the building's electrical usage. The campus also boasts four courtyard gardens, each representing one of the four classical elements—earth, air, water, and fire—and the four seasons with native plants that flourish throughout the year. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Omni Architects **SIZE:** 45,000 square feet **COST:** \$10.5 million **PHOTO:** Frank Döring Photography



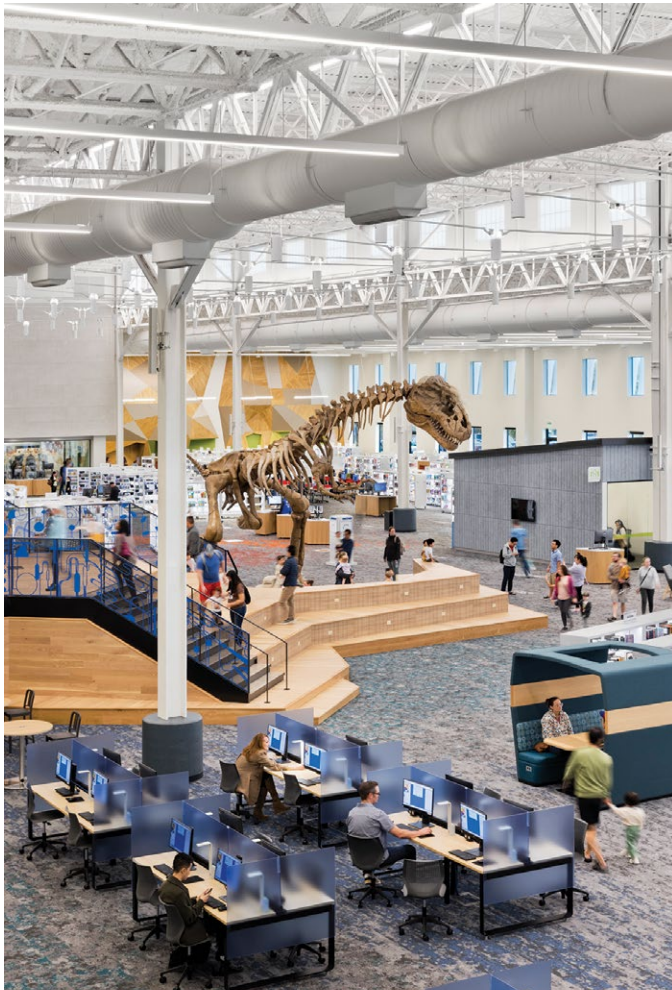
◀ New Canaan (Conn.) Library

Known for its midcentury modern architecture, New Canaan is home to iconic structures like Philip Johnson's Glass House and Noyes House, as well as the serpentine River Building at Grace Farms. The new facility references these traditions: dramatic glass elements punctuate dry-laid stone walls, and decorative copper pipes symbolize New England's forests. Expansive flat roofs support solar panels, long overhangs provide shade and reduce energy use, and a new adjacent park offers green space. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Centerbrook Architects and Planners **SIZE:** 42,000 square feet **COST:** \$40 million **PHOTO:** Jeff Goldberg/Esto



◀ Contra Costa County (Calif.) Library, Pleasant Hill branch

This new library is partially located on a 100-year flood plain, so its blueprint included flood mitigation strategies, such as stormwater retention basins. Its energy-efficient design incorporates local maple and cedar materials, aims for net-zero carbon emissions, and provides radiant heating and cooling, natural ventilation, and a rooftop solar panel array. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Bohlin Cywinski Jackson **SIZE:** 23,788 square feet **COST:** \$34.5 million **PHOTO:** Matthew Millman Photography



TOTAL TRANSFORMATIONS

▲ Middle Country Public Library in Centereach, New York

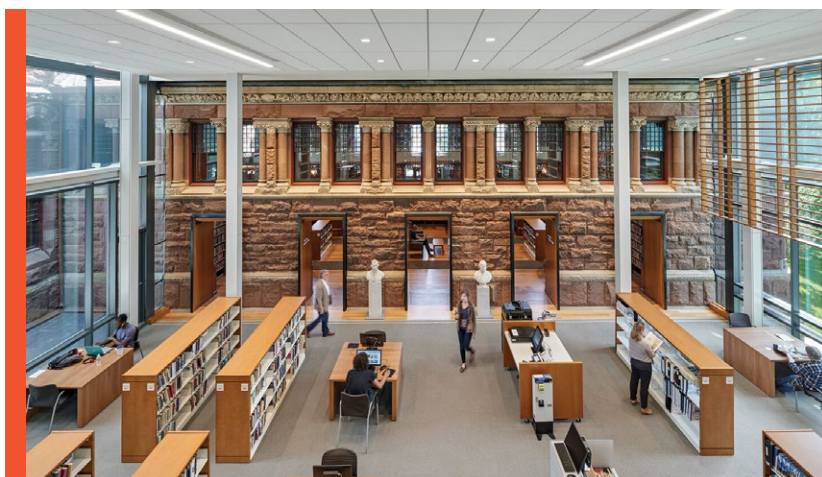
This Long Island library moved to its current location in 1972 and has continued to grow to suit shifting demographics and surging demand—including adding a branch in the nearby Selden community. The renovated space in Centereach features state-of-the-art makerspace equipment, an audio-video recording room, and acoustically separated meeting rooms. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECTS:** Bermello Ajamil & Partners, JR Keller **SIZE:** 8,000 square feet **COST:** \$3.4 million **PHOTO:** Jeffrey Totaro

◀ Frisco (Tex.) Public Library

This former factory and warehouse, with its soaring ceilings and tilt-wall design, once produced goods ranging from chicken nuggets to rocket parts. The conversion means that this Dallas suburb now has its first standalone library, with design elements reminiscent of the dogtrot-style homes of the Texas Blackland Prairie region in the 19th and early 20th centuries—particularly the interior breezeway connecting the two main points of entry. The site also houses a full-scale T. rex model and honors the area's ecological history with native plants and bioswale water collection. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Gensler **SIZE:** 158,086 square feet **COST:** \$62 million **PHOTO:** Connie Zhou Photography

2023 ALA/AIA LIBRARY BUILDING awards

The following libraries are winners of the 2023 Library Building Awards, sponsored by Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures (a division of the American Library Association) and the American Institute of Architects. The awards, recognizing the best in library architecture and design, are open to any architect licensed in the US. Projects may be located anywhere in the world. [AL](#)



▲ **Louisville (Ky.)
Free Public
Library, Northeast
Regional branch**

ARCHITECTS: MSR Design and
JRA Architects
PHOTO: Cory Klein

◀ **Woburn (Mass.)
Public Library**

ARCHITECT: CBT
PHOTO: Robert Benson
Photography

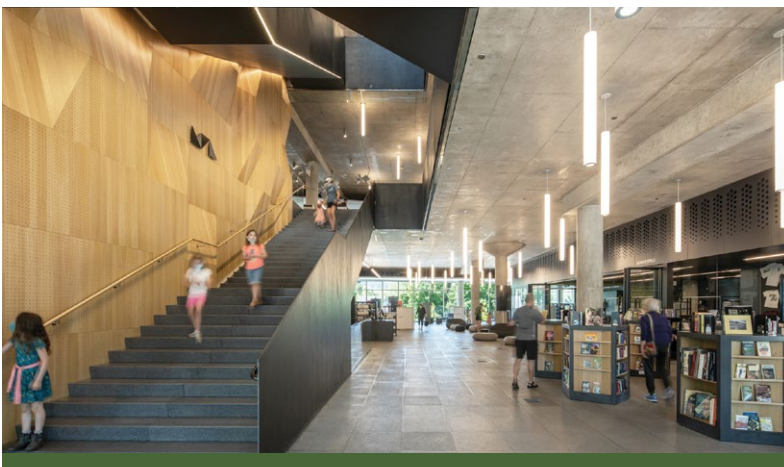


▲ **San Mateo County
(Calif.) Libraries,
Atherton Library**

ARCHITECT: WRNS Studio
PHOTO: Bruce Damonte

◀ **Student Success
District, University
of Arizona in Tucson**

ARCHITECTS: The Miller Hull
Partnership and Poster
Mirto McDonald
PHOTO: Chipper Hatter



◀ **Missoula (Mont.)
Public Library,
Main Library**

ARCHITECTS: MSR Design
and A&E Design
PHOTO: Lara Swimmer

How We Fight Back

Library workers and advocates are turning to new policies, lawsuits, and legislation to stem the tide of book bans // BY Christina Sterbenz





Illustrations: Tom Deja

Amanda Jones has been called a pedophile and a groomer. She's received death threats. She's lost friends, weight, and hair. She even had to take a leave of absence from her job as a school librarian in Louisiana for mental health reasons.

All because she spoke at a public library board meeting last year.

"I said, 'Hate and fear have no place in Livingston Parish,'" says Jones. "It was an innocuous speech, a speech on censorship that any librarian would give."

The meeting, which occurred in July 2022, was intended to address general book content at Livingston Parish Library. Jones identified herself as president of the Louisiana Association of School Librarians but says she was speaking as a private citizen and lifelong resident of the area.

A few days later, conservative organization Citizens for a New Louisiana (CNL) and a local blogger began publishing posts about her on social media. "[The blogger] posted memes that I advocated for the teaching of anal sex to 11-year-olds," Jones says.

CNL has pushed for the removal of books about sexuality, race, and gender from libraries across the state.

The organization is part of a fast-growing network of right-wing groups that have launched an unprecedented wave of attacks on intellectual freedom over the last three years—attacks that have disproportionately targeted books written by LGBTQ+ and Black authors.

PEN America reports that 1,648 unique book titles were banned in schools between July 2021 and June 2022 (bit.ly/PEN-SchoolBans). Of these titles, 41% explicitly address LGBTQ+ themes or have LGBTQ+ characters, while

40% feature protagonists or prominent secondary characters of color.

Some public libraries and school districts have seen hundreds of book challenges. And in many cases, individuals like Jones must navigate vicious assaults on their character in their own communities.

"Now, I can't go out in public without people pointing at me, whispering, and calling me a pervert," Jones says.

After weeks of harassment, Jones had enough. She retained a lawyer and in August 2022 sued CNL, its executive director, and the local blogger for defamation. The case, however, has since been thrown out.

As calls for censorship in libraries and school districts continue to escalate—and personal attacks on those who oppose these attempts persist—library workers are finding new ways to protect themselves, the books they care so much about, and intellectual freedom in their communities.

Some are adjusting their policies on book challenges or trying to improve the dialogue with patrons. Others, like Jones, are fighting back through the judicial system. Even state lawmakers are supporting the right to read with bills to curtail book bans.

"We don't want to go through these individual fights, like the one that my community went through, because of the negative rhetoric that harms

people within already marginalized communities,” says Illinois State Rep. Anne Stava-Murray (D-Downers Grove), lead sponsor of a new law that withholds state funding from libraries that succumb to partisan pressure to ban books. “We want to make sure that every person who uses a library can see themselves reflected in it.”

Much of the fight, however, starts at the local level.

CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING POLICIES

Jones hasn’t had to deal with any book challenges at her current school. But about a month after the public library board meeting where she spoke, Jones

formed the Livingston Parish Library Alliance, a grassroots coalition that fights to keep books on the shelves. She is currently the group’s executive director.

Several parishes in Louisiana have similar groups that work with a statewide organization called Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship (bit.ly/AL-LCAC), which Jones helped form in fall 2022 and for which she is assistant director.

So far in Livingston Parish, only a handful of books have been challenged at the public library. But neighboring St. Tammany Parish has experienced more than 200 book challenges in the last few years, according to St. Tammany

Library Alliance. Targeted titles have included children’s picture books *Pride Puppy!* by Robin Stevenson, about a family that loses their dog during a Pride celebration, and *I Am Jazz*, written by Jazz Jennings, a transgender rights activist.

With help from these grassroots organizations and its own alliance, St. Tammany Parish Library has won every challenge. (“If there is a ‘winning,’” Jones says.) But part of the problem, according to Jones, is that the books are removed from the shelves during the challenge process, which effectively bans them, at least for a time.

In response, the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control instituted a new policy in which an individual title can be challenged only once every five years. Otherwise, people could keep a book out of readers’ hands by challenging it again as soon as the previous challenge is completed.

Last year, Ferndale (Mich.) Area District Library (FADL), which serves a Detroit suburb known for its large LGBTQ+ community, also made changes to its policies as a preventive measure against book challenges and other attacks on intellectual freedom.


To start, Jenny Marr, director of FADL, contacted the library’s attorney—the first step she recommends for every library before changing policies. Not every library system will have a lawyer on retainer, but your state’s public information office (if your state has one) or your state library should be able to point you in the right direction, Marr says.

From there, FADL’s board of directors formed a working group that went over the library’s materials selection policy, which helps define what will be added or removed from the library’s shelves. The library also revamped its request for reconsideration form.

“You basically have to write a book report in order to submit a challenge to our book,” Marr says. “That’s done deliberately so that we don’t just get mass challenges from around the country.”

“It’s like three pages long,” adds Mary Grahame Hunter, youth services





coordinator at FADL. “If you don’t fill out all of it, it doesn’t count.”

The updated policy notes the library will consider a challenger’s residency status but doesn’t require them to live within the district. Since Ferndale sits in a large metro area, it’s not unusual for a patron to visit several different libraries, which have reciprocal borrowing. But if someone from out of state files a challenge, for example, that might not make the cut.

As of late July, FADL hasn’t experienced a single book challenge. Still, people find ways to limit access to books, especially ones with LGBTQ+ themes.

As part of the national “Hide the Pride” movement, members of the right-wing organization CatholicVote checked out FADL’s entire young adult Pride display—which included titles about queer history and a guide for parents looking to support their trans and nonbinary kids—and replaced the books with religious texts from the library’s collection in June.

“There’s been a wonderful grassroots effort by parents to ‘Hide the Pride’ and protect children from harmful filth in our public libraries,” CatholicVote Vice President Joshua Mercer stated in a June 8 post on the group’s website.

FADL, however, immediately asked for donations and was able to repurchase all the books on display as well as buy others.

“You would think this groundswell of opposition by parents would make librarians think twice about having these nasty X-rated books that are targeting our children,” Mercer continued in the post. “But in Ferndale, Michigan, they are sadly doubling down and begging people to go to Amazon, so they can restock the shelves with smut for kids.”

But it’s not just about the books. Hunter, who identifies as queer, knows

“If you’re a member of a marginalized group that’s being targeted on top of also being a library worker ... it can be just absolutely crushing.”

MARY GRAHAME HUNTER, youth services coordinator at Ferndale (Mich.) Area District Library

these attacks can feel personal for many library employees around the country.

“So much of this particular moral panic ... it’s about books with queer themes, it’s *really* about books with trans themes,” Hunter says. “If you’re a member of a marginalized group that’s being targeted on top of also being a library worker ... it can be just absolutely crushing.”

In light of these personal attacks on identity, one of the staff guidelines at FADL is particularly meaningful to Hunter, and she encourages every library to consider a similar one.

“My first day on the job, I was told, ‘If someone is mean or rude or harassing you over the phone—*click*, put that down, they can call back when they can have some manners,’” Hunter says.

But not all libraries can—or want to—make significant changes to their policies. For example, Dubuque County (Iowa) Library District (DCLD) recently switched from a request for reconsideration form to a statement of concern form, designed to separate the challenge process from its larger collection development policy and use discussion as a way to minimize challenges.

“We wanted to reframe the conversation and try to make it a little more explicit that it is the right of our community members to petition their government and to raise their issues with us, and we are going to engage in a respectful conversation about this concern that they have,” says Amanda

Vazquez, director of DCLD. “It doesn’t draw such a direct line from, ‘I don’t like this book, and you should reconsider its location here and remove it.’”

DCLD policy requires that the petitioning individual have a conversation with Vazquez, the director, before filling out a statement of concern. If the person still wants to formally voice their complaint, they fill out the form and the library creates a committee to review it. The committee includes people with expertise on the material or program in question; the number and makeup of committee members varies with each case. After reviewing the challenge, the committee files a recommendation to the library board, which makes a final decision—although the complainant may speak before the board.

The committee always includes a librarian, but it doesn’t have to be someone who works at the specific library that received the complaint. Vazquez says this happens for two reasons: First, she wants someone not involved with purchasing or choosing the book to review the challenge. Second, it protects her staff.

“It can feel very personal and distressing when your own decisions are being questioned,” Vazquez says. “Also, it puts that person [who made the decision] potentially at the forefront of any conversation with the complainant.”

Yet, for all these measures, libraries can’t necessarily protect staff members outside of their own walls.

'I WON, BECAUSE I WAS NOT SILENT'

After taking a leave of absence from her job, slowly but surely, Jones started to recover. She still cries, she says, but she's angrier than ever: "I guess I went through all the stages of grief."

In September 2022, a judge threw out Jones's defamation lawsuit. The following month, she filed a motion for a new trial, which was denied in November 2022.

In an opposition filed against Jones's motion for a new trial, lawyers for defendants CNL and Michael Lunsford, the group's executive director, stated: "This court specifically found that it could not

conclude statements made online by [CNL] and Lunsford were false and defamatory, as the statements were based upon opinions."

Similarly, a memorandum in opposition filed by a lawyer for defendant Ryan Thames, blogger for Bayou State of Mind, stated: "The court found that comments by Thames were protected opinion.... Jones seems to think she is the only one who can exercise free speech. Thames didn't like her public speech and criticized that speech."

But Jones and her legal team vow to keep fighting and have filed an intent to appeal. "It doesn't matter if I win in the court system," she says. "I won, because I was not silent."

As part of her appeal, the court will again have to consider whether Jones is a private citizen or a public figure; the burden of proof on her legal team increases with the latter determination.

Jones knows that continuing to speak out may turn her into more of a public figure and thus hurt her chances of winning her appeal.

But, she says, "What determines winning to me is that I spoke up on behalf of myself, who was getting bullied online. I spoke out for all the LGBTQ and Black and Brown kids in my community."

The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF), the anti-censorship legal arm of the American Library Association (ALA), has goals similar to Jones's: protecting access to books. FTRF has recently gotten involved in two lawsuits—one in Texas and the other in Arkansas.

"Anytime you have a government entity, whether it be a city council, a library board, or a school board, restricting access and making people either identify themselves or get permission to read an item in the library, that's troubling to us, because that's not what libraries do," says Peter Coyl, immediate past president of FTRF. He encourages anyone—librarians or private citizens—with a question or legal concern in this area to get in touch with FTRF through its website (ftrf.org).

In early June, FTRF filed an amicus brief with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in support of plaintiffs in Llano County, Texas, who lost access to a large collection of books at their public library, including thousands of ebooks and print titles such as *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson and *In the Night Kitchen* by Maurice Sendak. After the county government removed these titles, seven patrons filed a lawsuit in April 2022 alleging their First Amendment rights had been violated (bit.ly/AL-BookChallenges). The books have since been returned to shelves following a preliminary injunction, but Llano County officials have appealed.

"That's not access to information," Coyl says. "That's the recipe for censorship and for shaming and for restricting people's ability to freely find what they're looking for. That's a clear violation of the First Amendment."

The lawsuit in Arkansas—which FTRF joined in early June alongside a coalition of publishers, booksellers, and libraries—challenges Arkansas Act 372, signed into law by Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders in March. The new measure, plaintiffs argue, limits First and Fourteenth Amendment rights to public reading. On July 29, a federal judge granted plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction against the law, which would have gone into effect August 1.



Arkansas Act 372 aims to allow anyone in the state to demand the removal of a library book based on appropriateness. The lawsuit filed by FTRF and the coalition alleges that under this Challenge Procedure, the law does not define what *appropriateness* means.

The Availability Provision, arguably the more controversial aspect of the law, would forbid libraries and bookstores from displaying anything deemed “harmful to minors” (as defined in Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 68, Subchapter 5), with a punishment of up to one year in prison for anyone who doesn’t comply.

“They’re wanting to penalize library workers for sharing information,” Coyl says. “In essence, they want to penalize librarians for doing their job.”

In other states, however, bills are being introduced to reduce book challenges—not encourage them.

ON THE BOOKS, FOR THE BOOKS

On June 12, Illinois became the first state in the nation to pass a law to disincentivize book bans. Gov. J. B. Pritzker signed into law a measure that would pull state funding from libraries that remove books for partisan or ideological reasons, as forbidden by ALA’s Library Bill of Rights. The law, which goes into effect January 1, 2024, also requires that libraries adopt the Library Bill of Rights or their own anti-book banning statement to qualify for funding.

Illinois State Rep. Stava-Murray introduced the law after the book *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe was challenged at a high school in her district. Soon after, the Proud Boys—deemed an extremist hate group by Southern Poverty Law Center—attended school board and community meetings to support removing the book.

“It’s incredibly important to make sure that our local elected bodies

“We want to make sure that every person who uses a library can see themselves reflected in it.”

ILLINOIS STATE REP. ANNE STAVA-MURRAY (D-DOWNERS GROVE),
lead sponsor of the state’s new anti-book ban law

can focus on the work they need to be focused on, and that we’re not wasting taxpayer dollars or time on book challenges,” Stava-Murray says, “which are more akin to that of a fascist government than any democracy would ever agree to.”

As to whether the new law could be used to tactically defund libraries, Stava-Murray says she is not concerned that will happen in Illinois.

“This money pays for initiatives and services that everyone agrees on, such as literacy programs for children,” she says. “Letting professional librarians choose the books that are and aren’t in our libraries is something that makes sense whether you’re a Republican, a Democrat, or anywhere in between.”

In May, New Jersey State Sen. Andrew Zwicker (D-Hillsborough) introduced a bill that’s similar to the new law in Illinois, prohibiting libraries from removing books for partisan reasons. State legislators in Massachusetts followed suit in July.

And while many libraries are seeing a swell of censorship attempts right now, some are experiencing immense public support as a result. Glen Ridge (N.J) Public Library (GRPL), for instance, saw unprecedented backing from its community during a recent spate of book challenges.

In October 2022, GRPL Director Tina Marie Doody received an envelope with about 30 challenge forms from eight residents focusing on six titles. Most of the books focused on sex education or LGBTQ+ content: *It’s Perfectly Normal* by

Robie H. Harris, which offers information on topics like birth control and AIDS, and *This Book Is Gay* by Juno Dawson, a title focusing on sexuality and gender.

Per the library’s policy, the director—Doody herself—had 30 days to respond to these challenges. She decided that all the books fell within the library’s selection policy. Also per the policy, the challengers had 30 days to appeal—which they did, to the library’s board of trustees.

A typical library board meeting may have one or two non-board members in attendance, Doody says. But for the meeting to consider the appeal in February, hundreds of people showed up, and every person who spoke supported keeping the books on the shelves—except for one, who didn’t appear to take a side, according to Doody. The library had to change the meeting location three times, ultimately hosting it in a local high school auditorium, the largest meeting space the county has.

“I’m hoping that the response here will give some other libraries and librarians some hope that it can go the right way—that just because you receive a challenge, that it’s not the end,” Doody says. “You can work your process, and if your community is on board, you can make it through and have the right outcome.” **AL**



CHRISTINA STERBENZ is a reporter and editor based in Brooklyn, New York, with bylines in *The Guardian*, *National Geographic*, and *VICE*.

2023 ALA Award Winners

Honoring excellence and
leadership in the profession

Every year, the American Library Association (ALA) recognizes the achievements of more than 200 individuals and institutions with an array of awards honoring their service to librarians and librarianship. Winners are chosen by juries of their colleagues and peers and embody the best of the profession's leadership, vision, and service as well as a continued commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI), and outreach.

Award recipients were honored at a June 25 ceremony and reception during ALA's 2023 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago. This selection represents only some of those recognized in 2023; for a complete list, visit ala.org/awardsgrants. **AL**

KEN HAYCOCK AWARD FOR PROMOTING LIBRARIANSHIP

Carla Hayden

Hayden has exemplified the award criteria of “contributing significantly to the public recognition and appreciation of librarianship” during her long and varied career. As Librarian of Congress, she advocates for the Library of Congress (LC) in Washington, D.C., demonstrating LC's importance and testifying for its budget. She promotes the value of her institution through a Twitter account that highlights LC materials and activities, as well as through frequent media interviews. Responsibilities also include cochairing the annual National Book Festival, conferring on annual National Film Registry selections, overseeing the US Copyright Office, and selecting the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

During her 2003–2004 term as ALA president, Hayden provided a powerful and influential voice for ALA on issues related to the Patriot Act. *Ms.* magazine named her its 2003 Woman of the Year. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Haycock23.

This \$1,000 award honors an individual for contributing significantly to the public recognition and appreciation of librarianship through professional performance, teaching, and/or writing.

Donor: Ken Haycock



ERNEST A. DIMATTIA JR. AWARD FOR INNOVATION AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND PROFESSION

Lance Werner

Werner, executive director of Kent (Mich.) District Library (KDL), was honored in part for his leadership in developing a new service model for KDL employees. “The KDL Way” emphasizes kindness and innovation.

One nominator noted that Werner is an effective library advocate, helping to secure tax capture amnesty for library budgets in 2017 by testifying before committees in the Michigan legislature. This

work also extends to helping librarians across the state organize grassroots advocacy initiatives and develop the relationship-building skills needed to protect library funding, safeguard intellectual freedom, build community, and resist efforts to censor library collections. In 2022, *Crain’s Grand Rapids Business* named Werner to its Grand Rapids 200, a list of western Michigan’s most powerful and influential business leaders, for the second year in a row. Read more at bit.ly/AL-DiMattia23.

This \$5,000 award recognizes one or more public librarians who demonstrate leadership in anticipating emerging trends in services, products, and technologies that will enhance the library’s position in its community. **Donor:** The DiMattia Family



LEMONY SNICKET PRIZE FOR NOBLE LIBRARIANS FACED WITH ADVERSITY

Denise Neujahr

There has been no shortage of high-profile challenges to library services for LGBTQ+ teens in recent years. Neujahr, teen youth services specialist at the Community Library Network in northern Idaho, has demonstrated exceptional courage in providing a supportive environment for young adults in the face of protests, personal attacks, and threats.

Neujahr started Rainbow Squad programs to provide a safe space for LGBTQ+ young adults and their allies to meet, participate in activities, and exist in a space free from the fear of being othered. A small but vocal northern Idaho group began politicizing these programs in spring 2021. By June 2022, Neujahr was targeted by the Panhandle Patriots, a militia-oriented motorcycle club that obtained her personal

information through a public records request. The group printed posters and conducted a social media campaign calling her a “groomer” and claiming she was indoctrinating youth with an LGBTQ+ agenda. Neujahr continued the Rainbow Squad programming and worked with law enforcement and library administration to keep participants safe from the sometimes-armed protesters.

The library and other community groups also faced a threat from Patriot Front, a white nationalist group, at Coeur d’Alene’s Pride in the Park event in June 2022. Thirty-one members of the group outfitted in tactical gear drove to the event in a U-Haul truck, but they were arrested on a charge of conspiracy to riot before they could disrupt the event. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Snicket23.

This award annually recognizes a librarian who has faced adversity with integrity and dignity intact. The honoree receives \$10,000 and an object from author Daniel Handler’s private collection. **Donor:** Daniel Handler (Lemony Snicket)

JOSEPH W. LIPPINCOTT AWARD

Julius C. Jefferson Jr.

Jefferson is being honored for his lifetime efforts to mentor librarians and library workers; his commitment to EDI; and for his leadership, particularly during the pandemic.

As 2020–2021 ALA president, Jefferson helped lead the Association through one of its most challenging periods. He advocated for COVID-19 relief funding for libraries, led the adjustment to a new virtual environment, and created “Holding Space,” a national conversation series and virtual tour that highlighted the value of libraries and engaged stakeholders to advocate for them and the communities they serve.

Jefferson’s contributions to EDI include leading efforts to diversify conference speakers during his term as ALA president, creating a Midwinter session on microaggressions, and coediting *The 21st-Century Black Librarian in America: Issues and Challenges* (Scarecrow Press, 2012). He has a distinguished record of service in a variety of professional associations, and President Joe Biden appointed him to the National Museum and Library Services Board in 2022. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Lippincott23.

This \$1,500 award recognizes distinguished service in the profession of librarianship. **Donor:** Joseph W. Lippincott III



BETA PHI MU AWARD

Emily J. M. Knox

Knox, associate professor in the School of Information Sciences at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, has a long record as a scholar, leader, educator, and mentor. She is a well-known thinker about impactful library issues, including intellectual freedom, accessibility, and diversity, and she is frequently cited about these issues in media including NPR, *The Washington Post*, and Slate.



Her publications include *Foundations of Intellectual Freedom* (ALA Editions, 2022), *Foundations of Information Ethics* (ALA Editions, 2019), and *Book Banning in 21st-Century America* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015). As a professor, Knox is recognized for her ability to engage students and allow them to lend their voice to complex issues while she shares her perspectives on the tensions between policy and justice. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Beta23.

This \$1,000 award honors a library school faculty member’s achievement or another individual’s distinguished service to education for librarianship. **Donor:** Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honorary Society

PAUL HOWARD AWARD FOR COURAGE

Amanda Jones

Jones, a middle school librarian from Livingston Parish, Louisiana, attended a public board meeting of Livingston Parish Library in July 2022 to speak against book challenges and in solidarity with library colleagues.

In the days after she spoke at the meeting, Jones became the target of a social media hate campaign that included threats of physical violence (see p. 28). Jones filed a civil lawsuit against those targeting her; while it was dismissed in September 2022, she has filed an appeal and continues to fight for herself and other librarians whose opposers have attempted to silence them with bullying, intimidation, and threats. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Howard23.

This \$1,000 award honors a librarian, library board, library group, or an individual who has exhibited courage for the benefit of library programs or services in the face of adversity. **Donor:** Paul Howard



EQUALITY AWARD

Susan Kusel

Jewish people make up about 2% of the United States population but are the target of approximately 60% of religiously motivated hate crimes. Over a career that includes stints as a synagogue library director, a buyer for a bookstore, the owner of a consulting business, and an author, Kusel has long been an energetic advocate for Jewish librarians and patrons, including working to make sure Jewish concerns are included in diversity justice efforts. She has mentored more than 50 librarians in the past 15 years, helping to educate professionals about Judaic literature, equity concerns, and the dangers of antisemitism.

Kusel has initiated several projects to promote Jewish children's literature as "window books" that can help form connections between the Jewish community and the wider world. Perhaps

most notably, she chaired the Association of Jewish Libraries' Sydney Taylor Book Award committee and worked to have the award presented at the Youth Media Awards ceremony starting in 2019. She now administers the Sydney Taylor Schmooze mock award blog with Chava Pinchuck and Heidi Rabinowitz. The blog has reviewed nearly 500 books since 2020, providing a way for librarians, booksellers, and caregivers to find information and think critically about Jewish children's literature. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Equality23.

This \$1,000 award recognizes an outstanding contribution toward promoting equality in the library profession. The award may be given for an activist or scholarly contribution in such areas as pay equity, affirmative action, legislative work, and nonsexist education. **Sponsor:** Rowman & Littlefield



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YOUNG READERS

Shannon Stocker and Devon Holzwarth

Listen: *How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion*, written by Shannon Stocker and illustrated by Devon Holzwarth, tells the story of a girl who loses her hearing due to nerve degeneration but finds an innovative way to listen to and play percussion. The committee praised how the book’s expressive art coordinates with lyrical text to depict Evelyn Glennie’s perseverance in expanding access to music education.

In the Blue, written and illustrated by Erin Hourigan, is the young readers honor title.

MIDDLE READERS

C. C. Harrington

Wildoak, by C. C. Harrington, is the story of Maggie, whose parents send her to her grandfather’s home in the Cornish countryside in hopes that it will improve her stuttering. Maggie discovers and saves an abandoned snow leopard that had once been purchased as a pet. The committee praised the book’s representation of disability as integral to identity and self-acceptance.

Honestly Elliott, written by Gillian McDunn, and *Hummingbird*, by Natalie Lloyd, are the middle readers honor titles.

From left: Devon Holzwarth, Shannon Stocker, Erin Stewart, C. C. Harrington

TEEN READERS

Erin Stewart

In *The Words We Keep*, written by Erin Stewart, Lily strives to project a perfect image at school and at home, while hiding her anxiety. A collaborative project helps her understand the complexities of mental health and the importance of seeking help. The committee celebrated the book’s use of art and poetry to illustrate the realities of anxiety disorders.

Breathe and Count Back from Ten, by Natalia Sylvester, is the teen readers honor title.

Read more at bit.ly/AL-Schneider23.

This award of \$5,000 is given to authors or illustrators for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences. Honor titles receive a plaque. Recipients are selected in three categories: young readers (birth to age 8), middle readers (ages 9–13), and teen readers (ages 14–18). **Donor:** Katherine Schneider



W. Y. BOYD LITERARY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY FICTION



P. T. Deutermann

Based on a true story, *The Last Paladin* follows the *USS Holland* in 1944 as it is reassigned from hunting German U-boats in the Atlantic to supporting destroyers fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. As part of the US effort to retake the central Pacific Island chains in preparation for the invasion of Japan, the *USS Holland* discovers a thousand-mile-long picket line of subma-

rines. Its mission is to find and destroy those submarines so American forces can achieve a strategic surprise.

Deutermann, a former destroyer captain, writes with the understanding of dramatic, intense combat. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Boyd23.

This \$5,000 award honors the best fiction set in a period when the United States was at war. **Donor:** William Young Boyd II

**ALA/INFORMATION TODAY
LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE AWARD**

Las Vegas–Clark County (Nev.) Library District

Las Vegas–Clark County (Nev.) Library District (LVCCLD) has been selected for its Cell Phone Lending program, a partnership with T-Mobile and Premier Wireless, the Nevada Homeless Alliance, and the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. The program provides smartphones to low-income and unhoused residents for an 18-month lending period. Smartphones are preloaded with library apps and provide access to more than 50 social service agencies, job training skills, and resources for career development and health and wellness.

The phones have 5G hotspot capability and are a primary means of staying connected to friends, family, and services. At the end of the lending period, recipients have the option to keep their phone and phone number and arrange a contract with a wireless service provider at their own expense. Read more at bit.ly/AL-LVCCLD23.

LVCCLD also won this award in 2022 for its Bringing the Library to Transit Riders program. Read more about that initiative at bit.ly/AL-LVCCLD22.

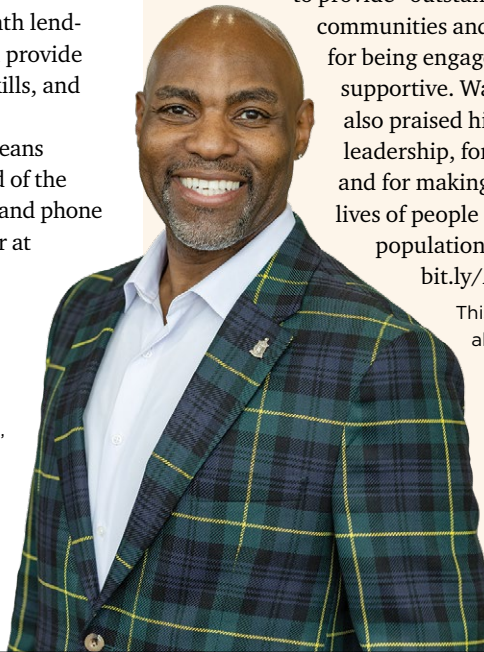
This \$1,500 award annually recognizes a library, library consortium, group of librarians, or support organization for innovative planning, application, or development of patron-focused support relating to information technology in libraries. **Donor:** Information Today

ALA MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

Kelvin Watson

Watson, executive director of LVCCLD, has been recognized for many accomplishments during his career in public library management.

Jurists and colleagues from both inside and outside the library community recognized Watson for his ability to develop partnerships at many levels to provide “outstanding service to his communities and the profession” and for being engaged, accessible, and supportive. Watson’s nominators also praised him for his visionary leadership, for driving innovation, and for making an impact on the lives of people from underserved populations. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Watson.



This \$2,000 award annually recognizes creative leadership, particularly in the fields of library management, library training, cataloging and classification, and the tools and techniques of librarianship. **Sponsor:** OCLC

**SULLIVAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY
ADMINISTRATORS SUPPORTING SERVICES TO CHILDREN**

Deborah Anderson

Anderson, assistant director of education and engagement at Los Angeles County Library (LACL), was selected for her success in leading initiatives that demonstrate what equity-centered programming for children and families should look like. LACL’s programs and services have been crafted to meet the needs of its constituents, demonstrating a “meet them where they are” approach. They expertly address the immediate needs of the county’s youngest library users while giving voice to those in the community who may have been overlooked or marginalized.

LACL Director Skye Patrick said, “Anderson’s contributions to library service and programming positively impact the lives and well-being of countless children and families that turn to [LACL] as their lifeline. Her steadfast commitment to improving the experiences and life course outcomes for children and their families is a true asset to Los Angeles County and the library field.” Read more at bit.ly/AL-Sullivan23.

This award includes a commemorative gift and recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to children while maintaining administrative responsibilities.

Donor: Peggy Sullivan



Question the Bureaucracy

How corporate influence on higher education negatively affects BIPOC library workers

BY Lalitha Nataraj



LALITHA NATARAJ is social sciences librarian at California State University San Marcos.

During the pandemic, like many, I watched a lot of television. One of the gems I discovered was *What We Do in the Shadows*, an irreverent mockumentary about four vampire roommates and a human familiar, all living in modern-day New York City. While three of the vampires are run-of-the-mill bloodsuckers, one is a day-walking energy vampire who gains his power by boring those around him, especially colleagues at his office job. As I watched, I started drawing connections between the vampires’ foolish antics—a result of strongly held antiquated beliefs and traditions—and the convoluted bureaucratic practices that constrain those of us working in academic libraries.

As of late, bureaucratic practices in higher education have been steeped in a neoliberal ideology that manifests as *managerialism*, or applying a corporate model to run a nonprofit or academic institution. Neoliberalism emphasizes capitalist free-market values, including a focus on efficiency, maximizing productivity, and individualism over collectivism. With managerialism, academic libraries are asked to adopt a more business-like approach when it comes to assessment and justifying the value of our work within the larger institutional system.

For example, library staffers are often asked to participate in meetings and structured group work, where we must visibly showcase our compliance with administrative policies. One could argue that meetings address equity because they ensure everyone has a say, whether through openly voicing opinions or submitting anonymous feedback. But in reality, many meetings are used to mollify workers by giving the appearance of democratic decision making when outcomes have already been determined.

For library workers who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), these confusing exercises can damage our well-being and ability to properly serve the students with whom we work. Many of us spend inordinate amounts of emotional energy trying to parse management’s intentions, especially when these hidden agendas are in place or there’s a lack of transparency. Cultures of secrecy flourish in bureaucratic systems. Withholding information is a gatekeeping measure often used to inhibit inclusivity or, worse, dominate marginalized groups. What’s more, BIPOC individuals are pressured into fitting a professional standard that is really code for assimilating into whiteness.

As a teaching librarian who primarily serves underrepresented, marginalized students, I see our work complicated by an inability to thoughtfully collaborate with professors (who are intensely focused on meeting their own performance targets) on library instruction. When we’re asked to demonstrate our value through quantitative metrics

(such as the number of one-shot instruction sessions) instead of qualitative ones (such as the relationships built in the classroom), it’s difficult to integrate culturally validating pedagogies that uplift our students.

Instead, a more reflective, inclusive approach to information literacy instruction is vital now more than ever—one unfettered by impersonal bureaucratic policies. To achieve this, we must reimagine our work to be “authentic, liberatory, and imaginative,” as librarians Sofia Y. Leung and Jorge R. López-McKnight write in their 2020 paper “Dreaming Revolutionary Futures.”

This means disavowing empty commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and shifting LIS values to make space for different ways of thinking and behaving in libraries. For example, in recent years, my colleagues and I

have developed an information literacy curriculum that decenters whiteness in scholarly conversation. I use my limited time in the classroom to focus on topics like equitable citational practices and epistemic injustice—such as exclusion and silencing—rather than cursory database demonstrations.

To challenge foundational, deeply ingrained bureaucratic practices, we must focus on collectivism. This means increasing the number of BIPOC library workers and providing them concrete support and consistent validation in ways that visibly subvert existing norms to create more inclusivity and true participation. ^{AL}

Gatekeeping measures inhibit inclusivity.

Care and Consideration

Steps to improve health and wellness for library staff

BY Bobbi L. Newman



BOBBI L. NEWMAN is community engagement and outreach specialist at the Network of the National Library of Medicine office for Region 6 at Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at University of Iowa in Iowa City.

What can a library do to facilitate optimum health and wellness for its staff? Resilience narratives often place the responsibility on employees to recover from poor working conditions through their individual efforts on their personal time, but this fails to address the larger institutional and societal factors that contribute to an unhealthy work environment. A few recommendations can help you address the problem at its source.

Physical space. All library staffers should have an ergonomic work station. If you have access to an external ergonomics evaluation, arrange for your library to have one. Be prepared to purchase the equipment and furnishings necessary to meet the resulting recommendations. Ideally, this would come from the library budget, but you may need to consider other sources of funding, such as applying for grants or fundraising.

If staffers have their own offices, allow them to control the temperature in that space, if possible. In shared spaces, try to come to a consensus on temperature. It is more than a preference. Hormonal changes and medications can affect how warm or cool we feel. No one should be singled out for trying to maintain their comfort level.

Be sure any policies or practices you develop take into consideration the cultural norms about what foods are allowed. Banning “smelly” food is problematic because it’s subjective and may unfairly target people of color and nondominant cultures. Consider creating a workplace policy or culture that encourages everyone to eat in the breakroom or in another location besides their desk or a shared workspace.

Salary. Management may need to evaluate salaries both in terms of wages for the area and industry. It’s important to remember that both those staffers who hold advanced degrees in library science and those who don’t are paid based on limited budgets. Closely examine staff salaries for equity and adjust them accordingly. Evaluate and revise hiring practices to ensure fair and equal wages in future hires.

Vacation and sick time. One of the takeaways from the pandemic is the importance of staying home while sick. Libraries can encourage staffers to do this by providing ample sick time in a separate pool from vacation time. This way, employees do not need to feel the need to come to work sick to save their vacation time. Create a culture where using vacation time is expected as a matter of self-care. It should also be policy to completely disconnect from work—no expectation of responding to emails, texts, or phone calls—during vacations.

Telecommuting and flex schedules. Policies around remote work and flexible schedules require an honest look at the responsibilities of

staffers and the reason managers might feel that they must be in the building during a strict set of hours to complete their work. Start by having frank discussions with colleagues about their interest in remote work and flex scheduling. Involve them in the process. Remember, both policies should be available to all employees, not just those who are caregivers.

Emotional and invisible labor. Library administration, policies, and practices should acknowledge that these types of labor exist and disproportionately affect some staff. Provide access to private space to process emotions away from coworkers and patrons. Set expectations that staffers may take time away from service desks after difficult encounters with patrons. Creating a workplace that truly embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion will help reduce the burden of emotional labor on the job.

Many of these changes mean letting go of social and cultural norms in libraries and in the US around how managers and organizations treat workers. You may need to spend time sitting with these recommendations and thinking about how to implement them. It will be helpful to recruit allies both in changing the organizational culture and official policies and practices. You know your organization best and which approaches will be more successful when advocating for changes.

Adapted from *Fostering Wellness in the Workplace: A Handbook for Libraries* (ALA Editions, 2022). **AL**

Resilience narratives often place the burden of poor working conditions on employees.

Training Wreck

New mandates bring concern and confusion to Florida school libraries

BY Kathleen Daniels



KATHLEEN DANIELS is library media specialist at Barington Middle School in Lithia, Florida, and the 2022–2023 president of the Florida Association for Media in Education.

In March 2022, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill that, beginning this year, has had far-reaching implications for public school librarians in the state.

The law, known as House Bill 1467, required the state’s department of education to develop what is now known as the Library Media and Instructional Materials Training. It is mandatory for all public school library media specialists and instructs library staffers to “err on the side of caution” when choosing materials.

As of January 2023, state-certified educational media specialists cannot purchase books for their libraries until they’ve taken this one-time training (bit.ly/FL-Training-Transcript).

The creation of baseline training isn’t inherently bad. Trainings can help explain new laws, inform methods for soliciting community input, and improve practices for developing collections. What is bad, however, is the recommendation to “err on the side of caution.” The 12-member workgroup that advised on the training did not include this phrase in its final recommendations, and other recent state legislation on this topic does not include this wording. The Florida Department of Education added the language to the final training, and this direction allegedly encourages censorship.

The training also prominently mentions Florida’s statutes for distributing pornography to minors and the felony penalties for violating them, reflecting the current trend of hyperfocusing on concerns about so-called “porn” in children’s library materials.

While Florida doesn’t have a statutory definition of pornography, state statute 847.012 says adults cannot distribute any printed material that contains “detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, or sexual conduct and that is harmful to minors.” Research from the Florida Freedom to Read Project, an advocacy group against censorship, shows that recently challenged books have not met this threshold (bit.ly/FL-BannedBooks).

It’s also concerning how the training discusses procedures for selecting instructional materials for curricula. This further confuses library professionals and other stakeholders about which policies are relevant to them, because many school library media specialists don’t participate in instructional material acquisition.

New legislation continues to blur the lines between what is considered a school library and classroom library. In either case, creating limitations for and dictating which materials are allowed at schools inhibits quality

book access, thereby widening our state’s literacy gap.

It’s unclear if the state’s department of education will have another public review process. Its workgroup consisted of eight library media specialists and four parents—including members of Moms for Liberty, a national organization of right-wing parents leading book ban efforts across the country. It appears that having library media specialists on the committee didn’t hold significant weight, because additions were made to the training that were strongly opposed by the majority of the group.

Periodic review of any training should be required, and this training is no exception. But it must be done in good faith.

What’s happening in Florida can happen in any community. Library workers, educators, and advocates must continue to call, email, and demand meetings with school leaders and lawmakers to prevent the passage of more troubling policies like those we’ve

seen during the last two legislative sessions. We must make our voices heard.

It’s going to be a rough school year. I’m heartened that these policies are undergoing scrutiny in the courts and that they have seen criticism from

constituents who span the political spectrum. With our continued efforts in support of the right to read, we can overcome these challenges. **AL**

This training instructs library staffers to “err on the side of caution” when choosing materials.

ALA

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Library Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Patrons

A 90-minute webinar taking place on September 25, 2023

Fighting Back Against Fake News

A 90-minute webinar taking place on September 27, 2023

Controlled Digital Lending in Libraries: Streaming and Other Content

A 90-minute webinar taking place on September 28, 2023

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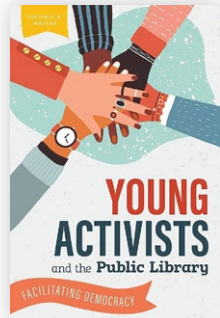
ARACELI MÉNDEZ HINTERMEISTER is knowledge manager at Uplift Education in Dallas.



Library Collaborations and Community Partnerships: Enhancing Health and Quality of Life

Edited by Vicki Hines-Martin, Fannie M. Cox, and Henry R. Cunningham

This title showcases libraries as vital collaborators in communities through their efforts to foster engagement, build connections, and serve as partners in leadership. Firsthand accounts of projects and programs help illustrate the ways these institutions are uniquely positioned to recognize local needs and facilitate resource and knowledge sharing to empower the people they serve. The applicable strategies and lessons of each chapter allow readers to view the examples within the context of their own libraries and consider how they can play a transformative role in community engagement and growth. Routledge, 2020. 248 p. \$48.95. PBK. 978-1-1383-4329-0. (Also available as an ebook.)



Young Activists and the Public Library: Facilitating Democracy

By Virginia A. Walter

In this insightful book, Walter—former president of the Association for Library Service to Children—uses case studies and interviews to explore how libraries can support young patrons' desire to get involved in their communities by providing them with reliable information and creating leadership opportunities. By providing examples of library programs and projects for budding activists, this title will help readers grow their civic literacy and civic engagement efforts. ALA Editions, 2020. 128 p. \$45.99. PBK. 978-0-8389-4738-8.

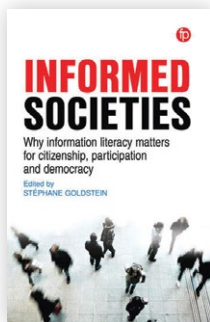


Practicing Futures: A Civic Imagination Action Handbook

By Gabriel Peters-Lazaro and Sangita Shresthova

Practicing Futures is a guide for those interested in *civic imagination*, the practice of using imagined worlds as a means of analyzing real-world social issues and potential solutions. By outlining its six key functions, this transformative book explores how civic imagination activates, mobilizes, and empowers individuals. Readers will discover the potential of this tool for creating meaningful conversations and change. This book provides examples, facilitation notes, and handouts for workshops on brainstorming, collaboration, and action planning around civic engagement that will inspire librarians to think differently about how they foster those conversations. Peter Lang Group, 2020. 176 p. \$45.05. PBK. 978-1-4331-7270-0. (Also available as an ebook.)

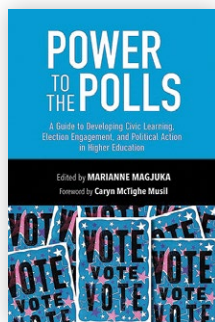
By Araceli Méndez Hintermeister



Informed Societies: Why Information Literacy Matters for Citizenship, Participation, and Democracy

Edited by Stéphane Goldstein

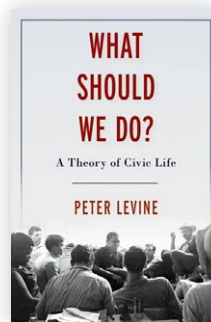
Goldstein asserts that *information literacy*, the ability to critically analyze and evaluate information, empowers citizens with evidence-based perspectives while equipping them with the capability and confidence to navigate the abundance of information in their everyday life—some of which may not be factual and could even be harmful. With chapters authored by scholars from a variety of fields, such as psychology and public policy, this comprehensive book delves into the theory and practical applications of information literacy, providing readers with a profound understanding of how it contributes to a healthier democracy. Facet Publishing, 2020. 272 p. \$101.99. PBK. 978-1-78330-422-6.



Power to the Polls: A Guide to Developing Civic Learning, Election Engagement, and Political Action in Higher Education


Edited by Marianne Magjuka

This collection of stories highlights different strategies that college administrators, faculty, and staff have used to promote learning about the democratic process on their campuses. Chapter authors showcase how faculty and staff have embraced their role in educating students on activism and creating collaborative spaces for it on campus—a transferable lesson for academic librarianship. Other library workers will find ways to equip their communities, particularly young people, with the necessary knowledge and skills to contribute to an informed and engaged society. Stylus Publishing, 2022. 267 p. \$42.95. PBK. 978-1-6426-7405-7. (Also available as an ebook.)



What Should We Do? A Theory of Civic Life

By Peter Levine

Drawing from his research and examining the motivators and obstacles in social movements like the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Black Lives Matter, civic studies expert Peter Levine provides practical guidance on how to better understand the political participation and motivation of others, allowing readers to participate more meaningfully in civic discourse and action. *What Should We Do?* serves as a thoughtful reflection and lesson for library workers who are trying to understand their institutions' role in larger collective action. Oxford University Press, 2022. 248 p. \$29.95. 978-0-1975-7049-4. (Also available as an ebook.) 

PEOPLE

Announcements

ON THE MOVE

In June **Tikela Robinson Alston** became director of library services at Braswell Memorial Library in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

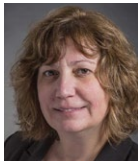
Emma Brelsford joined Boyden Library in Foxborough, Massachusetts, as youth librarian in February.

July 10 **Eric Dorfman** became president of Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, Missouri.



Megan Gallipeau joined Eastern Shore Public Library in Accomac, Virginia, as youth services librarian January 17.

Bella Karr Gerlich started as dean of libraries at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla August 1.



May 15 **Jeri Kay Hopkins** became director of Columbus (Neb.) Public Library.

Richard Landreth became director of Lied Scottsbluff (Neb.) Public Library May 15.

March 20 **Ellen Nasto** started as director at Floyd Memorial Library in Greenport, New York.

Kevin Seeber became head of the campus library at Penn State Abington in Pennsylvania March 1.

May 30 **Kim Shipala** joined Fiske Public Library in Wrentham, Massachusetts, as director.

Amber Skantz started as assistant archivist at Athens (Ala.) State University in November 2022.

Lauren Tubbs joined Athens (Ala.) State University as access and user experience librarian in February.

Kudos

The New Jersey Library Association named **Martha Hickson**, librarian at North Hunterdon High School in Clinton Township, its 2023 Librarian of the Year June 1.

April 16 **Sheri Massey**, library media specialist at Cabin John Middle School in Potomac, Maryland, was named School Librarian of the Year by the Maryland Association of School Librarians. ●



In November 2022 **Christina Vortia** became rare books librarian at Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center in Washington, D.C.

PROMOTIONS

February 1 **Meaghan Alston** was promoted to assistant curator for African American collections at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

New Haven (Conn.) Free Public Library promoted **Maria Bernhey** to city librarian and director July 1.

July 1 **Amber Billey** was promoted to associate director for systems and metadata at Bard College's Stevenson Library in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

June 5 **Tim McDonald** was promoted to director of libraries and information services for the city of Pasadena, California.

Carlo Medina was promoted to director of University of California's Southern

Regional Library Facility and UCLA Library Unified Access Services July 1.

July 1 **Alexa Gordon Murphy** was promoted to associate director for public services and outreach at Bard College's Stevenson Library in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, promoted **Heather Topcik** to dean and director of libraries effective July 1.

RETIREMENTS

In March **Kathy Chandler** retired as director of Pitkin County (Colo.) Library.

Kelly Chaney retired in June as library media specialist at Williams Magnet Elementary School in Little Rock, Arkansas.



Ron Gagnon retired as executive director of NOBLE: North of Boston Library Exchange in Danvers, Massachusetts, June 2.

Susan Goldstein retired as San Francisco Public Library's city archivist June 30.

Youth Services Program Librarian **Cathy Maassen** retired from Skokie (Ill.) Public Library in June.

In May **Marilyn Pace**, librarian for Owensboro (Ky.) Catholic High School, retired after 50 years of service.

January 30 **Diane Palguta** retired as information commons associate at Butler University's Irwin Library in Indianapolis.

Amelia Shelley retired as director of Fort Vancouver (Wash.) Regional Libraries July 31.

June 30 **MacKenzie Smith** retired as university librarian and vice provost of

In Memory

Ethel Ambrose, 92, longtime children's advocate, died December 16. During the 1960s she helped establish elementary school libraries in rural Kentucky, and later worked at Sacramento (Calif.) City-County Library and Stockton-San Joaquin County (Calif.) Public Library. She held numerous offices in the California Library Association and ALA, and served on several Newbery, Caldecott, and Coretta Scott King Book Award committees.

Paul B. Cors, 92, the first director of the Centralized Processing Center at Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne, died March 28. In 1969, he became chief acquisitions librarian and associate professor at Coe Library at University of Wyoming in Laramie. He retired in 1995 as professor and head of collection development. Cors was active in ALA's Intellectual Freedom Round Table and Social Responsibilities Round Table and authored the chapter "Academic Libraries and Intellectual Freedom" in ALA's *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, 5th edition.

Anne Haynes, 75, who was a librarian at Indiana University in Bloomington before her retirement, died February 27. She worked as a music librarian, cataloger, and a reference librarian in her 40-year career at the school. She also volunteered as a literacy tutor at Monroe County (Ind.) Public Library.

Jenny Keller, 42, school librarian at Krieger Schechter Day School in Baltimore, died January 23.

Helen Miller, 82, who worked for 38 years at the Free Library of Philadelphia until retiring in 2005 as director of public services, died March 2. As the library's West Philadelphia area administrator, Miller developed significant collections of African American and Southeast Asian materials and oversaw the opening of three new branches in West Philadelphia. As chief of neighborhood libraries, she administered the operations of 48 branches and three regional libraries, and chaired

the Preschool Door-to-Learning Task Force that created preschool centers in all branch libraries. When Miller became the library's director of public service in 1995, she managed an \$18 million Model Urban Library Services for Children grant from the William Penn Foundation, which renovated branch libraries.

Marilynn "Dale" Thompson, 79, director of Providence (R.I.) Public Library (PPL) for 34 years until her 2014 retirement, died March 25. In 2001, under her leadership, PPL received the Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Patricia "Pat" A. Wand, 81, longtime ALA and international library leader, died April 28. During her career, Wand held positions at Wittenberg University Library in Springfield, Ohio; College of Staten Island, City University of New York; Columbia University Libraries in New York City; and University of Oregon in Eugene. She also served as university librarian and professor at American University in Washington, D.C., and as dean of library and learning resources and professor at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates. She chaired ALA's Budget Analysis Review Committee and Committee on Legislation and helped to grow ALA's endowment as an endowment trustee (and later senior endowment trustee). On behalf of ALA and other library associations, she testified three times before the US House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations in support of budgets for the Library of Congress and the Superintendent of Documents. She was also particularly active in the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), serving on its board, as chair of its Budget and Finance and International Relations committees, and as ACRL representative on ALA Council. She helped found the ACRL Instruction Section in 1977 and chaired the Anthropology and Sociology Section from 1982 to 1983. ●

digital scholarship at University of California, Davis.

Tony Stankus, life sciences librarian at University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville, retired in March.

In March **Benita Strnad** retired as associate professor and education reference librarian at University of Alabama Libraries in Tuscaloosa.

AT ALA

July 10 **Greg Landgraf** started as senior editor at *American Libraries*.

Kara Malenfant, senior strategist for special initiatives at ACRL, left ALA June 16.

March 31 **Mary Jane Petrowski** retired as associate director of ACRL.

In April **Amber Robbin** became marketing and membership manager for Core.

Sophia Speranza joined ALA Editions as publishing associate in May.

June 5 **Kara Stachowiak** joined ALA as conference manager. **AL**

A Good Carrot Cake

2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 ½ tsp. soda
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. cinnamon
½ cup chopped nuts
4 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 ½ cups oil
2 cups grated carrots
1 (8-oz.) crushed
pineapple, drained

Sift together flour, baking powder, soda, salt and cinnamon. Beat eggs and add sugar. Let stand 10 min. Stir in oil, pineapple, carrots, nuts, flour mixture. Turn into 3 greased and floured 9-inch round cake pans. Bake at 350° for 35–40 min. Cool in pans for 10 min, remove to wire racks, cool well.

Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting
½ cup butter
1 tsp vanilla
Mix butter, cream cheese, vanilla then add sugar.
Frost between layers, top and sides.
1 (8 oz) cream cheese
1 pound powder sugar, sifted
Vanadale, CA
Christine W Hammill

Recipe in Peace

Whether it's snickerdoodles, peach cobbler, or cheese dip, many home cooks want to be remembered for their signature dish. Some have even gone as far as incorporating those foods into their final resting place.

"Food connects us to someone we miss," says Rosie Grant, digital librarian for American Jewish University in Los Angeles and outreach and communications manager at UCLA. "It connects all of our senses to that person or memory."

Grant, who is known as @ghostlyarchive on TikTok, went viral last year for trying recipes etched on gravestones and documenting her culinary process. She started the account in 2021 while taking a social media course toward her MLIS, inspired by her then-internship at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. After the class ended, she read about a gravestone recipe in an Atlas Obscura article, which prompted her to create her first video on the subject.

In January 2022, Grant posted a video of herself making spritz cookies from the Brooklyn, New York, headstone of Naomi Odessa Miller-Dawson. "I made them very wrong," she recalls with a laugh, noting that she didn't know to use a cookie press. She has since tried about 20 gravestone recipes—most of them sweets found

through online research and with followers' help. Her account has amassed more than 195,000 followers and 7.9 million likes.

Grant says her goal is to keep visiting gravesites associated with the recipes she tries and connecting with recipe-writers' families in person and online. Expanding her niche, she has also begun researching traditional funeral foods, like potato hot dish and sheet cake.

Discussing death can be scary, Grant acknowledges, but it's often easier when food is in the mix. She says: "I feel like I've barely even scratched the surface of this connection." **AL**

THE BOOKEND showcases librarians, their work, and their workspaces. For consideration, email americanlibraries@ala.org.



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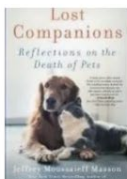
OPEN
ARCHITECTURE

Suggested Reading: Living With Pets

Pets in America
Grier, Katherine C.



Lost Companions
Masson, J. Moussaieff



The Animals Among Us
Bradshaw, John



Run, Spot, Run
Pierce, Jessica



Nati

