

# american libraries

June 2024

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



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Conference  
Preview** p.38

+Dining Guide p.46

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**Dave Eggers** p.20

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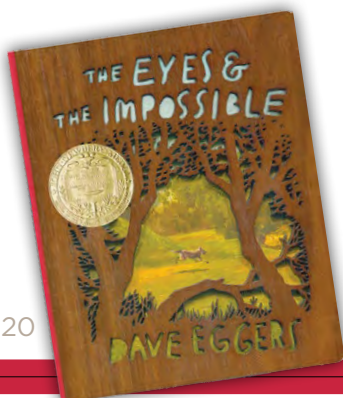
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## Here Comes the Sun



Sanhita SinhaRoy

As we put the finishing touches on this issue here in Chicago, the sand and surf on the cover have us primed for warmer weather. And, of course, we're also jonesing for the promise of San Diego sunshine—and much-needed vitamin D—at ALA's 2024 Annual Conference and Exhibition. Take a peek at some of the programs, speakers, events, and exhibit hall offerings in our conference preview (cover story, p. 38). You'll also want to start thinking about which of the SoCal delights described in our dining guide (p. 46) to sample.

From beachy reveries we travel to book sanctuaries—spaces that safeguard endangered books and defend the freedom to read. In “Seeking Sanctuary” (p. 24), Ed Finkel looks at three public library systems that have joined with civic partners to fight censorship attempts. Find out what kind of impact their campaigns are having.

Also protecting intellectual freedom is author and McSweeney's founder Dave Eggers, our Newmaker this issue (p. 20). Eggers, who will receive the Newbery Medal at Annual, spoke with *Booklist* Adult Books Editor Donna Seaman about the award's significance and how crucial libraries are to society.

With all the pressures facing libraries and library workers these days, it's more important than ever to take mental health concerns seriously. In “Working for Well-Being” (p. 32), Emily Udell profiles four institutions that are pioneering wellness practices in the field. From providing employees with lifestyle spending accounts to using technology to build resilience, these libraries are addressing burnout among staffers and patrons.

As the end of the school year approaches, many of us are gearing up for summer reading programs. In “A Greener Way to Read” (Spotlight, p. 18), one public library in Maryland is replacing plastic prizes with efforts to help fund local nonprofits and promote meaningful community change.

Whatever your summer holds, we hope rest and relaxation are a big part of your plans.

See you in San Diego!

*Sanhita*

Favorite beach?

Oak Street Beach, Chicago

Plage de l'Ostriconi, Corsica, France

South Shore Beach, Chicago

Coast of Phú Quốc, Vietnam

Sullivan's Island, S.C.

Boulders Beach, South Africa

Amalfi Coast, Italy

Playa Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica

Simmons Island Beach, Wis.

The one in From Here to Eternity

Amy beach in Hawaii

With all the pressures facing library workers these days, it's more important than ever to take mental health concerns seriously.

# United for Success

Advancing the public good through collective work



**Emily Drabinski**

As I turn over the gavel, I am convinced that we need a strong and united Association as much as we ever have.

**M**y year as ALA president has been organized around the two principles that animated my campaign for this democratically member-elected position: collective power and public good. I believe that building the former produces and expands the latter. When ordinary people like you and me stand with each other on behalf of things that matter—public investments in libraries, the right to read for people of all ages, fair and equitable distribution of resources to everyone in our communities—we can win the world.

Building that collective power is hard work and, as the storied organizer Jane McAlevey says, there are no shortcuts. The heart of any project is listening to one another. We must take the time to open our minds to the perspectives of others, attempt to understand their circumstances, and share what we find. The gift of this year has been the opportunity to meet so many of you in your libraries, at your state chapter conferences, and at the many ALA events that bring us together in person and online. My mission has been to listen closely and share what I learn with a broad public that needs libraries even more than it might think it does.

It has not always been easy. In states across the country, my personal beliefs and sexual identity have been weaponized in the fight against libraries. To be used as a bludgeon against the people and institutions I care about most in the world has been painful, but not nearly as painful as the erosion of trust in and support for local library workers at the hands of these same actors. ALA stands by library workers everywhere and will continue to do so through these challenging times. “It was important for us to see you, and important for you to see us,” said a librarian after one of my visits to South Carolina, a state where it took some courage to host me. Ultimately, this is what my presidency

has been about: engaging with one another, even when it’s difficult, even when the situation we face feels insurmountable, because we all agree that libraries are urgent and necessary and must be supported.

In March, I joined my New York colleagues in Washington, D.C. As we met with legislators to urge their support for federal funding for libraries, my ALA Executive Board colleague Sara Dallas shared a story from the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS) consortium. Local farmers partner with SALS to offer excess produce to community members through library-based refrigerators. An 80-year-old woman stopped by one of those libraries to offer thanks and say, “This is the first time in my life that I have ever tasted a fresh beet.” That is what I will take with me from this year: hundreds of stories like this one, each a testament to the expansion of joy happening daily, in ways large and small, in every school, public, academic, government, and special library in the United States.

As I turn over the gavel, I am convinced that we need a strong and united Association as much as we ever have. ALA provides the infrastructure and organization for advancing our profession. Our divisions, round tables, working groups, task forces, and initiatives put some of the best minds in the field to work on the knottiest problems we face. None of it is easy; all of it is necessary.

The challenges libraries and library workers face are many—from coping with climate change to responding to artificial intelligence, from the well-funded and organized censorship movement to the constant threat of budget cuts that leave too many of us wondering how we’ll open our doors tomorrow. Our work is important, and we do it best when we do it together. **AL**

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

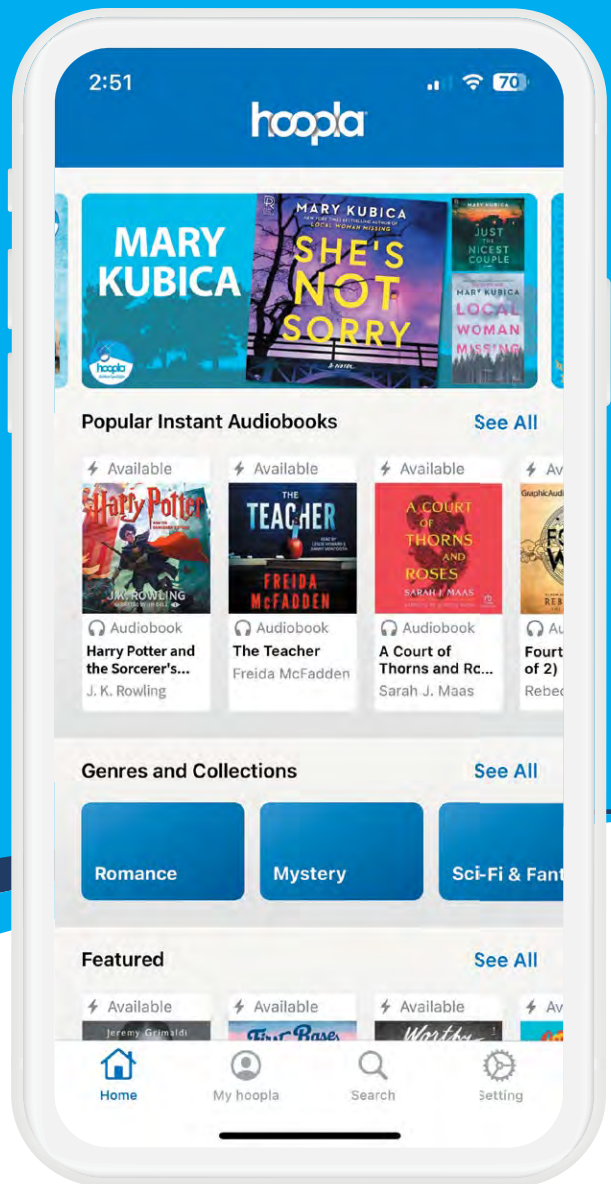
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**LAURA BETH  
FOX-EZELL**

in response to  
“Meeting Neuro-  
diverse Needs”  
(Mar./Apr., p. 16)

### Preserving Perspectives

Thank you, Emily Udell and *American Libraries*, for the article on oral history projects in libraries (“In Their Own Words,” Jan./Feb., p. 36). Those of us in the New York Public Library Retirees Association are pleased to have been included.

Our oral history project has sought to honor the contributions of New York Public Library (NYPL) staff members and the communities and people they have served. Their unique perspectives add immeasurably to what is already known and available about the rich history of NYPL—and provide information that might otherwise be lost. Our

interviews provide interesting and often memorable pictures of life in the library from the late 1930s to the 2010s, and they reflect the historical and cultural life and times of New York City and the US.

Those wishing to learn more about our project should read “NYPL’s Retirees Record Their Oral History,” an article available at [bit.ly/NYPL-Retirees-Oral-History](https://bit.ly/NYPL-Retirees-Oral-History).

**Mary K. Conwell**  
New York City

### AI and Our Values

As reported in *American Libraries*, we saw a surge in the hype and adoption of generative artificial intelligence (AI) last year, both

inside and outside of librarianship (“Reading Between the Bots,” Mar./Apr., p. 20). During that same period, we also saw an update to the American Library Association’s Core Values of Librarianship that reaffirms and highlights our commitment to, among other values, sustainability.

While the AI-related interviews and articles in “Reading Between the Bots” addressed issues such as copyright, privacy, and bias, I could find no mention of the heavy environmental toll this technology extracts, much less other sustainability-related concerns.

Generative AI requires massive amounts of power and water to

# Imagine a Different Future

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[tinyurl.com/ILSLibraryAssociate](https://tinyurl.com/ILSLibraryAssociate)



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function, resulting in a significant pollution footprint, given the way most energy is produced around the world today. While it is possible that a turn to renewables is on the horizon, even then the high energy costs of AI would raise questions. Renewables are less polluting—sometimes dramatically so—but are not non-polluting or without costs. The rare-earth minerals necessary to operate the servers, computers, phones, and other chip-based technology in play are a cause for concern, and the demand



for these minerals contributes to a great deal of violence across the globe.

Many of our library services now rely on cloud-based models, which hide the environmental toll

of our work. Rather than adding to this toll, perhaps we should pause and first consider what problems these generative AI tools are meant to solve.

We stand at a crossroads, and I do not think it is a decision between staying relevant or fading into the past, as the usual argument for so-called technological progress goes. I believe our decision is more fundamental than that: Do we stand by our values or not?

**Matthew Noe**  
Worcester, Massachusetts

**f** I'm so lucky and honored to do this work alongside such warriors. ❤️  
#PLA2024

**ANDREA GREEN**  
in response to  
"How We Work"  
(The Scoop, Apr. 4)

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### Pun Wins 2025–2026 ALA Presidency

Raymond Pun, academic and research librarian at Alder Graduate School of Education in Redwood City, California, has been elected 2025–2026 president of the American Library Association (ALA).

Pun received 5,611 votes, while his opponent Sam Helmick, community and access services coordinator at Iowa City Public Library, received 2,778 votes.

Upon learning the outcome of the election, Pun said, “Thank you to each and every member who voted and became part of the ALA community to make our profession and Association stronger together. I am truly honored for this opportunity to lead our Association with you all. My deepest thanks to Sam Helmick for standing in the election with me during this critical time.”

Pun is immediate past president of the Chinese American Librarians Association and a past president of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. Previously, he served on ALA Council, ALA Policy Corps, and the advisory committees for two ALA past presidents.

Pun is a member of the American Association of School Librarians, the Association for Library Service to Children, and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). He is also a member of the California

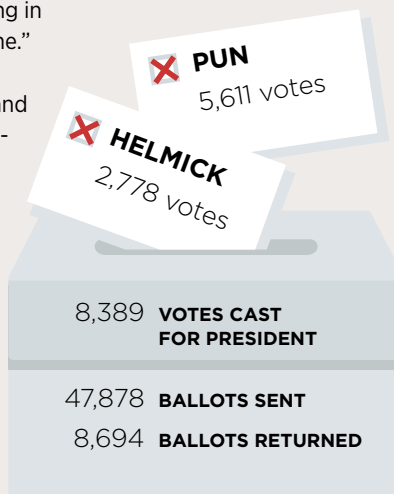
Library Association Advocacy and Legislation Committee, the Library Freedom Project, and other ALA affiliates, including the American Indian Library Association, the Black Caucus of ALA, the Association of Jewish Libraries, the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, and Reforma: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking.



Raymond Pun

Pun is also a member of the International Relations Round Table and the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table. Additionally, he is a member of the Committee of 100's Next Generation Leaders program and a speaker with the Weave Speakers Bureau.

Pun holds an EdD in educational leadership from California State University, Fresno; an MLS from Queens (N.Y.) College; and a master's degree in East Asian studies and a bachelor's degree in history from St. John's University in Queens, New York. ●



#### Call for Proposals for ACRL 2025 Conference

ACRL is currently accepting proposals for the ACRL 2025 Conference, to be held April 2–5, 2025, in Minneapolis and virtually.

The conference will offer a platform for critical conversations and solutions to the challenges facing information professionals, exploring such themes as embedded bias, inclusive excellence, and the role of technology in librarianship.

ACRL 2025 will feature eight different session formats. Contributed paper, panel session, and workshop proposals

are due June 7. Community chat, lightning talk, poster session, round table discussion, and virtual presentation proposals are due October 18.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/ACRLCFP-25](http://bit.ly/ACRLCFP-25).

#### Apply for an Intellectual Freedom Helpline Grant

State library associations, school library association chapters, and state library agencies are invited to apply for a \$10,000 grant to establish or bolster an existing intellectual freedom helpline (IFH). Ten grants will be

distributed by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF).

An IFH is a support network that provides guidance for librarians and educators in a particular state when they face censorship attempts on materials or services. Helplines are run by trained volunteers who will follow a protocol established by grant recipients with guidance from OIF and a toolkit created and vetted by those with experience operating IFHs.

State IFHs will be asked to document reported censorship attempts and share data with OIF for inclusion in ALA's

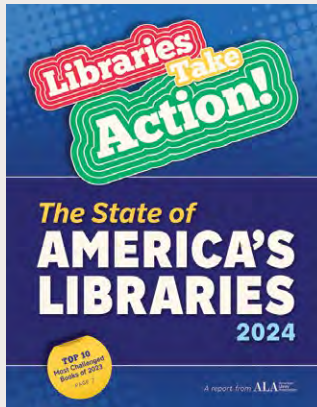
## State of America's Libraries 2024 Report Released

On April 8, ALA released its *State of America's Libraries 2024* report, an annual summary of library trends. The report was published during National Library Week, this year held April 7–13.

Censorship attempts took center stage again in 2024. The number of unique titles targeted for censorship surged by 65% from 2022 to 2023, reaching the highest levels ever documented by ALA, according to the report.

ALA recorded 1,247 attempts to censor materials and services at libraries, schools, and universities in 2023. A total of 4,240 unique titles were challenged or banned last year. The report also includes a list of the top 10 most frequently challenged books of 2023.

To read the full report, visit [bit.ly/SOALRep-24](https://bit.ly/SOALRep-24).



database of confidential reports of censorship attempts taking place nationwide. In addition to funding, grant recipients will be able to send IFH volunteer leaders to an OIF-led, in-person training at ALA headquarters in Chicago. The training will be held in October, and travel and lodging expenses will be covered or reimbursed.

The deadline to apply is July 14. For more information, visit [bit.ly/OIFIFHGrants-24](https://bit.ly/OIFIFHGrants-24).

### UABB Adds 100 Titles to Book Résumé Database

To commemorate National Library Week, Unite Against Book Bans (UABB) announced April 9 it has added 100 titles to its free collection of banned book résumés. Additions include the Heartstopper series by Alice Oseman, *The Nowhere Girls* by Amy Reed, and *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall.

UABB launched its book résumés database in February. Résumés summarize a

book's significance and educational value to support librarians, students, and other library advocates in their efforts to keep frequently challenged books on shelves.

To browse the database, visit [bit.ly/BookResumes](https://bit.ly/BookResumes).

### Drabinski Receives Award from Publishing Triangle

On April 17, ALA President Emily Drabinski received the Torchbearer Award from the Publishing Triangle, the association of LGBTQ people in publishing. The award was presented during a ceremony at the New School in New York City.

The award, now in its second year, is given to organizations or individuals who work to foster a love for reading and an interest in LGBTQ+ literature.

In addition to her work at ALA, Drabinski writes and presents about knowledge organization, information literacy, and critical perspectives in librarianship. She edits *Gender and*

## CALENDAR

### JUNE

**Rainbow Book Month**  
[bit.ly/RBMonth](https://bit.ly/RBMonth)

### JUNE 25–28

**Rare Books and Manuscripts Section 64th Annual Conference**  
Costa Mesa, California  
[bit.ly/RBMS2024](https://bit.ly/RBMS2024)

### JUNE 27–JULY 2

**2024 Annual Conference**  
San Diego  
[alaannual.org](https://alaannual.org)

### SEPT.

**Library Card Sign-Up Month**  
[bit.ly/LibCardSU](https://bit.ly/LibCardSU)

### SEPT. 19–21

**ALSC National Institute**  
Denver  
[bit.ly/ALSCNI](https://bit.ly/ALSCNI)

### SEPT. 22–28

**Banned Books Week**  
[bannedbooksweek.org](https://bannedbooksweek.org)

### SEPT. 25

**Banned Websites Awareness Day**  
[ala.org/aasl/bwad](https://ala.org/aasl/bwad)

### OCT.

**Teentober**  
[ala.org/yalsa/teentober](https://ala.org/yalsa/teentober)

### OCT. 20–26

**National Friends of Libraries Week**  
[bit.ly/ALA-NFLW](https://bit.ly/ALA-NFLW)

### OCT. 21–27

**Open Access Week**  
[openaccessweek.org](https://openaccessweek.org)

### NOV.

**International Games Month**  
[bit.ly/ALA-igm](https://bit.ly/ALA-igm)

### NOV. 14–16

**Core Forum** | Minneapolis  
[coreforum.org](https://coreforum.org)

### JAN. 24–27, 2025

**LibLearnX 2025** | Phoenix  
[alaliblearnx.org](https://alaliblearnx.org)

### APR. 6–12, 2025

**National Library Week**  
[bit.ly/ALA-NLW](https://bit.ly/ALA-NLW)

## UPDATE

Sexuality in Information Studies, a book series from Library Juice Press and Litwin Books, and is a contributor at Truthout, a nonprofit news organization.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/Drabinski-PTAward24](https://bit.ly/Drabinski-PTAward24).

### RUSA Releases List of Best Reference Websites

On March 12, the Business Reference and Services Section Education Committee of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) released its annual Best of the Best Reference Websites list. The list, which debuted in 2009, recognizes three websites that are highly relevant to information professionals who provide business reference services.

This year's recognized resources include the Collective Bargaining, Labor Relations, and Labor Unions Guide, published by the Martin P. Catherwood Library at Cornell University in Ithaca,

New York; the Data Is Plural e-newsletter by data editor and reporter Jeremy Singer-Vine; and Country Guides, published by the organization Lex Mundi, a network of independent law firms.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/BRASS2024](https://bit.ly/BRASS2024).

### Resources to Acquire Federal Digital Equity Act Funding

On April 4, ALA released the second installment in a series of resources to guide libraries in applying for more than \$1 billion in federal funding available through the Digital Equity Act (DEA). The act is designed to promote digital inclusion and equity, especially in underserved communities.

The guide, *What Your Library Needs to Know: Seeking State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Funding*, offers actionable steps for library workers, from reading their individual state's digital equity

plan to identifying potential collaborators and stakeholders. In addition to the guide, ALA is highlighting digital equity resources for libraries, including the Digital Inclusion Working Group on ALA Connect and webinars to better understand DEA.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/ALADEAGuide-24](https://bit.ly/ALADEAGuide-24).

### ALA Releases New Guide on Adult Media Literacy

On March 27, ALA released *Media Literacy for Adults: Architecture of the Internet Programming Guide*, a new free resource to help library workers assist adults in understanding how the internet works and affects their lives.

The 27-page guide includes background information, recommended collection materials, and program ideas on topics like misinformation, artificial intelligence (AI), civics, and search



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engine optimization. It also shares ways to help patrons with technology and embed media literacy in everyday library services.

The guide is a project of ALA's Public Programs Office (PPO) in collaboration with Knology, a nonprofit research organization focused on social science. The guide's authors will present a series of free webinars later this year.

To access the guide, visit [bit.ly/PPO-MLA24](https://bit.ly/PPO-MLA24).

### Register for ACRL's RBMS Conference

Registration is now open for ACRL's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) 64th Annual Conference, to be held June 25–28 in Costa Mesa, California.

The conference will focus on the theme of "Momentum." Programs will cover how to leverage lessons, experiences, and progress from the past three

## ALA Welcomes FY2024 Federal Budget

On March 23, after months of delays, President Joe Biden signed the federal budget for fiscal year (FY) 2024 into law. The budget maintains level funding for the Library Services and Technology Act and the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program, two initiatives that support US libraries. Other funding for federal library programs remains aligned with FY2023 levels, apart from allocations for the Library of Congress and National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, which will increase.

"The FY2024 federal budget, which includes no reductions to library funding, is a testament to [library advocates'] efforts," said ALA President Drabinski in a March 29 statement.

Addressing the FY2025 budget, Drabinski said ALA is alarmed by proposed cuts to Institute of Museum and Library Services funding. "It's up to us to make sure funding for America's libraries is secure," she said. "The best way to do that is to tell our stories."

ALA's annual #FundLibraries advocacy campaign for FY2025 launched in April and is ongoing. For more information, visit [bit.ly/ALA-FFY25budget](https://bit.ly/ALA-FFY25budget).

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## UPDATE

years for greater community engagement and equity, diversity, and inclusion in the profession. The conference will explore how to sustain momentum within one's career without succumbing to burnout.

A virtual option for the conference will also be offered. For more information, visit [bit.ly/RBMS2024](https://bit.ly/RBMS2024).

### 50 Libraries Chosen for Holocaust Exhibition

On March 7, PPO and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum announced that 50 libraries have been selected to host the extended *Americans and the Holocaust* traveling exhibition from 2024 to 2026. The first leg of the exhibit traveled to 50 libraries from 2021 to early 2024.

More than 150 libraries applied to host the exhibit, which examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war,

and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s.

The exhibit will stop at institutions including Baylor University in Waco, Texas; Meredith (N.H.) Public Library; Seward (Alaska) Community Library and Museum; and University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Selected libraries will receive a \$3,000 grant to support programming during their display period.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/PPO-AmHol24](https://bit.ly/PPO-AmHol24).

### Interest Group Week Sessions Now Available

Recordings from Core's fourth annual Interest Group Week, held March 4–8, are now available for free online.

The virtual series brought library workers and thought leaders together for professional development, discussions, and networking opportunities. This year's event included 30 one-hour sessions

covering topics such as AI, library storage, metadata, and preservation. Coinciding interest groups are free for all to join.

To access recordings of the sessions, visit [bit.ly/Core-IGW2024](https://bit.ly/Core-IGW2024).

### Accessibility Features Added to ACRL Toolkit

On March 20, ACRL published a free online toolkit, Accessibility and Project Outcome. This resource supplements the existing Project Outcome for Academic Libraries toolkit with accessibility considerations.

The new toolkit provides libraries with standardized surveys and a process for measuring and analyzing programs and services for accessibility. It also includes guidelines for such accessibility considerations as alternative text, readability, and page functionality.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/ProjOutcome-Toolkit24](https://bit.ly/ProjOutcome-Toolkit24). [AL](#)

# San Diego, here we come!

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## September Is Library Card Sign-Up Month

ALA is partnering with Skybound Entertainment and Hasbro to feature robot hero Optimus Prime from *Transformers* for this year's Library Card Sign-Up Month, marking the franchise's 40th anniversary.

"We love the energy of the *Transformers* franchise, and we're excited for this collaboration with Skybound and Hasbro to encourage kids both young and old to 'roll out' to their libraries," said ALA President Drabinski in an April 17 statement.

"Libraries are more important than ever to our communities, opening up worlds of knowledge and adventure to all people," said Arune Singh, brand and editorial vice president at Skybound Entertainment, in the statement. "We're thrilled to work with ALA to bring Optimus Prime's message of respect and inclusivity to all sentient beings, whether bots, humans, or anyone else who loves to read."

Posters and bookmarks featuring Optimus Prime holding a library card are available at the ALA store ([alastore.ala.org](http://alastore.ala.org)). Free Library Card Sign-Up Month graphics, along with media tools such as a press release template and sample social media posts, are also available at [bit.ly/ALA-LibSUM](http://bit.ly/ALA-LibSUM). ●



## iBookChat

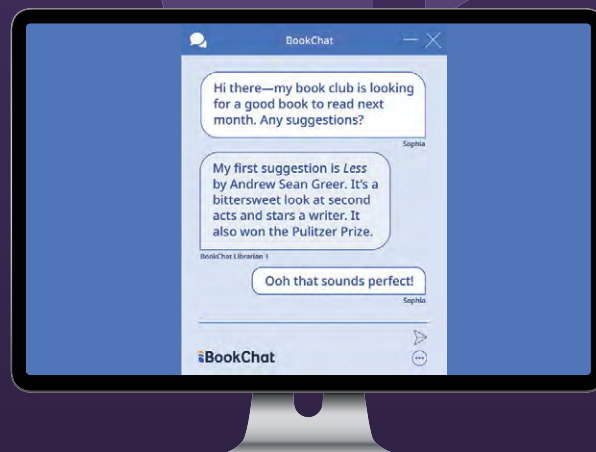
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# TRENDS



At Roanoke (Va.) Public Libraries' 2023 Flip the Fair event, elementary school students discuss a research presentation on microbiology with a graduate student from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

## Shaking Up Science

Library programs help researchers communicate with new audiences

BY Greg Landgraf

**O**n a school morning last September, small groups of 5th-graders crowded around tools connected to scientific research—a microscope, a robotic camera, and even a snake named Morgan Freeman—clipboards and pencils in hand. They were at the Melrose branch of Roanoke (Va.) Public Libraries (RPL), judging graduate students from Virginia Tech (VT) in Blacksburg on their research.

The event was RPL's second Flip the Fair, introduced in 2022 to help graduate students develop skills to effectively communicate their research while engaging local elementary students with STEM topics and the library. It's an example of how libraries are seeking innovative ways to share science and research with new audiences.

"We wanted to give [graduate students] an opportunity to discuss

their work with the public and with an especially tough audience of children," says Amanda Hensley, a PhD student in VT's Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health program and a fellow in VT's Interfaces of Global Change (IGC) program, who worked with RPL on the event.

At the September 2023 event, nearly 200 students attended and selected their favorite research in categories like Curious Questioner, Prettiest Poster, Radical Results, Master of Methods, and Overall Best Communicator from about 25 presentations. The entrants represented a variety of scientific fields, with specific topics like the effects of sugar on human biology and why vampire bats are so important.

### Flipping the switch

The idea for Flip the Fair originally came from IGC, an interdisciplinary

graduate program designed to foster collaboration among scholars in addressing social, economic, and environmental change. Its graduate students were looking for a capstone project that incorporated science communication.

"Our [library's] vision statement is 'Engage, educate, and empower,'" says Amber Lowery, RPL assistant director. "This program brought all three of those goals together."

The flipped fair looks a lot like most school science fairs, down to the trifold posters students use to display their findings. Presenters attended a workshop from VT's Center for Communicating Science and Office of Diversity and Inclusion about how to create their posters and effectively describe their research for elementary school students.

At the fair, RPL and VT volunteers walked grade-schoolers around in teams so they could see the posters and talk to presenters. The groups then had the opportunity to discuss what they had seen and select their favorites.

RPL's first Flip the Fair took place during the library's regular hours and was open to the public. It attracted nearly 50 students, primarily from 3rd to 5th grade.

The second edition expanded: The branch closed for several hours and partnered with three local schools to bring 5th-grade classes for an hour each as a field trip. Future fairs will likely be modeled on this format, says Lowery.



“Grad students are trained to present in a certain manner, but this is an opportunity for them to think a little outside of the box.”

**CHARITY SLOBOD**, professional development and student experience manager in Graduate Studies at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia

“In my 19 years, this is one of the most impactful programs we’ve done,” Lowery says. Some RPL branches are in an underserved area, she says, and frequently “kids might not see themselves going on to higher education and don’t consider the field of science as an option for them.”

Lowery adds, “To see grad students who look like them and are from this area and who are young and passionate about their work just blew their minds.”

Teachers also noticed the event’s impression on students. “I heard the same thing over and over from teachers: They could not believe how engaged their children were,” Hensley says.

### Start the timer

Other universities have also collaborated with libraries to present research to the public. Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is an annual competition that challenges doctoral students to give engaging

presentations of their research for a general audience in no more than three minutes. University of Queensland in Australia created 3MT in 2008, and it began spreading internationally in 2011. More than 900 universities worldwide have held 3MT competitions.

Participating in 3MT can help students develop skills to talk about their research in a variety of circumstances, says Charity Slobod, professional development and student experience manager in Graduate Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Burnaby, British Columbia: “Students can take some of the transferable skills and use them to organize a quick little conference panel, a five-minute flash talk, or scholarship and grant applications.”

The skills are also valuable for speaking with nonexperts. “Open access publishing is really important, but open is not necessarily useful to all,” says SFU Research Commons Librarian Julie Jones, because the language of peer-reviewed research is not intended to be accessible to the average reader.

SFU Graduate Studies has organized the school’s 3MT competition for nearly a decade. Competitions typically attract audiences of 60–70 faculty and staff members, students, and alumni in person, plus more than 100 watching livestreams and up to 800 views of the recording. This year, the department started cofacilitating workshops with SFU Library’s Research Commons to help students prepare.

“The type of work that students put in to participate in 3MT, and the skills they develop, are quite



## BY THE NUMBERS

# Literary San Diego

4

Number of crown-shaped chandeliers designed by author L. Frank Baum for the Hotel del Coronado, located on San Diego Bay. The hotel, where Baum frequently stayed as a guest, is said to have inspired the Emerald City in his famous 1900 novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

4,000

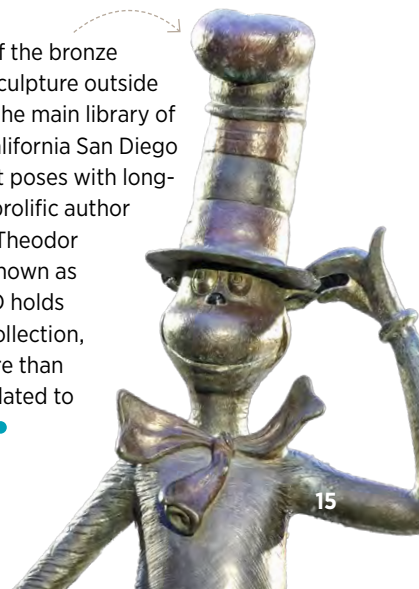
Age in years of the Babylonian clay tablets in the Hervey Family Rare Book Room at San Diego Public Library’s Central Library. The tablets are impressed with *cuneiform*, a writing system dating back to ancient Mesopotamia.

128

Number of years that Warwick’s, the country’s oldest continuously family-owned and -operated bookstore, has been open. Four generations have run the store since William T. Warwick opened it in Mankato, Minnesota, in 1896. The shop moved to San Diego’s La Jolla neighborhood in 1939.

7.5

Height in feet of the bronze Cat in the Hat sculpture outside Geisel Library, the main library of University of California San Diego (UCSD). The cat poses with long-time local and prolific author and cartoonist Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. UCSD holds the Dr. Seuss Collection, comprising more than 20,000 items related to Geisel’s work.





Staff members from Collier County (Fla.) Public Library dressed for a *Bridgerton*-themed high tea.

captured the imagination of diverse audiences, from avid fans to amateur historians. But with finicky details like finger foods, hot beverages, and period decorations to manage, they can require significant labor and coordination to pull off.

### Tea by the tankful

CCPL's 2021 *Bridgerton* high-tea event brought nearly 150 people ranging in age from 20s to 60s to the library's solarium to play trivia, participate in a raffle, and enjoy snacks and tea.

"We had two five-gallon Gatorade containers, the ones you used to make punch in as a kid," says Irene Johnson, CCPL program specialist. "We had that much tea."

The event, which cost about \$500 to host, required the work of 20 volunteers and staffers over three months. The library's first in-person program after the height of COVID-19-induced social restrictions, the event included a flower-arranging demonstration, a raffle, and *Bridgerton* series-themed discussion questions.

Two months before, the library launched a marketing campaign that showcased staff members in regal garb posing with the cutout of the Duke of Hastings, a fan favorite from the Netflix show that is based on Julia Quinn's romance book series. At the event itself, the cutout was used as a prop in patron photos.

"Watching the ladies take selfies with the duke was hysterical," Johnson recalls. "They had group pictures, single pictures, people kissing his cheeks."

# Sip, Sip, Hooray

Libraries host high-tea events for history fans

BY Cass Balzer

**O**n a leisurely Saturday afternoon, guests draped in Regency-era fashion—lightweight muslin and chiffon, adorned with delicate lace and ribbons—converge in an airy hall to indulge in a spread of tea, elaborate pastries, cakes crowned with sugared berries, and delicate canapés. Soft, ethereal light floods the space through arched windows, casting a serene glow on walls lined with bookcases.

In the corner broods a striking, enigmatic figure—tall, fastidiously groomed, and drawing the attention of everyone nearby.

But that's not the Duke of Hastings from *Bridgerton*, and

this isn't 19th-century London. It's the 21st century, these guests are gathered at Collier County (Fla.) Public Library (CCPL), and the figure in the corner is a life-sized cardboard cutout of the duke ordered for the occasion.

Amid a resurgent interest in TV period dramas—*Bridgerton*, *The Great*, *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*, and others—public libraries are getting in on the trend, hosting Regency- and Victorian-era-themed programs featuring book discussions, trivia, crafts, and, of course, tea.

These programs, hosted by library staffers and Friends groups both in person and online, have

## Across age groups

High-tea programming appeals to a range of demographics, bringing patrons of many ages together for socializing and hors d'oeuvres—all in a cozy yet sophisticated setting.

A high-tea fundraising event hosted by Mt. Sterling (Ohio) Public Library's Friends group has drawn attendees from young children to patrons in their 90s. The organization has been hosting the event for 12 years, and it has grown more popular over time.

"The people who were children at our table [when we started this fundraiser] are now bringing children of their own," says Casey O'Neill, president of the Friends group. At this year's event in February, the fundraiser drew 164 guests to participate in a silent auction, sip tea, and learn about the symbolism behind flowers and floral arrangements. The group raised nearly \$4,000 in donations.

Even tea-time events geared specifically to children may attract intergenerational crowds. For nearly 20 years, Grand Island (Neb.) Public Library (GIPL) has hosted a Victorian tea party for kids in grades 2–5. The program honors the birthday of the late Edith Abbott, an American educator and author from Grand Island, and includes educational components such as etiquette lessons and flower arranging.

GIPL took the event online in 2021, scripting, shooting, editing, and sharing a 35-minute YouTube video for patrons to watch at home while enjoying favor bags picked up from the library.

"I remember at least one grandmother that had done it with her granddaughters," says Elle Supencheck, GIPL library assistant. "She said it was so

much fun, and she loved that they were able to participate that way."

For libraries using a contemporary cultural hook like *Bridgerton*, the audience may change according to the tone of the material. Moon Township (Pa.) Library has hosted two tea party events—a *Downton Abbey*-themed gathering in 2022, and another during the run of limited Netflix series *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* in 2023. Library director Heather Panella says that the *Bridgerton* program attracted a younger crowd, something she attributes to the shows' differing fan bases.

"The library is a community, and having high tea is a way to have an intimate community."

**IRENE JOHNSON**, Collier County (Fla.) Public Library program specialist

As libraries embrace high-tea programming, they continue to foster the close connections that sharing food and drink often inspires. In an age in which digital connections often overshadow face-to-face interactions, libraries are proving that the simple act of sharing tea and discussing popular media can create and strengthen bonds.

"The library is a community, and having high tea is a way to have an intimate community," says Johnson. "So, why high tea in a library? Because we are the heartbeat of the community." <sup>AL</sup>

**CASS BALZER** is a writer in Chicago.

◀ Continued from page 15

aligned with the library's goals around knowledge mobilization and supporting researchers in different ways of communicating research," Jones says.

The Research Commons offers two 90-minute workshops to help students illuminate what matters in their research and present effectively for nonexperts. The first focuses on the presentation's initial 30 seconds, encouraging students to start with a surprising statistic, elements of suspense, or humor. The second workshop helps students break their research down into a logical flow and provides guidance on effective presentation delivery.

"Grad students are trained to present in a certain manner, but this is an opportunity for them to think a little outside of the box as they talk up their research," Slobod says.

The library offered both workshops for the first time in 2024, attracting about 10 of the approximately 50 people participating in 3MT.

In addition to improving communication skills, winners of preliminary heats selected by judging panels and audience votes earn cash prizes and advance to the university-wide competition and potentially regional and national competitions. Slobod says participants can even engage with their work in a new way.

"I've had students say that doing a 3MT has made them fall in love with their research again," Slobod says, "because they see the larger impact and how it connects on a much wider scope than what they're accustomed to." <sup>AL</sup>

**GREG LANDGRAF** is a contributor to *American Libraries* and editor of *AL Direct*.



Summer reading program participants at Montgomery County (Md.) Public Libraries choose brand-new books to take home, courtesy of Friends of the Library, Montgomery County.

# A Greener Way to Read

Summer reading program helps the community—and the earth

Summer reading program prizes are a fun way to spark children’s participation. But those prizes often consist of nonrecyclable plastic items that—once the fun has worn off—end up as trash. Montgomery County (Md.) Public Libraries recently chose a greener, more community-focused way to get kids excited about books during their summer break.

By Amy K. Alapati, Sean Riley, and Maranda Schoppert

When school lets out, children gravitate to public libraries. Meanwhile, libraries strive to help those children maintain or improve their reading and critical-thinking skills throughout those school-free months, often by way of summer reading programs. At Montgomery County (Md.) Public Libraries (MCPL), we have redesigned our summer reading challenge in hopes of inspiring our young patrons to give back to the community while they socialize, play, and learn.

For summer 2022, Cassandra Malik, then MCPL’s early literacy and children’s programming manager, envisioned a summer reading

model for ages 0–17 that would align with the county’s climate action plan, which aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035, as well as with the local government’s vision of a greener county, which emphasizes minimizing our footprint by reducing waste.

A group of dedicated MCPL children’s librarians reimagined our library system’s summer reading challenge to fulfill two objectives: eliminate small, nonbiodegradable prizes—which end up in the waste stream once discarded—and encourage children to make a tangible, positive impact on the local community by reading books and completing

learning activities. As we developed this new model, we discovered that a tangible impact could be made for half the cost of previous years’ plastic prizes, making the program even more valuable to the community.

Because the 2022 summer reading theme was “Oceans of Possibilities,” and because MCPL is located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, it naturally made sense to partner with the nonprofit Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). In lieu of plastic prizes like kazoos or rubber duckies, the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC), made donations to CBF on behalf of summer reading program participants. In return, CBF planted trees along waterways to prevent erosion, seeded oysters to restore the bay’s healthy waters, and restored habitats in wildlife areas such as waterways and feeder streams. That year, summer reading challenge registration soared. From 6,593 in 2021, participation rose to 12,958 in 2022—our highest enrollment in almost a decade.

The following year’s summer reading challenge, “All Together Now,” built on that success. Once again, as the challenge’s participants read and completed activities, FOLMC donated to local nonprofits: Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Manna Food Center, and the Montgomery Parks Foundation (MPF).

As a result of the program, our community was able to provide 300 families with more than 800 meals, install 460 solar panels

Photo: Jason Turner/Montgomery County (Md.) Public Libraries

in local parks, and help many long-term animal-shelter residents find their forever homes. One child reported proudly that he was reading so that other kids wouldn't go hungry. Enrollment climbed to 14,128 in response to this theme of kindness, friendship, and unity.

While some kids have expressed wishes to plant trees, clean up the bay, adopt animals, and cook and deliver meals themselves over the last two years, we want program participation to be equitable and accessible to all patrons, regardless of any limits they might have on their time, transportation, and resources. That's why we've designed the program so that all participating children can complete it, achieve success, and contribute to the community according to the same requirements—reading books and completing simple, at-home, age-appropriate activities.

The program's climbing registration numbers aren't the only indication of its success. On evaluations, participating families have shared comments such as "Thank you! The program helped to keep [my children] motivated and excited about reading" and "It was a fun activity for the summer! The kids were very proud to accomplish it."

This year's adventure-themed summer reading challenge will spotlight local historical sites and recreation areas, as MCPL again partners with MPF. The foundation will use the summer reading program donations for three new objectives: preserving, beautifying, and increasing accessibility in the county's parks.

Each year, educating participants about the crucial work of nonprofits is key to helping them understand and take pride in the program's goal. This education takes place through many methods. Librarians visit school classrooms each spring to promote summer reading,

nonprofits host outreach tables at library events, and library branches distribute bookmarks or collector cards containing fun facts about each agency and highlighting the tangible impact children make by participating.

In addition to earning donations through reading, kids also receive a new book courtesy of FOLMC; experiential rewards such as tickets to a Major League Baseball game provided by our partner, the Washington Nationals; and a voucher for a free used book from the FOLMC bookstore upon completing the program.

Our community was able to provide 300 families with more than 800 meals and install 460 solar panels in local parks.

Since we've revamped our summer reading program, staffers from across our 21 branches have heard from many parents who are grateful for the elimination of small prizes, and who say that their kids truly understand what we are trying to achieve with the new format. As one parent put it, "The kids were inspired to join by the idea that their reading would lead to more money going to good causes in the community." <sup>AL</sup>

**AMY K. ALAPATI** is head of children's services at Montgomery County (Md.) Public Libraries' (MCPL) Damascus branch. **SEAN RILEY** is head of children's services at MCPL's Noyes Library for Young Children. **MARANDA SCHOPPERT** is MCPL interim early literacy and children's programming manager.



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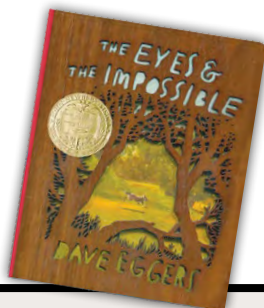
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# Dave Eggers

Author and McSweeney's founder on Newbery win and the power of libraries



**D**ave Eggers, dynamic literary force, is also a passionate, innovative, and generous advocate. The cofounder of 826 National, a network of youth writing and tutoring centers around the country, he also established nonprofit independent publishing company McSweeney's and is an exceptionally creative and prolific writer. His many books for adults include *The Circle* and *The Every*, while among his titles for young people are *Her Right Foot* and *Soren's Seventh Song*.

Eggers has received many awards—most recently, the Newbery Medal for *The Eyes and the Impossible* (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2023), an honor he will celebrate at ALA's 2024 Annual Conference in San Diego. *American Libraries* caught up with him before Annual to discuss the award, the magic of art, and defending the freedom to read.

BY Donna Seaman

**Does the Newbery Medal have particular resonance for you?** It's the first award I think any of us are cognizant of as young readers. My mom was a voracious reader and always tried to guide us to the books with the gold seal. The librarians I grew up with—my best friend's mom was our middle school librarian—tried to do the same. Kids are very aware of Newbery books, so it's sacred to me, the imprimatur of librarians saying, "We highly recommend that

you check this one out." That's why the Newbery has a meaning that I can never possibly express my gratitude for.

***The Eyes and the Impossible* is told from the point of view of Johannes, a free-roaming dog who keeps watch over a large, verdant park. He becomes mesmerized by paintings. What was it like to create an animal narrator who loves human art so much?** I was a painting major in college, and I always thought I would be a painter. I still have the experience on a weekly basis of seeing a painting that just stops me in my tracks. So I thought about what that would be like for Johannes. What would that be like if you're used to seeing trees looking like trees and sand looking like sand and animals like animals, and then suddenly, in the face of a rectangular canvas, all of it is rearranged? Everything is illogical but beautiful. Johannes is in love with the earth and in love with his life and in love with seeing new things, and that I can identify with.

**As we honor books, we're also enduring assaults against books,**

**librarians, and teachers. You, too, have been on the front line of the battle to protect our freedom to read.** I was just emailing with a high school teacher in Rapid City, South Dakota, who has become a good friend after one of my books, *The Circle*, was banned there. There's a documentary about what happened called *To Be Destroyed* (MSNBC Films, July). Rapid City is very enlightened and full of great people. They just happen to have a school board that was quickly overtaken by radicals who had no investment in the district. Not one of them had kids in the schools. It was a slate of candidates supported by [the national right-wing organization leading book ban efforts across the country] Moms for Liberty and other groups that swept in under a cloak of darkness. The overwhelming majority of Americans stand up for freedom of expression and freedom to read.

I was in Highland Park, Illinois, to witness the remembrance of the 2022 Fourth of July massacre. I got to meet with the librarians at Highwood (Ill.) Public Library, which is right next to where I grew up. They're a font of information for undocumented folks who find a library to be

#### MORE ONLINE

For the extended interview, visit [bit.ly/AL-Eggers](https://bit.ly/AL-Eggers) after June 3.

the most trustworthy and safe space for them. Here in San Francisco, libraries are a main source of safety, information, and opportunity for people trying to move out of homelessness. All the services libraries provide keep growing. That's testament to the trust we put in our libraries and librarians, but it is a lot to put on one institution. I'm always inspired by the librarians who are up for the fight. **AL**





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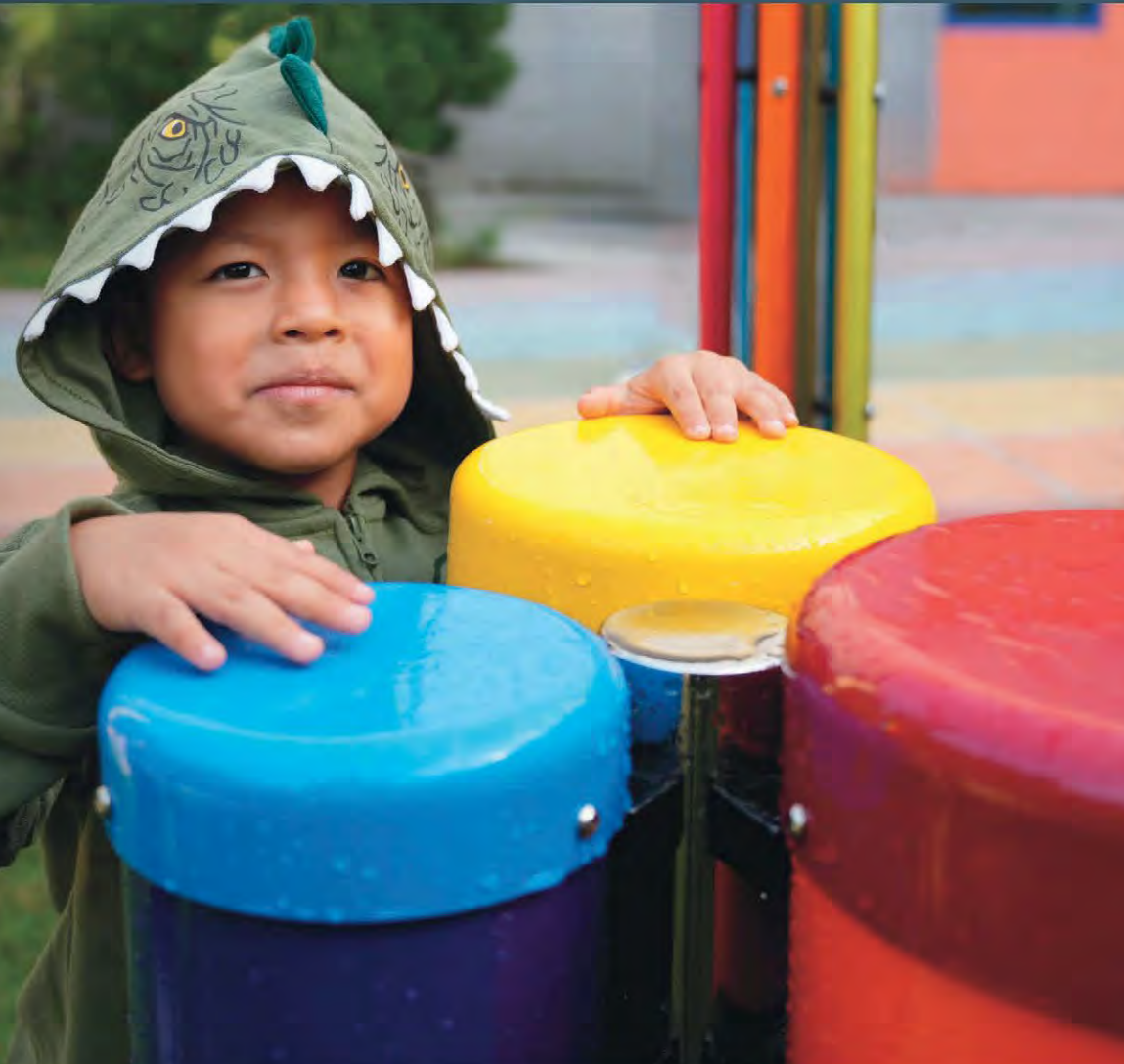
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album *The Tortured Poets  
Department*, April 15.

“When I talk about the characters in my books feeling *different*, I’m always surprised by how many young people raise their hands—regardless of their identities and backgrounds—wanting to share about the ways in which they, too, feel different. That’s the power of books. They build empathy. I wonder why a school board is so afraid of that?”

Actor and author **MAULIK PANCHOLY**, in “A Pennsylvania School District Canceled a Gay *30 Rock* Actor’s Event, Citing His ‘Lifestyle.’ Parents Are Fighting Back,” CNN, April 19.

“NO MORE CUTS TO OUR LIBRARY, PLEASE. I LEARNED TO READ BY MYSELF BEFORE KINDERGARTEN, AND I LOVE READING BOOKS. IT’S ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS TO DO.”

First-grader **ZOEY HARPER**, in “Budget Committee Votes to Fund Salem’s Library Following Outpouring of Community Support,” Salem (Ore.) Reporter, April 18.

**“In February, Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was found dead in his prison cell. Reports of how he lived out his final days were a reminder of two things: Prison is the world’s most universal method of torture, and books are central to the fight against the disappearing that follows a prison sentence.”**

Freedom Reads founder **REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS**, “I Was a Teen in Virginia Prison. Books Were My Lifeline,” *The Washington Post*, April 10.

“There’s absolutely going to be the chilling effect of people being so afraid of ordering or having any sort of book that could possibly offend somebody. A well-curated public library has something in it to offend everyone.”

**HUDA SHALTRY**, branch manager at Boise (Idaho) Public Library, in “Librarians Say They Face Threats, Lawsuits, Jail Fears over Ongoing Book Battles,” ABC News, April 13.

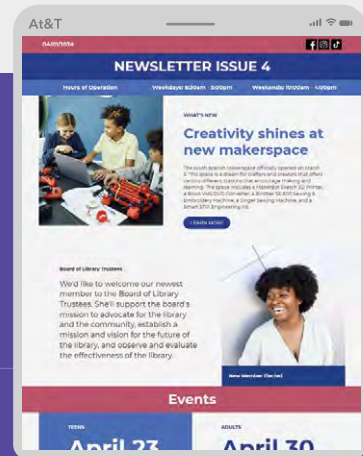


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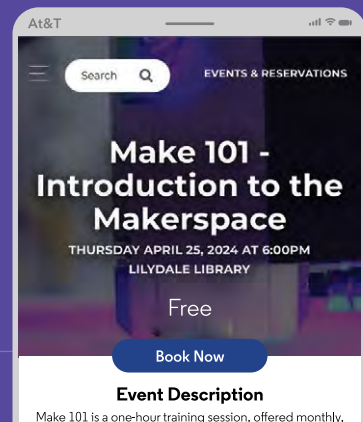


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# SEEKING SANCTUARY

Public libraries establish themselves  
as book sanctuaries to counter bans

BY Ed Finkel

Last year, when states were introducing a raft of legislation that would effectively take books off the shelves, librarians at Harris County (Tex.) Public Library (HCPL) knew they wanted to take a stand.

Texas House Bill 900, which would have restricted materials in school libraries and required vendors to assign book ratings based on so-called appropriateness before selling them to schools, had just been signed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in June and was set to go into effect September 1, 2023. (On September 19, the bill was temporarily blocked by US District Judge Alan D. Albright. In January, the US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision to prohibit the Texas Education Agency from forcing vendors to rate books, but the library standards outlined in the bill—which prohibit school districts from possessing or purchasing books with “harmful material”—remain.)

“Because the mission of public libraries is so much different from the school libraries, we weren’t thinking about being targeted by legislation,” says Edward Melton, HCPL executive director. But staffers were anxious about the climate of censorship, and HCPL itself had seen an uptick in requests for reconsideration of materials—from three requests in 2021 to 24 requests in 2023—and complaints about displays and drag storytimes.

“We knew [the pushback] could potentially lead to something political,” Melton says. “So we said, ‘Let’s go ahead and be proactive about this.’”

The same day H.B. 900 was temporarily blocked, Harris County Commissioners Court (HCCC) passed a resolution declaring HCPL a book sanctuary ([bit.ly/HCPL-BookSanc](https://bit.ly/HCPL-BookSanc)). The resolution stated the county’s support for the library, with the aim of combating censorship, defending intellectual freedom, and protecting the freedom to read.

“HCPL staff are dedicated to the principle of free and equitable access to information and knowledge and deserve to pursue their calling free from harassment and intimidation,” the resolution reads. “Harris County is committed to their protection.”

Though the resolution—written by the library and revised by HCCC policy writers—does not offer legal protection, the unanimous support of commissioners helped ease staffers’ worries, Melton says.

“If any staff doubted that the library and the county would support them, we wanted the resolution to allay those concerns,” he says. “With us being a book sanctuary, it relieves me—and I would speak for my staff—of that concern about retaliation or retribution or legislation that prevents us from doing what we do.”

In response to book banning attempts across the US and Canada, libraries in both nations are joining a larger social campaign to declare themselves *book sanctuaries*, or spaces that collect endangered books and protect the freedom to read. More than 3,300 book sanctuaries have been established so far, with most declarations made by individuals. As of early May, 12 library systems—in both red states and blue states—have joined the movement, including Broward County (Fla.) Library, Dayton (Ohio) Metro Library, Hoboken (N.J.) Public Library, and Northbrook (Ill.) Public Library.

The three public libraries that *American Libraries* spoke with for this article issued their declarations with backing from, or in partnership with, their local governments. While these statements don’t guarantee formal protections, libraries say their sanctuary status and support

from civic partners provide a sense of comfort when threats to intellectual freedom turn potentially dangerous.

## WHAT IS A BOOK SANCTUARY?

Libraries have seen a precipitous rise in book banning efforts and attempts to censor programs, displays, and nonbook materials over the past few years. In 2023, ALA tallied 1,247 of these attempts in the US, with a total of 4,240 unique titles challenged. (By comparison, ALA tracked 156 challenges to books and nonbook materials in 2020.)

The book sanctuary movement began in September 2022, when Chicago Public Library (CPL) and the city of Chicago partnered in response to increasing attempts to ban and censor books. CPL declared its 81 branches book sanctuaries.

Book sanctuaries are dedicated to making challenged books broadly accessible, hosting book talks and other events that feature diverse voices from communities that are often restricted (such as authors who are LGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, and people of color), and educating others on the history of book bans. They can be created by anyone and can exist anywhere, physically or digitally.

When a person or entity establishes a book sanctuary, they are declaring a commitment to protecting intellectual freedom, according to a CPL announcement. The main website for the movement ([booksanctuary.org](http://booksanctuary.org)) offers a free, downloadable toolkit with tips on hosting discussions about banned books, donating banned books, and calling on local government to protect intellectual freedom.

“Libraries view this work as central to who we are, to our mission, and I hope that more libraries stake a claim to that critical work we do,” says Chris Brown, CPL commissioner.

## MAKING THE DECISION

In Stamford, Connecticut, the Ferguson Library (FL) Board of Trustees, alongside Mayor Caroline Simmons, declared the library and city book sanctuaries in January 2023. FL CEO Alice Knapp says the library has an unusually close relationship with its city, including a

stipulation in the library’s charter that the mayor appoints half the board and serves as an ex officio member. The library director and the mayor also meet once a month.

Knapp recalls notifying Simmons of CPL’s decision to become a book sanctuary, and that FL was thinking of following its lead: “[Simmons’s positive] response was immediate, and she said, ‘Let me know as soon as the library board of trustees takes action.’”

Knapp says that while people may think of Connecticut as progressive, libraries in the state faced more than 100 censorship attempts in the first eight months of 2023. FL had not faced any as of March. “Our move was preemptive,” she says. “As we were watching the attempts at banning books in our surrounding communities in the suburbs, we felt, as an urban library and the second-largest city in Connecticut, that we could take a stand.”

Local government and law enforcement know to send any book challenges they receive to the library, Knapp says. When a community member went straight to a trustee with a complaint about a display, that trustee forwarded the complaint to her, along with the message: “Now, you do what you do.”

“If someone objects to a title and follows our procedures, they do so knowing that the governing body has already come out in strong defense against censorship and for titles to remain on the shelf,” Knapp says. “It won’t stop negative social media, but it sends a clear message.”

## ACKNOWLEDGING SAFETY CONCERNS

The book sanctuary distinction makes Knapp and FL staffers feel safer, she says, even if the resolution does not provide legal protection.

To date, the majority of complaints and threats at FL have been about drag storytime programs, which are held at the library only a couple of times each year, Knapp says. Some of those complaints come from Stamford residents, but many are from those who live out of town. At a drag storytime held September 2022, protesters were outside the library, and some tried to come in to take photos of performers and attendees.

“WITH US  
BEING A BOOK  
SANCTUARY,  
IT RELIEVES  
ME OF THAT  
CONCERN ABOUT  
RETALIATION OR  
RETRIBUTION  
OR LEGISLATION  
THAT PREVENTS  
US FROM DOING  
WHAT WE DO.”

EDWARD MELTON,  
Harris County  
(Tex.) Public Library  
executive director



“It would be silly for me to say I don’t worry about [safety],” Knapp says. “When we had [threats] happen, I felt a wall of support by our police department, by our city, by the board, by the staff. In this day and age, you always have to be worried about it.”

Illinois is considered a leader in the anti-book ban movement. In June 2023, Gov. J. B. Pritzker signed a bill that would withhold state funds from public libraries that remove books for partisan reasons or refuse to adopt ALA’s Library Bill of Rights or similar language. (The state bill, the first of its kind, went into effect January 1.) But CPL’s Brown

*Altar for the Unbanned*, a public art piece by artist Theaster Gates highlighting banned books, is located at Chicago Public Library’s Harold Washington Library Center.

notes that having top-down support in his state hasn’t stopped regular challenges to inclusive storytimes and programming supportive of LGBTQ+ youth, even at a large urban system like the one in Chicago.

In late 2023, CPL and other Chicago-area libraries experienced a rash of bomb threats. Libraries in other states—such as Yolo County (Calif.) Library and Iowa City Public Library—have also faced them, along with the intimidation and threats of violence that have commonly accompanied this wave of unprecedented censorship attempts these past few years.

Brown says CPL is certainly aware of safety concerns: “It’s something we’re thinking deeply about, how we create safe and supportive spaces for our staff and our public.”

First and foremost, Brown hopes the book sanctuary declaration expresses CPL’s values and vision of every person having access to learning and reading at a time of nationwide challenges and bans. It’s too early to tell if the book sanctuary declaration will put a stop to pushback or threats, he says, but that was not the outcome they had in mind when starting the campaign.

“It was more about expressing where we stand,” he says, “and our commitment to a multiplicity of voices.”

## APPEALING TO THE COMMUNITY

To further engage the public on the topic of book bans, CPL has worked with the city’s department of cultural affairs and local visual artist Theaster Gates to install a permanent art display at its downtown Harold Washington Library Center. Titled *Altar for the Unbanned*, the display showcases more than 500 frequently banned books and amplifies marginalized voices. CPL has also increased the number of book clubs it hosts around frequently challenged books.

“It’s incredible to not just have the library championing the freedom to read,” Brown says, “but also our city partners and all of these folks joining us in the book sanctuary movement.”

As part of being a book sanctuary, HCPL hosted a concert and panel themed around

banned books in October 2023 that featured local classical music quartet Apollo Chamber Players. The event's goal was to raise community awareness about the issue through discussion.

HCPL also hosts read-aloud events during Banned Books Week, during which anyone can present an excerpt from their favorite frequently challenged book to a live audience. These events began in 2021 and have been continued after the book sanctuary declaration was made.

Back in Connecticut, FL has held its Teen Banned Book Discussions since becoming a book sanctuary. At one of its meetings in January, students in grades 6–12 discussed *Ana on the Edge* by A. J. Sass. The book, which features a 12-year-old figure skater who navigates gender identity in youth competitive sports, has been broadly challenged at schools and libraries across the US.

“We are providing a space, a home, a place of belonging for those who are marginalized,” Knapp says of the discussions.

## REFRAMING THE CONVERSATION

For libraries looking to partner with their local governments on a book sanctuary declaration, Melton suggests finding common values and taking time to build relationships.

“I wouldn’t recommend just cold calling and thinking that you’re going to be able to have a conversation with a politician and they’re going to just jump on the bandwagon,” Melton says. Instead, he advises meeting in person and educating potential stakeholders on what libraries do.

For Knapp, keeping local leaders in the loop of what’s going on at the library is key. Take opportunities to initiate conversations when you see them, she says, “so that when you hit into a crisis, it’s not the first time they’re hearing it from you.”

HCPL’s declaration was positively received by those inside and outside the community, Melton says. The library uploaded an announcement on Instagram featuring its popular Curbside Larry character, which has received nearly 77,000 likes and



Harris County (Tex.) Public Library posted a video to Instagram announcing its book sanctuary distinction. The video, featuring the library’s viral character Curbside Larry, received nearly 77,000 likes.

**“IT WON’T STOP NEGATIVE SOCIAL MEDIA, BUT IT SENDS A CLEAR MESSAGE.”**

**ALICE KNAPP,**  
CEO of Ferguson  
Library in Stamford,  
Connecticut

1,900 comments. Shortly after, the video was reposted by actor and author Jamie Lee Curtis, receiving more than 90,000 likes.

“Patrons walking through our doors may not notice much of a difference—we’ve operated with this mission for many years,” Melton says. “But many have been met with a LIBRARY FOR ALL banner as a friendly reminder that our library embraces diversity.”

While Knapp does not believe that her library in one corner of Connecticut is going to change the national conversation on its own, becoming part of the larger campaign with Chicago, Harris County, and other places is where the power lies, she says.

“There have been brave leaders who have suffered through social media attacks, who have lost their jobs,” Knapp says. “Anything we can do to support them, to counteract these challenges, is what, as library folks, we should be doing.” [AL](#)



**ED FINKEL** is a freelance writer in the Chicago area who covers education, public policy, and other topics.

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# WORKING FOR WELL-BEING



Libraries invite innovative approaches to maximize mental health

BY Emily Udell

**S**ocial workers who connect patrons to needed physical and emotional care ([bit.ly/AL-Social-Workers](https://bit.ly/AL-Social-Workers)). Quiet rooms for rest and relaxation ([bit.ly/ALA-Community-of-Care](https://bit.ly/ALA-Community-of-Care)). Robotic pets that purr away patrons' anxieties (see *AL*, May, p. 10). And grief groups to support patrons over the holidays ([bit.ly/Holiday-Healing](https://bit.ly/Holiday-Healing)). Over the past decade, mental health support in libraries has grown more inventive, specific, and widespread.

Institutions continue to innovate while meeting community needs, piloting targeted tools, dedicating roles and spaces to well-being, and investing in specialty programming and services for both patrons and staff. *American Libraries* spoke with workers from four libraries that are pioneering mental health practices in the field. **AL**

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**EMILY UDELL** is a freelance writer based in Indianapolis.

# SUPPORTING STAFF STRATEGICALLY

Oak Park (Ill.)  
Public Library

When, in 2019, Oak Park (Ill.) Public Library (OPPL) declared staff well-being an organizational strategic priority, its intention was to provide employees with opportunities like yoga and meditation. But Billy Treece, OPPL's director of finance and human resources, says the imperative to think bigger became quickly apparent.

"We needed to address the causes of [staffers'] lack of well-being rather than the symptoms," Treece says. "It was a wake-up call."

After implementing wellness programs aimed at teaching employees new skills and helping fund their personal interests, OPPL earned a 2023 Citation for Wellness in the Workplace from the American Library Association's (ALA) Sustainability Round Table. OPPL has a staff of approximately 130 people. Since 2021, turnover has dropped from 20% to 13.5% annually, Treece reports, and employee surveys show that indicators of workplace well-being and satisfaction—such as happiness, motivation, and positive relationships—have trended upward over the past two years.

Treece started this work by assembling a committee of about 10 full-time staffers to brainstorm OPPL's wellness initiatives, with input from managers and directors. To incorporate more diverse viewpoints, part-time employees, assistants, and other workers were later asked to join.

The group's ideas led to several initiatives, such as a rooftop beekeeping training program as



well as revising work policies to include opportunities for flexible start times, remote work, and compressed schedules. Additionally, in 2023, OPPL instituted lifestyle spending accounts (LSAs) that reimburse each employee up to \$150 annually for expenses that support well-being, such as gym memberships, marathon entry fees, and museum passes. In its first year using LSAs, OPPL reimbursed 71 staffers more than \$10,000.

Other initiatives include a staff quiet room—separate from the

Oak Park (Ill.) Public Library (OPPL) staffers Jenna Friebele (left) and Stephen Jackson pose with a therapy dog. OPPL brings in dogs quarterly as part of a plan to boost staff wellness.

employee break room—with comfortable seating and calming light, to let workers recharge or take a quick nap. Therapy dogs visit four times a year.

"Staff members frequently highlight our well-being initiatives in their comments about what makes the library a great place to work," Treece says. For example, in a recent survey, one employee praised the library's focus on wellness in "big and small ways" and wrote that it "shows a real commitment to staff that we can feel." ●

# A ROAD TO RECOVERY

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Library in Parkland, Florida

In the wake of a tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (MSDHS) in Parkland, Florida, a culture of care has become a pillar of support.

Library media specialist Diana Haneski survived the February 2018 mass shooting at MSDHS. Killing 17 and injuring 17 others, it remains one of the deadliest school shootings in US history.

“After the shooting, I was in a frozen state and not really well,” says Haneski, who returned to work when the school reopened two weeks later. “Once I felt better myself, my goal was to help the kids. I felt better when I was trying to help them.”

Haneski, a school librarian of more than 25 years, has since devoted many hours and resources to supporting students’ emotional recovery. This year, she was awarded ALA’s I Love My Librarian Award for her efforts.

One of those resources is River, a 6-year-old Bernedoodle and certified therapy dog who has become a

library fixture since being donated by a dog breeder who wanted to help the MSDHS community heal.

River, who lives with Haneski and her husband, comes each school day to the library, where she is visited by students and staffers alike. River will stand at the door during class changes so students can come up and pet her. In the library, Haneski says, River will sit on the sofa next to a student or curl up with them on the floor as they work at a computer or table. Teachers have mentioned to Haneski that River seems to sense the students who most need her comfort in the moment. When there are no students around, after morning announcements and the pledge, River also enjoys a quick run around the media center, hoping someone will chase her.

“People smile just seeing her,” Haneski says of the school’s furry friend. “She has been the best thing. She works hard; she’s always on for us. She’s very much living large in the library.”

Diana Haneski (center), library media specialist at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and students meditate alongside River, the school library’s therapy dog.

In addition to adopting River, Haneski has turned part of the library into a student relaxation area called the Zen Den, with amenities such as a zen garden, recliners, yoga pillows, antistress objects like squeeze balls, calming music, and space for quiet activities like origami or journaling. She also oversees a club that helps students develop coping mechanisms as the community continues to heal.

After participating in a program from the Center for Mind-Body Medicine (CMBM), a national organization that offers training on techniques like meditation and artistic expression, Haneski decided to become CMBM-certified. This required more than 108 hours of training in mind-body medicine.

She brings this training to MSDHS’s Mind-Body Ambassadors Club, the student group she advises. For most of the school year, students meet monthly at the library to practice techniques that help them recognize and address anxiety through guided imagery, breathing exercises, movement, and other methods.

Haneski says she avoids burnout by listening to her body and honoring the physical signs of anxiety or exhaustion. Pursuing a path toward healing was initially a way for Haneski to stay strong for her students, she says. But over time it’s evolved into a more personal practice.

“Here we are: We’re alive and trying to make the best from an awful situation,” she says. “Once I learned more about what people need and how much trauma there is in the world, I feel like this is my lane. I’m more comfortable this way than being mad at the world.” ●



# 'YOGA FOR THE MIND'

Air University Library  
in Montgomery, Alabama

Within one of the country's leading military libraries, members of the US Air Force and other residents of Montgomery, Alabama, can use an immersive tool that promotes resiliency and mental strength.

Air University (AU), an academic institution headquartered at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, prepares officers and enlisted leaders for career challenges. "The goal is to produce well-rounded, resilient officers and enlisted personnel who thrive in diverse settings," says Stephanie Rollins, director of library services at AU.

The Mayo Clinic recommends developing this resilience through relaxation practices like meditation or guided imagery, which can help stave off burnout or more serious mental health disorders.

"Being mentally resilient is integral to academic success," says Rollins, who oversees Air University Library (AUL), a resource for Air Force members who are pursuing academic degrees, continuing education, and other professional learning opportunities. Part of AU's priorities, she says, is developing students' ability to manage the stress of a military career.

To that end, AUL has introduced a tool called MindGym. By wearing headsets while sitting inside a mirrored cubicle and participating in immersive physiological activities, users build resilience.

According to its Denver-based manufacturer, Lumena, MindGym's 15 available programs use choreographed low-sensory lights and ambient sounds to immerse users in experiences that target focus and stress responses. MindGym



Airman 1st Class Tyrique Barquet uses MindGym at the Air University Library in Montgomery, Alabama. MindGym, a resilience-building tool manufactured by Lumena, offers relaxation and guided imagery exercises while monitoring the body's physiological responses.

also uses biofeedback to monitor physiological indicators like brain waves and heart rate so participants can learn to control them. Users, who book sessions for up to an hour, can create accounts to track their progress and customize their experiences over time.

Lumena likens MindGym's benefits to those of meditation. Rollins says one early user described it as "yoga for the mind."

"It feels like you're floating," Rollins says. "You're totally focused and in the moment."

MindGym is part of the Air Force's commitment to "Five and Thrive," a campaign launched in 2021 to address challenges faced by military members and their families, like access to health care and education, Rollins says. Part of the campaign's "thrive" tenet is member resilience. Ten MindGyms have been installed at Air Force locations across the country; the product is also being studied in clinical research. AUL's MindGym installation is the only one in a library.

After university leaders decided to purchase MindGym, AUL was deemed a perfect location for it, says Rollins, since the 85,000-square-foot library sits in a central location on the base and welcomes more than 42,000 visitors annually. While AUL staffers haven't undergone formal training to operate MindGym, Lumena provides ongoing support.

Between its opening in January and the end of March, it was used more than 175 times by members of AUL's Air Force community as well as by reservists, local seniors, and library staffers. "We [don't] need to advertise as much as I thought we were going to," Rollins says.

She adds that AUL has long been prioritizing wellness efforts, largely through hosting mental health-related events, curating resources including scholarly articles on issues like stress management, and hosting mental health awareness events.

"It's a fantastic extension of things that libraries already do," Rollins says. ●

# TEAMING UP WITH TEENS

Seattle  
Public Library

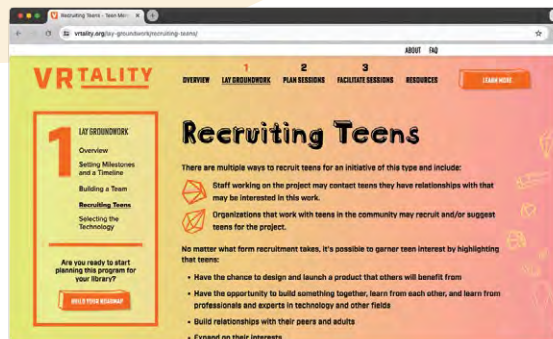
For Seattle Public Library (SPL), the pandemic exposed a need to support teen mental health through creative collaboration.

Using \$250,000 in grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) CARES Act, in 2020 SPL embarked on a project that helps youth ages 12–18 create virtual reality (VR) programs that address their mental health. Project organizers say they wanted to help teens counteract the forced isolation of the pandemic by developing social connections and creating a judgment-free space for discussing sensitive issues.

“Teens are interested in technology, and VR provides an interesting point of entry,” says Juan Rubio, project director and SPL’s digital media and learning program manager. Rubio had previously brought successful educational VR experiences to SPL patrons. This project evolved from those efforts, as well as from an ongoing relationship with University of Washington (UW) professors in Seattle who are researching VR’s role in youth well-being.

“One of the things we really liked about VR is this idea of *telepresence*,” Rubio says, referring to the effect of a user feeling like they are somewhere else. “You’re there, it’s a 3D environment, it’s this embodiment you experience where you can be placed in a different environment or you yourself can be something else. That new form of experience in the digital world is really powerful.”

SPL’s project relied heavily on involving kids in *codesign*, a hands-on process that focuses on



Teens from Fayette Public Library in La Grange, Texas, experiment with virtual reality (VR) as part of a multilibrary, grant-funded program to improve youth mental health through codesigning and developing VR experiences.

designing experiences with teens, not just for them. The library partnered with UW, DC Public Library, and Fayette Public Library in La Grange, Texas, for the project. During the process, Rubio says, participants articulated and externalized their thoughts about mental health.

The 12 teens in SPL’s codesign cohort received VR headsets and met weekly over Zoom for six

months. A programmer from UW brought in concepts for a VR experience, collected feedback from youth participants on his designs, and used their responses to create prototypes toward a final product.

Feedback indicates that the sessions sparked discussions about mental health in a fun and creative environment. Participant attrition wasn’t an issue in the codesign portion of the program, Rubio notes: “If you give kids the opportunity to be creators, they will be with you as long as you want them to be.”

SPL and its partnering libraries each created a VR experience as a result of their cohorts’ efforts. SPL’s final product, *De-Stress Gardening*, focuses on nature and the concept of constructive destruction, which lets users break down objects to make compost that fertilizes a garden. Rubio says the program

gives users a healthy way to release emotions and practice mindfulness.

To help other libraries execute a similar VR codesign project, SPL launched the VRtality website ([vrtality.org](http://vrtality.org)), which hosts a series of informational videos and resources.

The project revealed that VR and the complexity of its technology posed barriers such as expense and expertise for other libraries that might want to adopt a codesign framework. “To use the famous word of the pandemic, we pivoted,” Rubio says. “We adapted the programming.”

Rubio says SPL plans to eventually return to its VR initiative. In the meantime, SPL has developed another program called Nourishing Minds with an additional \$250,000 IMLS grant awarded in 2022. It aims to provide accessible codesign tools using similar concepts from the first project. Partner libraries across the country are testing the materials in their own communities.

The Nourishing Minds materials, Rubio says, help structure conversations with youth that foster creativity, inclusivity, and authenticity. The initiative has introduced new concepts—such as the tenets of acceptance and commitment therapy—not only to the kids participating in the program but also to the library workers directing them.

“When you are doing the work for the teens, you’re also learning it yourself,” Rubio says. “You recognize your thoughts and create a distance from them; that way you can change them or manage them better.” ●

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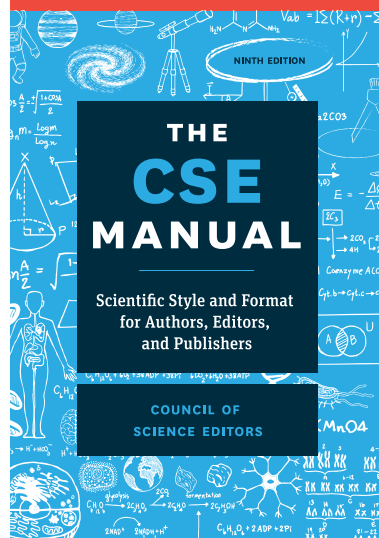
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2024

# ANNUAL

## Conference Preview

EDITED BY Diana Panuncial

**S**an Diego's famously sunny reputation may rest on its Mediterranean climate, but "America's Finest City" has more to offer than beaches and breezes. As the former stomping ground of Theodor Geisel (also known as Dr. Seuss; see our *By the Numbers* on p. 15) and Raymond Chandler—and the place where speculative-fiction stars Kim Stanley Robinson and Cindy Pon got their start—it's only fitting that this literary city host the American Library Association's (ALA) 2024 Annual Conference and Exhibition, which will be held June 27–July 2 at the San Diego Convention Center.

Annual promises an array of educational programs, speakers and authors, unique exhibitors, awards and celebrations, and networking opportunities. Making a return appearance from LibLearnX in January, a selection of Timely Topics—categories of sessions pertaining to current, critical issues in the profession—will be featured: artificial intelligence (AI), health and wellness, intellectual freedom, justice-involved services, and strategic partnerships. Note that the Digital Experience, a virtual option conceived in response to the pandemic, will not be returning this conference as a result of declining participation.

This preview offers a small sample of what to expect. For registration information and a complete list of events, visit [alaannual.org](http://alaannual.org).



Photo: © byarnoldus/Adobe Stock



# San Diego | June 27–July 2



John and Anni Furniss

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

Check the Annual Conference Scheduler ([bit.ly/ALAAC24-sched](https://bit.ly/ALAAC24-sched)) for the latest information on dates, times, and locations.

**JOHN AND ANNI FURNISS** have amassed nearly 2 million followers on TikTok as TheBlindWoodsman. John, who is blind, has been a woodworker for 20 years. Anni, a mixed media artist for more than three decades, previously worked at Fort Vancouver (Wash.) Regional Libraries. They will talk about their book, *The Blind Woodsman*, **9–10 a.m. Saturday, June 29**. The book is an account of John’s journey through depression, drug addiction, and anxiety.



Kwame Alexander

**JAY’AINA “JAY JAY” PATTON** is an 18-year-old coder, app developer, entrepreneur, and author. Her father, **ANTOINE PATTON**, is a formerly incarcerated entrepreneur, software engineer, and author. Together, they created Photo Patch, an app that allows children to send drawings, letters, and photos to their parents who are incarcerated. They will discuss Jay Jay’s new graphic-novel memoir, *Dear Dad: Growing Up with a Parent in Prison—and How We Stayed Connected* (Scholastic, September), **11 a.m.–noon Saturday, June 29**.



Jay’Aina “Jay Jay” Patton

Poet, educator, and *New York Times*–bestselling author **KWAME ALEXANDER** will discuss his new book, *Black Star* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, September), **1–2 p.m. Saturday, June 29**. Set during the beginning of the Great Migration, it is the second book in Alexander’s *The Door of No Return* trilogy. Alexander has written 39 books, including *The Crossover*, a Newbery Medal–winning novel and now a Disney+ TV series that premiered in 2023.



Antoine Patton

Photos: Rowan Daly (Alexander); Dos Coco Loco (Antoine Patton)

Academy Award–nominated actor, producer, author, and mental-health advocate **TARAJI P. HENSON** will share the inspiration behind her debut picture book, *You Can Be a Good Friend (No Matter What!)*, illustrated by Paul Kellum, **4–5 p.m. Saturday, June 29**. The picture book, new this June from Zonderkidz, follows Lil TJ on her first day of school as she navigates making friends, handling bullies, and staying true to herself. Henson is known for her roles in the films *Hidden Figures* and *The Color Purple* and the TV series *Empire*.

Actor and author **MAX GREENFIELD** will share the inspiration behind his new picture book *Good Night Thoughts* (G. P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers, September), **9:30–10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 30**. The book offers a message about acknowledging worry without succumbing to it—especially at night, when anxiety-provoking thoughts are prevalent. Greenfield is known for his roles as Schmidt on Fox’s *New Girl* and Dave on CBS’s *The Neighborhood*.

**ALI VELSHI** is a chief correspondent for MSNBC and host of the TV segment and podcast *Velshi Banned Book Club* and TV segment *Velshi Across America*. He has covered many international stories, including Israel’s war with Hamas, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and the Syrian refugee crisis. He will discuss his new book, *Small Acts of Courage: A Legacy of Endurance and the Fight for Democracy* (St. Martin’s Press, May), **11 a.m.–noon Sunday, June 30**.

The book taps into 125 years of his own family history to explore the importance of activism, social justice, and democratic progress.



Taraji P. Henson



Max Greenfield



Ali Velshi



Maggie Nichols



Christina Gavin



Gerald B. Moore



Kathleen Nubel



Angela Watkins

**MAGGIE NICHOLS** is a five-time US Gymnastics National Team member and NCAA Women’s Gymnastics Champion. In 2015, she won a gold medal with the US team during the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships. She will discuss her memoir, *Unstoppable!* (Roaring Brook Press, January), **1–2 p.m. Sunday, June 30**. The book covers the world of elite gymnastics, including the sex abuse scandal involving psychiatrist Larry Nassar and the process of healing and seeking justice.

Join ALA President **EMILY DRABINSKI** for her President’s Program, “The Heart of Our Story: A Celebration of Library Workers,” **3:30–5 p.m. Sunday, June 30**. Panelists will include **CHRISTINA GAVIN**, librarian at Midwood High School in Brooklyn, New York; **GERALD B. MOORE**, manager of Charleston County (S.C.) Public Library’s Dorchester Road branch; **KATHLEEN NUBEL**, adult services librarian at Des Moines (Iowa) Public Library; and **ANGELA WATKINS**, director of Aztec (N.Mex.) Public Library.

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### Fostering Conversation and Connection among Community Members with Contrasting Political Views

**9–10 a.m. Saturday, June 29**

StoryCorps’s One Small Step program brings strangers with different political views together to record a 50-minute conversation and hear each other’s perspectives. The recordings are then archived at the Library of Congress. In this session, workers who implemented the program at their libraries will share their experiences with One Small Step and how other institutions can participate. Attendees will leave with actionable steps and a readiness checklist.

### It’s Not Just for Teens: Building Great Manga Collections for Adults

**11 a.m.–noon Saturday, June 29**

Each year, more and more manga for adult readers is translated and published, as many readers who grew up on classic titles have aged out

Photos: Mr. D. Adams (Henson); NBC Universal (Velshi)

of their library's teen section, where the genre often appears. At this session, attendees will learn how to develop a collection of manga for adult readers, conduct adjacent outreach and programming activities, and respond to ongoing category trends.

### **Play Imagine Experience: Transforming Access to Early Childhood Literacy Skills**

**4–5 p.m. Saturday, June 29**

Presenters from Waltham (Mass.) Public Library will discuss how they created the Play Imagine Experience (PIE), themed installations that let children engage in interactive play and develop early literacy skills. PIE rooms feature bilingual STEM prompts, curated book and music lists, mini collections of books, and other hands-on activities.

### **Turning the Page: How to Design a Library for the Future**

**9–10 a.m. Sunday, June 30**

How can you design a library that addresses your community's evolving needs? This session will cover the process from start to finish, from selecting the layout to organizing a successful grand opening. Participants will learn how to work with their design team, build connections with community partners, and develop a unified vision.

### **Top 10 Things Every Library Board Member Should Know—but Often Doesn't**

**11 a.m.–noon Sunday, June 30**

Too often, library board members resist training, assuming their experience on one nonprofit board adequately prepares them for a similar role at the library. In this session, attendees will learn the characteristics of a good board orientation, the importance of involving board members in advocacy, and how to help members reach their full potential.

### **Multitudes: The Power of Authentic and Diverse Representation in Muslim Stories**

**2:30–3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 30**

This session, featuring a panel of Muslim authors and educators, will explore stories from their cultures that are often underrepresented, misrepresented, or banned. Participants will learn how to identify gaps in—and advocate for—authentic Muslim representation in books for all ages.

### **Advancing Diversity in Librarianship: The Role of African American Professionals**

**10:30–11:30 a.m. Monday, July 1**

Speakers will present key findings from a survey of more than 350 African American librarians, emphasizing their crucial

## **JobLIST Placement Center**

**A**LA's JobLIST Placement and Career Development Center aims to help job seekers at any stage of their careers retool their skills, prepare to job hunt, and connect with potential employers. For the first time, the center will offer career guidance workshops. For more information and to view all services, visit [bit.ly/ALA-jobsatannual](http://bit.ly/ALA-jobsatannual).

**Career Coaching 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, June 29, and Sunday, June 30.** Speak one-on-one with a professional counselor who can help you plan your next career move, solve a current job problem, and set clear goals. Each session is 20 minutes and confidential. To sign up for an appointment, visit [bit.ly/AC24-CCAppt](http://bit.ly/AC24-CCAppt).

**Mentoring on the Fly 9 a.m.–noon Saturday, June 29, and 1–4 p.m. Sunday, June 30.** Seeking career-related advice? Attend short sessions with mentors from academic and public libraries. Walk-ins only.

**Photography Services 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, June 29, and Sunday, June 30.** Need a fresh headshot? For \$20, receive a set of digital images for use in job applications, social media, and networking opportunities. Walk-ins welcome.

**Résumé Writing Workshop 9:30–10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 29.** Creating the perfect CV can be a daunting task. This workshop provides guidance on how to create or revise a résumé, whether you're approaching library school graduation, searching for a new position, or just wanting to do some fine-tuning. Bring your laptop or a printed copy of your résumé to work on during the session.

**Open House and Job Fair 10:30 a.m.–noon Sunday, June 30.** During this event, employers will talk about their institutions and share job openings with attendees. Employers must sign up in advance. Registration is not required for job seekers. ●

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role in boosting diversity in the profession. This session will help attendees understand the achievements and challenges African American librarians face, discover potential ways to

support and amplify their contributions, and learn how they serve as agents of social change.

### For the Love of Libraries: The Untold Story of a Community That Saved 148 Libraries

2:30–3:30 p.m. Monday, July 1

In 2012, Jeffco Public Schools in Jefferson County, Colorado, faced a crisis: Half of its 125 library positions across 148 schools were in danger of being eliminated. Saving those programs depended on voters approving a tax increase of \$170 million. This session will share the story of how 120 teacher-librarians launched a successful grassroots campaign to advocate for their libraries to the larger community. Attendees will hear how the campaign was organized, how it saw success on social media, and tips for avoiding or navigating budget cuts.

## TIMELY TOPICS

Below is a small selection of sessions representing the conference's Timely Topics: AI, health and wellness, intellectual freedom, justice-involved services, and strategic partnerships. For more information, visit [bit.ly/ALAAnn24-TT](https://bit.ly/ALAAnn24-TT).

### Cultivating Community Relationships: Bridging the Gap between Libraries and High School Career and Technical Education

9–10 a.m. Saturday, June 29

In 2022, St. Louis' Sumner Senior High School, St. Louis Public Library, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville formed a partnership to introduce Black career and technical education students to professional careers in library and information science. In this session, participants will learn how to build successful cross-community partnerships to support programs that bridge career and technical education and libraries.

### When to Tap In and Tap Out: Nurturing Resilience and Renewing Bonds in Library Teams

9–10 a.m. Saturday, June 29

Branch Tap-Ins invite senior leaders and administrators to temporarily step into branch roles, gaining insight into the daily operations of their library while staffers enjoy an offsite retreat focused on team building and strategic planning. Presenters from Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library will discuss their

experiences conducting a Branch Tap-In, how the model prioritizes staffers' self-care, and the importance of trauma-informed leadership.

### Soft Censorship of LGBTQIA+ Content and Its Chilling Effect on the Children's Book World

1–2 p.m. Saturday, June 29

This panel will cover the distressing impact of book bans on LGBTQIA+ children's books and their creators, the concept of soft censorship, and ways to include LGBTQIA+ books in library programming. Panelists include authors **VICKI JOHNSON** (*Molly's Tuxedo*) and **DARCIE LITTLE BADGER** (*A Snake Falls to Earth*), author and illustrator **KATHERINE ROY** (*Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands*), and **ANTONIO GONZALEZ CERNA**, marketing director at children's book publisher Levine Querido.

### Depositing Joy: Programming and Services for Families Experiencing Homelessness

11 a.m.–noon Sunday, June 30

Participants will learn how Kenosha (Wis.) Public Library established strong partnerships with emergency family shelters by offering program kits that contain everything needed for a fun themed activity and a small selection of diverse, popular, and age-appropriate materials. This session will cover how to replicate this model and give three program kit examples.

### How Your Library Can Support Users Impacted by Incarceration: Standards Launch

2:30–3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 30

This session will empower librarians and information workers to create or improve library services and programs for people who are incarcerated or in the process of reentry. To mark the official launch of ALA's *Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated or Detained*, presenters will detail implementation strategies for the standards within their institutions, educational programs, and external organizations.

### Beyond the Audit: Embracing the Freedom to Read through Curation and Promotion of Inclusive Collections

10:30–11:30 a.m. Monday, July 1

After a diversity audit, what's next? This program will cover

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strategies for making library collections more diverse and inclusive and promoting these efforts in an era of book challenges. Attendees will learn how to identify policies that support this work and how to design a promotion plan for their diverse and inclusive collections beyond celebration and heritage months.

### **Generative Artificial Intelligence, Libraries, and the People They Serve: A Guided Discussion**

1–2 p.m. Monday, July 1

Panelists will discuss how information professionals have approached generative AI and how it affects the services they provide. Participants will learn how to talk about generative AI with colleagues, stakeholders, and the public; locate and use resources to enhance AI literacy in their community; and find interest groups on these issues.

### **Planting the Future: Five Ways to Promote Biodiversity in Your Community**

4–5 p.m. Monday, July 1

What are five actions librarians can take to promote biodiversity in their communities? From creating native seed libraries to converting library landscaping into pollinator-friendly spaces (even for those with limited options), attendees will learn about different pathways to practicing sustainability at their institutions.

## **DIVISION, ROUND TABLE, AND AFFILIATE PRESIDENTS' PROGRAMS**

### **GNCRT President's Program: Queer Joy in Comics**

9–10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 29

In recent years, queer books and comics have experienced record numbers of challenges throughout the country. As a result, the current narrative around queer comics is one of struggle, pain, and erasure. Join Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table (GNCRT) President **SHIRA PILARSKI** and a panel of special guests who will celebrate queer joy in comics, graphic novels, manga, and other types of sequential art.

### **Nakikita: The Rise of Filipino Creatives in Literature and Beyond**

10:30 a.m.–noon Saturday, June 29

In Tagalog, *nakikita* means “seen.” While Filipino creatives are gaining prominence in major music, literature, television,



## **Library Marketplace**

**T**he Library Marketplace is a space to learn, network, and have fun. In the exhibit hall, registrants can explore the latest library services, attend book talks, meet notable authors, watch short films and trailers, and grab swag to take home. Also in this space: the Book Buzz Theater, Chapter One, Diversity in Publishing, Graphic Novel and Gaming, PopTop, Look of Books, TechTalk, ThinkFit @

ALA, and What's Cooking @ ALA stages. ●

### **Hours**

Friday, June 28,

5:30–7 p.m.

Saturday, June 29,

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday, June 30,

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Monday, July 1,

9 a.m.–2 p.m.

## **ALA Store**

**T**he ALA Store will be in Lobby E, near registration and the entrance to the Library Marketplace. It will be open noon–5:30 p.m. Friday, June 28; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, June 29, and Sunday, June 30; and 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday, July 1. ●

and movie projects, finding representation has been an uphill battle. This year's Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association President's Program will focus on how Filipinos are breaking barriers.

### Workplace Belonging Matters: Key Insights for Library Professionals

10:30 a.m.–noon Saturday, June 29

The Association of College and Research Libraries' President's Program will feature **TERRELL STRAYHORN**, president and CEO of consulting group Do Good Work and director of the Center for the Study of HBCUs and associate provost at Virginia Union University in Richmond. Strayhorn will discuss how libraries can create an inclusive environment in which all employees feel valued, respected, and connected.

### Somewhere Over the Arcoiris: Conversations on Queer Latinidad in Libraries

2:30–3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 29

At this year's president's program from Reforma: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, Latinx library professionals and community partners will address challenges in the field, such as defeating imposter syndrome and navigating inherent and internalized homophobia. Conversations will also cover community response to programming and services created by, for, or in celebration of queer Latinx library workers and how these offerings can be adapted to libraries everywhere.

### United for Libraries President's Program

3–4 p.m. Saturday, June 29

United for Libraries (UFL) President **GORDON BAKER** will host Emmy Award-winning journalist **CONNIE CHUNG**, who made history as the first woman to coanchor *CBS Evening News*. Chung will discuss her forthcoming memoir, *Connie* (Grand Central Publishing,

## Governance Meetings

### Friday, June 28

- ALA-APA Board of Directors Meeting, 8:30–9 a.m.
- ALA Executive Board Meeting I, 9 a.m.–noon

### Saturday, June 29

- Council Orientation, 8:30–9:30 a.m.
- ALA-APA Council Meeting, 9:30–10 a.m.
- ALA Council I Meeting, 10 a.m.–noon

### Sunday, June 30

- ALA Council II Meeting, 9–11:30 a.m.

### Monday, July 1

- ALA Council III Meeting, 9–11:30 a.m.
- ALA Executive Board Meeting II, 1–5 p.m. ●

September), which chronicles her career as a woman of Asian descent in a white male-centered world.

### Illuminating the Legacy of Illustrious African American Librarians

1–2:30 p.m. Monday, July 1

Join Association for Library Service to Children President **JONDA C. MCNAIR** for a conversation about the work of renowned African American librarians such as Charlemae Hill Rollins and Augusta Baker. In addition to hearing about these librarians' achievements, participants will have the opportunity to peruse historical materials.

## BOOKS, AUTHORS, AND CELEBRATIONS

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from—and celebrate—dozens of bestselling authors and illustrators at Annual. For more information on ticketed events, visit [bit.ly/AC2024-tixevents](https://bit.ly/AC2024-tixevents).

### Michael L. Printz Awards

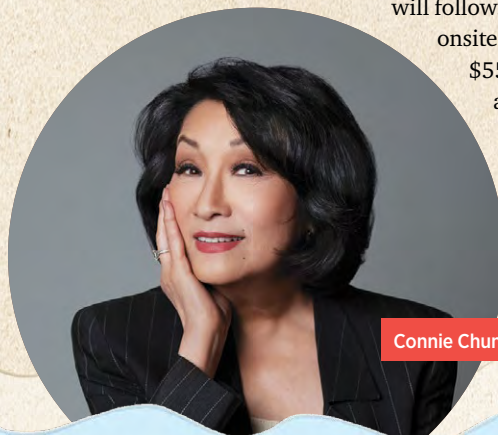
8–10 p.m. Friday, June 28

Join the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and *Booklist* for the Michael L. Printz Award Ceremony, during which **A. S. KING**, editor of this year's award winner *The Collectors: Stories*, will deliver a speech on behalf of himself and the anthology's other nine contributors: M. T. Anderson, e. E. Charlton-Trujillo, David Levithan, Cory McCarthy, Anna-Marie McLemore, G. Neri, Jason Reynolds, Randy Ribay, and Jenny Torres Sanchez. A dessert and cocktail reception will follow. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 onsite for YALSA members, \$50 in advance and \$55 onsite for ALA members, and \$55 in advance and \$60 onsite for nonmembers.

### GNCRT Magical Comics Tea

1–3 p.m. Saturday, June 29

Join this GNCRT-hosted afternoon tea, when comics creators and



Connie Chung

Photo: Connie Aramaki/Coco Foto

## Accessibility

**A**LA wants to ensure that everyone's conference experience is pleasant and accessible. Accessibility measures at Annual include captioning during main sessions, accessible shuttle buses, acceptance of leader animals, mobility assistance, American Sign Language interpreters, and accessible rooms in the hotel block. For more information, visit [bit.ly/ALA-AC24-access](https://bit.ly/ALA-AC24-access). •

## Community of Care

**A**LA has implemented a Community of Care at Annual, with the goal of enhancing a sense of community and safety by upholding a Code of Conduct and providing attendees with tangible support. Among the resources available at Annual are the Community of Care Quiet Room for those looking for a quiet space during conference and onsite counseling sessions with mental health professionals. Read more about this initiative at [bit.ly/ALA-AC24-CofC](https://bit.ly/ALA-AC24-CofC). •

enthusiasts will talk about upcoming titles and projects. Don your best teatime outfit or come as you are. Tickets are \$20 for GNCRT members, \$10 for student ALA members, and \$35 for non-GNCRT members.

### The Laugh's on Us

5:30–7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 29

UFL spokesperson **PAULA POUNDSTONE**, along with several other humor writers and comedians, will entertain the crowd at this wine and cheese event. A book signing will follow, with free copies for attendees subject to availability. Tickets are \$60 in advance for UFL members, \$65 in advance for ALA members and nonmembers, and \$70 onsite.

### Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction Award Ceremony and Reception

7–10 p.m. Saturday, June 29

This year's ceremony will honor 2024 Carnegie Medals winners **AMANDA PETERS** (for her novel *The Berry Pickers*) and **ROXANNA ASGARIAN** (for her nonfiction work *We Were*

*Once a Family: A Story of Love, Death, and Child Removal in America*). Held at San Diego Public Library, the event will feature US inaugural poet **RICHARD BLANCO** as keynote speaker, speeches from the winning authors, and a book signing. Tickets are \$25.

### 55th Annual Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast

7–9:30 a.m. Sunday, June 30

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast will celebrate leading authors and illustrators of exemplary children's books that depict African American experiences. Attendees will hear remarks from 2024 winners **IBI ZOBOI** (for *Nigeria Jones*) and **DARE COULTER** (for *An American Story*) and honorees. Tickets are \$65 in advance, \$75 onsite.

### Newbery-Caldecott-Legacy Awards Banquet

6:30–10:30 p.m. Sunday, June 30

Celebrate the authors and illustrators of this year's most distinguished books for children at this event, which will commemorate Newbery Medal winner **DAVE EGGERS** (see our Newsmaker interview on p. 20), Caldecott Medal winner **VASHTI HARRISON**, and Children's Literature Legacy Award winner **PAM MUÑOZ RYAN**, along with other honorees. Tickets are \$99.

### Gala Author Tea

2–4 p.m. Monday, July 1

Indulge in tea and treats while hearing from bestselling writers, including **CHLOE GONG**, **JUSTINIAN HUANG**, and **TOM RYAN**, about their forthcoming projects. Attendees will receive advance copies and have them signed by authors (subject to availability). Tickets are \$60 in advance for UFL members, \$65 in advance for ALA members and nonmembers, and \$70 onsite.

### International Librarians Reception

5–7 p.m. Monday, July 1

Join the ALA International Relations Round Table in welcoming and celebrating librarians from more than 70 countries. This reception, open to all attendees, offers networking opportunities with hundreds of information professionals. ALA President Drabinski will recognize the recipient of the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Projects, along with other award winners. Tickets are \$40. **AL**

For an up-to-date list of dates and times, please see the Annual Conference Scheduler ([bit.ly/ALAAC24-sched](https://bit.ly/ALAAC24-sched)).

Jamaican jerk  
pork belly  
at Nine-Ten

A  
TASTE  
OF

# San Diego

Whether set by the sea or inland, these SoCal restaurants serve up great meals

BY Maribeth Mellin





**D**id you pack your sunscreen and hat? Ready to check out San Diego's famed surf and sand? You've come to the right place. The convention center resembles a huge sailboat docked beside the deep blue San Diego Bay, where luxurious yachts fill the marina. Restaurants both fancy and casual tout prime water views around the center's downtown neighborhood and all along San Diego County's 70-mile coastline. You needn't stick to the shore, however. There are plenty of stellar neighborhood spots that don't need beach views to shine, as I found when researching *Frommer's San Diego Day by Day* guide.

Seafood takes top billing at many spots, along with the region's exceptional produce. Chefs put a SoCal twist on everything from sushi to Wagyu steaks, with inspired global flourishes everywhere. Mexican dishes and influences pop up in all sorts of menus, thanks to our proximity to the busiest land border crossing in the US.

San Diego's famous fish tacos (copied from those in Baja California, Mexico) are ubiquitous and far from limited to the traditional grilled or tempura fish topped with shredded cabbage and salsas. Look for lobster, shrimp, and octopus in freshly made tortillas at finer spots. Local craft beers are on tap most places, and cocktails reflect the climate with an emphasis on tropical fruits and chilies.

San Diego is spread out, but all our recommended restaurants can be easily accessed on foot or by car, so feel free to explore. ¡Provecho!

#### PRICE GUIDE

Average price per person for a meal without drinks, tax, or tip:

- \$ under \$18
- \$\$ \$18-\$29
- \$\$\$ \$30 and up

## DOWNTOWN NEAR THE CONVENTION CENTER

### **Animae**

969 Pacific Hwy.  
619-432-1225  
animaesd.com

You might find yourself whispering upon entering this hushed, ultra-posh extravaganza in the Marina District. Asian fusion creations from Executive Chef Tara Monsod, a 2024 James Beard finalist, exude as much sophistication as the serene dining room. Diners seated in velvet booths share delicacies such as caviar shrimp toast and tuna *kinilaw* (a Filipino ceviche) before concentrating on their sublime Wagyu steaks and Sichuan sea bass. Consult the sake sommelier for guidance, and don't skip dessert.  
**D daily \$\$\$**

### **Brigantine Seafood and Oyster Bar**

1360 N. Harbor Dr.  
619-719-4960  
brigantine.com

You can't miss Portside Pier, a modernist complex anchored by a glass dome on the downtown waterfront. All four of its restaurants serve reliably tasty meals in airy spaces that seem to hang over the water. The Brig is a favorite for its low-key ambiance, stellar service, and wide-ranging menu. The Wagyu burger and crispy coconut macadamia shrimp are longtime favorites, as is

the fish and chips. There's flavorful grilled Spanish octopus and jumbo scallops with pork belly at dinner. Several items are less expensive during happy hour, which runs 2–5 p.m. daily, except Saturdays. **Brunch (Sun), L (M–Sat), D daily \$\$**

### Callie

1195 Island Ave.  
619-255-9696  
calliesd.com

Chef Travis Swikard honed his skills with famed chef-restaurateur Daniel Boulud in New York City before opening this award-winning dining room in San Diego's East Village. His take on Mediterranean cuisine highlights local seafood and produce.

Start your meal tapas-style, with pungent taramasalata or avocado labneh with vegetable crudité, then continue the San Diego theme with line-caught market fish or, if available, Pacific spiny lobster on squid ink rigatoni. Finish with a rich, warm chocolate-chip tahini cookie with gelato. Book early; reservations are in high demand. **D (Tue–Sun) \$\$**

### Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop

640 10th Ave.  
619-450-5880  
cowboystarsd.com

There's nothing kitschy about the dandified Old West décor in this East Village stalwart's dining room or about Chef

Nestor Iturbide's dishes. Carnivores find it hard to order sensibly when faced with bison short ribs, pheasant roulade, and wood-fired elk chop. The essential steaks are all on offer, accompanied by sides such as roasted bone marrow and crispy Brussels sprouts. Butternut squash tortellini and tasty vegetable sides please noncarnivores. Weekday happy hour runs 3–6 p.m., and is popular with locals for its sliders and house-made sausage. **D daily \$\$**

### Extraordinary Desserts

1430 Union St.  
619-294-7001  
extraordinarydesserts.com

Many San Diegans would be bereft if Karen Krasne grew tired of creating perfect cakes, pastries, and pies for everyday indulgences and special occasions. Like its Bankers Hill sibling, this Little Italy location—which is much closer to the convention center than the other Little Italy options listed—is a gallery devoted to culinary artistry, its glass cases full of elegant multi-tiered cakes topped with fresh flowers. The light-meal menu includes four different grilled cheese sandwiches, gravlax on toast, and tomato-basil soup, among other choices, as preludes to the sweets. Leave room for a lemon-meringue tartlet or tropical fruit pavlova, and just try to exit without a few treats for later. **L, D daily \$**

## BANKERS HILL

### Cucina Urbana

505 Laurel St.  
619-239-2222  
urbankitchengroup.com/  
cucina-urbana-bankers-hill

The Urban Kitchen Group's restaurants are neighborhood favorites, as you'll quickly see at this Bankers Hill Italian ristorante and enoteca that adds a sense of California freshness to Italian favorites. The meatballs with mascarpone polenta are just as tasty as they sound, and the ribeye carpaccio melts on the tongue. Imaginative takes on pastas and pizzas hit high notes, and the whole branzino is a meal that appeals to all senses. More than 200 international wines are on display in the shop. **D daily \$\$**

### Mister A's

2550 Fifth Ave.  
619-239-1377  
asrestaurant.com

For sky-high views of downtown with jets gliding by, you can't beat this iconic spot on the 12th floor of an office building in Bankers Hill. It has been a linen-and-crystal celebratory spot since opening in 1965. The latest update retains the white-glove aura of the past while offering casual lounge seating on the terrace, a bar menu, and a Saturday jazz brunch. Splurge on Maine lobster strudel or prime ribeye at dinner. A burger with a Gorgonzola crust shines at lunch. Make reservations for seats with the best views.



Avocado labneh at Callie

Photo: Luciana Mchintosh

Note: Business casual attire is required. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (W-F), D daily \$\$\$**

## GOLDEN HILL

### **Kingfisher**

2469 Broadway  
619-432-1014  
kingfishersd.com

This was San Diego's hottest restaurant when it opened in 2022, and it hasn't rested on its laurels. Thoroughly modern décor and a menu of French-influenced Vietnamese dishes with a California twist draw full houses. Forget pho. Think of fresh, herbal flavors, as in diver scallops with tamarind, Thai basil, and rice paddy herbs, or prawns with Vietnamese coriander and pineapple purée. The extravagantly flavored (and priced) smoked, dry-aged duck sells out nightly. **D (W-M) \$\$**



Seasonal fare from Mabel's Gone Fishing

## BALBOA PARK AND NORTH PARK

### **Artifact at Mingei**

1439 El Prado  
619-331-3569  
mingei.org/visit/artifact

Global cuisine takes center stage at Balboa Park's Mingei International Museum, a treasure trove of folk art and design from around the world. The sleek restaurant shares the museum's lobby with an artful installation of antique carousel horses; the courtyard features a large,

colorful enamel mural. The chef relies on ancient methods, spices, and botanicals to create dishes enlivened by global influences. Crispy tofu is paired with oyster mushrooms, fish sauce, and chili crisp, while dumplings include a clever rye pierogi with farmer's cheese, dill, caraway, and onion. **L (Tue-Sun), D (Th-F) \$\$**

### **Mabel's Gone Fishing**

3770 30th St.  
619-228-9851  
mabelsgonefishing.com

North Park may well be San Diego's hottest, hippest

neighborhood, with Mabel's standing out as one of its most enjoyable haunts. As the name suggests, the menu focuses on seafood, and dishes change with the day's catch. Shared plates may include mussels escabeche with smoked paprika and hiramasa with melon gazpacho, while entrées might include a bluefin tuna steak with salted plum sauce. The gin and tonics are as celebrated as the food, with a monthly concoction featuring surprising yet satisfying flavors. Parking is tight in this area; consider using a

cab or a ride-sharing service. **D (M-Sat) \$\$**

## **The Prado**

1549 El Prado, Ste. 12  
619-557-9441  
pradobalboa.com

Step into history at this handsome restaurant in Balboa Park's Moorish House of Hospitality, constructed in 1915 for the two-year Panama-California Exposition. The setting is exquisite, with a warm, wood-beamed dining room and a sunlit, multilevel terrace overlooking the park's gardens. The dinner menu draws on European influences (think sangria, paella, and mushroom risotto) while lunch includes tacos and sandwiches. Don't miss the courtyard's tiled fountain with a lovely statue of a woman pouring water from a rounded jar. **L, D (Tue-Sun) \$\$**

## LITTLE ITALY

### **Born and Raised**

1909 India St.  
619-202-4577  
bornandraisedsteak.com

If art deco is your vibe, you'll be thrilled with this 1930s-style steakhouse. Fashionable diners ensconced in camel-colored leather booths sip chilled martinis while tuxedoed waiters prepare classic Caesar salads and steak tartare tableside. Dry-aged steaks are the main attraction, but don't skip starters like the Burgundy snails

# Mexican, Por Favor

**M**exican restaurants abound in San Diego. Locals feed their late-night taco cravings at neighborhood takeouts, but there are plenty of places for sit-down feasts as well. Here are a few noteworthy spots.

**Casa Guadalajara** 4105 Taylor St., 619-295-5111; [casaguadalajara.com](http://casaguadalajara.com). This cavernous restaurant is the place to go if you want to hear excellent mariachis (on weekends) amid a whirlwind of hanging paper cutouts, sombreros, piñatas, and waitresses in ruffled, embroidered dresses. Huge portions of Mexican standards come on painted pottery plates and the margaritas have a distinctive, pleasing flavor. The courtyard is lovely at lunchtime, with bright orange and yellow umbrellas shading tables. **L, D daily \$-\$\$**

**Cocina de Barrio** 3924 W. Point Loma Blvd. and 3707 Fifth Ave., 619-222-6600 and 619-677-2770; [eatcocinadebarrio.com](http://eatcocinadebarrio.com). Authentic Oaxacan-inspired cuisine makes this colorful strip-mall spot a standout. At dinnertime, tastebuds delight in the mango-habanero aguachile and the huitlacoche quesadillas. Other flavorful choices include mole negro short ribs and chamorro de borrego, a tender lamb shank said to be an instant hangover cure, which you might need after consuming the spicy mezcal cocktails. Vegans and vegetarians have much to choose from. **Brunch daily, D (M-Sat) \$\$**

**Las Cuatro Milpas** 1857 Logan Ave., 619-234-4460; [las-cuatro-milpas.com](http://las-cuatro-milpas.com). Lines have stretched down the street outside this bare-bones cafe ever since it opened in 1933. The short menu is posted above the counter and consists of chicken or pork tacos and burritos, rice and beans, homemade tamales, and stretchy, tender tortillas. Order at the counter and stake out a table in one of several small rooms. There's menudo, a proven cure for *la cruda* (hangover), on Saturdays. Cash only. **B, L (M-Sat) \$**



**Puesto** 789 W. Harbor Dr., 619-233-8880; [eatpuesto.com](http://eatpuesto.com). Slick design enhances Tijuana street eats at this fun hangout near the convention center. (It's one of eight locations in the state.) Glass doors open to two stories of dining space plus an umbrella-shaded patio with fire pits and cozy couches. Authentic regional Mexican tacos take top billing. Order three for a good-sized meal, perhaps choosing a short rib quesabirria, a pozole, and a veggie version with garlicky mushrooms. **L, D daily \$-\$\$**

**Quixote** 2223 El Cajon Blvd., 619-975-3889; [lafayettehotelsd.com/#Dining](http://lafayettehotelsd.com/#Dining). Dazzling all senses, this North Park hot spot is part of the dining and entertainment mix at the reimagined Lafayette Hotel, which originally opened in 1946. Diners sample small plates in a reconstructed and decommissioned Mexican Catholic church that could be plopped right into the Sierra Madre. The imaginative menu includes a *tlayuda* (like a flatbread) with sauerkraut, of all things. The tamal is stuffed with mussels, and the carnitas features duck rather than the traditional pork. **L, D daily \$-\$\$\$ ●**

with bone marrow or the splendid tartare. Then there's the dessert cart with liquid and edible treats. Retreat to the rooftop for a digestif and views of the sparkly downtown lights. **D daily \$\$\$**

### **Cloak and Petal**

1953 India St.

619-501-5505

[cloakandpetal.com](http://cloakandpetal.com)

Visions of Tokyo and au courant Japanese design flash by as you enter this fun space, with its cloud of cherry blossoms hovering over the bar and graphic graffiti on the walls. Sample the clever izakaya menu, pairing matcha-infused vodka with small plates of blistered shishitos or ribs coated in hoisin and sticky gochujang paste. Add inventive sashimi and sushi, or order the miso-glazed black cod for a full repast. A back room of the restaurant houses Shibuya Nights, a trendy bar and lounge. **D daily \$\$**

### **Kettner Exchange**

2001 Kettner Blvd.

619-255-2001

[kettnerexchange.com](http://kettnerexchange.com)

Everything at this architectural stunner—from the capacious dining room to the outdoor terrace and rooftop cabanas—has a cool vibe. Cushy tufted booths are the perfect perch for views of the full-grown tree soaring through the ceiling and the chic crowd sipping cocktails while sharing crisp-fried frog legs and duck meatballs.



Spicy tuna crispy rice at Kettner Exchange

There's a comfort-food element to the hot and spicy garlic noodles with shrimp and Thai roasted pork shoulder lettuce wrap. Sunday brunch offerings include biscuits and gravy with buffalo sauce and Turkish poached eggs with yogurt, dill, and mint. The restaurant stays open late, with a smart casual dress code enforced after 9 p.m. **Brunch (Sun), D daily \$\$**

## **CORONADO**

### **Little Frenchie**

1166 Orange Ave.

619-675-0041

[littlefrenchiesd.com](http://littlefrenchiesd.com)

Sip a pomegranate bellini at a sidewalk table outside this Coronado charmer, and you'll soon feel transported to the south of France. Black-and-white Parisian scenes add to the French bistro ambience inside the small dining room. All your faves are here, from escargots to crêpes to

french onion soup. There's an impressive wine list and a monthly featured champagne. **Brunch, D daily \$\$**

### **Serēa**

1500 Orange Ave.

619-435-6611

[sereasandiego.com](http://sereasandiego.com)

You can't beat the sunset views from the terrace and window tables at this gem in the venerable Hotel del Coronado. (Read about the hotel's literary connections in *By the Numbers*, p. 15.) Chef JoJo Ruiz celebrates the scenery with locally sourced seafood presentations, including a dazzling tower of baja shrimp and oysters. Go for the fragrant wood-grilled whole fish for a full-on feast. The airy restaurant also serves breakfast, a far less extravagant splurge. Note that construction around the restaurant is expected to conclude by summer. Reserve a table early for prime seats. **B (M-F), Brunch (Sat, Sun), D daily \$\$\$**

## **HARBOR AND SHELTER ISLANDS, POINT LOMA, OCEAN BEACH**

### **Bali Hai**

2230 Shelter Island Dr.

619-222-1181

[balihairestaurant.com](http://balihairestaurant.com)

Pretend you've flown west 2,500 miles and plopped down in Hawaii as you sip a powerfully delicious mai tai at this mid-century tiki icon on the tip of Shelter Island. Sure, it's a bit touristy, but there's a reason locals and visitors return frequently. The mai tais are a big draw (selling nearly 3 million to date), especially when paired with coconut shrimp, flash-fried shishito peppers, poke, and other pupu. The Pan-Asian menu offers Korean fried chicken, wok-fried bass, and crispy ahi tuna. Windows face a stunning downtown skyline over San Diego Bay. **Brunch (Sun), L (M-Sat), D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

### **C Level**

880 Harbor Island Drive

619-298-6802

[clevelsd.com](http://clevelsd.com)

There's an endless naval parade on San Diego Bay within sight of this popular lunch and happy hour spot on Harbor Island, with aircraft carriers, cruise ships, catamarans, and kayaks sailing out to sea. The menu is a people pleaser, with lobster mac and cheese, fish and chips, and a thick filet burger. Lunchgoers line up early to claim one of

the patio tables with picture-perfect views across the bay.

**L, D daily \$\$**

### Point Loma Seafoods

2805 Emerson St.

619-223-1109

[pointlomaseafoods.com](http://pointlomaseafoods.com)

Fish doesn't get any fresher than what you'll find at this iconic market and casual café, where glass cases are filled with a dizzying array of local and imported seafood. Once you've ordered your Alaskan cod tacos, house-smoked tuna sandwich, or other casual meal, find a table on the patio or upstairs on the deck and listen for your number. A sushi chef oversees another counter with trays of lobster and eel, while fish-mongers cut gorgeous tuna, salmon, and swordfish steaks for home cooking. If you're lucky, you may spot a fishing boat arriving with 200-pound yellowfin tuna ready to hang from the scales. **L, D daily \$-\$**

### Wonderland

5083 Santa Monica Ave. #2B

619-255-3358

[wonderlandob.com](http://wonderlandob.com)

Sun lovers claim benches by the windows for a panorama of sand and sea, while those seeking shade and conversation settle at high-top and standard tables around this Ocean Beach neighborhood favorite. A rotation of local craft beers is on tap at the center bar, and cocktails such as the Watermelon Cooler and Beach Cruiser suit the sandy vibe. If sharing snacks,



Korean fried chicken sandwich at Bali Hai

try the spicy fried calamari or salty pretzel bites. It's hard to give up even one bite of the tangy aguachile and ahi poke, however. There's a bountiful surf and turf burger, a teriyaki plate with tofu, shrimp, or meat, and a robust chili made with six kinds of meat. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D daily \$**

### LA JOLLA

#### George's at the Cove

1250 Prospect St.

858-454-4244

[georgesatthecove.com](http://georgesatthecove.com)

La Jolla is the epicenter of fine dining in San Diego, with George's smack in the bull's-eye. Three dining options allow some wiggle room price-wise, with George's California Modern topping the fine-dining charts. The ground-level dining room's

minimalist décor focuses the eye on the stunning coastal views, while the cuisine demonstrates chef Trey Foshee's award-winning skills. On the rooftop, George's Ocean Terrace is a lively, sun-drenched bistro with open-air views of La Jolla Cove, while the middle-floor Level2 space offers the same menu in a cool, shady dining room. The menu satisfies a variety of appetites, with dishes such as salmon tartare with yuzu aioli and duck leg confit with cocoa nib purée as well as burgers and fried chicken sandwiches. **L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

#### The Marine Room

2000 Spindrift Dr.

858-459-7222

[marineroom.com](http://marineroom.com)

This venerable dining room has been drawing crowds since opening in 1941, thanks

to its location at La Jolla Shores' tideline. The water rises to window height during high tide, and waves sometimes crash against well-fortified glass, thrilling diners. Impeccable service in an unfussy yet elegant setting enhances the stellar SoCal cuisine. Imaginative preparations include king salmon with wagyu-fat sous-vide carrots and huitlacoche, while stalwart favorites include the filet mignon with bone-marrow butter and Gorgonzola potato. A smart California casual dress code is enforced. **D (W-Sun) \$\$\$**

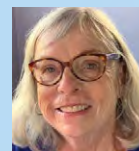
#### Nine-Ten

910 Prospect St.

858-964-5400

[nine-ten.com](http://nine-ten.com)

At lunchtime, Jamaican-born chef Jason Knibb's creations include poached mussels with Calabrian chilies and the fan-favorite jerk pork belly with plantains and black-eyed peas. Dinner includes jerk chicken, smoked duck breast, lamb loin, and a juicy half-pound Angus burger. Tables are clad with white linens, and well-spaced booths enable quiet conversation, a rarity these days. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), B, L (W-F), D (W-Sun) \$\$-\$\$\$ AL**



Longtime San Diegan **MARIBETH MELLIN** is an award-winning travel

writer and author of *Frommer's San Diego Day by Day: 19 Smart Ways to See the City*.

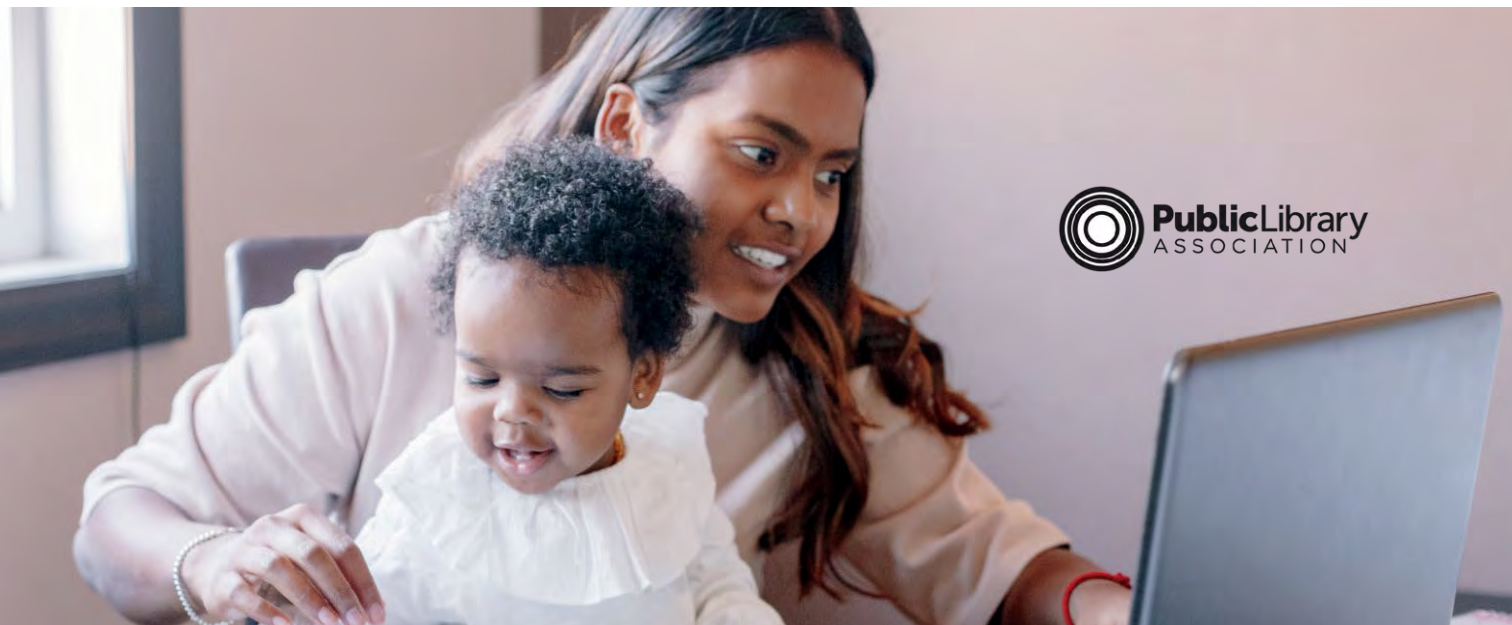
Photo: Bali Hai

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# Citational Justice

How librarians can improve equity in measuring research impact

BY Sheila Craft-Morgan



**SHEILA CRAFT-MORGAN** is assistant professor and research impact librarian at Ohio State University Libraries in Columbus.

Citations are a key measure of the impact of a researcher’s work. However, research in a variety of disciplines has found that women are less likely to be cited than men; citations contain geographic bias; and the *Matthew effect*—in which those who begin with advantage continue to gain advantage—leads to more citations for prominent scholars in a specific discipline.

These findings contribute to the notion that scholarly knowledge comes from a homogenous group of researchers, thereby overlooking the contributions of other groups. This phenomenon has been referred to as *epistemological racism* or *screening*, among other terms.

In 2017, I read about the “Cite Black Women” campaign founded by Christen A. Smith, an anthropologist whose work was plagiarized at a conference she was attending. This rallying cry still resonates with me: How can we discuss research impact in a meaningful way if systemic issues that have nothing to do with quality of the work affect the way that work is cited, received, and disseminated?

Within library and information science, research impact exists at the intersection of scholarly communications and bibliometrics. In addition to tracking research metrics—such as h-index scores, citations, and alternative metrics—research impact librarians advise faculty and students on scholarly profiles, promoting their work and making it discoverable. However, one key point missing from these discussions is the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) as they relate to impact and efforts to mitigate bias.

Academic librarians are uniquely positioned to talk about these issues. Just as librarians are incorporating discussion of the responsible use of metrics into resource guides, so too should we curate and share information about the composition of editorial boards, the different types of peer review, and citational justice. Such absence from resource guides connotes that they are not relevant to our constituents, as I’ve found in my own research ([bit.ly/BiasMetrics](https://bit.ly/BiasMetrics)).

Here are ways librarians can learn and share information about DEIJ in relation to research impact and the mitigation of bias in the research life cycle:

First, become familiar with the responsible use of metrics, including resources like the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), Leiden Manifesto, and Metric Tide. These statements have focused on one aspect of bias, the efficacy and applicability of the h-index to different disciplines, and length of career.

Next, review the literature on citation bias, language bias, and other types of bias present in the research life cycle. While there has been some

coverage of these issues in LIS literature, most of the research exists in other disciplines. Sources of information include the Association of College and Research Libraries’ *Open and Equitable Scholarly Communications* report, Springer Nature’s collection of resources about DEI in research publishing, and DORA’s Rethinking Research Assessment, among others.

Finally, incorporate this information into your resource guides and instruction. The DEI in Scholarly Communication guide from University of California’s Office of Scholarly Communication provides an example of a guide that incorporates information about DEI in scholarly publishing from the perspective of peer review and editorial boards, authors, scholarly publishers, and libraries. This may be a good time to review your guide for the use of inclusive language and review other ways to promote inclusivity.

These steps can confront the tacit silence on the issue of bias and incorporate it into the conversation about research impact. This will lead to a richer discussion and awareness of these issues in the context of the impact of research at the individual level, evaluating research for promotion and tenure, and benefits of research to the

public. Ultimately, librarians can forge a partnership with other organizations to address these issues for the greater good of the scholarly environment. **AL**

How do we discuss impact without acknowledging that systemic issues affect the way research is cited?



# Campus Connections

## Hosting faculty-only library events

BY Dani Carmack and Jessica Quarles



**DANI CARMACK** is a former research and instruction librarian at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University–Prescott (ERAUP) in Arizona. She now works as a pre-professional advisor at the College of Idaho in Caldwell.



**JESSICA QUARLES** is an instruction and research librarian at ERAUP.

Are staffers at your university aware of the library’s services? At Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University–Prescott in Arizona, we discovered that many faculty members were hesitant to enter what they perceived as student-only library spaces. This made us realize: We weren’t marketing our resources and services to a core population, a group that is essential to helping us advocate for the library on campus and beyond. But first, staffers had to understand what we offered.

To help acquaint faculty members with the facility and build strong relationships with them, we designed an engaging in-person event called Summer Fest at our Hazy Library and Learning Center.

During Summer Fest, which took place June 2022, our 24 attendees received a passport directing them to explore seven stations placed throughout our two-floor library, including a welcome table, book displays highlighting resources and recommended reads, and demonstrations for using library resources. Unlike student orientations, the event did not include research-based services or course materials. Instead it focused on services that benefit staffers both personally and professionally, such as our Act One Culture Pass, which provides free admission to participating museums, zoos, and other cultural institutions.

Having library workers at each station to facilitate conversations made the experience more welcoming. They introduced themselves to new campus employees and reconnected with others. Interactive opportunities like the local trivia quiz gave attendees something to do at each station. Demonstrating unique items at the library, like the FitDesk Bike, was also an effective conversation starter.

Attendees included a mix of seasoned staffers, new staffers, and those unfamiliar with the library. Those who participated—many of whom visited in groups with their department colleagues—showed enthusiasm, lingering to chat with one another and library employees.

In their feedback, attendees expressed excitement about the opportunity to use the library as an alternative workspace. More important, through this exposure to previously unfamiliar library resources, they experienced firsthand the library’s mission to serve the entire campus community. Empowering academic staffers with events like these can encourage them to become library supporters and advocates, improving the reputation and value of the library campuswide.

When planning your own staff-centered event, consider the following questions.

- Which of your staff outreach strategies are currently not working?
- What are the library behaviors of faculty members?
- What underused services do you want to highlight?
- How can your event attract and engage both new and seasoned employees?

To reach our academic colleagues, we used email marketing. We also asked library staffers to hand-deliver invitations to their campus connections.

While Summer Fest was a success, we would do several things differently next time: First, we would reconsider station placement, as not everyone went to our upstairs stations. Second, if budget allowed, we would include a snack and drink station—perhaps combined with a cookbook display—to help increase attendance. And finally, we would add additional activities to each station.

Through the event and marketing efforts, our team strengthened relationships with staffers, increased library visibility on campus, and helped academic faculty better understand library services. We found this event invaluable in advancing the library’s mission to support the campus community, and we

look forward to continuing staff-focused outreach in the future.

*Adapted from “It’s Your Library Too,” College & Research Libraries News vol. 84, no. 11 (Dec. 2023).* **AL**

Empowering academic staffers can encourage them to become library supporters and advocates.

# Inclusive Early Literacy

Reaching informal caregivers with library resources

BY Kate Brunner



**KATE BRUNNER** is youth and family services principal consultant at Colorado State Library. She is based in Durango.

Who cares for the young children in your community? Depending on where in the US you live, anywhere from one-quarter to two-thirds of children ages 6 and under may be looked after by family, friends, and neighbors (FFNs) as opposed to formal caregivers, such as day cares. These figures have only grown with the pandemic ([bit.ly/FFN-pandemic](https://bit.ly/FFN-pandemic)).

Informal caregivers may include grandparents, cousins, nannies, shift-swapping parents, and older siblings. They may provide part-time or full-time care. Some are paid; many are not. Ultimately, without FFN care, it would be difficult or impossible for many parents to work.

In my home state of Colorado, formal childcare is in short supply. The options aren't necessarily affordable or in alignment with parents' work hours. Additionally, parents might choose informal care for personal reasons, such as wanting to preserve cultural traditions or a home language. Whatever the circumstances, Colorado State Library (CSL) recognizes FFN care as a vital part of our early childhood system.

To better serve these caregivers, CSL founded its Growing Readers Together (GRT) program in 2016 with philanthropic funding from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, and later, grants from Colorado Shines Brighter and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. By mobilizing public libraries, GRT aims to equip caregivers with resources and skills so they can confidently engage in early literacy activities with those in their care. As of December 2023, 75% of the libraries in our jurisdiction have participated in some element of GRT.

At the outset of the program, public library professionals went into their communities to talk to parents, employers, school districts, and other stakeholders about childcare. Through these conversations, we realized FFN caregivers wanted to learn how to find books, activities, and programs that promote school readiness, as well as dedicated spaces and opportunities to connect with one another for support.

Over the past eight years, children's librarians in Colorado have started to meet these needs in ways tailored to their communities. For example, Buena Vista Public Library hosted virtual "Play, Learn, and Grow" workshops on brain development, Every Child Ready to Read practices, and STEM exploration during the pandemic. Wilkinson Public Library in Telluride built early literacy corners, stocked with books and games in English and Spanish, in apartment building laundry rooms. And High Plains Library District, Wellington Public Library, and West Custer Public Library in Westcliffe have each launched successful FFN caregiver playgroups through increased marketing.

If you're interested in serving FFN caregivers in your community, consider these ideas.

**Find your audience.** Identify groups and places already connecting with FFNs, such as senior centers or organizations serving immigrants. Ask local preschools to offer information to both enrolled families and those on their waitlists. Talk to businesses about how the need for childcare is affecting their employees.

**Rethink your messaging.** Assess how and where you market your library's early literacy programs. Use terms like *caregivers* or *anyone caring for young children* instead of *parents* in fliers to make it clear that FFNs are welcome.

**Get rid of fines.** Several studies have determined that replacement and late fees are significant barriers to early literacy ([bit.ly/CSL-fees](https://bit.ly/CSL-fees)). Consider eliminating them on all children's materials.

**Make space.** Host open play or a caregiver café before or after structured library programs to help FFNs connect with one another and learn about resources.

**Plan giveaways.** Distribute picture books, crafts, and storytime kits directly to FFN caregivers. Free activities allow caregivers to offer inspired play options without worrying about what materials to buy or how to afford them.

By including informal caregivers in our early literacy programs and outreach, we can better reach children in any care environment. **AL**

Informal caregivers want books, activities, and programs that promote school readiness.

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# Prioritizing Trans Privacy

How to safeguard trans and gender-nonconforming library users' information

BY Mel Baldwin



**MEL BALDWIN** is adult services librarian at Granville County (N.C.) Library System.

Regardless of why someone comes into a library, every patron should be free to interact with staff, browse materials, and use the internet without fear of harassment or worse. That freedom depends on libraries upholding patron privacy.

With nearly 400 active anti-trans bills pending in state legislatures as of April 2024 ([translegislation.com](https://translegislation.com)), it is a dangerous time in the US to be *gender nonconforming*, someone whose gender expression does not align with the traditional male or female binary. And for trans people of color, studies show the risk of discrimination and violence is higher.

For library workers, a vital part of protecting trans patrons is carefully handling their personal information. Below are categories of sensitive information that should be considered in order to recognize gender diversity in data collection policies and procedures.

**Name.** Trans patrons have privacy vulnerabilities that most others don't, such as having an ID that lists their sex assigned at birth or *deadname*, the name they used prior to transition. Knowing a deadname, especially of someone who is *stealth*—someone who is not open about their transition and is assumed to be cisgender—can lead to security issues. Do not use their deadname without permission.

For example, a feminine-presenting person comes into the library for a card and writes her name, Stacy. She is a trans woman and uses she/her pronouns. One of her documents has her deadname, David. This kind of situation can be scary for a trans person because it outs them as trans. This can lead to teasing, harassment, or physical harm.

Libraries should consider updating policies and patron information forms, such as adding fields for “preferred name” or “name you would like to be called” so staff members do not feel they have to collect someone's deadname. If you must record it for legal purposes, put it in a separate place on the person's record to lessen their risk of being outed.

**Gender identity.** If a patron's assigned sex at birth does not match how they present their gender, regardless of their gender, this can lead to the same safety problems as with their deadname. If possible, remove all gendered questions from library forms. Do you really need to know that information?

This isn't always possible. For example, I work within North Carolina's Cardinal library system, which is a consortium that collects data for US Census Bureau records. In this case, advocate for adding “nonbinary” as a third gender option, which our system now has. Even better would

be adding “do not wish to disclose” as a fourth option. Nonbinary is an umbrella term that does not cover everyone, but it shows support for the community.

**Library use.** Safeguarding checkout history is always important, but this is especially true with minors. For trans people who are not out and are reading books like Dennis Baron's *What's Your Pronoun?* *Beyond He and She* or *She/He/They/Me* by Robyn Ryle, access to this information could out them earlier than they planned. This could lead to violence against them; it may even be life-threatening if they are not in a safe home environment.

Librarians should never judge anyone by their checkouts. Patrons—including those exploring information on gender expression—should be able to pri-

privately keep a record of what they're reading. If your library system keeps checkout information past the point of an item being returned, fix that. Prioritize privacy for inquiries about library records. ALA's website has helpful

resources about what to do if records are subpoenaed ([bit.ly/ALA-privacy](https://bit.ly/ALA-privacy)).

Privacy is important for all patrons but especially for vulnerable populations. Ideally, libraries can move toward data collection systems that don't hold information that could be used to target the gender-diverse community. But until then, it's up to us to ensure the utmost protection. **AL**

Trans patrons have privacy vulnerabilities that most others don't.



# ITALIA <sup>AT</sup>

**ALA Annual**  
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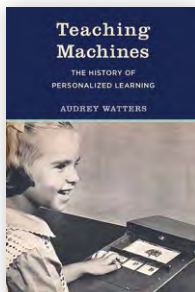


# Instruction Junction

Summer reads to elevate library pedagogy



**REANNA ESMAIL** is lead librarian for instruction at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.



## Teaching Machines: The History of Personalized Learning

By Audrey Watters

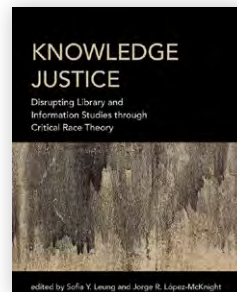
Artificial intelligence (AI) will revolutionize education—or so many tech tycoons and venture capitalists commonly claim. As this title demonstrates, these promises are not novel, and their echoes can be heard in histories of educational technologies once known as teaching machines. Putting current AI hype into perspective, Watters unearths parallel attempts to automate education from the likes of psychologists Sydney Pressey and B. F. Skinner, among others. Those who do not wish to repeat the failed history of personalized learning should pick up this book. MIT Press, 2023. 328 p. \$24.95. PBK. 978-0-2625-4606-5. (Also available as an ebook.)



## Using Context in Information Literacy Instruction

By Allison Hosier

We all know that context matters. This publication shows how and why it does for library education. Hosier considers a wide range of research examples in academic, personal, creative, and professional contexts. Using these and drawing upon other skills and experiences, Hosier provides methods for meeting students where they are and giving them opportunities to examine the research process and how it differs depending on the context. Her approach, lesson plan templates, and strategies provide a great foundation and practical materials for building trust and confidence with students and patrons. ALA Editions, 2022. 160 p. \$64.99. PBK. 978-0-8389-3798-3.

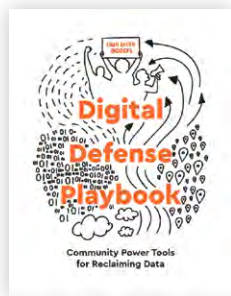


## Knowledge Justice: Disrupting Library and Information Studies through Critical Race Theory

Edited by Sofia Y. Leung and Jorge R. López-McKnight

Challenging the notion of library neutrality, Leung and López-McKnight reflect on the way systems of power affect knowledge and information, and present a contrasting framework of *knowledge justice*. Divided into three parts, this edited collection features chapters on practices such as cataloging, collection development, and, of course, instruction. While readers can choose individual chapters that speak to their areas of interest, the volume as a whole draws important lines from these professional practices to library pedagogy and information access. Seeing the big picture is crucial for understanding and teaching justice concepts. MIT Press, 2021. 358 p. \$35. PBK. 978-0-2620-4350-2. (Also available as an ebook.)

by Reanna Esmail

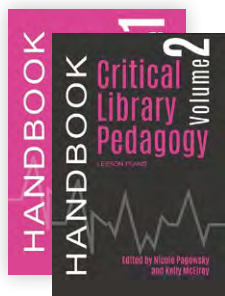


### Digital Defense Playbook: Community Power Tools for Reclaiming Data

By Seeta Peña Gangadharan, Blu Lewis, Tawana Petty, and Mariella Saba

Today, library instruction usually necessitates expanding learners' digital literacy, but it can be difficult to address this topic in an interactive way. Created by academic research collective Our Data Bodies in collaboration with community partners, this workbook provides a hands-on approach to topics like data collection, algorithms, and surveillance through the lens of justice. Along with educational materials, it provides tips on how to be an effective facilitator and community guidelines for leading public programming. The booklet's framing discussions and learning objectives—particularly related to data streams and trails—are also useful for library workers helping patrons navigate digital tools.

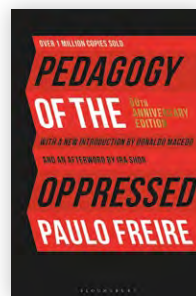
Our Data Bodies, 2018. 94 p. \$15. (Also available as a free ebook.)



### Critical Library Pedagogy Handbook, vol. 1 and 2


Edited by Nicole Pagowsky and Kelly McElroy

Released in 2016, this broad and deep collection is still crucial and approachable years later. Divided into two volumes, the first outlines a variety of issues related to critical librarianship in essays and reflections. The second presents related activities and projects to try. The authors review concrete definitions of some key terms, like *critical pedagogy* and *banking theory*, and consider the lack of shared definitions for others, including *plagiarism* and *queer theory*. There are frank discussions of practical challenges for teaching, theoretical articles, and lesson plans covering diverse topics such as zine-making, archival primary sources, data literacy, and citation justice. ACRL, 2016. 280 p. \$95. PBK. 978-0-8389-8917-3. (Also available as an ebook.)



### Pedagogy of the Oppressed, 50th anniversary edition

By Paulo Freire

It would be remiss not to include Freire's influential and impactful *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. The renowned Brazilian educator and philosopher's description of his experiences teaching adult education courses is notable for its approach to classroom power dynamics and its centering of collaborative, community-focused learning. Current discussions about creating more equitable learning environments continue to build, intentionally or not, on Freire's ideas. For first-time readers, it will reveal new ways of thinking about teaching and the classroom. For repeat readers, it reveals more on each revisit. This anniversary edition features a new introduction, afterword, and interviews with notable academics of today, such as Noam Chomsky, Valerie Kinloch, and Margo Okazawa-Rey. Bloomsbury Academic, 2018. 232 p. \$24.25. PBK. 978-1-5013-1413-1. (Also available as an ebook.) 

# PEOPLE

## Announcements

### ON THE MOVE

April 1 **Jeffrey Bardzell** became dean of the School of Information and Library Science at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**Heidi Daniel** started as executive director of King County (Wash.) Library System March 11.

**Lareese Hall** joined the California Institute of the Arts in Santa Clarita as dean of library in June.

**Athena N. Jackson** became Norman and Armena Powell University Librarian at University of California, Los Angeles March 1.



**Jennifer Gunter King** joined Boston University Libraries as associate university librarian for special collections April 1.

**Hannah Kwon** became branch librarian at Leavenworth (Wash.) Public Library in February.

In December **Atreya Madrone** was named research services librarian at Red River College Polytechnic in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Nicole Messier** was appointed director of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library in Dudley, Massachusetts, effective February 21.



December 1 **Jessica Morales** became associate dean for collections and open initiatives at University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

**Candice Townsend** joined the National Institutes of Health Library in Bethesda, Maryland, as deputy director February 12.



### Kudos

In March, retired librarian **Mary Ferris** received a New York State Senate Commendation Award from State Sen. Pam Helming (R-Canandaigua) for her 50 years of service as children's librarian at Wood Library in Canandaigua.

**Jessica Kitta**, librarian at Elkton (Va.) Middle School, was named Shenandoah Valley Regional Librarian of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Librarians March 6.

**Monica Treptow**, school library media education consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, received the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association's 2024 Professional of the Year Award March 4. ●

In November **John Wilson** became librarian at South Georgia Technical College in Americus.

### PROMOTIONS

**Carol Leibiger** was promoted to professor at University of South Dakota Libraries in Vermillion in July 2023.

February 24 **Elizabeth Saucedo** was promoted to city librarian for the Goleta (Calif.) Library Zone System.

March 14 **Matthew W. Shepherd** was promoted to information resources unit coordinator at the New York State Division for Historic Preservation.



### RETIREMENTS

**Lori Ann Barnes** retired as director of library services for Vail (Colo.) Public Library March 21.

**Rita Hamilton** retired as city librarian of Phoenix April 5.

February 29 **Sharon Perry Martin** retired as director of University Park (Tex.) Public Library.

**Amy Massey** retired as branch librarian at Leavenworth (Wash.) Public Library in January.

In June **Vailey Oehlke** retired as director of libraries at Multnomah (Ore.) County Library.



**Loretta Parham** retired as chief executive officer and director of Atlanta University Center's Robert W. Woodruff Library in June.



March 28 **Sue Ridnour** retired as director of library services at Flower Mound (Tex.) Public Library.

**Nancy Wallace** retired as youth services coordinator at Ellwood City (Pa.) Area Public Library March 3.

**Deb Ward** retired as university librarian and vice provost for libraries at University of Missouri in Columbia May 31.

February 2 **Tim Wiles** retired as director of Guilderland (N.Y.) Public Library.

### AT ALA

**Lauren Carlton**, program officer for member services at the Association of College and Research Libraries, left March 5.



## In Memory

**Mark William Flynn**, 70, who served as dean of libraries at Columbus (Ga.) State University before his retirement, died January 1. Flynn previously held librarian positions at Loyola University in New Orleans and George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, before joining the State Library of Florida in Tallahassee, where he worked for 21 years. While there, he worked as a consultant, helping the nations of Barbados and El Salvador expand their library infrastructures, and was instrumental in the development of the Florida Electronic Library, of which he was named director.

**Robert “Bob” Hageman**, 76, retired librarian at Seattle Public Library (SPL), died January 5. In his 22 years with SPL, Hageman worked at the Broadview, Central, Northgate, and Queen Anne locations. He served as the official move coordinator for SPL’s current Central Library, which opened in 2004.

**Jalesia Horton**, 31, director of access and resource-sharing services at Southern Methodist University (SMU) Libraries in Dallas, died February 24. Horton had worked for SMU since 2019 and previously held library roles at Augusta (Ga.) University, Emory University in Atlanta, and Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville. She was active in ALA’s Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), taking on leadership roles in RUSA’s Sharing and Transforming Access to Resources Section (STARS). Horton was awarded the STARS Virginia Boucher Distinguished Interlibrary Loan Librarian Award in 2023.



**Bonnie J. Janssen**, 80, who served as head of children’s services at Fremont (Calif.) Main Library before her 2009 retirement, died January 5. Janssen was instrumental in overseeing Alameda (Calif.) County Library’s Booklegger program, a cooperative venture with area schools to

promote reading. She started her library career in bookmobile services and, as a professional storyteller, helped organize the first Bay Area Storytelling Festival. Before relocating to Fremont in 1995, she was a member of Sunnyvale (Calif.) Public Library’s advisory board.

**Steven Richard Miller**, 73, science fiction author and founding curator of science fiction at University of Maryland, Baltimore County’s Albin O. Kuhn Library, died February 20.

**Ilse B. Moon**, 91, executive secretary of the Association for Library and Information Science Education from 1988 to 1992, died in March. From 1976 to 1978, Moon was director of professional development studies for the Rutgers Graduate School of Library Service in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She previously headed technical and information services at Montclair (N.J.) Public Library and worked in reference at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and in cataloging at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Moon was active in the New Jersey Library Association and Virginia Library Association, contributing to their publications as well as to *Wilson Library Bulletin* and consulting on library science publications, reference books, and reprint projects for Scarecrow Press.

**Dorothy Jean Schirtzinger**, 92, who served as director of Lee County (Fla.) Library System for 18 years before her 1998 retirement, died December 10. Schirtzinger previously worked for Ohio University Libraries and Chillicothe and Ross County (Ohio) Public Library. Her first job, at age 14, was at Worthington (Ohio) Libraries. Schirtzinger received the Intellectual Freedom Award from the Florida Library Association in 1993 and the Jean Key Gates Distinguished Alumni Award from University of South Florida in 1995. She was named Librarian of the Year by *Library Journal* in 1996. ●

April 1 **Andy Deckowitz** joined ALA’s IT team as senior network engineer.

**Jenny Levine**, deputy executive director of advocacy, connections, and engagement for Core, left April 2.

**Susana Stoll**, associate director in the Office for Accreditation, left March 29.

January 8 **Jillian Wentworth** was promoted to deputy executive direc-

tor for strategy and engagement at United for Libraries.

**Talaisha Whitaker** joined the Public Library Association as program coordinator February 5. [AL](#)



## From A to Zoo

**K**elley Woolley remembers visiting San Diego Zoo and its Safari Park as a kid. The big cats, giraffes, and koalas were often her first stops. She recalls watching elephants do tricks and riding the now-closed monorail, which offered great views of the tiger habitat.

“I’ve been a huge animal person my whole life,” Woolley says. Today, she oversees the library and archive for the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA), the nonprofit that runs the zoo and park. Her workplace is one of a handful of zoo libraries across the US that employs a full-time librarian.

SDZWA’s 16,000-item library comprises books, scientific journals, and databases organizing everything from *keeper journals* (animal caretakers’ notes) to *studbooks* (journals published by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums documenting the lineage of different species).

“The majority of the collection is to help the veterinarians, animal care scientists, researchers, scientists, horticulturists—all the different areas of the entire organization,” Woolley explains. “The focus is to make sure we have information

for everybody to use,” from staff members to volunteers to visiting scholars.

SDZWA’s archive includes rare books and materials, including founding documents, oral histories, and personal items from the zoo’s past notable leaders, like founder Harry Wegeforth and Belle Jennings Benchley, the world’s first female zoo director. The collection’s oldest item is William Kirby and William Spence’s *An Introduction to Entomology, or Elements of the Natural History of Insects: with Plates* (1816), a drawing-filled volume that was foundational to the study of insects.

Woolley feels a sense of pride assisting experts as they further their research and care of animals.

“We’re trying to help the conservation work to keep species thriving and trying to end extinction of certain animals,” she says. “There’s excitement, there’s passion, and I feel privileged to be a part of that group.” **AL**

**THE BOOKEND** showcases librarians, their work, and their workspaces. For consideration, email [americanlibraries@ala.org](mailto:americanlibraries@ala.org).