

The logo for the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) is a vertical maroon rectangle containing the letters 'PaLA' in white, serif font.

Pennsylvania
Library
Association

2023 Conference

A scenic photograph of a mountain range during autumn. The foreground and middle ground are filled with trees in various shades of green, yellow, and orange. In the distance, blue-toned mountain peaks rise against a sky filled with white and grey clouds.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE!

Kalahari Resort, Pocono Manor, October 1 - 4, 2023
(Exhibit Days: October 2 & 3)

2023 Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

GAC Meeting

Track: **Meeting**

Mary Garm, Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development
Governor's Advisory Council members

The Governor's Advisory Council (GAC) on Library Development, established by the Public Library Code, advises and makes recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of Education and the Deputy Secretary for Libraries regarding the State Library of Pennsylvania's policies and operations as well as Pennsylvania's system of aid to libraries. Regular meetings are open to the public.

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Baby & Toddler Storytime - Serious Business, Not Just Child's Play!

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Kimberly Garrison, Project Coordinator, Read, Baby, Read!

Christine Caputo, Chief of Youth Services, Free Library of Philadelphia

Sunita Balija, Children's Librarian, Free Library of Philadelphia, Donatucce Branch

A strong foundation in early literacy is critical to children's later success in school. Using the Read, Baby, Read program model, learn how to enhance your storytimes with diverse books, songs, finger play, and enrich your programs with research-backed tips to set the stage for children for later reading success. The presentation will be a lecture with time for participants to share.

Kimberly Garrison is a fierce and devoted advocate for literacy. She is currently the Program Coordinator for the

Free Library of Philadelphia's flagship infant and toddler program, Read, Baby, Read!

Christine Caputo has been working in youth services for over 30 years. She designed the Read, Baby, Read program which has become the flagship program at the Free Library. Chris has presented previously at the PaLA Conference as well at ALA Conferences, First Up Conferences, and other local symposiums.

Sunita Balija has implemented many Read, Baby, Read programs including innovating the Baby Garden Storytime that she will cover in the presentation.

Governors Advisory Council on Library Development Open Forum

Track: **Career & Leadership**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Mary Garm, Chair, Governors Advisory Council on Library Development

David Belanger, Vice Chair, Governors Advisory Council on Library Development

Allison Mackley, Executive Committee, Governors Advisory Council on Library Development

Susan Banks, Deputy Secretary, Commissioner for Libraries, and State Librarian, Office of Commonwealth Libraries; Ex Officio, Governors Advisory Council on Library Development

The Governors Advisory Council (GAC) Open Forum is a chance for the twelve-member appointed group to communicate with the library field. Attendees can use this opportunity to ask questions and engage with the GAC about the work of the Council and its committees, including the work of the ad hoc committee working on library regulations.

The named speakers are members of the GAC Executive Committee.

Maker Labs - Beyond Glitter Glue

Track: **Technology & Education**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Alan Rader, Assistant Director, Monroeville Public Library

Hear how Monroeville Public Library (MPL) updated our maker lab to offer new equipment and classes that meet community needs. By reaching out to the community MPL listened to what the interests were. This approach has allowed the library to retool the MakerLab to focus on the interests of the groups who were already coming to the Library by offering items like embroidery machines, a glow-forge, cricut machines, and long-arm quilting.

Alan Rader has worked for MPL for over 10 years as a technology consultant, and then as Assistant Director of Technology and Facilities. Alan has a Masters Degree in Art and has worked with technology for over 25 years. In 2020 Alan took over the MakerLab and has made changes to the MakerLab to update the program.

Out Here! Presenting LGBTQIA+ Voices in Rural Pennsylvania

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Lea Chisum, System Administrator, Library System of Bradford County

Heather Manchester, Director, Sayre Public Library

Carla Salsman, Bradford County Regional Arts Council Programming Director

Stefan Proost, Bradford County Regional Arts Council Marketing Director and filmmaker

What began as a film and conversation project to address pressing social issues such as drug abuse, housing and food insecurity, and child abuse felt radical enough in rural and conservative Bradford County. During the trying days of the pandemic and the political turmoil that followed, the need to push further was recognized as unrest developed over LGBTQIA+ issues in the area. Failing to find a film that seemed appropriate, the bold decision was made to create an original film depicting the voices of residents of the community reflecting the breadth of the LGBTQIA+ experience. In two short months, segments were filmed, the documentary was artfully edited, and the final product was presented to the public. The response has been phenomenal and conversations are in the works to release the film to a wider

audience, to collaborate with Guthrie Health Systems to show the film to staff as they expand their diversity training, and more. Presentation will include a brief overview of the area and history of the partnership followed by a conversation about the process, the response, and the future of the film. The trailer will be viewed at the conclusion followed by time for Q&A. **Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/sE8SFsHy8t0>

Lea Chisum is the System Administrator of the Library System of Bradford County, a nine-member consortium in rural northeastern Pennsylvania. She is the direct contact with the Bradford County Regional Arts Council on the Community Conversation series and appears in the film.

Heather Manchester is the director of the Sayre Public Library, a member of the Library System of Bradford County. She is the mother of a child in the LGBTQIA+ community and the creator of many innovative inclusive programs in the library.

Carla Salsman is the Director of Programming for the Bradford County Regional Arts Council and appears in the film discussing her experience coming out as an adult in a heterosexual marriage.

Stefan Proost is the Marketing Director for the Bradford County Regional Arts Council and the cinematographer and editor of the film. He appears in the film discussing his own experience in the LGBTQIA+ community.

What Does Outreach Look Like in Academic Libraries?

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Cori Biddle, Student Engagement and Outreach Librarian, Penn State Altoona

This session will be based on the results of a research project undertaken to better understand academic libraries' outreach activities at the professional-level. While most of the existing research highlights case studies and practice reports, little has been done to look at outreach systematically. Librarians from the Association of American Universities (AAU) were surveyed, and their responses will serve as the first steps to create a clearer picture of how academic libraries define outreach, their approaches to planning outreach, and how this outreach impacts (or informs) their libraries' strategic plans or goals. Attendees will be present-

ed with these initial findings, and then given an opportunity to share how their own outreach activities align, or differ, from the AAU libraries. This will allow for a more diverse conversation related to outreach and help build an understanding of the role outreach has at each institution. Those present will hopefully use this preliminary data to consider the impact of their own outreach efforts, and how they might share this impact with their supervisors or directors, and other campus stakeholders.

Cori Biddle has been an academic librarian for 15 years, exclusively working in reference and instruction, and helping to design outreach events for her libraries. She has been the Student Engagement and Outreach Librarian at PSU Altoona for three years, and one of her primary roles is to develop library outreach activities, and to identify ways that the library can meaningfully engage with the students and larger campus community.

1:00 PM - 3:15 PM - DOUBLE SESSION

Adult Author Panel: Cover Your Eyes Chillers and Thrillers

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**
Knowledge Level: Introductory

Riley Sager, Author
Jason Rekulak, Author
Erin Adams, Author

Hear what this panel of best-selling “chiller & thriller” authors has to say about their works and how they come up with story ideas to excite and surprise readers. There will be time for Q&A and the ability to purchase books for autographing after the presentation.



Riley Sager is the New York Times bestselling author of seven novels, including *Survive the Night*, *The House Across the Lake* and *Home Before Dark*. His first novel, *Final Girls*, has been published in 30 countries and won the ITW Thriller Award for Best Hardcover Novel. His latest book, *The Only One Left*, will be published in 2023 by Dutton

Books. A native of Pennsylvania, he now lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

Jason Rekulak worked for many years as Publisher of Quirk Books, an independent press based in Philadelphia. His debut novel, *The Impossible Fortress*, was translated into 12 languages and became a finalist for the Edgar Award. His latest book, *Hidden Pictures*, is a winner of a 2022 Goodreads Choice Award. He lives in West Philadelphia with his wife, children and too many pets.



Erin E. Adams is a first-generation Haitian American writer and theatre artist. She received her BA with honors in literary arts from Brown University, her MFA in acting from The Old Globe and University of San Diego Shiley Graduate Theatre Program and her MFA in dramatic writing from NYU

Tisch School of the Arts. An award-winning playwright and actor, Adams has called New York City home for the last decade. *Jackal*, set in a rural area of Johnstown, PA has received high praise and is her first novel.

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Beyond The Facts: Delivering Engaging Adult Programming

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**
Knowledge Level: Introductory

Jessica L. Stefano, Branch Manager/Librarian,
Erie County Public Library

Engaging adult programming takes participants beyond the facts to the heart of the matter - and the heart of the patron!

Join us for this session where we will identify the components of an engaging adult program on almost any topic, define a framework for planning and delivering programs that inspire, entertain, and inform adults in our community, and learn how to create lasting connections between adults and their community library.

This program will cover:

- Thoughtfully choosing program topics.
- Connecting topics to universal concepts that make each program relevant to most adult audiences.
- Outlining a process for thoughtful program development that goes beyond classroom-style lectures and workshops.

Jessica Stefano is a Branch Manager and Librarian within the Erie County Public Library system. Prior to working in libraries, Jessica has been an Environmental Educator, a Certified Interpretive Guide, an interim classroom teacher, and a homeschool mom and spent more than a decade supporting and speaking within the brand protection and intellectual property protection industries.

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Collection Development Policies and You: A Conversation

Track: **Collections**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Dr. Cathi Fuhrman, School Librarian, State College Area High School

Jonathan Moore, Cataloger, Wyomissing Public Library

Denise Sticha, Executive Director, Centre County Library and Historical Museum and co-Director of the Centre County Federation of Public Libraries

Sylvia Orner, Collections and Resource Management Librarian, University of Scranton

Marycatherine McGarvey, Director, Free Library of Springfield Township

This program will consist of a facilitated discussion between librarians from public, academic, and school libraries. We will discuss the importance of a good collection development policy, as well as the basic elements that should be included. We will also explore situations where challenges may arise and best practices for keeping your collection development policy current and relevant. Since the program will be structured as a panel conversation, we will be sure to leave enough time for attendees to ask their own questions.

Dr. Cathi Fuhrman is a Pennsylvania School Librarians Association Past President, a member of the 2022-24 AASL Board of Directors, AASL Chapter Assembly past chair and a member of PSLA's Advocacy Committee and Intellectual Freedom Task Group. She is a high school librarian for the State College Area School District, State College, PA. Previously she served as the Library Supervisor for Hempfield SD. She has been in the school library field for 29 years. Dr. Fuhrman is also an adjunct professor at McDaniel College.

Jonathan Moore is the Cataloger at Wyomissing Public Library. He has 17 years of experience working in public libraries and technical services. He has served as chair of the SPARK Cataloging Committee, cares deeply about

technology education, and is a strong advocate for systematic library weeding.

Denise Sticha is the Executive Director of the Centre County Library and Historical Museum and co-Director of the Centre County Federation of Public Libraries. She has worked in Pennsylvania libraries for 40 years, serving as a Director of the Murrysville Community Library, head of the Humanities/Popular Library Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Head of Reference and Public Services of the Reeves Memorial Library, Seton Hill University, System Administrator of the Westmoreland County Federated Library System, and Administrator of Berks County Public Libraries.

Sylvia Orner is the Collections and Resource Management Librarian at the University of Scranton where she recently oversaw a collection development update. She holds a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University and a Master of Science in Business Analytics from the University of Scranton.

Marycatherine McGarvey started her library career 30 years ago at Montgomery Co – Norristown Public Library in the Children's Department and was responsible for bringing the Gates Computer Lab to fruition. She was then the Branch Manager at the Conshohocken Free Library before becoming director of the Free Library of Springfield Township. She holds a Master of Library Information Science from The University of Pittsburgh and she is a member of Beta Phi Mu, an International Honor Society. She is currently on the Pennsylvania Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee and was Chair from 2008-2018. She is passionate about Privacy and Freedom to Read and Think.

Facilitator: Elizabeth Davis is the Support & Project Management Specialist for the Pennsylvania Integrated Library System. She has 15+ years of public library experience, with the last seven in IT and Digital Services. She is passionate about using data to make informed decisions.

Cooking Across Cultures

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Elaine Volpe, Head of Youth Services, Bethel Park Public Library

Nancy Martin, Youth Services Librarian, Bethel Park Public Library

Food is an important part of cultural heritage and has connected people for thousands of years. It brings people together for special celebrations, momentous occasions, and everyday gatherings. Cultural diversity is an important concept that shapes who we are and how we interact with others. Grasping its importance at an early age means understanding and appreciating that people are different and that those differences are what makes our world so special and unique. Food may be one of the easiest and most entertaining ways to introduce this concept to young children. Encouraging them to sample and experiment with foods from different cultures and mealtime traditions can teach children early on about diversity and lay a foundation for them to be more accepting, understanding, and appreciative of people from different backgrounds. Hosting cultural cooking classes for kids at libraries not only accomplishes the goal of multicultural education, but also teaches children about healthy eating habits. These classes contribute to both health literacy and social literacy, and serve to represent and celebrate diverse cultures.

Elaine and Nancy have over 25 years combined experience working with youth in an educational setting.

Elaine Volpe earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and has been Head of Youth Services at the Bethel Park Public Library for thirteen years.

Nancy Martin has a Master of Archival Studies degree from the University of Alberta in Canada and is currently working towards her Masters in Library and Information Science.

Low or No Budget Marketing

Track: **Advocacy & Development**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Leslie A. Wishard, Green Free Library Director & Potter Tioga Library System Administrator

Ryan McCrory, Director at the Lititz Public Library

Melissa Froah, Director, Corry Public Library

Justine Yeager, Library Director, North Pocono Public Library

Barb Mitchell, County Coordinator, Cambria County Library System

A panel will discuss engaging and informative PR strategies for libraries of all sizes, using little or no budget. Once back in their own libraries, attendees will be able to easily replicate and/or modify these ideas for their own use.

Leslie Wishard has 39 years' experience as a librarian in both public school and public library settings, in MD, NY, and PA.

Ryan McCrory has over two decades of experience in libraries in public and academic settings, in both urban and rural areas, large and small and all things in between. He has been in working five years in PA.

Melissa Froah has worked as an educator and library professional in New York and Pennsylvania for more than 25 years. She is a certified school library media specialist in New York state and certified Public Librarian in Pennsylvania. Besides her director duties, she also heads adult and teen programming at the library.

Justine Yeager has 20 years of library experience, including outreach, marketing, and community relations. She also serves as Director of Communications for the non-profit, Black Scranton Project. When Justine isn't "librarianing," she enjoys pole dance fitness, crossword puzzles, and hanging with her cat, Veda.

Barb Mitchell is the County Coordinator of the Cambria County Library System, and a member of the PaLA PR & Marketing Committee. She uses her marketing and communication experience to maintain the library system's website and assists with the creation of marketing materials for libraries in the system to promote new products and services. Barb also contributes to the Digital Media calendar created by the PR & Marketing Committee.

The Other Side of the Table: Library Staff Serving as Board Members

Track: **Career & Leadership**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Robyn E. Vittek, Director, Mt. Lebanon Public Library

*Rob Leshner, PA Foward® Program Manager,
Pennsylvania Library Association*

Many of us work with our library boards, Friends boards, and borough councils as we represent the library. Have you ever considered taking a seat on the other side of the table? In this panel discussion you will meet library staff from throughout Pennsylvania who serve community, non-profit, and other organizations as board members. Learn how serving as a board member can increase your library's reach, help form exciting new partnerships, and give you a better insight into your own library board from a different perspective

The speakers have each served on many boards in their time as a director of a public library.

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Opening Keynote: We're Gonna Win! Tools and Tactics for Change

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Emily Drabinski, 2023/24 President, American Library Association (ALA)

Library workers are dealing with a lot. With urgent issues like book bans and budget cuts to longer term challenges like the impacts of climate change and growing inequality, it can be hard to find the bright sides. But they're out there! In this talk, Drabinski will share insights from library workers organizing around the country to solve problems for themselves and their communities. Union victories in Lansing, Michigan, legislative action in Boise, Idaho, community activism in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, and other big wins remind us what's possible when we work together!



Emily Drabinski will serve as president of the American Library Association in 2023/24. She is the Critical Pedagogy Librarian at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. She publishes and presents

widely on topics related to knowledge organization, information literacy, and critical perspectives in librarianship. Drabinski edits Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies, a book series from Library Juice Press/Litwin Books. She is a contributing writer at Truthout.

Sponsor: **EBSCO Information Services**

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Welcome Reception

Track: **Networking**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

All conference participants are invited to network and learn more about association activities at this informal, "getting to know you" event. Light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

Sponsor: **Pennsylvania Integrated Library System (PAILS)**

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Chapter Dine Outs

Track: **Networking**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Join your fellow chapter members for some informal networking and fun as you share a meal at a Kalahari or other local restaurant. Chapter leaders will be reaching out to members with specific registration instructions.



8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Trivia Competition

Track: **Networking**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Test your trivia skills against your colleagues from across the state at the 11th Annual Trivia Competition! Proceeds benefit the David Roberts EXCEL Award Fund.

**Additional registration fee required.*

Out Here!: LGBTQ Stories From Bradford County Documentary Film Showing

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Out Here! is an original all-local film created by the Bradford County Regional Arts Council in partnership with the Library System of Bradford County and Sayre Public Library in response to the desire to have a Community Conversation about LGBTQIA+ individuals living in rural areas for National Coming Out Day 2022. Ten unique and diverse stories are told in personal narrative form accompanied by original local music and scenery of the area. Hear the deeply touching tales of growing up, coming out, and facing adversity in this rural community of 60,000 nestled within the Endless Mountains. Stories include dealing with a parent coming out, coming out later in life, guiding a young adult through their emergence as trans, exploring non-binary and other identities, and so much more.

**Additional fee to attend to support the producer of the film, Bradford County Arts Council.*

Tips for Justifying Your Conference Attendance to Your Board or Supervisor

Library budgets are tight, so how do you justify attending the PaLA Annual Conference to your board or supervisor? We have a few tips to not only sell your attendance at this important event, but also how to increase your library's ROI:

- 1** Point out that the conference offers more than 60 concurrent educational sessions, more than 30 poster sessions, as well as ample opportunities to network with your peers from across the state.
- 2** The conference exhibit hall contains a wealth of information on new products or services for your library, all under one roof. Shop now or "window shop" for future purchases. It's a one-stop shop, and will make the most of your time when considering purchases for the library.
- 3** Create a report to describe what you've learned and how you will share it with others in your library.
- 4** Create an action plan to implement what you've learned into your work or programming at the library. Periodically report on the actions that have been taken, and the improvements they have made in the library.
- 5** Train others. Share the session handouts and ideas you've learned with your co-workers.
- 6** Compare the cost of conference registration to the cost for other conferences, educational courses or consulting fees. PaLA Conference registration includes several meal events to stretch not only your "circle" but your budget as well!
- 7** Report your conference attendance, and the fact that you are continuing your education to improve library services to your local newspaper, bringing your library into the public light in yet another way.
- 8** While discussing purchases or programming for your library with your supervisor, be sure to preface your statement with "One of the speakers at the PaLA Conference said..." Or, "I saw this new product at the PaLA exhibits, with it, we can..." Giving credit like this will reinforce the thought that the PaLA Conference is a benefit, not only to you, but to the library overall.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Technical Services Round Table Business Meeting

Track: **Meeting**

Receive updates on past and present round table activities.

Coffee & Un-Conference Conversations

Track: **Networking**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Grab a cup of coffee and sit down with fellow attendees to discuss sessions from the previous day.

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

A Heist in the Stacks: Tabletop Gaming Events with One-Page RPGs

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Kristin E. C. Green, Reference and Instruction Librarian,
Penn State Scranton

Molly Abdalla, Student Engagement and Outreach
Librarian, Penn State Wilkes-Barre

For those unfamiliar with tabletop role playing games (RPGs), one-page RPGs offer simplified versions to get acquainted with the genre. The rules of one-page RPGs fit on one-page and are easy to learn, unlike more complex games in the genre such as Dungeons & Dragons. Since the game can be learned in the moment, it provides an inclusive opportunity to host a gaming event for any student with an interest to play. This session will detail the conception, planning, marketing, hosting, and assessment of a tabletop gaming event centered around the one-page RPG, Honey Heist, at an academic library. However, librarians and library workers at all types of libraries considering programming similar outreach events will find this session beneficial.

Kristin E. C. Green is the Reference and Instruction Librarian at the Penn State Scranton Library where she teaches course-related information literacy, develops various collections, and programs co-curricular events. Her research focuses on the pedagogy of information literacy education.

Molly Abdalla is the Student Engagement and Outreach Librarian at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre and Penn State Scranton libraries. She increases campus interactions in the library through information literacy instruction and programming events. Her research interests include the influence of libraries on student retention and the advancement of liberal arts studies.

Creative Connections Between Performance, Visual Arts, and the Library Community.

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Kate Coluccio, Library Director, Carnegie Free Library
of Swissvale

Susan Pearlstein, Library Volunteer and music committee
member; Performer, Slagle Rock & Sue

Eric Slagle, Music Committee member; Performer,
Slagle Rock & Sue

This session will be useful for library staff programming for ALL AGES. It will consist of a conversation regarding how and why the live music programs got started - where to find musicians - the nuts and bolts of the concerts and open mic nights - the perceived benefits to the community and the library - the question of paying or not paying the performers - and sound equipment. Slagle Rock and Sue will perform Outside (based on S.E. Hinton's teen novel The Outsiders) and will show a video montage of some of the musicians who have performed for our Music Under the Tree series. Kate Coluccio will then discuss why to have artist works displayed in the library - how to find artists willing to display their works - having community art projects at the library - finding and funding an artist-in-residence - benefits to the

community and library of art displays and activities in the library. She will include a slide show of artists' works and of community art projects done at the library. There will be time at the end for questions from the audience.

Each presenter has experience in creating and managing the programs they will be discussing.

Board Blunders: Well Meaning Mistakes Board Members Make and Best Practices to Address Them

Track: **Career & Leadership**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Debra Thompson, President, Strategy Solutions

Many serve on nonprofit boards to make a positive difference for an important "cause." Yet, we sometimes unknowingly commit "board blunders:" common mistakes by well-intentioned boards that cause poor performance or outcomes. At face value, the "top 10" seem like good things boards should do. However, closer examination reveals barriers to success. This interactive presentation outlines how to recognize the blunders and turn them into strategies for high performance.

Debra Thompson is President of SSI. In this position, she provides strategic planning facilitation, fund development planning, as well as research and project management services to organizations and communities. She is a certified trainer, consultant and peer reviewer for both the PA and National Standards for Excellence: @ An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector. Debbie received her Master of Business Administration from Gannon University. She has also completed advanced training in Strategic Planning, Quantitative and Qualitative Market Research, Total Quality Management and Leadership Development, Systems Thinking & Facilitation (through affiliates of MIT) and is a 1993 graduate of Leadership Erie. Throughout her career, she has worked with over 250 nonprofit organizations supporting their strategic development priorities and initiatives.

Rising to the Challenge: Exposing Extremist Tactics to Defend Intellectual Freedom

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Joel Burkholder, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Penn State York

Russell Hall, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Penn State Erie

Kat Phillips, Nursing & Allied Health Librarian, Penn State University Park

Extremist groups are increasingly making librarians the subject of a moral panic, claiming they are "grooming" children by providing access to materials that promote "leftist" ideas of white guilt and sexual permissiveness. Coordinating this narrative through the Internet and social media, these groups—both at the local and national levels—are pressuring governments to ban material they deem to be objectionable. Librarians are legitimately concerned that these efforts could undermine the profession's core values of democratic access and intellectual freedom. Drawing on examples (mainly) from Pennsylvania, this presentation will demonstrate how to research these groups and the connections between them. Additionally, it will describe the framing and rhetoric used in their attempts to challenge materials. Exposing these tactics and educating your community members and your library board can be a proactive way to fight book bans and allow libraries to serve as vital resources for ALL. The session will also allow participants to share their own experiences and insights. The presentation will be of interest to librarians, educators, and anyone concerned about the threat to intellectual freedom.

Joel Burkholder is the Reference & Instruction Librarian at Penn State's York campus. His research interests include the intersection between rhetoric and information literacy, the identification and evaluation of bias, and the visibility of library maintenance practices.

Russell Hall is the current chair of the Pennsylvania Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee. His recent research interests focus on intellectual freedom topics, particularly the rhetoric and tactics of the current wave of organized book banning groups. He has published on a variety of topics, including investigations of the MLIS curriculum, various information literacy topics, embedded librarianship, and the traits and training of academic librarians.

Kat Phillips works with the College of Nursing, Department of Health Policy & Administration, and the Consortium on Substance Use and Addiction. Her research focuses on the influence of bias in research and rhetoric, the IF I APPLY methodology for identifying resource credibility, and the overlap of grey literature use and needs in allied health.

The “Heart” of Our Communities: Small Rural Libraries as Community Hubs

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Kristina Russo, Library Director, Newfoundland Area Public Library

Lynn Scramuzza, Library Director, Hamlin Community Library

Mikki Uzupes, Community Network Specialist, Wayne Tomorrow!

In 2019, two small rural libraries in Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) began the process of transforming their spaces into community hubs. Working with the county-sponsored group WayneTomorrow!, the Hamlin Community Library (HCL) and Newfoundland Area Public Library (NAPL) identified needs in their underserved communities and brainstormed ways their library spaces could address those needs. The HCL and NAPL assessed their library spaces in the context of their towns with help from the WayneTomorrow! network. Through the sharing of ideas from community members with myriad expertise in various non-library fields the libraries were able to begin identifying possible solutions for expanding services to the local communities. Focus groups and partnerships contributed to creative ideas for transforming their spaces into community hubs to better serve their rural communities with accessible, low-cost meeting spaces; live-streaming programming from larger towns and cities; and adding mobile furniture and equipment that encourages visitors to stay for work or play. The presenters will explain what exactly a community hub is – and what it is not. Further, why and how libraries fit this vital role, how becoming a community hub helps with advocacy, and the struggles and successes of the endeavor so far. This 60-minute session will be a brief overview of the initiative and will include time for questions and discussion.

Kristina Russo, Director of the Newfoundland Area Public Library and **Lynn Scramuzza**, Director of Hamlin Community Library have been in their roles for the past four years.

Mikki Uzupes serves as the Community Network Specialist for WayneTomorrow! She is also the President of the Wayne Library Alliance Board, the administrative unit for the seven libraries in Wayne County, which include Newfoundland Area Public Library and Hamlin Community Library.

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Data Literacy for Information Professionals

Track: **Technology & Education**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Kate Cummings, Research & Instruction Librarian for Business, University of Scranton

Sylvia Orner, Collections & Resource Management Librarian, University of Scranton

As information professionals, librarians are well-versed in the curation and dissemination of information as well as the teaching of information literacy. However, as we become an increasingly data driven society, it is crucial for librarians to not only be data literate but also to be able to impart those data literacy skills to students thus empowering them to think more critically about data. In this presentation, we will discuss the basic tenets of data literacy and why it is so valuable. We will also highlight ways in which data literacy can be taught to students or otherwise incorporated into information literacy sessions.

Kate Cummings obtained a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Maine, a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina, and a MBA from Wilkes University. Her research interests include information literacy and assessment, critical librarianship, librarian identity, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in libraries.

Sylvia Orner holds a Master of Science in Business Analytics from the University of Scranton and a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University. Her research interests include data literacy, data visualization, and collections analysis and assessment.

Striving to Meet Special Needs Populations: Opening the Accessibility to All

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Mary Kachline, Library Assistant 3; Autism 365 Coordinator, Wynnefield Library

Ethel Funches, Library Assistant 1; Autism 365 Co-Curator, Wynnefield Library

Mary Graham, Youth Services Coordinator Abington Community Library

Mary Beth Parks, LAMP, Carnegie Library
Diana Fishlock, PA ABLE, PA Treasury

How are libraries meeting the needs of families and individuals with special needs? Are we getting there, or do we have a long way to go? Do we have common areas that we can identify for all libraries to use to be more accessible? Are there different needs for the rural, suburban, and urban libraries? How can we find creative ways to utilize PA Forward® and other methods to allow ease of access to those things our community needs? These are some of the topics we will consider during this panel discussion with plenty of time for Q&A. Please join us for more.

Mary Kachline has been working for the Free Library for almost 35 years. In 2007, she was informed by her sister-in-law that her three-year-old nephew with autism, was asked to leave the library. Since that day, Mary has continuously been fighting to get Autism Awareness and Acceptance within the library and throughout Philadelphia communities.

Ethel Funches has been working for the Free Library since 2014. Her advocacy for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) stems from having family members who were diagnosed with Autism and her unwavering desire to provide them with as much information and resources available.

Mary and Ethel met at Wynnewood Library in 2019 and the pair created the Autism 365 Collection that same year. Initially starting as an idea to provide resources to individuals and their families, the collection has grown to include more resources, including Autism 365 Borrowing Bags. The program has been recognized by the City Council of Philadelphia, and has been funded to expand to additional libraries.

Mary Graham in her work as Youth Services Coordinator, works primarily with middle and high school students, handling collection development and programming for that age group. She is also a mother of two children on the Autism Spectrum and as such, is committed to making the library a welcoming and safe space for people of all ages and abilities.

Mary Beth Parks is a librarian with over ten years of experience who currently serves as the Patron Services Manager at Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians (LAMP), Network Library of the Library of Congress' Nation-

SPECIAL REMINDERS:

Visit the Conference Registration FAQs on **page 39** for tips and answers to frequently asked questions!

Hotel Lodging:

It is important that conference attendees book rooms in PaLA's room block, as this assists us in meeting our contracted obligation with the hotel, keeps costs for meeting space at a minimum and puts us in a better negotiation position for future events. All of this helps us keep registration fees as low as possible!

We have reserved a block of rooms at Kalahari Resort from Sunday – Tuesday, and a limited number of rooms available on Saturday, at the reduced rate of \$169/night plus occupancy and sales taxes. Lodging includes admission to the waterpark for the number of guests staying in the room, from 10 am on the day of arrival, through 3 pm on the day of departure.

In order to maintain availability of rooms for conference participants, hotel lodging instructions will be provided in your conference registration confirmation.

PaLA BUCKS:

These discount codes enable member libraries to register non-member staff at the member rate. One code is available per \$100 in paid dues.

BUCKS Codes may NOT be used retroactively! Be sure to alert your staff NOW if you'd like them to use your BUCKS code for discounted registration. To obtain your code, YOU, or an authorized individual, should send an email to **Susan Wertz**, Administrative Assistant at admin@palibraries.org to request it.

Annual Business Meeting:

The PaLA Annual Business Meeting will be held online on **Tuesday, October 10, 2023**. (Time TBD) Various PaLA awards will be announced at that time.

al Library Service, Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. She supports LAMP's Youth Services Librarian and a staff of Reader Advisors in providing library programs and services to LAMP patrons.

Diana Fishlock is the PA ABLE Outreach Specialist for the Pennsylvania Treasury's Bureau of Consumer Programs. She shares information about the PA ABLE Savings Program throughout the state. Diana is the mom of two teens with disabilities and her mother and sister worked with individuals with disabilities throughout their careers, so Diana grew up hearing about disability issues, and has been passionate about disability topics for many years. Before coming to the Treasury Department, Diana created publications for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and covered the disability community as a newspaper reporter.

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2023 Best Practices Awards & David J. Roberts EXCEL Award

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

*PaLA Best Practices Committee Members
Best Practices Award Winners*

Since 2004, Pennsylvania libraries have been recognized for their exceptional services to youth (birth to 18) with the Best Practices Award. The Youth Services Division of PaLA has a Best Practices Committee to choose these annual awards. Winners (and honorable mentions) are selected in the following eight categories: Display & Design, High School, Infant/Toddler, STEM, School Age, Preschool, Middle School, and Family/Multi-generational. Additionally, one library will receive the David J. Roberts EXCEL Library Service Award. Selected from the entire group of best practices winners, the award represents the "Best of the Best" practices for library early learning. The honor includes a monetary gift of \$1,000. The 2023 Humanities in Action Award, sponsored by PA Humanities, will also be presented.

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Sustainable Strategies for Advocacy & Development

Track: **Advocacy & Development**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Nicole Richards, Development Director, Chester County Library System

Lauren Harshaw, Staff Development & Advocacy Coordinator, Chester County Library System

Advocacy and development go hand in hand. By advocating effectively for your library, you will build relationships with your local officials and better position yourself to ask for funding and/or funding increases. This program details how to systematically develop an annual plan for advocacy and development; a timeline with action steps. We will discuss effective tools, statistics, and marketing materials for interactions with funders.

Lauren Harshaw has served as the advocacy coordinator for the Chester County Library System for just under three years and has used that time to build relationships with both state and local elected officials on behalf of the member libraries. Developing this advocacy and fundraising program with Nicole has led to several member libraries to see an increase in their funding from various sources.

Nicole Richards, Development Director for the Chester County Library System for five years, implements all aspects of fundraising with 16 Member Libraries. Highlights include: Initiating a system-wide fundraising event and serving on the Funding Task Force, to successfully increase local and municipal funding.

10:15 AM - 12:30 PM - DOUBLE SESSIONS

They Did WHAT? A Deeper Dive into Complicated HR Matters

Track: **Library Administration**

Knowledge Level: Advanced

*Grace Bradley Kelly, MBA, SPHR, AWI,
RC Kelly Law Associates*

Matthew Jandrisavitz, Esq., RC Kelly Law Associates

This session is for the seasoned HR Manager/Director/Manager. We know you have good basic understanding of employment laws - so let's take a deeper dive into some more complicated Human Resources scenarios - real and imagined - and work with the subject matter experts and your peers to develop a plan of action. The session will be presented as case studies with small group break out work followed by group discussion. This session is not for the faint of heart! But will be a lively and enjoyable discussion to prepare you for your next encounter with that employee. There will also be time to ask your friend's question.

Grace Bradley Kelly is a Human Resources Risk Management Consultant with RC Kelly Law Associates. Grace has concentrated her practice on proactive employee management and regulatory compliance. With two decades of operational management experience along with formal MBA training, postgraduate certification in human resources and workplace investigations, Grace has the insights and business acumen to help clients with day-to-day HR Risk Management decisions for thousands of employees (she has seen or heard it all!). She is an experienced speaker, presenting on HR Risk Management topics at both the state and national level. Grace holds a Master's in Business Administration from DeSales University and has taken post graduate classes at Villanova University. Grace obtained her Certificate as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) from the HR Certification Institute and holds a certificate from The Institute for Workplace Investigators.

Matthew Jandrisavitz, a Partner with RC Kelly Law Associates, has been with the firm for more than five years. Matt specializes in mergers and acquisitions, contracts, and employment law. Matt provides corporate counsel for all sizes of businesses and in many industries. Matt has years of experience representing clients in court hearings and in front of administrative entities such as the Departments of Labor and Department of Education. He recently has been involved in speaking and presenting on a variety of legal topics that have an impact on employers throughout the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware area. Matthew holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Juris Doctor from Widener University, Commonwealth Law School. He has been admitted to practice in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

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Beyond Equal Access: Identifying Equitable and Inclusive Library Practices

Track: **Contemporary Issues**
Knowledge Level: Introductory



Corri Hines, Office of Commonwealth Libraries Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion Committee Chair

Patrick Frownfelter, Office of Commonwealth Libraries Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion Committee Vice Chair

Ellen Shenk, Office of Commonwealth Libraries Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion Committee Secretary

Join the Office of Commonwealth Libraries' Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion Committee in an interactive work session

to identify and integrate sustainable practices for fostering a culture of inclusion and belonging in all Pennsylvania libraries. Bring questions and situations that reflect the needs of your community for constructive dialogue with colleagues in shared situations. Collaboratively develop concrete solutions for libraries to implement in unique contexts for the benefit of library users and non-users.

Corri Hines is the School Age Services Advisor for the Bureau of Library Development and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion Committee Chair.

Patrick Frownfelter is a Library Technician for the Bureau of the State Library and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion Committee Vice Chair.

Ellen Shenk is the Community Engagement Librarian for the Bureau of the State Library and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion Secretary.

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

A Beginner's Practical Guide to Textual Analysis Research: What It Is and How to Do It

Track: **Technology & Education**
Knowledge Level: Introductory

Andrea Pritt, STEM Librarian and Data and Collections Coordinator, Penn State University Libraries - Harrisburg

Are you interested in textual analysis research but don't know how to begin? Are you looking for a new way to analyze your qualitative survey data? If so, this session is for you. As a STEM librarian whose research background primarily focused on quantitative data, the presenter was left stumped when trying to analyze open-ended responses to survey and focus group questions. How can you recognize patterns and interpret textual responses of large surveys or small focus groups? How can you move beyond descriptive statistics to take your research to a new and different level? This presentation will answer those questions and more. After a brief lecture on the background of textual analysis attendees will learn how to use Voyant Tools, a free, web-based textual analysis tool, to support their library work and/or research. Designed to be a beginner's practical guide to this type of work, attendees will be introduced to new concepts as well as new technology and will leave with

the skills and knowledge to embark on their own textual analysis work.

Andrea Pritt (she/her) is the STEM Librarian and Data and Collections Coordinator at the Madlyn L. Hanes Library with the Penn State University Libraries, Harrisburg.

Assessing Your Library's Capital Campaign Capacity

Track: **Advocacy & Development**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Trina Walker, Founder & Lead Consultant, TLW Strategy

Roberta Greene, Library Director (retired), Public Library for Union County

The plans to enhance your library's services or facility are READY! The project budget is SET! Are all systems GO to ask your community for their support? Stay calm, and don't rush to put on your fundraising hat! Before you start approaching donors for their commitment, make sure those systems are in place. Taking time to plan can save you from fundraising disasters down the road! In this highly interactive session, the key building blocks to have in place before launching a capital campaign will be reviewed. Consultant Trina Walker and Library Director Roberta Greene will share their experience working together to secure the local matching funds for a Keystone Recreation, Parks and Conversation Fund grant for the expansion and renovation of the Public Library for Union County in Lewisburg at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Come prepared to engage in lively discussion, questions and answers. A tool to measure your library's readiness to proceed will be provided, as well as tips for securing a consultant if one is needed.

Trina Walker is the founder and lead consultant for TLW Strategy, Trina has 25 years of experience in nonprofit leadership including roles in marketing, communications, fundraising, staff development, strategy and implementation. As former Director of Communications and Creative Services for Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Trina provided strategic leadership in communications, organizational planning and fundraising. She led the communications strategies and messaging for the Library's \$55 million Capital Campaign, all annual campaigns, and a major gifts campaign. As a consultant, Trina's vision is to help nonprofit and social sector organizations to create efficiencies in their people, plans and processes so that they can focus on the

work that truly matters. Trina's purpose is to be a positive force for betterment for you and your organization.

Roberta Greene recently retired as Director of the Public Library for Union County and System Administrator of the Union County Library System in Lewisburg, PA. Greene has more than three decades of experience in nonprofit administration. She oversaw fundraising initiatives for Girls Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania as Vice President of Advancement; served as Director of the Guthrie Memorial Library in Hanover, PA and the Cleve J. Fredericksen Library in Camp Hill, PA where she coordinated a 6.4 million dollar capital campaign for its construction. She is drawn to educational organizations and experiences that have a positive impact on individuals and communities.

Young Adult Author Panel: Pride on the Pages

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Tobias Madden, Author

Brian Kennedy, Author

Robin Gow, Author

Diversity and freedom to read are being challenged (and banned) daily. Seven out of thirteen banned books of 2022 included LGBTQIA+ content. Why? Hear from a panel of young adult authors who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community as they discuss their works, writing and why it's important to have representation and diversity in our collections. There will be time for Q&A and to purchase books for autographing after the presentation.



Tobias Madden is an author and editor from Sydney, Australia, now based in New York, USA. His young adult fiction novels, *Anything But Fine*, *Take a Bow*, and *Noah Mitchell*, are out now. His third YA novel, *Wrong Answers Only*, is on its way in 2024! Tobias is a passionate member of the #LoveOzYA and LGBTQ+ communities.

Brian D. Kennedy writes books for young adults. Born and raised in Minnesota, he now lives in New York City with his husband and their very photogenic dog. When he's not writing, Brian can be found working at an LGBTQ non-profit.



His debut book, *A Little Bit Country*, was published in June 2022.



Robin Gow (it/fae/he) is a trans and queer poet from rural Pennsylvania. He is the author of several poetry collections, an essay collection, and Middle-Grade and YA novels. Faer novels include *Ode to My First Car*, *A Million Quiet Revolutions*, and *Dear Mothman*. It works at Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center,

building celebratory spaces for the local LGBTQ+ folks. As an autistic person, Robin feels passionate about celebrating neurodivergent folks in the queer community. It lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania, with their queer family and two pugs, Gertie and Eddie.

12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Library Products & Services Expo

Find out what's new in library design, furnishings, services, equipment and technology all under one roof! Gather raffle tickets from our exhibitors for the prize drawings beginning at 5:00 p.m.

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Exhibits Grand Opening Lunch

A walk around buffet lunch will kick off the opening of exhibit hall. Maximize your time by combining lunch and visits with our exhibitor partners!

Sponsor: **Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL)**

12:45 PM - 2:15 PM

Carolyn W. Field Award Luncheon

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Brooke Barker, Author; Carolyn W. Field Award Recipient

Carolyn W. Field dedicated her life to advancing children's literature and the powerful role that libraries play in the lives

of youth. Since 1983, PaLA's Youth Services Division has recognized the best book for youngsters written or illustrated by a Pennsylvanian through the Carolyn W. Field Award. Join us, as we honor this year's winner, Brooke Barker for *How Do Meerkats Order Pizza?* Pennsylvania is setting the bar high for exceptional children's literature and services for our youth - join us in celebrating these achievements!

College & Research Division Luncheon Facing a Troubled Library Landscape: Seeking More Compassionate and Empathetic Library Work for All

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Abigail Phillips, Assistant Professor in the School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

As librarians do more and more with less and less, they confront compassion and empathy fatigue. As a result, burnout begins to increase, and librarians and library workers begin to leave the field in droves. As librarians and library workers, we are combating censorship, budget cuts, and an uncertain future. How do we combat this? What strategies can we employ to improve the well-being of our library staff and ourselves? How do we help ourselves while helping others? In this keynote, the presenter will delve into how we provide compassion and empathy to others while still retaining our own. She will provide practical takeaways which can be employed in the workplace to support both ourselves and our community. The goal for this presentation is for librarians and library workers to walk away with a sense of hopefulness and renewed purpose.

Abigail Phillips is an assistant professor in the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her general research interests include youth, social media, cyberbullying, bullying, empathy, librarianship, libraries, maker education, neurodiversity, advocacy, disability, and mental health. She received a PhD in Information Science from the School of Information at Florida State University and completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences at Utah State University (ITLS).

Before that, she worked as public librarian at a small, rural library system in Southwest Georgia. Her work with young adults as a librarian is the root of her research interest in



this population and she continues to be a strong advocate for youth voices to be respected, heard, and included in any discussions that impact them.

Sponsor: **Pennsylvania State University Libraries**

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

No-Conflict Exhibit Time, Poster Presentations & Refreshment Break

Take a break from formal education settings and enjoy a cold beverage while strolling among the exhibits to gather information on new library innovations and collect tickets for the exhibit raffle. View the posters presented by library colleagues about successful ideas or programs that could be replicated in your library.

2:25 PM – 3:10 PM

Exhibitor Showcases

Attend these mini sessions to learn more about the products and services offered by our exhibitor partners.

2:25 PM - 2:45 PM

Exhibitor Showcase: Medicare Fraud Prevention for Professionals

Dan Milloy, Outreach and Engagement Supervisor

This presentation will cover Medicare fraud prevention, with particular emphasis on preventing, detecting, and reporting suspected fraud, errors, or abuse within the community. The session will cover how and why scammers target older adults, case examples, and will train attendees on how to fight back against fraud.

Sponsor: **Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)**

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Exhibitor Showcase: SPARK and AccessPA Integrate to Make ILLs Easier!

Katie Greenleaf Martin, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Integrated Library System (PaILS)

Erin Halovanic, Director of Library Services, Hosting Solutions & Library Consulting (HSLC)

PaILS and HSLC have partnered together to integrate the communication between SPARK and SHAREit, allowing for more streamlined ILL workflows and processes. Interested libraries can have Evergreen (SPARK) 'talk' directly to SHAREit (Access PA) to do just that. Join us to learn how the SPARK team, HSLC, Auto-Graphics, and Equinox all worked together to deploy the process using the NCIP protocol and find out how you can simplify your resource sharing processes for the betterment of your staff and your library users.

Sponsor: **Pennsylvania Integrated Library System (PaILS)**

2:50 PM - 3:10 PM

Exhibitor Showcase: Sales Tax: What is It and Why Do Libraries and Friends Groups Have To Pay It?

Brandt Ensor, Assistant Executive Director, Adams County Library System & Treasurer, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL)
Denise Sticha, Executive Director, Centre County Library & Historical Museum & Past President, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL)

Have you ever wondered why Friends of the Library Groups and 501c3 Public Libraries need to collect sales tax? Does your library or friends group not currently do it? We will explore what sales tax is and why it needs to be collected by non-profit organizations, including Friends of the Library Groups and Public Libraries. We will also discuss how you pay it, what you have to charge it for, and what happens if you don't. This is a very interesting sections for board members, first time directors, and lead library staff who work with Friends of the Library Groups.

Sponsor: **Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL)**

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Exhibitor Showcase: Partner with HSLC to Strengthen Your Library!

Maryam Phillips, Executive Director, HSLC
Erin Halovanic, Director of Library Services, HSLC

Tracy Carey, User Experience Specialist, HSLC

HSLC's mission is dedicated to contributing to the success of libraries by delivering technical solutions and consulting services that meet the challenges facing libraries in the 21st century. We are excited to partner with libraries across Pennsylvania to assist your organization in navigating that environment for the benefit of your library facility, your staff, and your community at large. Come hear about HSLC's expansion of services - learn about upcoming webinars as well as consulting opportunities that address such topics as library administration, managing volunteer groups, web hosting solutions, and more! Attendees present for the entire presentation will be entered in a raffle to win a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Sponsor: **Hosting Solutions and Library Consulting (HSLC)**

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Exhibitor Showcase: Patron Engagement - Increase Your Visibility and Attract New Users

Jake Simone, Regional Sales Manager, EBSCO

Today, when users search for information, the first place that they look is not their library's catalog. EBSCO has created a variety of tools to help users discover and access your library's content from anywhere on the web. This session will discuss how EBSCO can help make your collection discoverable to your patrons where they are online. We'll discuss how EBSCO's new Bibliograph service will: Appear in Google's Knowledge Panels; Go directly from Google to your catalog with just one click; Enhance your records through linked data; Empower your library to create community partnerships; Draw patrons into your library. Join us to learn how to strengthen your library's online presence and attract new users to your catalog!

Sponsor: **EBSCO**

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Understanding Student Perception of LibGuides and LibAnswers FAQ Design and Content

Track: **Technology & Education**
Knowledge Level: Intermediate



Michael LaMagna, Information Literacy Program & Library Services Coordinator; Professor of Library Services, Delaware County Community College
Andrea Rodgers, Assistant Professor of Library Services, Delaware County Community College

LibGuides and LibAnswers FAQs are ubiquitous in Pennsylvania's many academic libraries. These modern day pathfinders serve as conduits for librarians to communicate valuable information, from suggesting discipline-specific research methods to providing course-related materials and offering information on special topics of campus interest. While much of the published research examines LibGuides usability design and features, this presentation provides the results of a recent research study centered on the content and its display in LibGuides and LibAnswers FAQs at a large, suburban community college library. The study asked students to consider guide and FAQ content design and aesthetics and their perceived usefulness based on student academic needs. The data presented as part of this presentation will provide librarians with compelling information to consider when thinking about their own LibGuides and LibAnswers FAQs to ensure an efficient use of librarian time and library resources.

Michael LaMagna, Ed.D., is the Information Literacy Program and Library Services Coordinator, Professor, and Reference Librarian at Delaware County Community College and previously served as the Coordinator of Electronic Resources at a small liberal arts college. Michael's current research interests center on academic libraries and include eBook usage, open educational resources, digital badges and microcredentials, synchronous instruction, and copyright education. Michael served as the guest editor for a special issue of the Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship focused on the use of digital badges and micro-credentials in academic libraries and his scholarship has appeared in publications such as Internet Reference Services Quarterly, the Journal of Access Services, and Computers and Libraries. Michael speaks frequently on issues related to academic libraries at national, regional, and local conferences. Michael received his Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from Northeastern University. His dissertation examined how community college English faculty members teach information literacy in their online courses. Michael received his M.L.S. from St. John's University, M.A. in History from Villanova University, and his B.A. in History from Susquehanna University.

Our 2023 Exhibitor Partners

**As of 06/20/2023*

We appreciate the support and expertise offered by these library product & services experts and encourage you to do business with them!

- **ABDO**
- **Assabet Interactive**
- **Bibliotheca**
- **Bloomerang**
- **Book Systems, Inc.**
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- **Brainfuse**
- **Brodart Company**
- **Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elder (CARIE)**
- **Creativebug**
- **EBSCO Information Services**
- **Edible Education - Kitchen a la Cart**
- **Equinox Open Library Initiative**
- **First Nonprofit**
- **Gale**
- **Hosting Solutions and Library Consulting (HSLC)**
- **Infovision Software**
- **Ingram Content Group**
- **JanWay**
- **Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians (LAMP)**
- **Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL)**
- **OCLC**
- **OverDrive, Inc.**
- **Overton & Associates, LLC**
- **Palmer Hamilton, LLC**
- **Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL)**
- **Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)**
- **Pennsylvania Integrated Library System (PAILS)**
- **Playaway Pre-Loaded Products**
- **PolicyMap**
- **POWER Library (HSLC)**
- **Reader Zone**
- **SenSource, Inc.**
- **StackMap**
- **Survival Mindset Co.**
- **University of Pittsburgh School of Computing and Information**
- **UPMC for Kids**
- **WTW Architects**



Andrea D. Rodgers is an Assistant Professor and Reference Librarian at Delaware County Community College's Learning Commons. In addition to serving student needs in reference and information literacy instruction, Andrea manages the Learning Commons' electronic resources, website, and Springshare platforms. Her research interests focus on the role and usage of electronic resources in academic libraries, with an emphasis on ebooks, streaming video, and web information systems. Andrea's published work has appeared in the Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship, Computers in Libraries, Collection and Curation, and ACRL's College & Research Libraries News. She received her M.S.L.I.S. from Drexel University and her B.A. in History from Eastern University.

I've Taken Diversity 101 Six Times, Now What? Why Approach Matters

Track: **Career & Leadership**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate



Dr. Ellen Newell, Associate Professor of Psychology, Wilkes University

Social psychologist, Dr. Ellen Newell, will discuss how increased self-awareness regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion can be impactful at the individual, library, and community levels. Increasing self-awareness means affirming identity, recognizing bias, prejudice, and stigma, and being genuinely reflective regarding ourselves and our libraries. Using evidenced based research, Dr. Newell will discuss both the successes and the unfortunate pitfalls, despite people's best intentions. Attendees will learn how to assess their individual and library practices to improve inclusion and belonging. This session is applicable to all librarians and library staff and will attempt to move beyond introductory DEI topics.

Dr. Ellen Newell is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Wilkes University. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Maine. Dr. Newell teaches courses in social psychology, statistics, and the psychology of prejudice and discrimination. Her research examines how prejudice and discrimination are perpetuated and the consequences they can have on both the perpetrators and the targets of discrimination.

Brooklyn Public Library's Books Unbanned: Libraries Resisting Censorship

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Amy Mikel, Director of Customer Experience, Brooklyn Public Library

Jackson Gomes, YA Internship Coordinator, Brooklyn Public Library

Summer Boismier, Teen Initiatives Project Manager, Brooklyn Public Library

BPL's Books Unbanned project, similar to so many other recent initiatives to push back against censorship, aims to keep the stories and experiences of all members of our communities in the public discourse – especially of those who find themselves constantly at the business end of bigoted and racist attacks. Reflecting on concerning trends from the stories that teens nationwide have shared with BPL, we will underscore key areas – from programming to cardholder signup policies to collection development – for libraries to remain vigilant and proactive in order to help young patrons feel welcome and find the validation and acceptance they need.

Members of the panel have substantial experience teaching and presenting; in particular the team has been invited to speak about this topic on a regular basis throughout 2022. Panelists will be able to speak in depth about the administrative challenges of executing anti-censorship initiatives at the local level, as well as bring real-world examples of connecting with and leveraging teens, families, and other community members to defend the Freedom to Read.

Achieving Success With a Solid Strategic Plan

Track: **Library Administration**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Dr. Carlee Ranalli, Dean of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, Hagerstown Community College

A solid strategic plan helps your library focus on its goals and achieve success. Strategic plans are important for guiding fundraising and advocacy efforts. The planning process provides space for reflecting on the library's mission, vision, and values. This conversational style session will discuss the importance of the planning process for the

future of libraries. The presenter will provide an overview of steps to facilitate a strategic plan, including how to engage stakeholders in the process. The session will discuss integrating resource allocation into the strategic planning model. There will be an emphasis on measuring progress on your plan and determining whether or not action items are being achieved. Participants will be provided tools that can be used in facilitating a planning process at their home library.

Carlee Ranalli is an educational leader passionate about making a difference in the community. She is the Dean of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at Hagerstown Community College. With over 20 years of experience in higher education, her focus areas include assessment, institutional research, strategic planning, and accreditation. She recently completed a doctorate in Educational Leadership at Gwynedd Mercy University. Her dissertation explored how the Maryland community college presidents made decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has served as the treasurer for the Williamsburg Public Library for several years. In addition, Dr. Ranalli is a school board director in her district and has been appointed as a representative on the Joint Operational Committee for the Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center.

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Mister Rogers' Lessons for Libraries

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**
Knowledge Level: Introductory

Ryan Rydzewski, *Communications Officer, The Grable Foundation*; *Co-author of When You Wonder, You're Learning: Mister Rogers' Enduring Lessons for Raising Creative, Curious, Caring Kids*

Gregg Behr, *Executive Director, The Grable Foundation*; *founder of Remake Learning, and co-author of When You Wonder, You're Learning: Mister Rogers' Enduring Lessons for Raising Creative, Curious, Caring Kids*

Fred Rogers was more than a nice guy in a sweater—he was also a learning scientist who was decades ahead of his time. In this interactive lecture, we'll explore how Fred engineered Mister Rogers' Neighborhood to help kids develop the "tools for learning" now deemed essential for school, work, and life. Together, we'll discover how librarians can use Fred's blueprints to nurture these tools today, building libraries that equip every learner to become the best of whoever they are. Plus, the first 50 attendees of the session will receive a copy of *When You Wonder, You're Learning*.



As ambassadors from his real-life neighborhood of Pittsburgh, authors Gregg Behr and Ryan Rydzewski know there's more to Fred Rogers than his trademark cardigan sweaters. To them, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood isn't just a children's program — it's a proven blueprint for raising happier, healthier kids and building a more just and loving world. In their acclaimed book and accompanying session, the authors of *When You Wonder, You're Learning* reveal a never-before-seen side of America's favorite neighbor: the ingenious scientist and legendary teacher who was decades ahead of his time. By exploring Fred's fascinating methods for nurturing children's growth, Gregg and Ryan empower educators, librarians, and parents everywhere to build Neighborhoods of their own: places that equip every child to become the best of whoever they are.

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The Library After Dark: Expanding Community Reach Through Social Programming

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**
Knowledge Level: Introductory

Emily Fear, *Head of Teen Department, Sewickley Public Library*

Richelle Klug, *Communications/Social Media Librarian, Sewickley Public Library*

How many times have you had an idea for an event at your library and thought, "That will never work. People will never come here for that." This session is all about breaking with that mentality to embrace the social potentials of programming in your library - and how those programs could be the key to expanding your community reach. From true crime groups to "book tasting" to speed dating, we will discuss revitalizing your idea of what the library is to your patrons, building new social opportunities to enrich the lives of your current patrons and expanding your participation to demographics typically under-represented in public library adult services. We'll explore ways in which aspects of the public library previously conceived as weaknesses can be strengths when promoted in the right ways. We'll discuss discovering reach in unusual places, creative community partnerships and brainstorming activities to break out of your programming routines.

Emily Fear has been running programs for the public at Sewickley Public Library for over 10 years, currently running programs in all three departments (Children's, Teen & Adult). Additionally, she has presented programs for other

libraries and community organizations, from family dance parties to teen writing workshops and adult cinema clubs and songwriting circles.

Richelle Klug has been working in public libraries for over 15 years, serving rural and suburban populations throughout the Rust Belt region. As the marketing vision of SPL, she has shaped the library's promotional look and voice, modernizing its approach to social media which has been essential in drawing new visitors to the library.

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Visit the Exhibits!

Visit our exhibitor partners to find out what's new on the library scene and obtain raffle tickets for a chance to win a prize! The raffle drawings will begin at 5:00 p.m.

**You must be present to win.*

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Public Library Division Business Meeting

Track: **Meeting**

Attend, to receive updates on Public Library Division (PLD) activities, current and future.

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

PA Black Librarians Caucus (PABLC) General Membership Meeting

Track: **Meeting & Networking**

PABLC will hold its annual membership meeting, followed by a Meet and Greet with prospective members. You are invited to join us for the meeting, which will include updates on this year's activities. Following the meeting, mix and mingle with PABLC members, and learn how you can join our efforts to support African Americans in the library profession across Pennsylvania.

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Dinner on Your Own

Check the Local Information Table for dining locations and make plans to dine with a friend!

Teaching, Learning & Technology Round Table Business Meeting & Dine Out

Track: **Meeting & Networking**

Receive updates on past and present round table activities and share a meal with colleagues.

Youth Services Division Dine Out

Track: **Networking**

Join your colleagues for a meal at one of Kalahari's most popular restaurants, located just off the main lobby.

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Game Night

Track: **Networking**

How about an engaging night "in"? Put your "game face" on and join us at for an in-house Game Night! We'll have STEM kits to explore and about two dozen unique card and board games for two to six, or more players. Hosts will be on hand to provide game instruction.



Comedy Club: Because Laughter is Good for the Soul!

Track: **Networking**

Regina DeCicco, Stand-Up Comic

Moody McCarthy, Stand-Up Comic & Writer

Rodney Laney, Stand-up Comedian & Author

Come on out for an evening of laughter and stress relief with some of New York City's top comedians! We'll start the evening of laughs with Regina DeCicco (The View, Showtime's The Women of a Certain Age, Gotham Comedy Live, Fox TV's Laughs) followed by funny man Moody McCarthy (Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, Last Comic Standing, The Late Show with David Letterman) and the hilarious Rodney Laney (Comedy Central, MTV, A&E, The Late, Late Show, Comedy Central's Premium Blend.) Join us, for some belly laughs and feel the stress melt away!

Regina DeCicco is a stand-up comedian based in New York City. She appears daily on The View on ABC and is a favorite host at Gotham Comedy Club. She also participates in a number of benefit shows and is a guest contributor to the The Howard Stern Show on SiriusXM. Before taking the plunge into stand-up comedy, Regina worked behind the scenes at Saturday Night Live and Whoopi Goldberg's NBC sitcom, Whoopi. Her original musical comedy, The New World, premiered at Bucks County Playhouse in November 2017.



Moody McCarthy is a stand-up comedian who lives in New York with his wife, two daughters and step-dog. He has made numerous TV appearances (Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, Last Comic Standing, America's Got Talent, The Late Show with David Letterman.) His material is described as smart and universal without being trite and he can turn any setting into a lively comedy room.



Rodney Laney was born and raised in Paterson, New Jersey and has always been a comedian. Laney has completed pilots for Comedy Central, MTV, and A&E. He has been seen on P.Diddy's Bad Boys of Comedy on HBO, FOX News Channel's Red Eye, The Late Late Show and Comics Unleashed CBS, Comedy Central's Premium Blend, and the BBC's The World Stand's Up, truTV's The Smoking Gun Presents..., comedy.tv on the HD channel, and on Gotham Comedy Live AXSTV. He has also appeared at the prestigious Just for Laughs Comedy Festival Montreal and LOL Lounge TBS Presents A Very Funny Festival: Just for Laughs Chicago. His memoir, *Lighten Up* is an in-depth look at Laney's disengagement from his cardinal memories. The book is humorous and provocative as Laney describes his journey into meditation and spirituality.



8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

SPARK & Friends Breakfast

Pennsylvania Integrated Library System (PaILS) will be hosting a “SPARK & Friends” breakfast for SPARK consortium members and their guests. A light breakfast will be served alongside an opportunity to learn more about being a SPARK member, to network with other SPARK members, and to hear an update on PaILS/SPARK news from Executive Director, Katie Greenleaf Martin.

Coffee & Un-Conference Conversations

Track: **Networking**

Start your day with a cup of coffee and conversation with fellow attendees about the previous day's sessions.

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Picture Book Neighborhoods: Making Your Library Accessible to Pre-Readers

Track: **Collections**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Laura Arnhold, Library Director, Upper Merion Township Library

Becky Ginther, Head of Children's Services, Upper Merion Township Library

Upper Merion Township Library converted our picture book collection of 15,000 titles from a typical alphabetical author organization into neighborhood themes. These neighborhoods shelve similar books together like fairy tales, alphabet books, holiday stories or books “all about me”. So when a little one asks, “Where are the truck books?” you can have an easy answer! We will provide participants with a step-by-step guide on how we chose our neighborhoods, what we used on our spine labels to identify each neighborhood, how we ensured patrons would still be able to find specific titles, and how we relabeled every single title and



re-organized our collection in just a few months. Our goal was to empower our pre-readers to find the books they love and to discover new titles to enjoy. We received a lot of positive feedback from parents, teachers, grandparents, and of course, kids! Our picture book collection had the highest circulation in the past five years, and accounted for 18.4% of our total circulation in 2022. It can be overwhelming to even know where to start with a project like this, but with our help participants can return to their libraries ready to create their own neighborhoods!

Laura Arnhold worked as a children's librarian for eight years before becoming a library director in 2016. During her time as a children's librarian she offered programs for kids of all ages and worked with families and teachers to find the resources they needed most. Now, as a director, she is able to make larger institutional changes that make her library a more welcoming and accessible place for her community.

Becky Ginther has been the head of children's services since January 2022 at Upper Merion Township Library, where she previously worked for six years as the children's librarian. She helps to plan and run lots of exciting programs and activities for the children's department, and the library recently received the Pennsylvania Library Association's Best Practices Award for Middle School in 2022 for her program Middle School Filmmaking.

Help! Inclusion is Important, But How Do I Actually Improve My Library?

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Kate Cummings, Research and Instruction Librarian, University of Scranton

Dr. Ellen Newell, Associate Professor of Psychology, Wilkes University

Research and instruction librarian, Kate Cummings, and social psychologist, Dr. Ellen Newell, will briefly discuss inclusion in libraries including why creating and inclusive



environment is so important and conversely, why not having an inclusive library can do harm to both patrons and staff. They will provide concrete examples and discuss practical ways libraries can reevaluate areas such as programming, collection development, and policies to foster a more inclusive Library. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss their individual challenges and receive feedback and support from the speakers.

Kate Cummings is an Assistant Professor and Research & Instruction Librarian for Business at the University of Scranton. She obtained a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Maine, a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina, and a MBA from Wilkes University. Her research interests include information literacy and assessment, critical librarianship, librarian identity, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in libraries.

Dr. Ellen Newell is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Wilkes University. She earned her Ph.D from the University of Maine. Dr. Newell teaches courses in social psychology, statistics, and the psychology of discrimination and prejudice. Her research examines how prejudice and discrimination is perpetuated and the consequences they have on both the perpetrators and targets of discrimination.

De-Escalation Tips & Techniques in Situations of Concern

Track: **Contemporary Issues**
Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Rick Capozzi, *Founder, Survival Mindset Co.*

Typically what comes before the violence is escalation. In this program we will share proven ideas and principles that you can apply to effectively defuse conflicts where temperatures are rising. We will review prethreat indicators to get a jump on potential incidents as well as review how to synergize your body language and verbal responses safely. Recognizing when to call for help and tips on making 911 calls will also be covered.

Rick Capozzi founded Survival Mindset Co. to provide average citizens with an enhanced awareness and a better and faster response time in high pressure active shooter scenarios. He is an international speaker on the topic, delivering as many as 160 presentations each year. A native of Franklin, PA, USA, Rick earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Communication in 1985 from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Twenty First Century Teens: Literacy Skills for Young Adults and Teens

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**
Knowledge Level: Introductory

Rob Lesher, *PA Forward® Program Manager, Pennsylvania Library Association*

Laura Brandt, *Ephrata Public Library Osterhout Library*

Young Adult Representative, *Osterhout Library*



PA Forward® is a framework which can be adapted for any age group. A panel of teen and young adult library workers will present how their libraries use the PA Forward® framework to organize and plan their young adult/teen library programs. Attendees will learn programming ideas, how they select programming and what trends they are looking for to promote literacy in their communities.

How to Get Your Board to Fundraise

Track: **Advocacy & Development**
Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Chad Barger, *Speaker, Trainer & Coach, Productive Fundraising*

Join fundraising master trainer, Chad Barger, CFRE, for a workshop focused on equipping and motivating your board members to be great fundraisers. You'll learn how to help them get over their fear of fundraising and develop the fundraising habit. Accountability and follow through will also be discussed. The session includes tools and samples that you can use to start building a fundraising culture within your board.

Chad Barger, CFRE, CNP serves as an Adjunct Instructor at both Messiah and Temple Universities, where he teaches the 10 Week Online Fundraising Certificate Program. Chad is an active member of, and a Master Trainer for the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and is a frequent keynote and workshop presenter at nonprofit conferences across the US and Canada. He was the 2018 recipient of the Nonprofit Leadership Excellence Award granted by Central Penn Business Journal. Chad is a graduate of Slippery Rock University (SRU) where he got his fundraising start as a student phone-a-thon caller. At SRU, Chad served as an AmeriCorps member leading fellow students on community service trips across the country, which shifted his career focus to the nonprofit sector. He currently serves on SRU's Philanthropy and Nonprofit Program Advisory Council.

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Library Products & Services Expo

Find out what's new in library design, furnishings, services, equipment and technology all under one roof! Gather raffle tickets from our exhibitors for the prize drawings beginning at 2:00 p.m. *You must be present to win.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

No-Conflict Exhibit Time, Poster Presentations & Coffee Break

Take a break from formal education settings and enjoy a hot beverage while strolling among the exhibits to gather information on new library innovations and collect tickets for the exhibit raffle. View the posters presented by library colleagues about successful ideas or programs that could be replicated in your library.

10:10 AM - 10:55 AM

Exhibitor Showcases

Attend these mini sessions to learn more about the products and services offered by our exhibitor partners.

10:10 AM - 10:30 AM

Exhibitor Showcase: Rise to the Challenges of Visibility and Community: Meeting Library Users Where They Are

OCLC

Learn how Pennsylvania libraries are working together to make library resources more visible and useful within the communities they serve. Obtain updates on a range of services, including resource sharing, WorldCat.org, Wise, CapiraMobile, LendingKey/MuseumKey, WebJunction, and the new "Small Library Edition" cataloging and web visibility solution. When libraries rise to the challenge, everyone benefits!

Exhibitor Showcase: Out-of-the-Box Coding Clubs With Fiero Code

Jake Simone, Regional Sales Manager, EBSCO

The technology and computer programming fields offer some of the highest paying jobs to those graduating high school and college. In addition to preparing today's youth for tomorrow's careers, learning to code also develops critical thinking skills and nurtures creativity. As trusted and valued institutions for lifelong learning, libraries are perfectly poised to deliver coding education. Join us to learn how Fiero Code, a learn-to-code software platform available through EBSCO, makes it easy for libraries to provide facilitated and non-facilitated coding instruction to all learners in your community.

10:35 AM - 10:55 AM

Exhibitor Showcase: Reading Programs that Actually Work

Jake Ball, Owner/Founder, Reader Zone

Join Reader Zone founder, Jake Ball, to talk reading programs and how you can make your summer and year-round reading programs a bright spot for your library and community. There are three principles that drive high-participation reading programs for patrons of all ages. During this session, we will discuss these principles and how you can employ them in your library at no cost. We will demonstrate the Reader Zone platform and show how libraries throughout Pennsylvania are using Reader Zone to build cultures of reading in their communities.

Exhibitor Showcase: Small Games of Chance: Do We Really Need a Permit For That?

Brandt Ensor, Assistant Executive Director, Adams County Library System & Treasurer, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL)

Denise Sticha, Executive Director, Centre County Library & Historical Museum & Past President, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL)

There are many rules and regulations regarding raffles, silent auctions, bingo games, and pull tab games. Do you know two of the games I just mentioned are covered under the small games of chance law and two are not.... But yet

many public libraries and friends of the library groups have them all the time. A description of the legal requirements for Small Games of Chance will be explored and some examples of what you can or can't do. We promise it is easier than it sounds!

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

20 Tech Tools that Transform

Track: **Technology & Education**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate



Katie Dunbar, Youth Services District Consultant,
Montgomery County Library District

Tracey Reed, District Consultant, Montgomery County
Library District

Join us for 60 minutes of free technology tools that streamline mundane tasks, increase collaboration, improve communication, and make you look more professional! We'll show you 20 different resources to transform your work and make more time for what matters. There are an overwhelming number of technology tools out there to try, so we've selected the ones we have tested and found to be the most effective. No matter your role at your library, there is something here for you. We know it often feels easier to do things the way you have always done them, but after this presentation you'll be excited to go try something new!

Katie Dunbar is a former school librarian and technology specialist who is currently the Youth Services District Consultant. Over her career she has presented many times to librarians, teachers, and administrators.

Tracey Reed is the District Consultant for Montgomery County. She is a former library director (among many other positions) and regularly presents training to library staff and boards across the county.

Out of the Wreckage: One Library's Response to a Community Disaster

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Molly Kane, Head of Library Systems & Building
Operations, Upper Dublin Public Library

Cheri Fiory, Director, Upper Dublin Public Library

On September 1, 2021, during Hurricane Ida, an EF2 torna-

do ripped through southeastern Pennsylvania, leaving devastation in its wake. Some of the worst damage occurred at the Upper Dublin Township building where wind and rain damage destroyed the police department and township offices. Overnight, the priorities for library staff shifted from delivering library services to offering solace and support to the township staff and community in their recovery. When a mothballed section of the new library's facility was commandeered for the immediate relocation of the Upper Dublin Police Department, library staff stepped in to lend support wherever needed. The library also proactively responded to community needs, developing and hosting a series of support group meetings with area clinicians for those affected or displaced by the storm and holding a children's book giveaway to restock personal and public school bookshelves. All scheduled meetings of the Township Boards and Commissions were relocated to Library meeting spaces, in effect, aligning the UDPL with the work of local government for the foreseeable future. While adapting to these sudden changes presented many challenges for staff, two years later we are seeing lasting benefits in unexpected ways. This session will explore what we've learned during the days and months after the disaster, and provide attendees with a model to help establish community relationships before tragedy strikes.

Molly Kane has been a technologies librarian at Upper Dublin Public Library for the past ten years. In 2015, she oversaw the creation of the UDPL STEAM Lab, an emerging technologies center funded by a LSTA grant. In 2020, she received a commendation from the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety for the 3D printing of PPE during the early days of the global COVID-19 pandemic. She currently oversees library and facility technology including building management and security systems. Molly is also a member of the Upper Dublin Township Emergency Management Team, with disaster response certifications from FEMA and PEMA.

Cheri Fiory, a librarian for 21 years, brings enthusiasm and vision for leading libraries into the future. For the last 17 years, she has directed the Upper Dublin Public Library where, in partnership with her team of 30+ staff and other stakeholders, she established the role of the UDPL as the community's university. In 2017, she spearheaded the reimagining and transition of a corporate office building into a new, modern, multi-tenant facility for the community with the Library at the center of it. She has extensive experience in all areas of public library direction--strategic planning,

personnel, budgeting, fundraising, customer service, facilities, programming, and physical & digital collection development—and has proven success at fostering relationships and bringing together library stakeholders for the benefit of the community.

The Power of Jewish Children's Stories in Your Library

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Stacy Nockowitz, Children's Author and Middle School Librarian, Columbus Academy

“Why,” a librarian may ask, “should I add Jewish children’s books to my collection if there aren’t Jewish people in the community I serve?” The answer to this question is fundamental to understanding a library’s purpose: to offer patrons a window into the lives and experiences of those different from themselves. But the answer goes beyond “windows and mirrors.” Jewish books, when they reflect authentic Jewish representation and Jewish values, are universal stories. Jewish stories spark imagination; speak to common themes of family, love, justice, and repairing the world; and encourage children to think about profound questions of humanity. Led by award-winning children’s author and school librarian Stacy Nockowitz, this session will involve an active discussion about the importance of adding Jewish children’s books to the library collection. We will talk about what authentic Jewish representation looks like and how to evaluate books for accuracy and credibility. Part of the session will focus on why it’s necessary to look beyond Holocaust stories to other aspects of the Jewish experience in order to attain a complete collection. Finally, the session will discuss how Jewish books can be combined with books of other marginalized groups for community building library activities and programs.

Stacy Nockowitz is a middle school librarian and former language arts teacher with 30+ years of experience in middle grade education. She holds Master’s Degrees from Columbia University and Kent State University, and is an MFA candidate in Writing for Children and Young Adults at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her debut middle grade novel, *The Prince of Steel Pier (Kar-Ben)*, won the 2022 National Jewish Book Award for Middle Grade Literature and was named a Sydney Taylor Book Award Notable Book for 2023. *The Prince of Steel Pier* was a PJ Our Way selection for October 2022, and Stacy received a PJ Library Author

Incentive Award in 2020. Find her on Twitter @snockowitz or visit www.stacynockowitz.com.

Serving Those Who Served: Reaching Out and Engaging Veterans in Your Community

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Paul McMonigle, Engineering Instruction Librarian, Penn State University Libraries -- University Park

Many members of our local communities have honorably served in our country’s military. Although each veteran is unique with their own individual needs, there are ways that librarians can focus on them as a group to better serve and support them. Join Paul McMonigle, a librarian and veteran himself, as he talks more about this special population and how you can help them. You will learn about their needs and expectations and how to create guides that provide important information that is useful and unique to them. You will also learn about different ideas for outreach and engagement programs, which can be held within your library or even at VA Hospitals and retirement homes. Suggestions for collaborating with Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) and other community groups will be discussed as well. Finally, you will learn ways to help veterans tell and preserve their stories for future generations. This is intended to be a conversation between peers – don’t be afraid to come with your own ideas and examples to share with us! Hopefully we will all leave with a few “best practices” to implement at our own libraries when we return home from this conference.

Paul McMonigle is a 15-year veteran of the U.S. Army. He received a MS-LIS in 2018 from Syracuse University and a BA in History in 2017 from Penn State University. His research interests include information literacy instruction, outreach and engagement (with a focus on military and veteran students), and the early history of libraries and collections. He is a graduate of the 2021 PALS Leadership Academy and is a member of the 2023 ALA Emerging Leaders Cohort.

Unite Against Book Bans: ALA's Policy Corp Changing the Narrative

Track: **Contemporary Issues**
Knowledge Level: Introductory



Kent Oliver, Senior Fellow, ALA PPA
Sukrit Goswami, Director, Haverford Township (PA)
Free Library
Eric Stroshane, Assistant Director of Member Services,
ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

ALA's Policy Corps is actively working to spread unified messages supporting the Office for Intellectual Freedom and librarians in their efforts against book bans. This includes effective public messaging and tactics for successful interactions with would be censors. Kent Oliver, Senior Fellow for ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office, will facilitate a discussion with a panel who are working to change the narrative around book banning as part of the Unite Against Book Bans campaign. They will explain what they are seeing and doing that makes a difference. Their comments and insight will include success stories to help audience members understand they are not alone in their daily challenges of supporting the Freedom to Read. The content is timely and important.

Kent Oliver is the past Director of the Nashville (TN) Public Library. He is a national and international speaker on library issues including the freedom to read. Kent is also a past Chair of ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee, Committee on Legislation, ALA Executive Board member and President of the Freedom to Read Foundation.

Sukrit Goswami, director of Haverford Twp. Free Library is experienced in speaking on the topic of intellectual freedom.

Eric Stroshane provides confidential one-on-one support to librarians, trustees, teachers, and administrators facing challenges to school and library materials and services.

Facilities 101: Developing and Implementing a Successful Maintenance Plan

Track: **Library Administration**
Knowledge Level: Introductory

Zachary Zimmerman, Facilities Manager, York County Libraries

This session will discuss the basic needs to maintain a building, allowing it to operate safely and efficiently for as long as possible. An effective facilities management plan will create a safe, clean and pleasant environment for staff and patrons. We will discuss developing and implementing a plan that includes HVAC equipment, control systems and custodial operations. Attendees will learn about common issues that arise during general maintenance and procedures to correct them. We will also develop a "Who To Call" list that will help expedite repairs, saving time and money.

Zach Zimmerman has been in Facilities Management since 2009, starting with York County Libraries in 2011. Before that he sold real estate, owned a flooring contractor business and rehabbed properties for resale. He is responsible for the day-to-day facilities needs in eight YCL branch libraries including the 70,000 s.f. Martin Library in downtown York, PA. He also consults with directors of the other five YCL member libraries.

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Public Library Division Luncheon: Learning to Break the Ice for Meaningful Interactions

Track: **Career & Leadership**
Knowledge Level: Introductory

Jobany Bedoya, Owner, Diversity Mixers and Red Tie Affairs, LLC

For many, the thought of networking gives us butterflies, especially if we're introverts. During this fun and interactive presentation, Jobany Bedoya, owner of Diversity Mixers will provide tips that attendees can learn and immediately apply on how to break the ice, network, and relieve some of the stress that comes with leaving their comfort zone among strangers. These simple tools will give you the confidence that will also allow you to provide better customer service, more engaging interactions, and more meaningful relationships.



Jobany Bedoya is the owner of Diversity Mixers, a professional business service agency and Red Tie Affairs, LLC, a bi-lingual DJ and event planning service. He has completed Dale Carnegie Leadership training, winning the highest achievement award. His previous profes-

sional experiences include small business consulting, bank management, loan underwriting, retail management, and operating his small businesses. Jobany has served on a variety of nonprofit boards and committees in Lancaster and Berks Counties. He currently serves as a board member for, The Council on Chemical Abuse, Vice-Chair for Ephrata Library, and the Diversity and Equity committee for the United Way of Lancaster. In 2013, he also founded Union Colombiana, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving Colombian culture. His love for the community and empowering others has been his passion for many years.

Exhibit Hall "Strolling" Lunch

Stroll through the exhibit hall while enjoying tasty, portable treats and take advantage of this last opportunity to collect raffle tickets from exhibitors for the 2:00 p.m. prize drawings! **You must be present to win!*

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Epistemic Vaccination: Inoculation Theory and Misinformation

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate



Ian O'Hara, Assistant Professor & Research & Instruction Librarian, Weinberg Memorial Library-University of Scranton

The rapid adoption of social media technologies for information seeking and sharing has led to the utilization of these technologies as vehicles for the spread of computational propaganda and misinformation. Scholars have investigated multiple avenues to combat the cognitive failure that results in acceptance and sharing of widespread misinformation. The most promising identified thus far is a psychological concept known as inoculation theory. This method can be conceptualized as a misinformation vaccine that can increase critical evaluation of newly encountered information and thereby increase the probability that this information will not be cognitively integrated. This can be a valuable pedagogical concept in the information literacy instruction context as students of this generation are faced with an ever polluted information ecosystem that they must enter into, successfully navigate, and select the most accurate information from that overwhelming context. This workshop aims to thoroughly discuss inoculation theory, why it is valuable, and how it can be implemented in the classroom to engender the necessary critical skills to function within our expanding and opaque information sphere.

Ian O'Hara serves as library liaison to the physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing, exercise science and computing sciences departments, and also provides research services and information literacy instruction. He has obtained a B.S. in Education from the University of Scranton, a Master of Library and Information Science from Clarion University, and a Master of Science in Software Engineering from the University of Scranton. He has presented and published on the topic of algorithms, algorithmic bias, computational propaganda, and misinformation.

2023 PA Forward® Adult Literacy Programming Awards

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Rob Lesher, PA Forward® Program Manager, Pennsylvania Library Association

At this program, the winners of the 2023 PA Forward® Adult Literacy Programming Awards will be announced. The winning programs will explain how they developed the program, key components, marketing ideas, and results of the program. Also, an overall best program will be announced at the end of the session.

Do I Have To? Strategies for Cultivating Municipal Support With Confidence

Track: **Advocacy & Development**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Amy Resh, Executive Director, James V. Brown Library, System Administrator, Lycoming County Library System
Becky Wanamaker, District Consultant of the Reading Library District

Does the thought of going to your municipality and asking for money for your library terrify you? Do you have interest in gleaning from other libraries' experiences with both challenging and successful municipal funding relationships? If so, this is the session for you. Learn from two experienced directors, who have seen it all from the unfriendly, to municipalities with no understanding of their involvement with the library, to municipal leaders who believe libraries are extinct because we all have Amazon! Join us for a conversational session talking about how to start refining your municipal relationships as well as for tips and tricks that will keep you motivated to interact with your municipalities regularly. As library leaders who have experienced challenges from municipalities wanting to slash funding to libraries creating

legal case law to combat municipal funding complexities, you'll benefit from a wealth of knowledge and experience as you take on your own funding needs! This session is for new (and veteran) directors and trustees of all public library types.

Amy Resh's leadership experiences range from relationship building to capital projects in various director roles. In her current role, cultivating connections as the System's liaison to the county commissioners is an integral part of her work. One of her greatest strengths is finding out what makes elected officials engaged and connecting it to the mission of the library. Her passion is intertwined in the growth and preservation of library services.

Becky Wanamaker has a variety of leadership and development experience, and now involvement with support services, in public libraries. Being an effective liaison is a common role in her career – including in staff teams, in connecting libraries to higher level regulations and resources, and in building relationships with funding partners. She is motivated by collaboration and the bigger picture of library services as a whole, with deep commitment and success in helping libraries be effective and professional organizations.

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Discover How To Increase Patron Engagement With Technology at Your In-Person Programs

Track: **Technology & Education**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate



Matt Mazur, Director, Turtle Dance Music LLC and AutismFriendlyShows.com

Want to discover more technology tools that you can integrate into your in-person library programming? Want free tech and software that will get your patrons up and dancing? Want to know about the coolest apps for making your story times way more fun? Want to learn how to ACTUALLY do amazing Zoom events? Come to our session and learn about free tools that you can incorporate into your programming.

Matt Mazur is the executive director of AutismFriendlyShows.com and Turtle Dance Music. He loves to help kids of all abilities come out of their shells. He has performed engaging music programs and concerts for thousands of children and families throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States and now internationally

with virtual performances. He received his Bachelor's of Fine Arts from New York Universities' Tisch School of the Arts; his graduate degrees in Developmental Models of Autism Intervention from the Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health and his Master's Degree in Theater Studies focusing on Theater for Young Audiences at Montclair State University.

2:30 PM - 4:45 PM - DOUBLE SESSIONS

Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Talent: Addressing Barriers and Improving Culture Experiences

Track: **Library Administration**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Jessica Purdy, Founder | CEO, FIC Human Resource Partners

Learn about the specific barriers BIPOC people may face when interested in pursuing a career, how those barriers negatively impact efforts to achieve greater levels of diversity, and explore ways in which libraries can address the systemic and structural racism through their recruiting and hiring process. Recruiting diverse talent is only the first hurdle library systems face in achieving their diversity goals, retention is another that not only reduces diversity as a result of avoidable employee exits but can negatively impact recruiting efforts as well. In this way efforts to improve recruiting and retention of diverse talent are inextricably linked and must be addressed together in order to achieve meaningful change and reach diversity goals. To help participants better address the retention of diverse talent they will learn about culture experiences that negatively impact the retention of diverse talent and join in a discussion of ways that those experiences can be improved. Participants will be encouraged to share experiences, concerns, and propose solutions during discussions as part of the learning process.

Jessica Purdy's desire for a more inclusive and accepting society led her to become an Activist, Public Speaker, and Founder of FIC Human Resource Partners, LLC. Her identity as a panromantic, asexual, transwoman is central to her life and work. She is, as they say, Out and Proud. But rather than 'coming out', she brings people into her confidence, her truth, and her life. It's a combination of her personal experiences and mindset of 'bringing people in' that has made her an effective culture consultant, facilitator, and

change agent. She was a founding member of the Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition, former board Chair of the Lancaster Pride Association, and a former Keystone Business Alliance Board Member. She is currently a commissioner on the City of Lancaster's Human Relations Commission and a YWCA Lancaster board member. She has written and published four books of poetry, written throughout her personal journey and reinventions of self.

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Brainstorm!: Architecture to Incorporate All the Letters of STEM

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

*William Fee, Lead Instructor, STEMLab,
State Library of Pennsylvania*



Architecture and building are fun and engaging for all ages. A hands on look at a holistic way to present STEM programming, with bonus methods for getting outside assistance. Take back practical activities and possible sequences for presenting them.

William Fee established the State Library of Pennsylvania STEMLab in 2014, as a makerspace at the time. Since then, the members of the lab have worked with local schools and organizations to improve the STEM identity of children and adults. In addition, the STEMLab is committed to training library staff to increase STEM confidence, ability and capacity. Mr. Fee has been with the State Library of Pennsylvania since 1995.

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Guided Walk at the Hauser Nature Center at Long Pond

Take a break from sessions and enjoy nature on this guided 1.65 mile walk along Cathy's Trail at the Hauser Nature Center. Our walk will be guided by Carol Hillestad, a long-time hike leader and writer for Get Outdoors Poconos, a grant-funded series administered by Brodhead Watershed Association. Participants will explore the varied vegetation of the meadow, including blueberry bushes and goldenrod as well as tamarack, deciduous conifers whose needles turn golden in autumn before dropping. Shrub-land birds nest here. Then, we'll continue moving along the blue trail on the edge of a boreal coniferous swamp, a habitat more commonly found in Canada and New England. Have fun on

the Boulderfields, with rocky remnants left after the last glacier retreated from this area, then make your way through a beautiful red spruce forest. The woods trail proceeds through Northern Hardwood forest, made up primarily of beech, cherry and red maple trees, to re connect with the Tamarack Meadow loop. Enjoy the sights, sounds and smells in each of the habitats along the way! Participants are asked to dress in layers, bring a water bottle and wear sturdy walking shoes for the approximate one-hour walk over a sometime rocky or root-filled trail. Transportation will be via carpools. **Additional fee required.*

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

The State Aid Formula: Preparing for the Future by Understanding the Past

Track: **Advocacy & Development**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

*David Belanger, Library Consultant/Retired Librarian
Mary Garm, Executive Director of the Lackawanna County
Library System*

As a follow-up to last year's program on this history of libraries in Pennsylvania, this session will take an in-depth look at the history and implementation of state aid to libraries since 1999. We'll cover the investigative report from the Philadelphia Inquirer titled "Libraries in Distress." It will review the response from the Pennsylvania Library Association, "The Platform for 21st Century Libraries." The Platform set the stage for the Association to advocate for a historic state investment in public library funding. The presentation will be conducted as a lecture format by two librarians who helped guide the creation and implementation of the Platform. There will be ample time for questions. David Belanger served as a member of the steering committee which developed the Platform. Mary Garm served as the co-chair of PaLA Legislative Committee which guided the advocacy for historic increases in state aid.

Mary Garm is the Executive Director of the Lackawanna County Library System, a seven member federated library system, where she has worked since 2003. She has held positions as consultant librarian for a five county public library district, as a public library director, and as head of technical services in an academic library. She also served as an adjunct professor in the Library Technical Assistant program at Northampton Community College, teaching an online course in Library Management. She earned a

Master's in Library and Information Science from Drexel University, and a Bachelor's from Millersville University. She serves as Chair of the Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development. She is a Past President of the Pennsylvania Library Association and a recipient of its Distinguished Service Award, as well as Past Chair of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. She has held positions as Chair of the PA Forward Steering Committee, advisor to the Pennsylvania Library Association's Academy of Leadership Studies planning committee, Past Chair of the Pennsylvania Library Association's Legislative Committee, and emerita member of the Campus Advisory Board at Penn State – Worthington Scranton.

David Belanger recently retired after 36 years working in Pennsylvania libraries. His most recent position was Director of Libraries for Lower Merion Township, a six branch consolidated system. Previously he was Director of the Delaware County Library System/District Center, having also served DCLS as Consultant Librarian and technology coordinator. David now works as a library consultant specializing in strategic planning and building planning. He has been active in the Pennsylvania Library Association, serving as the treasurer, an at-large board member, and as a member of numerous committees, including the Legislative Committee. He was on the original steering committees for the Platform for 21st Century Libraries and PA Forward; two of the most successful PaLA initiatives. David received his bachelor's degree from Kutztown State College, a Master of Science in Library Science from Villanova University, and a Master of Management from Penn State University, Great Valley Campus. David is the recipient of the PaLA Distinguished Service award and is vice-chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development.

Empowering Young People Through Multicultural Literature!

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Advanced



Richard E. Ashby, Jr., *President, Pennsylvania Black Librarians' Caucus*

Simone Adjei, *Executive Director, iReadify*

The Pennsylvania Black Librarians' Caucus presents Simone Adjei, Executive Director of iReadify, and Diverse Authors Champion! Explore the importance of re-engaging readers with Multicultural Literature and the benefits of culturally relevant children's books. Discuss the importance

of multicultural Literature and its impact on young people. Examine how the author's identity helps shape the story and how multicultural Literature helps children embrace their culture and the culture of others.

Richard Ashby is the Director of the Sharon Hill Public Library in Delaware County and a founding member of PABLC.

Simone Adjei is the founder and Executive Director of Change1Child, and takes great pride in her organization because she is able to witness the changes that take place in the lives of children, one child at a time. Change1Child works alongside New York City communities with underprivileged children, and provides them with reading programs that creates a bridge out of poverty.

Improving Town & Gown Relations Through a Social Justice Book Club

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Amanda Boyer, *First-Year Experience Librarian, Susquehanna University*

Amir El-Chidiac, *Diversity Resident, Susquehanna University*

Nici Baer, *Inter-library Loan Assistant, Susquehanna University*

Mitch Alday, *Programming and Circulation, Snyder County Libraries*

COVID brought social justice issues to the forefront, and it wiped out programming at many of our libraries. In the aftermath, many of us are starting at square one with our programs. While Susquehanna University had a book club in the past, the pandemic made it nonexistent. We wanted to re-start this program, but in the wake of many DEIA conversations happening on our campus, we wanted to also provide a safe space for students, staff, and faculty to discuss social justice issues together. And, if we were going to include the entire campus community, why not include the local community as well? This presentation will detail how we started our Social Justice Book Club in collaboration with our public library, our Office of Inclusive Excellence, and some local restaurants to create a safe space for people from all backgrounds to come together to learn about social justice issues (and do a little reading, too!) We hope to present our story, but also keep an open conversation throughout to exchange ideas with others thinking about similar programs.

All of the speakers have worked in libraries for several years. We have been running this book club since Fall 2022 now, so it will have been a year when we present. Amir is the Diversity Resident at the SU library, so they are an expert in DEIA issues.

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Compassionate Computer Help: Supporting Digital Inclusion Goals by Setting Reasonable Limits

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**
Knowledge Level: Advanced

*Caitie Morpew, Library Services Administrator for
Neighborhood Libraries, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh*
*Daniel Hensley, Coordinator of Staff Training and
Development, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh*

Computer help is a critical part of virtually every public library's services, and is often recognized as one of the most important ways that libraries support our communities. It is also often a source of frustration, both by patrons, whose expectations are not grounded in an understanding of the service responsibilities of staff, and by staff, who despite their best efforts, may come up short of patron's expectations. In this session, we start with the premise that the first step in providing excellent computer help service is to explicitly define that service. Next, we cover some proven techniques for establishing clear expectations and boundaries that encourage our patrons to learn, and allow library staff to feel in control of the interaction.

Topics covered include:

- The library's role in digital equity
- Computer help as an information service
- How to triage computer help questions
- How setting limits benefits library patrons and can prevent staff burnout
- Tips for setting limits in common scenarios
- How to communicate limits up front
- Identifying and managing behavior issues during computer help

Caitie Morpew (she/her) has worked in public libraries for over 10 years. She is currently the Library Services Administrator of Neighborhood Libraries for Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, supporting branch locations across the city and the substitute pool. Catie received her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dan Hensley (he/him) is a librarian with over 15 years of experience designing, implementing, and evaluating library services for adults. He is currently co-chair of PLA's Measurement, Evaluation, and Assessment Committee. Prior to starting his current role as Coordinator of Staff Training and Development at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (PA), he was CLP's Adult Services Coordinator. Dan received his MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh.

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Ex Libris Reception

Track: **Networking**

**By Invitation Only*

A "thank you" reception for Ex Libris Society members. Not a member? Donate now at <https://www.palibraries.org/donations/donate.asp?id=7130>

Ex Libris Society Giving Levels...

- \$100 Chapbook Level
- \$250 Octavo Level
- \$500 Quarto Level
- \$1,000 Folio Level

You may also choose to make a recurring monthly donation.

Ex Libris

The Past Presidents of the Pennsylvania Library Association invite you to become a Member of the Ex Libris Society - an annual giving society that builds on the success of the past "100 for 100" campaigns.

Membership is open to all who wish to support PaLA over and above membership dues, and to enable the organization to continue its work to advance Pennsylvania libraries and librarianship.

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Dinner on Your Own

Track: **Networking**

Check the Local Information Table for dining locations and make plans to dine with an old or new friend!

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Explore the Waterpark!

Track: **Networking**

Put on your swim or warm weather gear and join your colleagues for this unique opportunity to explore the Kalahari Waterpark at whatever level you wish. There will be plenty of time to float in the lazy river, soak in the indoor/outdoor family hot tub, or get your thrill on by riding one of the park's exciting waterslides! Grab a bite at one of the park's bars or food outlets, or simply engage in conversation with colleagues at the PaLA cabana.

**A waterpark pass (included with lodging) is required.*

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

LibCraft for Librarians!

Track: **Networking**

Take some time out of your busy conference schedule to hang out and relax with other crafters working on individual handwork projects.



8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Continental Breakfast & Un-Conference Discussions

Track: **Networking**

Enjoy a light breakfast with fellow attendees to discuss sessions from the previous day.

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Hidden Histories: Digitizing the Black History and Visual Culture Collection

Track: **Collections**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Bethann Rea, Digital Collections Management Librarian, Penn State University Libraries

This lecture-style presentation will provide an overview of the digitization workflow and in-house processing for the Black History and Visual Culture collection held by the Eberly Family Special Collections Library at The Pennsylvania State University. As part of the University Libraries' Strategic Plan for Discovery, Access and Preservation, the Digital Collections Management Program has focused on improved access and stewardship of diverse collections that represent historically underrepresented and marginalized groups through digitization and collection remediation. By embracing this goal, subject experts have been encouraged to pursue new initiatives, such as the Black History and Visual Culture collection that highlights primary resources and publications about the Black experience. Some of the selected materials required condition assessments, enhancements to descriptive metadata, as well as in-depth evaluation of copyright and sensitive content. This collection inspired project proposal for associated collections that been connected together through collection pages and educational resources. For these reasons, the Black History and Visual Culture collection is serving as a model for other subject-based digital collections.

Bethann Rea is the Digital Collections Management Librarian for the Preservation, Conservation and Digitization department at Penn State University Libraries. In this role, she coordinates the development of new digital collections, monitors remediation projects, designs workflows, implements new imaging equipment, and organizes digitization projects. Ms. Rea is an active member of ALA, ACRL, PaLA, and the PA Digital Cultural Heritage Collaborative.

Wait, What?! We Need More Than Diverse Books?

Track: **Contemporary Issues**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Rachel Fecho, Children's Librarian, William Jeanes Memorial Library

Campaigns such as #WeNeedDiverseBooks are familiar by now, and most library collections are becoming more and more diverse. But we need more than just diverse books. In this session, through lecture, visual aids, and conversation, participants will evaluate their library's language, facilities, media, displays, programs, and yes, books. We will touch on why diversity, equity, and inclusion matter in every community, regardless of demographics, and discover that these concepts are not limited to issues of race or ethnicity, but extend to issues of gender and sexuality, class, language, ability, religion and culture, family structure, citizenship status, and more. With these discussions serving as an introduction, the bulk of the hour will consist of sharing practical ways to develop and strengthen diversity in our libraries. Participants will walk away with an understanding of the importance of creating a more comprehensively diverse experience for their young patrons, as well as inspiration and ideas to make it happen.

Rachel Fecho has lived, worked, studied, and volunteered in diverse communities for nearly 40 years. During that time, she has developed relationships with and served diverse populations in a variety of contexts, including some international travel, regular participation in a bilingual

gathering, significant activism and community involvement, working as a camp counselor, teacher, foster care social worker, preschool director, library circulation assistant, preschool bookmobile coordinator, library branch manager, and for the past eight years as a children's librarian. As a children's librarian, she has taken advantage of many opportunities for continuing education, primarily focused on diversity, and has developed and implemented numerous children's programs, displays, procedures, and collections that promote and strengthen practical, tangible efforts to achieve equity and inclusion among children, families, the library, and the community.

Library Pop-Ups: School Bulletin Boards as Outreach and Engagement Tools

Track: **Youth Services**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Jaime Poland, Youth Services Librarian, Penn Hills Library
Addie Macioce, Library Assistant, Penn Hills Library

Penn Hills Library staff will discuss our monthly bulletin board pop-ups at a local middle school and the outcomes from the 2022-2023 school year. First, we will provide a brief explanation of why we chose the bulletin board format as a method for outreach at the middle school. Subsequently, we will provide a detailed discussion of the process for creating the bulletin boards; including how to draft a theme and design, the supplies and technology we use, and the set-up at the middle school. Our presentation will include pictures of completed bulletin board designs and videos of various stages in the process. Lastly, we will discuss the outcomes of hosting these monthly pop-ups on program attendance, community engagement, our outreach processes, and so on.

Jaime Poland is a Youth Services Librarian at Penn Hills Library in the Teen Services Department. She earned her MLIS with a Youth Services certificate from Queens College in 2020, and has worked in youth, adult, and emerging technology services. She spends most of her free time with her two cats reading romance novels.

Addie Macioce is a Library Assistant at Penn Hills Library. She manages the library's social media accounts, designs graphics and promotional materials, and assists with adult programming. She is a fan of high fantasy novels and romance books with the fake dating trope.

"Right-to-Know" and Pennsylvania Public Libraries: Sharing is Always Good, Right?

Track: **Library Administration**

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Scott Thomas, CEO, Scranton Public Library

Josh Berk, Executive Director, Bethlehem Area Public Library

Hannah Miller, District Consultant, Bucks Co. Free Library Trainer, PA Office of Open Records

There has been an uptick in Right-to-Know Requests directed at libraries. This panel discussion will include a representative from the PA Office of Open Records and library administrators who have recently fielded Right-to-Know Requests. Learn about how many of the commonly held assumptions regarding libraries and Right-to-Know may not be true and how libraries have tried to balance the profession's values of sharing and openness against how internal information may be used once shared.

Thomas, Berk, and Miller all have managed Right-to-Know requests and appeals at their libraries. The Office of Open Records is committed to sending a trainer who will provide an overview of RTK in Pennsylvania.

Beyond The Reluctant Reader: Building A Graphic Novel Collection For Everyone

Track: **Collections**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Mark Conner, Collection Management Coordinator, Bucks County Free Library

In 2022, Graphic novels were the third largest category of books sold, with over 35 million units sold that year. This unique medium has struck a chord with a broad, diverse audience and so it is time to put the "reluctant reader" narrative to rest; these books are for everyone. From cultivating important visual literacy skills to featuring diverse and underrepresented voices, graphic novels will continue to play a vital role as a form of communication. In this lecture, we will discuss the value of a graphic novel collection beyond convincing reluctant readers to pick up a book, so that we can better recommend these works to our patrons, staff, and stakeholders. We will also discuss some of the resources we can use to evaluate trends in the comic world.

Mark Conner is a librarian in the Collection Management Department for the Bucks County Free Library, selecting their non-fiction and graphic novel titles. He is also a life-long comics fan.

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Caring for the Family Tree: Helping Patrons Select Genealogy Software

Track: **Technology & Education**

Knowledge Level: Introductory



Beth M. Transue, Information Literacy Librarian,
Messiah University

Rob Lesher, PA Forward® Program Manager,
Pennsylvania Library Association

This Civic & Social Literacy focused presentation will help librarians work with patrons to select genealogy software. As the hobby of genealogy grows in popularity, there is a multitude of genealogy software options available to family history researchers; this can often lead to the patron feeling overwhelmed or making poor software choices. While there are similarities among software there are also key differences to consider. It is important for amateur genealogists to consider their research goals and budgets to successfully match their needs with software capabilities. This session will provide an overview of genealogy research products and software, focusing on features for the family historian. The session will provide knowledge and skills for the reference librarian to successfully assist patrons to select the right software for their individual needs and budgets.

Beth Transue coordinates information literacy at Messiah University. Genealogy has become a personal passion and she is co-founder of Thistle Genealogy Services. Beth has presented about genealogy topics to Messiah Lifeways Pathways Institute, Messiah University employees, and Pennsylvania Library Association.

Rob Lesher is the PA Forward® Program Manager. He has actively researched his own family tree for over 20 years - spending time online, and combing through physical files in archives. With Beth, he is co-founder of Thistle Genealogy Services. Rob has extensive presentation experience on many topics including genealogy.

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Closing Session: *The Good Left Undone* with Adriana Trigiani

Track: **Community Service & Engagement**

Knowledge Level: Introductory

Hear from New York Times best-selling author, Adriana Trigiani on her latest book, *The Good Left Undone*, as she discusses her inspiration for the book, family stories, WWII history, and more! Attendees of the session will receive a paperback copy of the book!



Beloved by millions of readers around the world for her “dazzling” novels, (USA Today) **Adriana Trigiani** is The New York Times bestselling author of twenty books in fiction and nonfiction. She has been published in 38 countries around the world. The New York Times calls her “a comedy writer with a heart of gold,” her books “tiramisu for the soul.” She wrote the blockbuster *The Shoemaker’s Wife*, the *Big Stone Gap* series, the *Valentine* trilogy and *Lucia*, *Lucia*. Trigiani’s themes of love and work, emphasis upon craftsmanship and family life have brought her legions of fans around the world. Their devotion has made Adriana one of “the reigning queens of women’s fiction” (USA Today). Adriana’s latest novel, *The Good Left Undone*, was an instant New York Times best seller, Book of the Month pick and People’s Book of the Week. The book also garnered recognition from book clubs across the country, as well as numerous awards.



Do I have to log-in before I register?

Yes. Members must log in to receive the membership rate (up to \$100 savings). Log-in is not required for a non member.

I don't remember my username and/or my password.

Contact Pennsylvania Library Association headquarters at 717-766-7663 for your username. Passwords can be retrieved via the "Forgot Password" link.

I am a presenter. Do I have to register?

Presenters who are Pennsylvania librarians are expected to benefit from other conference sessions and events and to support the state organization by registering at the discounted member rate. Presenters outside the library profession or state are NOT required to register. Contact Kim Snyder at 717-766-7663 to verify eligibility and to receive the discount code.

My library is a member. Does that get me the member rate?

No. But, you can use PaLA Bucks if your library's organizational membership dues are \$100 or more. (see below)

What are PaLA Bucks?

A promo code that enables a nonmember to register at the member rate. Member institutions receive one code/\$100 dues.

My library is a member, how do I obtain the BUCKS discount code?

Contact Pennsylvania Library Association HQ at 717-766-7663 to verify eligibility and receive the discount code.

Are meals included in the registration fee?

Registration includes Welcome Mixer and choice of lunch event Monday & Tuesday, and a Continental Breakfast on Wednesday.

Why is there a registration timer?

The system provides the timer, which can't be disabled, but the window can be closed during the registration process. It will reappear when there are three minutes left. You may also request more time. Download the Registration Worksheet to map out your attendance plans. Doing so, will streamline the online registration process.

What are the parking fees?

Parking is complimentary at Kalahari Resort.

My registration fee seems to be the wrong amount.

Select the PAY BY CHECK option to allow you to complete your registration. Then call Pennsylvania Library Association 717-766-7663 before you pay!

How do I clear my cart if I made a mistake and want to start over?

Click on the cart icon to clear it and start the registration process over.

How do I print an invoice or receipt?

The final registration THANK YOU page includes a VIEW INVOICE/RECEIPT link that will enable you to print your invoice/receipt. You may also print your itinerary via the Registration confirmation link.

My library/organization pays my registration. What should I do?

In order to maintain privacy and control of your log-in information, it is best if you complete your own registration, select the PAY BY CHECK option, then print the invoice from the link available on the THANK YOU page to submit to your business office.

Invoice payment can be made by check or credit card.



An Opportunity to Promote Yourself (*and Your Library!*)

First impressions are important! Smiles are an easy way to make patrons more comfortable even BEFORE they enter the library! When someone browses your website and sees cheerful photos of library staff, it can create a positive connection in their mind, which will likely continue in the library.

To help in this effort, the 2023 Conference Planning Committee has made arrangements for a professional photographer to take headshot photos during the conference at Kalahari Resort in the Poconos! This will be an affordable and convenient opportunity for attendees to obtain a professional headshot for use in both professional and personal life.

Here are the details:

- Photographs will be taken by Christine Favreaux, *Tine's Captured Moments*
- Photo shoots will take place in the exhibit area.
Monday: 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Tuesday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
- Cost for a photo shoot will be \$25, to be paid to the photographer at the time of the sitting.
- **Because sittings are limited, the option to reserve a time for a sitting at a nominal fee will be available as part of your conference registration on a first-come, first-served basis.** The \$5 reservation fee is separate from the photographer's fee and will cover PaLA staff time to organize the sittings. Walk-up sittings may be available without a fee but are not guaranteed.
- During the photo shoot, estimated to take approximately 10 minutes, participants will have several portraits taken in various poses and will receive a postcard with instructions for accessing their personal online gallery. The high-resolution images will be professionally edited with light, post-production image enhancing and will be available in approximately two weeks.
- The sitting fee will include two digital images in JPEG format. An option to purchase additional prints will be available.

Be sure to take advantage of this unique opportunity by booking a sitting time when registering for the conference.

Don't forget to say, "Cheese!"

2023 Conference registration link: <https://www.palibraries.org/event/2023ConferenceAttendeeReg>

