Board Nominees for 2016 Announced

The PaLA Nominations & Elections Committee submits the following slate of candidates for this year’s election. The offices to be filled include first vice-president/president-elect, second vice-president/conference chair (for the 2017 conference scheduled in Pittsburgh), ALA councilor, and two directors-at-large. Those elected will serve with the incoming president, Carrie Turner, beginning on January 1, 2017.

First Vice-President/President-Elect

Sheli McHugh

Associate professor Sheli McHugh is the Cataloging and Metadata librarian and the Learning Commons coordinator at the University of Scranton's Weinberg Memorial Library. She previously worked at the Scranton Public Library as the head cataloger servicing the Lackawanna County Library System.

McHugh earned her B.A. in media studies from Pennsylvania State University, her M.L.S. from Clarion University, and her M.L.A. from Lock Haven University.

Her PaLA activities have included:
- Co-chair, Technology Committee, Conference Committee (2016)
- Judge, PaLA Selection Committee ALA Emerging Leaders (2014, 2015)
- Chair, Northeast Chapter Nominating Committee (2014)
- Member, PaLA Nominating Committee (2014)
- Co-chair, Local Arrangements, Conference Committee (2014)
- Chair, Northeast Chapter (2013)
- Vice-chair/chair-elect, Northeast Chapter (2012)
- Member, Ad Hoc Committee on PaLA’s Strategic Plan (2013)

Tina Hertel

Tina Hertel is the director of Trexler Library at Muhlenberg College. She has previously held positions at Lehigh University, Marywood University, University of Scranton, and Bloomsburg University.

Tina earned her B.S. in aerospace engineering from Pennsylvania State University and her M.I.S. from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Her PaLA activities have included:
- Co-creator of PALS and member of Planning Committee (2008–present)
- PaLA Conference Planning Committee (2016, 2011)
- PaLA ALA Career Development facilitator (2015–present)
- PA Forward Information Literacy Task Force and Information Literacy Summit Planning Committee (2012–2015)
- College & Research Division board member, (2006–2013)
- Member, Lehigh Valley Chapter board (2006–2011); co-creator of the Support Staff of the Year Award
- Chair, Northeast Chapter (2005)
- Member, Northeast Chapter Planning Committee (2002–2005)

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Pennsylvania Library Association
Although it was a mild winter, it is great to welcome the season of spring. The longer days, the bloom of the flowers, and the sounds of laughter of children playing outside brings a smile to everyone.

The 2015–2016 budget has finally been enacted. Spring programming, especially during National Library Week, is happening in libraries all over the state. Students are using the library for quiet studying as they begin the home stretch to their semesters.

Gov. Wolf has proposed a $1.5 million increase in the state subsidy for libraries. We encourage you to thank your state legislators for their increased support for libraries in the 2015–2016 budget year. Please encourage them to support the proposed $1.5 million increase for library services in the 2016–2017 state budget, by reaching out in person or by email to build support for the increase. Local touch means so much.

Finally, these past few months, I have had the honor to serve on the Search Committee for the executive director position. Led by Mary Garm, Jack Sulzer, Janis Stubbs, Rob Lesher, Jennifer Knisely, David Schappert, and I met through email, by phone, and in person to interview qualified candidates for this position.

The board of directors of the Pennsylvania Library Association unanimously agreed to offer the position of executive director to Christi Buker. Her experience and skill sets are a wonderful compliment to this position. I hope you will join me in welcoming her to PaLA.

As always, if you would like to talk to me about how you can be more active in PaLA, please reach out to me!

Jennifer Stocker is the library director at the Easton Area Public Library and current president of PaLA. She is reading Me Before You, by Jojo Moyes.
ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Pennsylvania Library Association, I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Christi Buker to the position of executive director of PaLA.

Christi has been the executive director for the Central PA Chapter Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) for more than 10 years. In that role she has worked with a team of instructors and volunteers to grow and strengthen their primary program — training people to become electricians through a registered apprenticeship program. She has been a vocal advocate for their programs on both the federal and state level, and created greater recognition for the IEC in all areas. From writing magazine articles to speaking to high school students about career paths, her passion for education is clearly evident.

She grew up in Williamsport and has enjoyed learning about and exploring new residences in Washington, D.C., and Japan. Perhaps this comes from her participation in a summer exchange program to Japan during her high school years through 4-H, a youth development program, and that she now serves as an adult volunteer leader.

Christi has been in the Mechanicsburg area for 13 years with her husband and two daughters. She notes her gratitude to the Simpson Public Library for saving her from bankruptcy if her eldest had actually purchased all the books she wanted through the Scholastic book program in her younger years! Whenever possible, Christi enjoys being outdoors, canoeing, strategic board games, sewing, reading, and family activities — including volunteering to support her daughters’ activities.

Christi will be attending some meetings and workshops in the next few weeks. Her official start date will be Thursday, June 23.

Please join me in welcoming Christi to her new position.

Jennifer Stocker is the library director at the Easton Area Public Library and current president of PaLA. She is reading Me Before You, by Jojo Moyes.

Christi Buker is currently reading Too Close to the Falls by Catherine Gildiner.
GLENN MILLER, LONGTIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PaLA, has been appointed by Gov. Tom Wolf as deputy secretary/commissioner for libraries in the Pennsylvania Department of Education. He was named interim deputy secretary in September 2015 and confirmed in March 2016.

In his new position, Deputy Secretary Miller is responsible for the planning, coordination, and direction of all activities of the state’s library program including statewide library development, school library services and research/resource library service to state government, other libraries, and the public. He also functions as executive director to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Library Development and recommends legislative policy.

The deputy secretary’s 20 years of experience working with libraries across the state as the leader of PaLA gives him a unique perspective on library services and their place within the education environment.

“Pennsylvania’s libraries provide vital educational services for all of our citizens,” said Miller. “They bolster our educational backbone and our economy and serve as anchors for our communities and our democracy.”

Miller’s goal is to integrate libraries more fully into Pennsylvania’s educational and economic future.

During his time as executive director of PaLA, Deputy Secretary Miller earned the respect of librarians and trustees across the state. He was instrumental in helping the library community to unite behind a common strategy to achieve new levels of standards and services. His willingness to listen to all opinions, combined with his knowledge of state government, helped him to build common-sense, Pennsylvania-focused solutions to library challenges.

Deputy Secretary Miller lives in Lancaster with his wife, Marion Piersol-Miller. They have three children, Jenny, Carly, and Doug.

Mary Garm is the administrator of the Lackawanna County Library System and acting chair of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Library Development. Mary is reading The Originals by Adam Grant.
Registration Now Open!

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JOIN US as we explore ways to empower teens to increase your library’s impact!
The 2016 PaLA Conference theme, “Reaching New Heights” is based on the locale of the brand new Kalahari resort in the Pocono Mountains. Our conference this year will incorporate the beauty of the Poconos and the learning and networking opportunities that we all excitedly anticipate at a resort setting with family-friendly activities. There is much to do in the surrounding area as well, including hiking, shopping, tours of the Tannersville Cranberry Bog Preserve, and a tour to Escape Pocono.

The conference will be held October 16–19. Authentic African art fills the spaces of the hotel and the conference center. There are restaurants in the resort, as well as entertainment, a gift shop, and a water park, which are all centrally located, so it’s easy to navigate through the hotel. The Conference Planning Committee had nothing but positive reviews about the space after meeting there in April. Susan Gardner says that she found the space “impressive”, as well as “all inclusive and beautiful”.

Ben Bizzle will be speaking at our opening keynote. From his website: “Since 2008, I’ve had the privilege of working at the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library, serving as director of technology, creator of our YouTube comedy series, administrator of our Facebook page, and member of our creative team. Our goal is to utilize technology to expand the availability and accessibility of library resources and find creative ways to promote the services we provide. With an approach focused on platform building, we see our website, mobile site, and social media infrastructure as the outreach tools necessary to meet the expectations of our ever more connected patrons.” He is also author of the book, Start a Revolution: Stop Acting Like a Library. Other speakers are being contacted as the schedule firms up.

Conference chair Cindy DeLuca says, “The conference space feels awesome, with state of the art technology, comfortable meeting spaces, amazing African artwork in many forms placed throughout the convention center and in the hotel. I’m looking forward to wonderful conference filled with great networking and learning experience in a beautiful and fun environment.”

Consider joining us at Kalahari in the Poconos this year. It’s sure to be a memorable conference! 

Erin Burns is a reference and instruction librarian at Penn State Shenango. She is currently reading Yes, Please! by Amy Poehler.
On behalf of the Pennsylvania Library Association and PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries, I would like to announce the retirement of Kathy Silks, the PA Forward project manager, as of June 30.

It is with great pleasure that we wish Kathy all the best as she leaves to pursue personal goals, but we are sad to lose the voice of PA Forward. Kathy has led the initiative since its inception and has been with us five years. PA Forward has grown tremendously under her guidance and we will miss her enthusiasm and dedication to every facet of the project.

Kathy has fostered the growth of the Steering Committee, the partners, and the Advisory Board, all while reaching out to libraries across Pennsylvania to engage them in this inspiring and useful branding initiative.

As a part of the PaLA staff, Kathy has worked with countless library volunteers to forge the strategic plan for PA Forward and to make sure that it continues to advance. She has spearheaded training opportunities across Pennsylvania and spoken about PA Forward on the national stage.

As Kathy plans for retirement, we will continue to engage her in transition planning and begin the active search for a new project manager.

Paula Gilbert is director of Youth Services for the Martin Library & the York County Library System.
Moving PA Forward

BY KATHY SILKS

It has been an honor and a joy to work with PaLA’s phenomenal staff and volunteers over the past five and a half years to create, launch, strategize, and expand the PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries project. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a collective voice for libraries turned out to be my dream job at the end of a long and gratifying career in public broadcasting, corporate communications, and human services. I’m immensely grateful to Glenn Miller and a long list of library leaders for their support and for making this such a wonderful experience.

At this crucial stage in its growth and impact, PA Forward remains committed to helping libraries become stronger community educators and literacy resources by giving librarians the tools to communicate their value and the competencies to increase their connections and impact. Let me update you on the exciting initiatives PA Forward has in the works:

**PA Forward Libraries branding:**
Thanks to the stellar work of a PALS 2015 team, this fall we’ll launch a statewide initiative giving your library branding tools and standards plus rewards for participating. We piloted this initiative very successfully this spring in the North Central library district, with 17 libraries achieving Bronze, Silver, or Gold star status in less than three months.

**Literacies in Action manual:** This fall, we’ll introduce “how to” materials to help you plan and execute effective literacy-building programs. These “recipes” outline planning instructions and timelines, potential partners, available resources, and more for dozens of model programs.

**Training:** PA Forward will present seven strong workshops at the PaLA Annual Conference — sessions on outcomes evaluation, the PA Forward branding initiative, the Literacies in Action manual, elevator speeches, and more. And PA Forward will continue to offer annual literacy summits as well as training on a variety of topics appropriate for staff development days, chapter workshops, trustee training, and other educational events.

**Evaluation:** We’re assessing PLA’s Project Outcome and other resources to help libraries conduct outcomes-based evaluation, building on what we’ve learned in PA Forward’s NN/LM-funded health literacy project. Seventeen libraries statewide conducted the Engage for Health to help people achieve better health care outcomes. Results and action steps will be shared at the PaLA Annual Conference.

I’m gratified by what we’ve achieved together. In PA Forward’s 2015 survey of librarians, 60.6 percent of respondents reported better strategic actions due to PA Forward, 46.7 percent attributed increased ability to improve literacy in the community to PA Forward, 39.2 percent had more partnership opportunities, and 42.4 percent increased outreach provision thanks to PA Forward.

Now it’s time to hand PA Forward over to a new leader to manage its daily operations and continued growth. I look forward to a smooth transition and know you will help by greeting the new project manager as warmly as you welcomed me back in PA Forward’s infancy.

I’ve worked with countless talented, dedicated, and caring colleagues throughout my career, and librarians are at the top of that list. While I’m looking forward to retirement and my next life stage, I’ll deeply miss working with you and helping you communicate the value of libraries. I’ll continue to carry in my heart and my head the wonderful experiences I’ve had at PaLA. Best wishes for all good things in the world of 21st century libraries!

Kathy Silks, Project Manager, PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries, is reading A Banquet of Consequences by Elizabeth George.
Editor’s note: This is a reprint of the remarks Glenn Miller, deputy secretary of education and commissioner for libraries, made at the memorial service for Elliot Shelkrot on March 28 at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Thank you, Rabbi Shawn and good afternoon. My name is Glenn Miller and I am the deputy secretary of education and commissioner for libraries for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am honored and humbled to offer some observations today about our dear friend, Elliot Skelkrot. Thank you, Evelyn, for inviting me to speak, briefly. (It’s an inside library joke …)

First, let me offer the most heartfelt condolences from Elliot’s friend and our governor, the Hon. Tom Wolf, and also from the Hon. Pedro Rivera, our secretary of education. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of several of Elliot’s successors as state librarian: Gary Wolfe and Mary Clare Zales, and former acting state librarian Alice Lubrecht and David Hoffman who had hoped to attend but I have not seen him.

We all mourn Elliot’s passing and I extend to you — Evelyn, Daniel, Max, and Ben — the gratitude of the entire commonwealth for your generosity over many years in sharing with us Elliot’s energy and talent in the service of his fellow citizens.

The other day after Evelyn shared the news of Elliot’s passing, I sat in the office where Elliot worked as state librarian from 1980 through 1987 and thought about how much he accomplished in eight short years. His tenure became the standard for each one of us who followed.

Elliot was — and I am — honored to serve in this capacity and to work in an historic library begun in 1745 by the Clerk of the Assembly in the Province of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin. I wondered the other day if Elliot, during his time at the State Library, was struck—as I was recently—by the words inscribed over the entrance to our Law Library: “Law is the Science of Human Conduct Derived from the Past. Regard for the Public Welfare is the Highest Law”.

Those words really hit me and I venture to say that they were not lost on him either: “Regard for the Public Welfare is the Highest Law”.

Every day of his professional life — and almost certainly even before that — Elliot Louis Shelkrot followed the highest law. Yes, Elliot was a brilliant man with an inquisitive mind and it stood to reason that just such a man as this would pursue a career as a librarian. But his intellect is not the full picture. I know by his actions and his words — in my presence — that Elliot became a librarian, and loved being a librarian, because of his unselfishness and his deep regard for the public welfare.

Elliot’s reputation also was that of visionary who, in the 1980s, established our statewide union catalog — Access PA — which today combines the holdings of more than 2,500 Pennsylvania libraries in the largest such catalog in North America. He championed broader services for children and for the downtrodden. He succeeded in promoting a new law to protect the confidentiality of library records and embraced technology in libraries, even when some others resisted.

My direct work with him, from 1995 forward, revealed him to be a generous and gentle soul who, at every turn, did what was right in the pursuit of the public welfare. In 1998, I worked closely with Elliot on a Pennsylvania Library Association task force to develop a statewide funding plan for libraries following a four-part exposé in the Philadelphia Inquirer. That series — “Libraries in Distress” — revealed the deplorable conditions that existed in public libraries in every corner of this state. Elliot was appalled. We all were. In the deliberations of the task force that followed, not once did Elliot stray from his regard for the broader public interest. Not once did he insist that any new funding plan include a disproportionate share to his own library, despite its size and influence and great history — the very institution where we find ourselves today.

No. That would have violated Elliot’s sense of fairness … and his deep regard for the highest law.

Instead, Elliot and the task force of 17 of his library colleagues developed a comprehensive and fair-to-all plan that lifted funding for all libraries and encouraged greater sharing and local support. In my
Remembering Elliot

BY KARL HELICHER

On a sad day in September 2007, Elliot Shelkrot, Frank Mullen, and I met for lunch following the funeral of Dave Roberts, a library leader and friend who died too young. Laughs and happy stories usually flowed among us, but not on this day, as we quietly thought to ourselves what Dave meant to us.

Occasionally, one of us broke the silence to share a remembrance.

I felt that same hollow sadness when I read of Elliot’s death in the Philadelphia Inquirer, but took some solace in the tributes that his friends and former staff members at the Free Library lavished on this mensch who, like Dave, left us too soon.

I had the good fortune of meeting Elliot when he became library commissioner, or state librarian as the position was then known. I was impressed immediately by his genuine interest in the librarians who peppered him with questions about his plans for making Pennsylvania libraries better than they were.

Elliot was a consummate professional who believed that libraries are an engine for improving lives, and he demonstrated this by his rapport with Gov. Richard Thornburgh and later with Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell. Access Pennsylvania and the revitalization of the Free Library were likely Elliot’s most memorable accomplishments, resulting from these partnerships.

In his later years, Elliot came out of retirement to serve as interim director of the William Jeanes Library, a fine suburban library in Montgomery County, but a distance from the lights of the Free Library and Harrisburg. I would look forward to seeing Elliot at Montgomery County District meetings, where a few times he would ask me a question about hands-on librarianship, until he learned he was barking up the wrong tree. Understanding people’s strengths and weaknesses was always Elliot’s strong suit.

As I write this, I am thinking of Evelyn Minick, whose own distinguished library career matches that of her husband’s. No doubt their tenacious efforts in behalf of libraries made each a stronger leader and better person. Kind, compassionate, and dedicated people are always in short supply. Elliot was one of them. Elliot was one of us.

Karl Helicher is the director of the Upper Merion Township Library in King of Prussia.
During the summer of 2015, I made a decision that surprised almost everyone I knew, including myself: I left a job that I loved, friends, family, and a strong professional network in order to move from Virginia to Pennsylvania.

This uprooting was for a good cause, since I had been offered an exciting opportunity to provide leadership for a strong teaching and learning program at Penn State. Even so, I had forgotten how challenging the first few months of a major personal and professional transition could be.

Navigating a new organization, a new town, and a new state, I was a stranger in a strange land. After I taught my first few one-shot classes at Penn State, I reflected on how much I sympathized with these first-year students; it can be really difficult to write a paper, or in my case, do your job well, when you’re also concerned with basic things like not getting lost in the library or remembering in which parking deck you left your car.

Indeed, I felt very much like a freshman during my first few months at Penn State as I tried to figure out what various acronyms meant, the reasons why we did things a certain way, and the individuals that I needed to form relationships with. Essentially, I was transported back into the role of learner after spending years in the role of teacher.

Although uncomfortable, this role reversal wasn’t a bad thing; rather, it reminded me that our professional responsibility requires us to question things, approach things from new perspectives, and basically maintain a learner orientation. Professional learning happens on a number of different levels: we may turn to experts who are writing books or teaching courses, attend conferences and workshops, or keep up with professional trends by reading new issues of journals or following certain individuals on Twitter. In my new role in Pennsylvania and at Penn State, though, none of these methods were going to help me learn what I needed to in order to function effectively in my day-to-day work life.

For this, I realized I needed to rely on my surrounding communities of practice.

The most important part about communities of practice is that learning happens in all directions.

The term community of practice was first used by cognitive anthropologists Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger in 1991 as a phrase describing a theory of learning where individuals sharing a domain or field learn from each other. Lave and Wenger began their work with communities of practice by studying the ways in which learning takes place outside of the classroom and how individuals become parts of groups, professional or otherwise. Many types of organizations, including libraries, have used the idea of communities of practice to frame professional learning that happens in informal, ongoing ways. The most important part about communities of practice is that learning happens in all directions; individuals who are part of the community of practice learn from each other in order to grow professionally and personally. Many communities of practice thrive without ever bearing the moniker of community of practice, but this phrase is appearing more frequently within library literature and organizations as library professionals look for effective ways to keep up with trends and grow in new directions.

One of the most visible examples of an intentional community of practice within the library profession is ACRL’s Assessment in Action program, which was specifically designed to facilitate a community of practice surrounding assessment in library settings.

The goal with Assessment in Action was to create a network of colleagues interested in pursuing a more advanced understanding and use of assessment techniques that would be attained through interactions with
each other and with experts. This example of a community of practice focuses on the fairly narrow domain of assessment, but many communities of practice function on a much broader level.

Penn State is also home to an intentional community of practice built around a narrow domain. Anne Behler, Information Literacy librarian and Instruction coordinator at University Park, initiated this community of practice and worked with colleagues throughout Penn State to develop the Instruction Community of Practice (CoP), a way to bring together all Penn State librarians and library professionals who deal with teaching and learning at any and all of the Penn State campuses. This community of practice includes a listserv where everything from LibGuides to LOEX is discussed and regular Adobe Connect sessions where individuals take turns sharing their expertise with one another. Recent CoP session topics include developing effective learning outcomes, discussing the pedagogy of LibGuides, and scaffolding our instruction program.

Recent CoP session topics include developing effective learning outcomes, discussing the pedagogy of LibGuides, and scaffolding our instruction program.

CRD connects library professionals who share the experience of working in college and research libraries and represents a conduit for information to be exchanged and for learning to happen. As a new community member, I have been grateful to discover the many ways that I can connect with my new colleagues, learn about local issues and trends in Pennsylvania, and begin to really become part of this community of practice. CRD’s blog and peer reviewed journal (PaLRaP) offered easy entry points to this community of practice, since they allowed me to read about the events and ideas that Pennsylvania librarians are participating in and discussing. Then, I learned about the Connect & Communicate Series of online discussions, which is specifically developed to foster a community of academic librarians in Pennsylvania.

Led by Jill Hallam-Miller, the Connect & Communicate Series takes big ideas, such as the new campus libraries, and enables Pennsylvania library practitioners to share questions and expertise surrounding these big ideas.

Overall, communities of practice, like Penn State’s Instruction CoP and CRD, provide a space for us to reflect, question, and share perspectives on the direction and evolution of our profession. Furthermore, they remind us that we all hold the dual roles of learner and teacher. I won’t always be a new member of the Penn State and Pennsylvania communities, and because of that, I will rely on these communities of practice to keep me from becoming too comfortable again and to support my evolution as a learner and a leader.

Intrigued by communities of practice? Read more about them!


Rebecca K. Miller is the head of Library Learning Services and associate librarian for Penn State University Libraries. She is currently reading Jane Steele by Lyndsay Faye
Storytime, STEM, Outreach, Oh My!
Early Literacy in the Library World

BY LAURA ARNOLD

Storytime is the bread and butter of children’s programming in public libraries. It’s been a staple for libraries since the early 1950s and although children’s picture books might look different, technology may have been added, and even how storytime is presented might have changed, storytime itself still remains.

The Cruise into Kindergarten website provides valuable training tools, resources, and information for librarians to make their jobs easier.

Early literacy is vital to a child’s growth and development. Brain development during a child’s first three years of life is intense and libraries have the advantage of providing families with the tools and resources to support and build a child’s connections in the brain through activities such as reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing.

So what are you doing in your library to support early literacy? Here are a few ideas that you may already be doing or could add to your programming lineup in the future.

In 2013, the public libraries of Pennsylvania received a grant to create Cruise into Kindergarten, an umbrella for all the services and programs public libraries offer supporting early literacy. Cruise into Kindergarten is not another program you need to fit into your busy schedule; rather all of the programs you’re already doing fit under its umbrella.

The Cruise into Kindergarten website provides valuable training tools, resources, and information for librarians to make their jobs easier. Check out the Cruise into Kindergarten (http://cruiselibraries.org) initiative and join today!

Pennsylvania public libraries have also created a Play K curriculum with six different playscapes or “play and learn centers” to encourage early literacy skills by offering not only a central theme, but also questions to focus learning on specific tasks. The playscape themes include transportation, at home, shopping, around town, pets, and colors. Each playscape includes activities and toys that promote play, early literacy and learning.

What’s also really interesting is that this curriculum can be easily adapted as a specific program, a pop-up learning station, or adjusted as individual libraries need them with lesson plans already created for each playscape. The curriculum is also reinforced with the Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood, making these playscapes invaluable to libraries and families. Training is starting and will continue over the next year throughout the state.

And finally for Pennsylvania public libraries, a creative library program focused on STEM concepts for young children has recently launched including Block Parties and Wee Build — building blocks for programming in the library. The concept is to include free building for children that encourages parents and
caregivers to ask open-ended questions, allowing children the time to explore math, language, art, social emotional and physical development skills all while playing.

Your library probably has a storytime of some sort — maybe you're lucky enough to have multiple storytimes for different age groups or maybe your library is small and you offer a family storytime once a week. Either way, encourage the families in attendance to extend learning at home by offering early literacy tips in storytime. This only takes about 30 seconds of your time, but can make a huge difference to families.

Other ways to change up your storytime: try musical instruments like shaker eggs and rhythm sticks, create a folder story, find a parachute (kids love playing Popcorn!), or try your hand at a few yoga poses. You’ll be surprised at how excited kids get over the simplest things. And if you’re strapped for cash, good, ol’ simple bubbles work wonders!

Offer a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/) program to encourage reading from birth with simple prizes, like stamps or stickers. Or try offering an early literacy version of your summer reading program for little ones. Although parents/caregivers are likely reading to their children at home this can be a way to really show families how important this reading time is to young children.

Dance parties are easy programs to offer and kids absolutely love them! By mixing classics like “ABC” by The Jackson 5 with music like “Happy” by Pharrell, you have the adults and kids moving before you know it! And don’t forget to highlight your children’s music collection, if you have one — it’s a great way to increase circulation!

“Let’s Get Messy!” art classes are a great way for young children to experience and explore art and sensory materials in a safe environment. Parents also love these programs because we aren’t causing a mess in their homes. Check out Pinterest for some awesome ideas of materials and don’t forget focus on the process not the product in classes like these.

Offer a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/) program to encourage reading from birth with simple prizes, like stamps or stickers.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) are hot topics right now and make great programming ideas for preschoolers. Hands-on learning is so fun for little ones and what better way to encourage a budding scientist than attending one of these programs. Have no fear, science at a preschool level is pretty easy and a lot of fun! Check out the Show Me Librarian (showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/) and Abby the Librarian (wwwabbythelibrarian.com/) for some ready-to-go STEM/STEAM programs.

Music & Movement programs are great for those storytime kids who always seem to have energy and never slow down. Purchasing musical instruments makes life easier, but if you’re short on funding try your hand at making some homemade instruments with or without the kids in the program. Encourage dancing and stretching, and pair movement with a grownup. These programs focus more on music and movement of course, but you can always read a book that ties into the program too. For some great ideas about starting a program check out Miss Meg’s Storytime (missmegsstorytime.com/) and Storytime Katie (storytimekatie.com/).

As a Family Place Library my library is required to offer play workshops, but you don’t need the Family Place title to offer something like this. Purchase some developmentally appropriate toys (try finding ones that don’t require batteries), blocks, dress up, transportation vehicles, puzzles, and more and offer a play workshop for kids and adults. It’s a great way to get to know your families and show parents how to play with kids by asking open-ended questions, being silly, and using your imagination.

Finally, if you’re really brave try offering a parent workshop about the importance of early literacy at home. The Cruise into Kindergarten website has a PowerPoint presentation already created with links to the Every Child Ready to Read 2 (ECRR2) website and handouts that you can use. This would be an invaluable program for parents and a great way to talk about brain development, early literacy and the library’s role in the community.

These are just a few ways to encourage early literacy in the library and at home. Have other great ideas? We want to hear about them! Join Cruise into Kindergarten (www.cruiselibraries.org), the PaLA YSD group and the Pennsylvania Storytime Underground chapter on Facebook — these are all great tools and connections to amazing resources across the state!

Laura Arnhold is a children’s librarian at Upper Merion Township Library in King of Prussia and the Youth Services Division chair. She is currently reading The Family Fletcher Takes Rock Island by Dana Alison Levy.
PaLA BOARD NOMINEES FOR 2016 ANNOUNCED

Continued from page 1

First Vice-President/President-Elect continued

Sheli McHugh

- Vice-chair/chair elect, Northeast Chapter (2012)
- Publicity co-chair, Conference Committee (2011)
- Ad Hoc chair, Special events, Northeast Chapter (2010)
- Chair, Technical service round table (2010)
- Chair, Membership Committee, Northeast Chapter (2006–2010)

In 2012, PaLA selected McHugh to participate in the ALA Emerging Leaders program and in 2009 the Northeast Chapter selected her to attend the inaugural PALS workshop. She has presented at PaLA conferences and published in the PaLA Bulletin.

Tina Hertel

Tina has presented at PaLA conferences and chapter/division workshops. She has also published in the PaLA Bulletin, and was integral in creating the College & Research Division website as well as assisting in the transition to the current PaLA website. Other leadership responsibilities include serving on the board and as president of the ACRL Delaware Valley Chapter (2010–2014) and a board member and treasurer of Pennsylvania Academic Libraries Consortium, Inc., (2013–present).

Second Vice-President/Conference Chair

Dana Farabaugh

Dana Farabaugh is the district consultant for the Westmoreland District. She previously served as an Information and Community Education librarian at the Altoona Area Public Library and as the director of the Portage Area Public Library.

Farabaugh received her B.A. and M.L.I.S from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to PaLA activities, she has served as an instructor for ILEAD USA and was a member of the Pennsylvania Library Director’s Institute.

Her PaLA activities have included:
- Member, Awards Committee (present)
- Co-chair, PA Forward Information Literacy team (present)
- Secretary/treasurer, Juniata-Conemaugh Chapter (2015)
- Co-chair, Program Committee for PaLA Conference (2015)

Alex Kirby

Alex Kirby is the Information Literacy and eLearning librarian at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, a position he has held since 2009.

He graduated with a B.A. in history from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2006 and earned his M.L.S. from Clarion in 2008.

His PaLA activities have included:
- Chair, Southwest Chapter (2014)
- Membership officer, Southwest Chapter
- Co-chair, Technology Committee, 2013 PaLA conference

Continued on page 17
Continued from page 16

**Chris Snyder**  
Chris Snyder is the district consultant for the Doylestown District. Previously, she held the positions of technical services manager, ILS administrator, cataloger, and training program coordinator for Bucks County Free Library. Before entering the public library field, she was the librarian at Bishop Egan High School in Fairless Hills.

Snyder earned her M.L.S. from Drexel University and her B.S. in library science/English education from Shippensburg University. She holds instructional certificates in secondary English education and library science.

**Her PaLA activities have included:**
- Vice-president/chair-elect, SEPLA board of directors (2016)
- Second vice-president/chair, PaLA Conference Committee (2014)
- Co-recipient, SEPLA Chapter’s Patricia A. Dobbin Award for Library Service (2011)
- Member-at-large, SEPLA board of directors (multiple years)
- Secretary, SEPLA board of directors (2004)
- Member, Nominations Committee (2003)
- Secretary, Technical services round table (1998)
- Chair, Membership Committee (1996)
- Member, Membership Committee (1993–1995)

She has presented at PaLA conferences and regional workshops. In addition to her PaLA activities, she has presented workshops for the New Jersey Library Association’s Technical Services Division.

**Rob Lesher**  
Rob Lesher is executive director of the Dauphin County Library System. He previously served as the executive director of the Adams County Library System.

Lesher earned his B.A. at Messiah College and an M.L.S. from Syracuse University.

**His PaLA activities have included:**
- Member, PaLA Executive Director Search Committee (2016)
- Co-chair, ALA National Library Legislative Day Committee for Pennsylvania (2015–present)
- Member, PA Forward Steering Committee (2012–present)
- President (2011)
- Member, Legislative Committee (2010–present)
- Second vice-president/conference chair (2009)
- Chair, Public Library Division (2008)
- Chair, Awards Committee (2005)

Rob has also served as a member of the Nominating Committee, South Central Chapter chair, PR Marketing Committee, and Web Page Design Committee.

Vote

Electronic ballots will be sent to members in July. The deadline for voting in the PaLA Elections is

August 10, 2016
PaLA BOARD NOMINEES FOR 2016 ANNOUNCED

Continued from page 17

Director-at-Large

Joann Eichenlaub

Joann Eichenlaub became assistant director of the Roger and Peggy Madigan Library at Pennsylvania College of Technology in 2012. She has been associated with the Madigan Library since 2000, initially employed as a student assistant, then circulation assistant while attending college. Following college, she became manager of access services and worked toward her master’s degree.

Eichenlaub achieved a B.S. in paralegal studies from Pennsylvania College of Technology in 2002 and an M.S.L.S. from Drexel University in 2011.

Her PaLA activities have included:
• Chair, West Branch Chapter, PaLA (2016)
• Member, West Branch Chapter PaLA (2015–present)

Other leadership activities in Pennsylvania libraries have included:
• Member, 2015 PALS Branding team that launched the PA Forward branding pilot program (February to May 2016), presented virtual and in-person training sessions for the program
• Co-chair, ACLCP Copyright Special Interest Group, established and co-coordinated the copyright special interest group (2008–2014)

Michele Legate

Michele Legate is the district consultant for the Northeast Library District. Prior to this position, she was the Grants Development and Reference librarian for the Scranton Public Library. Before working in libraries, she worked at a non-profit cancer organization and served as an AmeriCorps member.

Legate received her M.L.S. from Clarion University and a B.A. in political science from Kutztown University.

Her PaLA activities have included:
• Co-chair, Conference Banquets & Reception Committee (current)
• Chair, Scholarship Committee (current)
• Presenter, PaLA Conference (2015)
• Chair, Northeast Chapter Nominations Committee (2015)
• Recipient, New Librarian Honors Award (2014)
• Chair, Northeast Chapter (2014)
• Presenter, Northeast Chapter Annual Meeting (2013)
• Vice chair, Northeast Chapter (2013)
• Secretary/treasurer, Northeast Chapter (2012)
• PALS graduate (2010)
• Chair, PR & Marketing, Northeast Chapter (2010–2011)

Marguerite Dube

Marguerite Dube has been the director of the Chester County Library and District Center in Exton for the last seven years. She served as the Business/Finance manager at the library 2001–2009.

She earned her B.A. in business management at Mundelein College/Loyola University, Chicago and her M.L.I.S at Drexel University. She also holds a CPA certification.

Her PaLA activities have included:
• Treasurer, PaLA (2014–2015)
• Member, Southeast Chapter (2010–present)
• Chair, Southeast Chapter (2014)
• Chair, Conference Evaluation Committee (2013)
• Chair elect/vice chair, Southeast Chapter (2013)
• Chair, Southeast Chapter Nominations and Elections Committee (2012)
• PALS Planning Committee (2011)
• PaLA Leadership Program Committee (2011)
• PaLA Leadership Academy (PALS) graduate (2010)

Electronic ballots will be sent to members in July.
The deadline for voting in the PaLA Elections is August 10, 2016

Vote

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PaLA BOARD NOMINEES FOR 2016 ANNOUNCED

Continued from page 18

**Director-at-Large**

**Jean Ann Barsotti**

Jean Barsotti is the director of the Carnegie Free Library of Beaver Falls, a member of the Beaver County Library System. She began her library career as the director of the Ellwood City Area Public Library. Prior to becoming a librarian, Jean worked in the publishing field with proofing and typesetting books and cable television guides. She has years of retail experience working in various department stores.

Barsotti earned her B.S. in communications (focusing on broadcasting and public relations) and M.L.S. from Clarion University. She is a 2014 PALS participant and 2015 Pennsylvania Director's Institute participant.

**Her PaLA activities have included:**

- Board member at large, Southwest Chapter (2015–present)
- Nominating/elections, Southwest Chapter (2014)
- Treasurer, Southwest Chapter (2013)
- Member, Southwest Chapter (2009)
- Member, Nominating Committee (2013, 2014)

Jeann is active in her community serving as a board member and chair person for projects for organizations that included Ellwood City Jaycees and Ellwood City Council of Community Services. She has been a member of the Rotary Club of Ellwood City for almost 20 years, has served as president and is currently the club’s secretary.

**Jennifer Knisely**

Jennifer Knisely has been the executive director of the Altoona Area Public Library (AAPL) since 2011. Beginning her library career as a work study student at the AAPL in 1994, Knisely has held various positions including technical aide, Youth Services coordinator, Outreach Services coordinator, and Children's Services director.

She is active in the community as a board member for Child Advocates of Blair County, member of the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Blair County Advisory Board, membership chair of the Women’s Club of Altoona, troop leader for Girl Scouts of Western PA, and the Altoona Rotary Club.

In 2013 she was awarded the Exceptional Service Award for developing library services, advancing the chapter mission, and demonstrating leadership from the Juniata Conemaugh Chapter of PaLA.

Knisely holds a B.S. in rehabilitation services education from Penn State University and an M.S.L.S. from Clarion University.

**Her PaLA activities include:**

- Member, PaLA Executive Director Search Committee (2016)
- Second chair, Conference Committee (2015)
- Member, Conference Committee (2011)
- Member, Legislative Committee
- Member, Juniata Conemaugh Chapter
- Past member, PR/Marketing Committee

Long-Range Planning Notice (sort of)

No, this is not about the work of PaLA’s Futures Committee.

Rather, this is a sincere request to PaLA members to give some serious thought to including PaLA on your list for charitable giving in 2015. Contributions to PaLA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, are deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Also, as you conduct your own personal long-range planning, we hope that you will consider including PaLA as a beneficiary in your will.

For an organization of our size and resources, even modest bequests can help to provide long-term stability and improved services for the library community.

Just some food for thought for your long-range planning. If you have questions or need any additional information, please call (717) 766-7663.
PaLA Awards Committee Seeks Nominations

DEADLINE: AUGUST 5, 2016

I nominate ________________________________________________________ for the ____________________________________________ Award, to be presented by the Pennsylvania Library Association in 2016.

I am making this nomination because of the following (attach additional sheets if necessary):

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Biographical information (attach additional sheets if necessary):

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

My nominee can be reached at:
Address ___________________________________________________________________
City, State, ZIP _____________________________________________________________
Telephone _________________________________________________________________
Fax _______________________________________________________________________
E-mail ____________________________________________________________________

Nominated by:
Name _____________________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________
City, State, ZIP _____________________________________________________________
Telephone _________________________________________________________________
Fax _______________________________________________________________________
E-mail ____________________________________________________________________

Please send your nominations to:
Chris Snyder
Bucks County Free Library
150 South Pine Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

Distinguished Service Award: The highest award given by the association. It is presented annually to one person in recognition of exceptionally meritorious service to libraries of the commonwealth.

Certificates of Merit: Awarded to individuals making outstanding contributions to libraries in Pennsylvania during the last five years.

Elected Official Award: Given annually to an elected official (or officials) for exemplary support of library service in Pennsylvania.

New Librarian Honors Award: Acknowledges a librarian who has worked in the profession fewer than six years. It recognizes the originality and inventive ability of a new librarian who devises new and improved methods of library service on a statewide or local level.

Trustee of the Year Award: Presented to a public library trustee in recognition of outstanding leadership and service to library development at the local, system, district, and/or state level.

Library Support Staff Recognition Award: This award is presented to a Pennsylvania library that has consistently encouraged and supported its support staff to participate in career development activities (particularly those offered by PaLA). Nominations should be in the form of a statement of the library’s activities. Does your library provide opportunities for support staff to develop their library skills through continuing education? Does your library encourage support staff members to attend PaLA conferences and chapter meetings? Does your library provide opportunities for support staff to take classes on library-related activities, or in other skills which can be used on the job? Tell us how your library’s support helps you in your work, and give some recognition to your library!
New Members

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Rachel Baddeley
Village Library of Wrightstown

Elizabeth Bare
Centre County Library & Historical Museum

Donna Beck
Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

Holly Bennett
Memorial Library of Nazareth & Vicinity

Michele Bridges
Altoona Area Public Library

Liz Brobst
Clarion University of PA

Suzanne Campbell
Eastern Monroe Public Library

Johanna Castillo
Northampton Community College Library

Marleena Cloutier
University of Scranton--Weinberg Memorial Library

Catherine Collins
Saint Joseph’s University

Brianna Crum
Dauphin County Library System

Donald Dellinger
Kaltreider-Benfer Library

Rebecca Diehl
Penn State University

Karen Estlund
Penn State University Libraries

Colleen Farry
University of Scranton

Saroj Ghoting
Newfoundland

Kristin Green
Penn State Worthington Scranton

Athena Greenspan
Bethlehem

Brian Grimm
Martin Memorial Library

Katie Hildman
Rochester Public Library

Rachel Hoff
Dimmick Memorial Library

Marianne Hooper
Tredyffrin Township Libraries

Jessica Jordan
Slippery Rock University

Patricia Joyce
Pittston Memorial Library

Jennifer Kendall
University of Alberta

Andrea Kiehl
Ford City

Anne Langley
Pennsylvania State University

Linda Lillard
Clarion University of PA, Department of Library Science

Amber Martin
Clarion University of PA

Kelsey Means
Kutztown University

Veronica Milliner
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Meredith Murray
Pierce College

Kathryn Mysers
Community Library of Allegheny Valley

Marion Parkinson
Free Library of Philadelphia

Christopher Raab
Franklin and Marshall College

Christina Riehman-Murphy
Penn State Abington College

Kathryn Samson
Spring City

Lauren Skinner
Cleve J. Fredricksen Library

Marija Skoog
Conshohocken Free Library

Rebecca Smiley
Citizens Library

Kristin Smith-Gary
Tunkhannock Public Library

Stephanie Spaid
Carbondale Public Library

Jayme Stonbraker
Joseph & Elizabeth Shaw Public Library

Linda Strausser
Muncy Public Library

Janine Strohm
Clarion University of PA

Kenny Whitebloom
Digital Public Library of America

Beth Zovko
Allegheny County

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Summit University-Murphy Memorial Library
Clarks Summit

Marianna Community Public Library
Marianna

Grove City Community Library
Grove City

Ulysses Library Association
Ulysses
PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out this form completely

☐ New  ☐ Renewal

Send mail to: ☐ Home ☐ Institution

Last Name _____________________________________________First __________________________________________________Middle Initial _______________

Home Address _____________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________________________State ___________ZIP ___________________ County __________________________________________

Home Phone_________________________________Fax ________________________________ E-mail ________________________________________________

LIBRARY AFFILIATION (Chapter membership is determined by library affiliation)

Institution _____________________________________________ Title/Position ____________________________

Street Address _________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________________________State ___________ZIP ___________________ County __________________________________________

Phone ______________________________________Fax __________________________________E-mail ________________________________________________

Dues entitle members to choose any combination of divisions and round tables and/or serve as an officer or committee member.

DIVISIONS
☐ College & Research Libraries
☐ Public Library
☐ Special Librarians
☐ Trustee
☐ Youth Services

ROUND TABLES
☐ Buildings, Equipment & Furnishings
☐ Electronic Resources
☐ Library Administration & Management
☐ Library Support Staff
☐ Preservation
☐ Rural & Small Libraries
☐ Teaching, Learning & Technology
☐ Technical Services

☐ I would like to participate in PaLA activities as a volunteer.
☐ I am willing to serve PaLA or a PaLA unit as an elected officer.

I wish to have my name omitted from any non-library-related mailings

MEMBERSHIP DUES
☐ Regular Member—Library staff, including professional, paraprofessional and technology-related ($3 for each $1,000 gross salary; minimum dues $25; maximum dues $165. Example: Gross salary of $23,400 = $70 dues) $______

☐ Half Price New Member Special—First-time regular member only (divide dues in half/minimum dues $25) $______

☐ Continuing Retired Librarian—Retired member (was a PaLA member for a minimum of 25 continuous years at the time of retirement) No Charge

☐ Other—Trustee, retired librarian, lay person, student (EXCEPT students who are full-time library employees) $25 $______

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
☐ Scholarship Fund No Charge

☐ Ex Libris Society—Annual Giving Society/$100 minimum contribution $______

PaLA BULLETIN IN PAPER FORMAT
☐ Surcharge for paper format $22 $______

Total Amount Enclosed $______

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☐ Check payable to PaLA
☐ Charge my credit card ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Card # ____________

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The card verification # is the 3- or 4-digit number located on the back of your card in the signature block. Providing this information helps us verify the authenticity of this transaction.

Signature ________________________________________________________________________

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## Calendar

### April

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>South Central Chapter Leadership Meeting</td>
<td>PaLA Headquarters</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>PA Forward Evaluation Committee Meeting</td>
<td>PaLA Headquarters</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Membership Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>PA Forward Partnership &amp; New Resources Meeting</td>
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<td>South Central Chapter Leadership Meeting</td>
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### May

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<td>4</td>
<td>PR Marketing Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>PA Forward Health Literacy Team Meeting</td>
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<td>West Branch Chapter Spring Workshop</td>
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<td>Juniata Conemaugh Chapter Spring Workshop</td>
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<td>South Central Chapter Spring Workshop</td>
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<td>Lehigh Valley Chapter Spring Workshop</td>
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<td>College &amp; Research Division Spring</td>
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<td>SEPLA Annual Support Staff Workshop</td>
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<td>PaLA Board &amp; Council Meeting</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Northeast Chapter Spring Workshop</td>
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<td>Membership Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>PALS for Non Degree Librarians</td>
<td>Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel</td>
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<td>12-15</td>
<td>PALS Workshop</td>
<td>Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel</td>
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<td>15-18</td>
<td>PALS Workshop for Directors</td>
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