2020 Census: Where Are You Sleeping on April 1?

BY CHRISTI BUKER

While it certainly takes more than one day to count everyone, the decennial Census, as mandated by the U.S. Constitution, is founded on the question, “Where were/are you sleeping on April 1?” I’m not trying to oversimplify the carefully crafted questionnaire by swapping the word sleeping for living. However, many adults who are in the practice of filing annual tax returns would default to answering Census questions from a tax return perspective. Unfortunately, this is not the correct approach. For the 2020 Census, it is important that everyone is counted, and no one is counted multiple times. So, the Census questionnaire is based on your living LOCATION on April 1.

In my role as a member of Governor Wolf’s 2020 Complete Count Commission, we have been discussing how to achieve an accurate count. It is estimated that Pennsylvania receives over $2,000 per person, per year in federal funding for services that range from schools, to transportation, health services, and even libraries. If just one person is missed in the count, we would lose $2,000 times 10 years, or a loss of $20,000!

Librarians are the second most trusted profession and our goal of providing accurate and trusted information to our residents is particularly important during the Census. Certainly, the authoritative site is www.2020census.gov which includes information in additional languages, a sample of the mailed invitation letter to complete the Census, and a sample questionnaire. Pennsylvania has also launched pages at www.pa.gov/census that contain downloadable graphics, posters and flyers that you can post in your library. Over the past few months of our Commission meetings, there are some points that I think bear highlighting for the library community.

College students will be counted through a special unit of the Census Bureau, and parents/guardians should NOT declare them at their house unless they are a commuter student. When you consider the location of people, keep in mind how many out-of-state students attend PA colleges and universities. Those out-of-state students impact local roads and hospitals for example, and communities need to plan and receive funding to support that infrastructure.

Do you have a roommate? The Census invitation that will be mailed to each house, apartment, and mobile home will have an ID for that address so that you can accurately respond to questions online. One person should complete the Census for the entire house. Yes, that means that you will need to have the birthdate, race and origin information, and relationship to the others in the house.

There was a lot of concern over what the actual Census questions would be. In the end, there is no citizenship question! We recognize the importance of protecting our privacy. So, you may be interested to know that Census workers must agree to a life-time oath not to reveal any private data to anyone, or any other agency of the U.S. government. Yes, there is a gender question requiring male or female response. In the question to identify family or non-related living arrangements, it does offer response options that include same sex spouses and relationships but there are no specific LGBTQ questions.

Understanding the complexities of Pennsylvania school district boundaries, townships, boroughs and related map issues is not necessary to accurately complete the Census. The Pennsylvania State Data Center at the Penn State University, Harrisburg, campus has been working with municipalities for the last year to verify each address, and even new housing under construction. If we use the ID for the address where we receive mail, defining your address/location is easy.

Technology matters in 2020! This is the first time that the Census will have an online completion option which is the preferred method for data collection. Those without internet or computers at home can certainly come to the library to complete the questionnaire. We anticipate that your public access computers may be extra busy in April!

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As I write this, it is the beginning of the holiday season. As you read this — we’ve been in the midst of another Pennsylvania winter for months. I have to confess — I am not one who enjoys winter. I am one of those who counts down the days until summer and savors every second of the warm weather. At times, I wonder why I moved back to a state where the snow can fly as early as October and as late as April from a state where snow was rare (Texas). If winter in Pennsylvania were like a Hallmark Christmas movie, where the characters never have to shovel two feet of snow or worry about driving on unplowed roads, I think I could get behind this whole winter thing. Sitting in front of a warm, cozy fire and reading all winter - that would be the life. Alas, life and work have other plans for me.

I am honored to be serving as President for the year 2020. What an important year lies ahead of us. Our country will hold its 24th decennial census, we will vote in the 59th presidential election, and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th amendment, which granted equal voting rights to women. The significance of these three milestones cannot be emphasized enough. The outcomes of some of these will have a lasting impact on our society for decades to come. Libraries can and should play a large role in educating and encouraging our communities to participate in the census and the election — two of the most democratic institutions our country has. I am really excited to see the ways libraries engage their communities surrounding these important milestones. Focus will take many shapes and forms in the different facets of my role as president of the Association. On a personal level, focus will mean making sure I soak in every moment. It is too easy to get caught up in what lies ahead and forget to be in the moment. I want to enjoy every minute of traveling the state, meeting all of you, and learning about the amazing things libraries are doing. I will also work in support of the Association’s focus on three strategic priorities: financial sustainability, clear communication, and greater awareness and visibility to ensure continuous improvement. Lastly, I am eager to guide the Association in focusing on diversity in the coming year. One way we will be doing that is with our new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion standing committee. Keep an eye out for updates on the vital work of that standing committee.

Focus will take many shapes and forms in the different facets of my role as president of the Association. On a personal level, focus will mean making sure I soak in every moment. It is too easy to get caught up in what lies ahead and forget to be in the moment. I want to enjoy every minute of traveling the state, meeting all of you, and learning about the amazing things libraries are doing. I will also work in support of the Association’s focus on three strategic priorities: financial sustainability, clear communication, and greater awareness and visibility to ensure continuous improvement. Lastly, I am eager to guide the Association in focusing on diversity in the coming year. One way we will be doing that is with our new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion standing committee. Keep an eye out for updates on the vital work of that standing committee.

“Libraries can and should play a large role in educating and encouraging our communities to participate in the census and the election — two of the most democratic institutions our country has. I am really excited to see the ways libraries engage their communities surrounding these important milestones....”

— Michele Legate

As I wait for the thawing of this unnecessary freezing of water (Carl Reiner is 100% right!), I would like to end by saying that I am honored and beyond excited to serve as President this year. I look forward to seeing our members (and members to be!) at chapter workshops, summits and the annual conference at Kalahari. Ask me what I am focusing on when you see me next time!

Michele has just finished reading “Mighty Justice: My Life in Civil Rights” by Dovey Johnson Roundtree and Katie McCabe.
Hello everyone. I would like to start this article by saying that I am excited to be working with PA Forward™ full time.

I believe that together we are going to be able to make such a great impact on libraries, librarians, and the general public in Pennsylvania. I am also looking forward to getting to meet more of you around the state in the coming year.

I have been involved with PA Forward™ for a long time. I was enthusiastic to be a part of the development of PA Forward™ in 2010 and 2011, when I was President-Elect and President of the Association. I felt the power of the language and the message of PA Forward™. As I looked at the program, it seemed obvious that these concepts were a strong foundation upon which a communication plan could be built to shout the value and impact of all libraries. I was proud to be a Steering Committee member from 2012 until 2018, when I was term-limited and watched new leadership shape the program for the future.

Now I am back in the PA Forward™ community, happy to see the great developments made over the last few years, and look forward to helping develop the program further in the future.

In 2020, the program is still growing and evolving.

The Star Certification Program gives our libraries a concrete accolade to which they can point when asked how the library is helping their communities. In 2020, the program begins its annual recertification process. Brandi highlighted this in her last message. The recertification process allows Gold Star Libraries to point to the fact that the library is committed to the continuous improvement of their programming. This is similar to other certification programs such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Blue-Ribbon Schools.

The Training Committee provides workshops throughout the state. The trainers are happy to come to your library and to provide you with the training you need to use the PA Forward™ concepts. The Training Team is also committed to continuously improving what is offered.

“We believe that together we are going to be able to make such a great impact on libraries, librarians and the general public in Pennsylvania. I am also looking forward to getting to meet more of you around the state in the coming year.... I am reminded every day of our PA Forward™ tagline. Literacy is Power. Libraries provide the fuel!”

— Rob Lesher

We are looking at developing a training on how to communicate the value of your star library certification to your community. This training was asked for by our users and we are committed to providing you with the support you need.

The Work Group, which is made up of partners and librarians who act in the role of Subject Matter Experts (SME), has committed to updating the “Literacies in Action” recipe book. These recipes are high quality programs which were developed by librarians and carried out in libraries of all types in the state. The book gives you all the information you would need to carry out the program. The content of the program has been reviewed by our SMEs, so you can say that the programs which you carry out are peer-reviewed and have been verified as high-quality literacy education.

The focus of all this work is to make your life easier. We want to help you be effective in the work of creating complete citizens in our Commonwealth. Citizens who can function successfully in our evolving 21st Century society.

In conclusion, I am excited to be working on these initiatives and with you to make our communities better. I am reminded every day of our PA Forward™ tagline. Literacy is Power. Libraries provide the fuel!

Rob Lesher is the PA Forward™ Project Manager and is currently reading “Toil and Trouble” by Augusten Burroughs.
Welcome from the New Chair

BY EMILY MROSS

I am thrilled to serve as College and Research Division (CRD) Chair. I am looking forward to the excellent opportunities for professional development and scholarship planned for this year. I have served on the CRD board for three years as publicity chair, and I am excited to take on additional responsibilities and give back to the division as Chair. As you may know, we had a number of leadership transitions in CRD last year. 2019 Chair Maggie Albro accepted a position at Clemson University and departed the board; Vice Chair/Chair-Elect Betsy Reichart also accepted a position out of state and resigned her position. I was elected as Vice Chair in the division election, but assumed the chair position immediately due to these departures. Bryan McGeary, Dickinson College, previously the CRD LSTA Funds Manager, will serve as Vice Chair for 2020. Carrie Bishop, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, previously a CRD Member-at-Large, was elected as LSTA Funds Manager.

A number of other board members have also transitioned from their roles, allowing us to welcome new members to the board: Emily Reed, Penn State Harrisburg, as Tech Coordinator; Katie Manwiller, DeSales University, as Member-at-Large; Kelly Banyas, University of Scranton, as Member-at-Large; Holly Jackson, Mansfield University, as Member-at-Large; and Alex Kirby, Penn Highlands Community College, as Member-at-Large. Though the board is currently fully staffed, please stay tuned for additional opportunities for involvement.

CRD was well-represented at the PaLA 2019 Annual Conference, with excellent sessions from our members on faculty outreach, open educational resources, essential literacies, and more. CRD Luncheon speaker Dr. Michele Villagran* gave an engaging talk on the importance of cultural intelligence in our libraries, and attendees received copies of White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo* for an online discussion as part of the Connect & Communicate Series in December. The CRD Board and I are gearing up for another year of discussion-starting and thought-provoking sessions at the Conference, the CRD Workshop, and online. I hope that you will join us in submitting ideas for all of these programs and participate in building our community of Pennsylvania academic librarians.

If you have expertise you would like to share with your colleagues, there are many ways to do so. Want to present in person? Calls for session proposals for the CRD Workshop and the 2020 PaLA Annual Conference at the Kalahari Resort will be available in January. Check palibraries.org and crdpala.org for all details as they are available. Prefer writing or online presentations? The CRD Blog is currently looking for new bloggers to write informal articles throughout 2020; if you’re interested, please contact CRD Social Media Coordinator Matthew McNelis at matthewmc1@pcom.edu. The Connect & Communicate Webinar Series (C&CS) is seeking proposals for 2020; contact Erin Burns, C&CS Chair at emb28@psu.edu for more details. Pennsylvania Libraries: Research and Practice (PaLRaP), CRD’s open access, peer-reviewed journal published twice annually, is also accepting manuscripts. Visit palrap.pitt.edu for submission guidelines.

I hope you will save the date and join us for two days of high-quality professional development May 18–19, 2020, at Penn State Harrisburg in Middletown, PA. On May 18, CRD will host Engaging with the ACRL Framework*, an ACRL Roadshow, and on May 19, the CRD Workshop*. Stay tuned for details about registration and lodging, available soon. If your chapter, division, or roundtable is hosting professional development programming this year, please visit crdpala.org/lsta for information about funding opportunities available through LSTA funds administered by CRD. We hope to make excellent and affordable educational opportunities available to all librarians in Pennsylvania through these funds.

CRD has helped me grow so much in just three short years. I hope that in my time as Chair, we can help others do the same. Consider applying for the PaLA Academy of Leadership Studies. CRD will sponsor one applicant for the program in May 2020. We are also open to your suggestions for program topics, speakers, and any other ideas you may have about what CRD can do to support academic librarians in Pennsylvania. Feel free to email us at any time with questions or ideas at crdpala@gmail.com.

Here’s to a great year of learning, growing, and library excellence! These projects are made possible, in part, by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, Governor.”

Support is also provided by the College and Research Division of the Pennsylvania Library Association. http://crdpala.org/

Emily Mross is the Business Librarian and Library Outreach Coordinator at Penn State Harrisburg Library. She is currently reading “Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland” by Patrick Radden Keefe.
PaLA 2020 Administrative Directory

OFFICERS
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Northeast Library District-Scranton Public Library
1st Vice President
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Penn State Mont Alto
2nd VP/2020 Kalahari Conf.
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Scranton Public Library
2nd VP/2021 Monroeville Conf.
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Monroeville Public Library
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Westmoreland Co. Federated Library System
Kelli Knapp
Warren Library System
Melissa Rowse
Degenstein Community Library
Joseph Sherwood
Chester Co. Library System

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Penn State University Libraries
Public Library
Bronwen Gamble
Reading Public Library
Youth Services
Tess Wilson
National Network of Libraries of Medicine — Middle Atlantic Region

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Juniata Conemaugh
Lehigh Valley
Natalie Arnold
Northwest
Janine Strohm
South Central
Briania Crum
Southeast
Melissa Kohl
Chester Co. Library
Southwest
Barb Zaborowski
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College
West Branch
Dana Brigandi

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Central Penn College
Conference Evaluation
Martina Soden
Scranton Public Library
Awards
Carrie Sturgill
Radnor Memorial Library
Intellectual Freedom
Sukrit Goswami
Haverford Township Free Library
Legislative Information
Kimberly Hrivnak, Co-Chair
Allegheny County
Tom Reinsfelder, Co-Chair
Penn State Mont Alto
Bulletin
Stephanie Campbell
Madigan Library-Pennsylvania College of Technology
Finance
Michele Legate
Northeast Library District-Scranton Public Library
Organization & Bylaws
Carrie Turner
Cheltenham Twp. Library System

Public Relations & Marketing
Claire Williams
Huntingdon Co. Library
Scholarship
Katie Martin
Blair Co. Library System
Nominations
TBD
Ex Libris Society
Jack Sulzer, Co-Chair
Penn State University, Retired
Janis Stubbs, Co-Chair
Delaware Co. Libraries, Retired
PA Forward Steering
Joann Eichenlaub
Madigan Library-Pennsylvania College of Technology
Leadership Development (PALS)
Jessica Miller
Washington County Library System
Website
Melissa Rowse
Degenstein Community Library

ROUND TABLE CHAIRS
Digital Resources
TBD
Teaching, Learning & Technology
Samantha Bise
Central Penn College
Rural & Small Libraries
Leslie Swope
St. Mary's Public Library
Technical Services
Anitra Gates
Raymond M. Blasco, MD — Memorial Library

PaLA HEADQUARTERS
Executive Director
Christi Buker
Meetings & Finance Manager
Kim Snyder Wise
PA Forward Program Manager
Rob Lesher
Administrative Assistant-Membership Coordinator
Susan Wertz
Library funding will be impacted by the Census count. For public libraries in Pennsylvania, you have a defined service area that has boundaries and distinct population numbers. Our communities may have people moving in or out. The average age of our community may have shifted, and families or single adult demographics as well as ethnic diversity may have changed dramatically in the last 10 years. Knowing who lives in your community will help you to provide appropriate library services for their needs. Do you need to plan for more children’s materials or programming for seniors? An accurate Census will help you.

Other notes about the Census —

- The U.S. Census Bureau needs to hire a huge number of local people in every area and they will continue to hire for the next few months. These jobs are paying living wages, and while they are temporary, the schedules can be flexible or part-time so consider working for the Census!

- Children are often undercounted! This may be due to split custody issues, or grandparents as temporary caregivers, just to name a few reasons. Consider putting up posters in your children’s rooms to encourage responses!

- Rural areas (most of Pennsylvania’s counties are designated rural) can be hard to get accurate counts. Encourage your neighbors to help spread the word and complete the Census.

- The invitation in the mail to complete the Census should be received by April 1. You can complete this online, or by phone, and should do so as quickly as possible. Additional reminders will be mailed to you. If you haven’t completed by May, official Census Takers will start knocking on doors to ask you the questions and complete it via a secured tablet they will carry. A paper form will only be mailed for completion after multiple other attempts to gain completion. You cannot request or download a paper form for submission.

- Want teaching tools? The US Census Bureau has a section just for educators with activities, games, maps and lessons that show how statistics and data are used as well as interesting insights about our state and communities!

Awareness and participation in the Census are vitally important to libraries, our community, and Pennsylvania! Please help your community with accurate information, technology support, and encouragement to participate — #CivicLiteracy!

Christi Buker is the executive director of the Pennsylvania Library Association. You can reach her at christi@palibraries.org. She finished listening to Shonda Rhimes’ “Year of Yes” and encourages any introverts out there to listen and be inspired!
PERSONAL MEMBERS

Taylor Baugher
Van Pelt Library

Emma Blottenberger
Adams County, PA

Michael Brenneman
Prospect, PA

Sue Burd Greensburg
Hempfield Area Library

Storm Camara
PA Department of Education

Rachel Casey
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North Pocono Public Library

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Library System of Lancaster County
# 2020 Leadership Development Workshops

Pennsylvania Library Association’s Academy of Leadership Studies (PALS) is proud to announce the details for our three leadership development workshops. Applications opened in January and space is limited.

## Choosing Leadership: You Don’t Need a Title to Be a Leader

**Monday, April 20, 2020**  
10:30 am–3:30 pm  
Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA

This one-day workshop is specifically designed for non-degreed librarians and support staff who are looking for ways to cultivate their leadership potential. Anyone who works in libraries, regardless of their position, is welcome to attend. This workshop is also open to students.*  
$35 for all attendees. PaLA Chapter sponsorships are available.

## Directors’ Institute

**May 31 - June 3, 2020**  
3 pm Sunday–1 pm Wednesday  
Best Western Premier in Harrisburg, PA

This 3.5-day workshop is designed for library directors and assistant directors. Participants will work closely with each other and with appointed mentors to explore what it means to be both a library director and a library leader. Special sessions with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries staff will highlight state-offered tools to help directors lead their libraries, no matter how big or how small. Participants must be currently employed as a director, assistant director, or branch manager at their respective libraries. There is no degree requirement for this workshop.**  
$400 for PaLA individual members.  
No PaLA Chapter sponsorship available but grant funding is available.  
$500 for non-members

## Leadership Academy

**June 3 - 6, 2020**  
3 pm Wednesday–1 pm Saturday  
Best Western Premier in Harrisburg, PA

This 3.5-day workshop is designed for MLS/MLIS degreed librarians whether they are recent graduates or have been in the field for years. Participants will work closely with each other and with appointed mentors to explore what it means to be a leader and how they can make the choice to be leaders for their libraries. Participation in this workshop requires a one-year commitment to an assigned PALS group project. All participants must be currently employed at a library and hold an appropriate degree from an American Library Association accredited school at the time of application.**  
$400 for PaLA individual members. PaLA Chapter sponsorships are available.  
$500 for non-members.

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* Includes continental breakfast, lunch, handouts.  
** Includes all meals, lodging, custom content, supplies and professional facilitation.  
** This program has a direct value of more than $1100 per person!

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This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, Governor.
A Year of Learning as an Emerging Leader

BY ROBBIN DEGERATU
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, CENTRE COUNTY LIBRARY & HISTORICAL MUSEUM
ALA EMERGING LEADERS CLASS OF 2019

I was honored to be selected to serve as the Pennsylvania Library Association’s participant in the American Library Association’s Emerging Leaders Program in 2019. Read on to learn about my experience.

The first lesson that I learned as an Emerging Leader was the importance of wearing good shoes. As I hobbled through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport with blisters on the bottoms of both of my feet (courtesy of a 45 minute connection and a race through the airport in Philadelphia), all I could do was wonder how I was going to make it through ALA’s Midwinter Meeting wearing shoes that had betrayed me. Little did I know that this would be the first of many valuable professional experiences that I would encounter throughout the course of my time as an Emerging Leader, and that the right attitude was essential to making it work.

My first day of orientation as an Emerging Leader was a whirlwind: introductions, panels of experienced library leaders, an hour dedicated to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and an overview of the American Library Association. And this was all before we started thinking about our all-important Emerging Leaders projects. These projects, designed to drive home the importance of service to the profession as well as the realities of group work across national borders and time zones, are the crux of every Emerging Leaders program. With five other librarians, I was charged with developing a directory of resources for library professionals in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion on behalf of the Learning Round Table. It was an unwieldy task, but we were up to the challenge.

After returning to Pennsylvania at the conclusion of Midwinter (which was informative and overwhelming and the best professional experience I’d had to date), our group promptly got to work by developing a list of topics within the realm of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) that we felt were important for library staff members to address. After that, we completed the step that we lovingly referred to as the “brain dump,” in which we populated a tremendous listing of speakers and free training resources that can be used to facilitate professional development in the topical areas that we targeted: accessibility, indigeneration, LGBTQ+ concerns, race/ethnicity, and the nebulous “other.” The remaining months of our project time were dedicated to contacting and verifying speakers, developing recommendations for libraries in using the directory, coding and formatting the resources, and generally wrapping everything up. Our team was geographically and professionally varied, which naturally made some portions of the group project trying at times, but persevering, staying positive, and holding everyone (most importantly myself) accountable for their part helped make the project a success. Attitude really is everything.

By the time my cohort arrived in Washington, DC for the ALA Annual Conference, we had developed a working dynamic that capitalized on our respective strengths and experience, and made our wrap-up day for Emerging Leaders seamless. During our wrap-up day, our Emerging Leaders sessions focused on leadership development and sustaining professional energy, as well as working toward social justice in leadership. We spent our afternoon presenting our projects in open poster sessions that were attended by hundreds of conference-goers, all of whom seemed thrilled about the easily-accessible EDIA Professional Development Resource Directory that our cohort developed.

“I am immeasurably grateful for the sponsorship of the Pennsylvania Library Association that allowed me to serve as an Emerging Leader this year, and I am excited to help champion equity, diversity, and inclusion within our profession.”
— Robbin Degeratu

Continued on page 11
Having now ‘emerged’, I embarked on the rest of the Annual Conference with the goal of absorbing as many ideas as I could manage within a few short days (wearing better shoes this time, lesson learned). I had another outstanding conference experience, learning about libraries as entrepreneurial hubs, Controlled Digital Lending, legal issues in public libraries, services provided to the public by some of our government libraries, and so much more.

My return to central Pennsylvania coincided with two bits of exciting news: first, that I would have the opportunity to share what I learned about promoting EDIA in professional development as a lightning talk at the PaLA Annual Conference in Erie; second, I learned that I would have the opportunity to serve on PaLA’s new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force. There was something immensely satisfying about knowing that I would be able to operationalize my Emerging Leaders experience right away, and to serve the Association, which gave me this incredible opportunity.

I am immeasurably grateful for the sponsorship of the Pennsylvania Library Association that allowed me to serve as an Emerging Leader this year, and I am excited to help champion equity, diversity, and inclusion within our profession. I would also be remiss if I didn’t note my thanks to the five dedicated librarians who tackled the EDIA Emerging Leaders project with me: Jina DuVernay (Emory University), Amber Loveless (Queens Public Library), Lorissa Macleod (Norquest College), Catherine Manci (Savannah College of Art and Design), and Mimosa Shah (Skokie Public Library). Thanks to the Association, Emerging Leaders, and my colleagues, 2019 has been an incredible year of learning for me, from the mundane (always wear trusty broken-in shoes to conference) to the abstract (how will equity, diversity, and inclusion inform our profession in the years to come?). I am excited to see what the future brings, and to help effect positive change in communities around the Commonwealth.

Robbin Degeratu, Administrative Director, Centre County Library & Historical Museum is currently reading “The Priory of the Orange Tree” by Samantha Shannon and “Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat” by Samin Nosrat.
Making Magic: Creating Programs and Spaces for All Ages with The Boy Who Lived

BY CLAIRE WILLIAMS

In 2019, the Huntingdon County Library celebrated the enduring love of Harry Potter and the 20th anniversary of the release of the first book with a new space, a celebration of the series, and a popular themed escape room.

“Harry Potter is all about wonder and magic,” said Library Director Lisa Erickson. “Reading and libraries have their own kind of magic.”

Early in the year, a space under a staircase near the children’s areas that had previous been used for storage was converted into a themed space by a local artist. This was unveiled at a packed Harry Potter celebration.

“Jennifer Powell, our former youth services manager, had always said we should do something Harry Potter-themed there because it’s the perfect little nook,” said Claire Williams, library marketing coordinator. “Our director, Lisa Erickson, thought it was a great idea and worked with local artist Don Dietz to bring the idea to life. Patrons of all ages have really loved it and it’s not at all uncommon to hear someone ask a friend ‘have you seen the Harry Potter room yet?’ when they come in.”

The room was unveiled at a party that drew several hundred attendees and featured unique community partnerships, including a physics show put on by the Juniata College Chapter of the Society of Physics Students with a variety of ‘magical’ experiments including liquid nitrogen ice cream.

“Our community has really responded to Harry Potter events that we’ve hosted this year,” said Youth Services Coordinator Shelley Merrell. “Patrons love to come in and use and look at the Harry Potter space and our escape room was so popular we decided to open additional dates.”

In December, the library created and hosted a Holidays at Hogwarts Escape Room. In the half-hour escape room, groups of visitors worked to enter the Gryffindor Common Room for a holiday party and to avoid detention for being out after hours.

“It’s wonderful seeing patrons of all ages work through the puzzles; it’s really interesting to see how everyone thinks and to see people get excited about all the different Easter eggs in the room.” said Williams. “We hosted a Stranger Things escape room for adults earlier in the year and both events attracted groups who may not have visited the library in years, so it’s great to be able to bring them into the library and show them all the great things we have going on.”

Claire Williams is the Marketing Coordinator at Huntingdon County Library. She is currently reading “Whispers Under Ground” by Ben Aaronovitch and “The Rise of Magicks” by Nora Roberts.
Pennsylvania Library Association Awards – Get a Head Start!

BY CARRIE STURGILL
HEAD OF YOUTH SERVICES, RADNOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY
2019-20 AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

The deadline for nominations for the 2020 PaLA Awards will be set for mid- to late-July (stay tuned for more details). It may seem far away now, but it’s never too soon to start considering someone you might want to nominate!

A summary of the award categories:

• **Certificates of Merit**
  For contributions during the last five years

• **Elected Official Award**
  For exemplary support of libraries

• **New Librarian Honors Award**
  For contributions of a librarian who has been in the profession fewer than six years

• **Trustee of the Year Award**
  For a public library trustee who has shown outstanding leadership and service to library development

• **Library of the Year Award**
  For an individual library that has shown excellence in community service, innovation, staff development, and support of the Association within the previous year

• **Distinguished Service Award**
  Highest award given, recognizes exceptional meritorious service to PA libraries

The nomination survey link will open this spring. Keep an eye on your inbox for more information to come! Contact your 2020 Awards Committee Co-Chairs with any questions:

  **Carrie Sturgill**: Radnor Memorial Library
csturgill@radnrlibrary.org

  **Chris Snyder**: Bucks County Free Library
snyderc@buckslib.org

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**Emerging Leaders Class of 2020**

*Congratulations to*

American Library Association
Emerging Leaders Class of 2020
Pennsylvania Library Association sponsored participant

**Katherine Dannehl**

*Digital Services Librarian, York County Libraries*

*Carrie Sturgill is currently reading “Supernova” by Marissa Meyer.*
### JANUARY

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>PaLA - 2020 Kalahari Conference Planning Meeting</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>PaLA - Public Library Division Meeting</td>
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<td>PA Forward Leadership Check-in</td>
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<td>PaLA - West Branch Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>PA Forward Work Group Meeting</td>
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<td>PaLA - Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr Day</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Northeast Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>PaLA - Intellectual Freedom Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>PaLA - Coffee with Christi; Chapters</td>
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<td>Welcome Reception at ALA Midwinter</td>
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### FEBRUARY

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<td>PaLA - Nominations Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>PaLA - Board Meeting (Snow Day)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Technical Services Round Table Meeting</td>
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<td>PaLA - Office Closed for President's Day</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>Coffee with Christi; Council</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>PA Forward Training Team Meeting</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>PaLA - Legislative Committee Meeting</td>
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### APRIL

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<td>PaLA - Legislative Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>PaLA - Choosing Leadership by PALS</td>
<td>Williamsport</td>
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