RESILIENCE & REINVENTION

Submitted by SDLA Book Marks Editor

This year’s conference will be special. South Dakota Librarians will meet at the SDLA conference in person for the first time since we met in Spearfish in 2019. Our two virtual conferences, 2020 "Libraries Lead" and 2021 "How to Make Yourself Future-Ready in an Uncertain Future" went off (mostly) without a hitch due to the persistence and organization skills of Julie Erickson and our SDLA Executive Board and committees.

This year, we will meet in Brookings at the Swifel Center, our original location for the 2020 conference-- but we won’t be just picking up where we left off. Everyone, South Dakota Librarians included, have been through it these last two years and that’s why the theme this year is "Resilience & Reinvention".

Our first conference keyote is Axton Betz-Hamilton, an expert in identify theft and professor at South Dakota State University. Betz-Hamilton has a Master’s degree in Consumer Sciences and Retailing and a PhD in Human Development and Family Studies, focusing on child identity theft and elder financial exploitation perpetrated by family members.


Library Journal praised her work, saying, ""Betz-Hamilton expertly blends true crime and memoir in this tale of family, lies, and identity...a brave, candid examination of her painful past [and] a poignant and fascinating exploration of identity theft." Her work certainly reflects Resilience and Reinvention.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shari Theroux

This summer flashed by and it seems like it was really only about a week long. In my last days as President of SDLA, I have reflected a lot about what our organization is and what it does, as well as what my term has meant to me.

To me, SDLA is about opportunities to learn and grow. Along with our annual conference, SDLA helps to fund other professional development opportunities for members. Our committees are a great way to meet other librarians and work toward common goals in the profession.

Our Library Issues committee works with our state legislators to let them know our points of view on different matters, and the intellectual freedom committee works to track book challenges in the state. Our lobbyist keeps us informed about bills that may be harmful to libraries as well as testifying on our behalf about them during legislative sessions. These are just some examples of what SDLA does for libraries in our state. If you are interested in furthering the librarian profession in any way or advocating for libraries in general, consider being on a committee for SDLA or even running for office. I have found it to be a very rewarding experience and intend to continue to stay involved with the organization after my term is done. Joining a committee is a good first step to get an inside look at how the organization works. At the conference this year we will be having a session about SDLA committees; if you think you may be interested in a committee check out our session! We can explain what they are about and help answer questions.

Speaking of conference, our first live conference since 2019 is next month! It will take place in Brookings on September 28-30. If you haven’t already registered, check out the website and see what we’re offering this year. We have a great group of speakers on a wide range of topics. This year’s dessert reception will be at the Children’s Museum of South Dakota, which is a lovely place you will definitely want to come back to. We are very excited to be back in person this year and hope to see you all there!

Shari

Colleagues,

I am so pleased to announce that George Seamon has accepted the position as South Dakota’s new State Librarian and started in the position July 25th, 2022.

George has been the regional librarian of the Northwest Kansas Library System for the past 11 years. He has an excellent track record of helping local libraries and city councils make modern transformations to their services, has led strategic planning for libraries across Kansas over the last decade, and is a strong thinker and caring leader. Additionally, he has experience with budgeting, policy development, team building, advocacy with local legislators and local government, developing partnerships, and more.

--Brenda Hemmelman, Access and Development Services Manager, South Dakota State Library
RESILIENCE & REINVENTION CONTINUED...

Our Thursday Keynote Speaker is Anton Truer, who will speak on "Navigating Culture Wars & Public Libraries: Building Bridges and Communities."

Dr. Anton Treuer is a Professor of Ojibew at Bemidji State University and author of nineteen books. Treuer’s published works include *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask* and *The Language Warrior’s Manifesto: How to Keep Our Languages Alive No Matter the Odds*.

His equity, education, and cultural work has put him on a path of service around the region, the nation, and the world. His SDLA Keynote will be focus on the public library’s role within our current contentious political and cultural atmosphere.

Keith Theroux will wrap our conference as the final keynote speaker. Theroux has recently retired from a 21-year career in law enforcement. Over the years he completed special training as a school resource officer, DARE instructor, security assessment specialist, ALICE instructor and more. He has a strong interest in community policing and crime prevention; his presentation will focus on library security assessment.

This year’s conference is full of keynotes and sessions to inspire Resilience and Reinvention. Your experience won’t be all academic, however. We are particularly excited to visit this year’s venue for the dessert reception-- The South Dakota Children’s Museum-- and have some FUN.

The museum opened in 2010 as the first Children’s Museum in the state of South Dakota. On July 30, the museum welcomed its one millionth guest to the revitalized 1936 brick school building. The Children’s Museum of South Dakota promotes learning for children [and librarians?] of all ages and abilities through interactive, informal, and hands-on exhibits.

The SDLA board and the local arrangements committee is thrilled to have the old gang (and some new members) back together. We hope to see you in Brookings!
CROW CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES NEW LIBRARIAN

Submitted by Francine Hall, Superintendent Crow Creek Tribal School

Crow Creek Tribal School District is pleased to announce that Marilyn Mendenhall has joined the staff as the K-12 District Librarian. Mendenhall comes to the district with 23 years of school and public library experience.

This summer Mendenhall was chosen to participate in the Library of Congress’s Teaching With Primary Sources. She will also be a mentor teacher with the Wo’ookiyé Project for the district.

DOWNLOAD THE SCHED APP

Submitted by Bookmarks Editor

This year SDLA is using the Sched app instead of printing out a conference booklet. The app is cheaper than printing and saves paper. We will have few printed schedules for convenience available at conference.

You can view the schedule on a desktop computer here: https://sdl2022.sched.com/

Download the Sched App from Google Play or the Apple Store. Sign up for a free Sched account. Search for the SDLA Conference: SDLA2022

Your Sched account allows you choose your sessions and create a personalized schedule. You can also view the entire schedule, session descriptions, speaker info, and session documents. Sched is integrated with our Twitter account.
The Rapid City Public Library is such a quiet and beautiful place. When you go to the kids’ area, they have birds. They have the chirp of a dove singing its beautiful song. You can hear the typing of people searching for book on the computer. The library is downtown. They have over 260,000 books, which is a lot! You can learn about anything you want to.

Anything you want to know about books, just ask the front desk. The library has six sections: the board game section, the 3-D printing section, the teen books, the computer section, the little kids’ section, and the adult section. The library was built in 1886. Did you know that they have teaching rooms where your tutor can teach you as well? The library has all sorts of things you can do.

My sister and I would spend hour after hour in the library, she would read books to me, and we would laugh and laugh. The library changes lots of hearts. Another moment is my grandma would take me there and we would have a blast. You just don’t know what will happen at the library.

The library should be preserved because people are learning to read and reading to learn. The library is filled with the joy of kids that want to read. Kids love watching the little birds. It is an exciting place for learning. They have books for everyone. I know that the library will keep standing. I just know it. The library is an amazing place. Kids learn and adults do too. When you check out you have a smile on your face and I don’t know what I would do without it.
MEET CUSTER COUNTY LIBRARY'S NEW DIRECTOR

Submitted by Doris A. Mertz

“The Custer County Library has a new director, Jessie Phelps. Born and raised in Kentucky, Jessie earned her master’s degree in Library Science from the University of Kentucky. Her previous employment includes working for the National Park Service and the Louisville Free Public Library.

She is excited to work with the wonderful library staff and continue Doris Ann Mertz’s legacy of providing exemplary service to Custer County. Jessie, and her husband, Dave, have an 18-month-old daughter and reside in Custer.”

SUMMER AT WEBSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by Teri Ewalt

We finished our Summer Reading program recently with a party at the Webster pool and picnic at the park. We had 87 kids in grades PK-6 sign up for the program. We kicked off the program by hosting Minnesota author, Kevin Lovegreen who spoke to over 250 students, teachers and volunteers about his books. He is an author of books based on his experiences in hunting and fishing. This program was well received by all as we have many students who participate in these activities and our Day County area is known for these activities.

At our summer program several programs were presented including: Recycling program in Webster and what items can be recycled. All kids were able to plant a flower in recycled containers to take home.

Game, Fish and Parks brought over their portable fish tank with live fish and turtles. They also had mounts of fish which they showed the kids how to identify the species. They also talked about the invasive zebra mussels and how they are affecting the lakes. They also had casting rods which the kids had their chance to do grass fishing with plastic fish.

SD Extension office personnel brought water beads and helped the kids make stress balls and had access to sensory buckets with the beads.

Ft. Sisseton employees assisted the kids in making sun catchers and read a story about mermaids and went home with mermaid tears (colored stones).

All the kids completing the program were rewarded with several prizes which included a new book.
This past spring, South Dakota Braille and Talking Book manager Kate Kosior received an email from an eager patron named Blaine Jemming, a junior at the South Dakota School for the Blind and Vision Impaired in Aberdeen. After visiting the library last summer, Blaine had decided it was his dream place to work, so in his email inquired about the possibility of doing a summer internship. Kate was intrigued by the idea, but also knew that owing to patron confidentiality concerns and a lack of a structured internship program at the state library, it would be difficult. She brought it up with the rest of the staff, and everyone agreed that a full summer internship was not likely. However, the staff wanted to give Blaine the opportunity to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes and offered him the chance to spend two intensive days shadowing all staff members as they went about their regular duties.

Blaine and his grandmother, Theresa Jemming, agreed to the dates presented and Blaine arrived at the library on August 9 for the start of his two-day shadowing experience. Although Blaine had been to the library before, the building had recently undergone some major renovations, and Blaine had to re-learn his way around. That was the first difference he’d noticed from his previous visit.

On the first day, Blaine spent part of the morning with director Kate to learn about administration of the program, which he first thought was ‘just observing the staff as they do their jobs’. He enjoyed hearing about Kate’s background and how her degrees help her with her job at the library. Blaine then participated in a monthly staff meeting, where he found it interesting that everyone got to share their own perspectives and idea for the program. Afterwards, he went and learned more about the equipment distribution end of the program with Barb Nickolas, who sends and receives talking book players and items like earphones to patrons. Blaine said, “I was surprised to hear all about what she does before the machines ever go out!”

At the end of the shadowing experience, Blaine was asked if knowing all the parts of the different jobs that needed to be done, had it changed his mind about wanting to work at the library. He replied with a big smile, “Nope! This is definitely what I want to do someday!”

After lunch, Blaine felt confident enough to send Theresa (who the entire staff called “Grandma”) off for a relaxing afternoon while he made his way into the recording studio with Josh Easter, who runs the volunteer program and studios statewide. Blaine had the opportunity to record the book Go to Sleep, Groundhog! by Judy Cox, and follow through from reading to editing. He thought it was ‘cool’ how all the South Dakota books get created and approved, but the most surprising thing about his visit was just how long it takes to turn a picture book into an approved audio version for distribution. While the completed product was just about seven minutes long, it took Blaine and Josh a couple of hours to complete the project!

On the second day, Blaine got put to work. He spent the morning with distribution guru Mike Smith, who taught Blaine all the ins and outs of creating and mailing out cartridges full of books for BTB patrons to read. When they finished the day’s run, they reversed the process and checked books in that had arrived in the day’s mail. By the end of the two-hour session, Blaine stated, “It was interesting and fun, but I was ready to be done. It was a little boring!” he added with a laugh.

For the rest of the time, reader advisors Lynda Lowin and Lynette Thum stepped up to show Blaine the ropes of being a reader advisor, which he had identified as his dream job, as he would “love to be able to help patrons.” He was impressed at how knowledgeable the reader advisors are when it comes to individual patrons and their reading preferences, signing them up for new services like NFB-NEWSLINE, and keeping tabs on which patrons are due for service checks. Finally, Blaine got to participate in the recycling program, helping to ship back outdated cassette tapes from ‘the old days’ of the library.

Blaine and Grandma also attended a team lunch with new State Librarian George Seamon, took photos, and by the end of those two days, were navigating the library like they’d always been there.
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