SDLA LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

Submitted by SDLA PR Committee

The SDLA PR Committee was thrilled to award Librarian of the Year to a deserving School Librarian, Jean Kirschenman of Brookings High School. We know that school librarians are frequently the only library professional in a building and their teacher colleagues likely don’t know about the SDLA Awards as an avenue for professional recognition.

Jean has worked at Brooking High School since 2009. Previously, she was the librarian at Elkton School District. Jean is also involved in SDLA as a book award committee member.

Her nominator had this to say: “To say Jean Kirschenman is beloved at Brookings High School would be an understatement. The library is located at the center of BHS--the heart of the building, if you will. I could not come up with a more fitting metaphor for Jean Kirshenman if I tried; she is the quite literally the heart of BHS.

Jean works tirelessly to instill a love of reading and learning in every student she encounters. Whether it's through engaging lesson plans or vibrant book displays, she is always encouraging and promoting a strong culture that supports and appreciates reading.”

Thank you, Jean, for all you do for the Brookings community and South Dakota libraries!
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sarah Jones-Lutter

I love Valentine’s Day. Whether I was single or in a relationship, I’ve always looked forward to February 14th. Maybe it is because my parents always celebrated the holiday with me. Maybe it is because I’ve been a hopeless romantic ever since I saw “The Princess Diaries”. So, in honor of Valentine’s Day (and Library Lovers’ Day), I’ve decided to write a love letter to libraries inspired by Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. I hope this admission of love will encourage all of you to openly and loudly share your love of libraries with your communities. It is only through promoting our programs and services that we can showcase everything we do as librarians!

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee because thee are always free,
And constantly filled with fun activities.
The superhero librarians who are busy all the days.
Running programs like yoga or taking books on a blind date,
Solving a murder mystery or teaching a new hobby.
These events are run by librarians happily,
Who work together and offer unlimited praise.
Thee are filled with books, providing an opportunity.
For patrons to not only read but socialize.
To serve as a place that welcomes the community.
A place where children can play along husband and wife,
Or a student can study for an exam quietly.
My beloved libraries, I shall but love thee all of my life.

Sarah
LEGISLATIVE BILLS CURRENTLY TRACKING

- Budget (Governor’s Recommended Budget for FY2025) (The State Library Budget begins on page 242)
  - The Governor’s proposed budget recommends level funding and staff levels for the Department of Education – Library Services.

- South Dakota Retirement System. The following are the bills proposed by the South Dakota Retirement System. A SDRS description of the bills and their impact can be found at: file:///C:/Users/erice/Downloads/2024%20Proposed%20Legislation%20Handout.pdf.

- SB 68 - Amend certain provisions pertaining to the South Dakota Retirement System to comply with federal law. Delivered to Governor on 2/14/24

- SB 69 – Amend certain provisions pertaining to the South Dakota Retirement System. Delivered to Governor on 2/14/24

- HB 1113 - Prohibit the use of state resources for the provision of lewd or lascivious content. This bill would restrict the Board of Regents, and any institutions managed by the board, from the developing, facilitating, hosting, or promoting lewd or lascivious content. House State Affairs Passed Amendment 113A, Deferred to 41st Legislative Day on 1/24/24.

- HB 1178 – Prohibit the Board of Regents or any institution under its control from using state resources for obscene live conduct. This bill utilizes similar language as to HB 1113, but is more limited to only “obscene live conduct” as defined in SDCL 22-24-27. First read in Senate and Referred to Senate State Affairs 2/14/24

- HB 1197 – Require the publication of measures taken to restrict the access of obscene materials by minors. This bill would require school and public libraries to limit the ability of minors to gain access to obscene matter or material (as defined by current law) and have a local policy establishing measures to restrict minors from accessing obscene matter or materials. Rather than establishing a statewide policy, this bill would have the policy developed at the local level to allow policies that work best for the communities. Referred to Senate Education 2/13/24

- HB 1237 – Establish provisions related to the rating of books available in school districts. This bill requires each school district to provide a minimum age-appropriate or grade-appropriate rating for newly acquired books as of July 1, 2024, and all books by September 1, 2026. Withdrawn by Sponsor 2/8/24.

- SB 184 – Expand provisions regarding the protection of minors from certain exhibitions. This expands the criminal offense of disseminating materials harmful to minors to include drag performances, as defined in the bill. Sent to 41st day by Senate Education Committee 2/13/24.

Legislator Contacts:
You can find the contact information for your legislators at 2024 Legislators Listing.

Please do not hesitate to contact SDLA Lobbyist Eric Erikson at erice@cutlerlawfirm.com if you have any questions or if I can be of other assistance.

Please also let Eric know if you are planning to visit the capitol during session and he can work to introduce you to your legislator and provide an overview of the activities occurring in the Capitol on that day.
What is the South Dakota Library Association?

The South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) was established in 1904 and is among the oldest state library associations in the country. SDLA is a non-partisan membership organization that develops, promotes, and improves library and information services and the profession of librarianship to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

SDLA is guided by core American values, especially the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment right to free speech, thought, and opinion. SDLA fosters innovation and advocacy, supports and strengthens its membership to promote libraries as an essential resource for all South Dakotans, engages South Dakotans, and builds community through South Dakota libraries. The purpose of SDLA is:

- To promote library service of the highest quality for all present and potential users of libraries in the State of South Dakota;

- To provide opportunities for professional involvement of all persons engaged in any phase of librarianship within the State; and

- To further the professional development of librarians, trustees, and library employees in the State.
Siouxland Libraries is getting cozy for winter with this year's Winter Reading Program (WRP); the 2024 theme is Hygge (pronounced hoo-ga).

Hygge is a feeling of contentment, a coziness that cultivates feelings of well-being. It is settling into warm blankets with a good book and escaping the cold South Dakota winter. Hygge is perfect for cold days.

The program runs from December 4 to February 9, with a grand prize drawing on February 12. Patrons pick up a BINGO card at a local branch or download it from the Siouxland Libraries website.

All ages are encouraged to participate: Birth-5, K-5, Teen, and Adult. There are several ways to embrace the Hygge mindset, and the Siouxland Libraries Winter Reading BINGO cards challenges customers to get out and fight the winter blues. Participants can:

• Attend a library program- Hygge encourages people to gather
• Use Mango Languages – learning something new is a component of a Hygge lifestyle
• Check out a craft book or cookbook- Hygge is more than cuddling up; it is also trying something new.
• Read a book of your choice-truly grasp the meaning of Hygge and settle in for an adventure.

WRP is a family event; it sparks the love of reading and even creates some friendly competition among family members. Staff at the Caille Branch shared this story with us: “I had a family with three young boys come in the second week of the program. They had a competition to see who could get done first, but they all completed their BINGOS at the same time due to their competitiveness. They were very excited to come in and claim their prizes!”

As of January 8th we have had 857 sign-up for the program and 443 complete at least one BINGO. The Siouxland Libraries is not letting the blustery cold hold them back and delighting in a Hygge winter.
Name: George Seamon

Job Title: State Librarian

Where are you currently employed? South Dakota Department of Education

Describe your job:
As state librarian, I direct the mission/plan, oversee the budget, and safeguard the future of the state library. To accomplish this work, we have three divisions at the state library which are Outreach/Development, Accessible Library Services, and Access Services. I rely heavily on the division managers, Brenda Hemmelman, and Kathleen Slocum, to direct the day-to-day operations of those divisions. That allows me to be available to answer hard questions, advocate for libraries, and be the face of our organization.

How did you become interested in libraries?
My love for libraries and books began as an elementary student with the bookmobile. We didn’t have a community library. We were served by a county library, and it took effort and preplanning to make a trip to the library. So, the bookmobile was my public library.

When I was in middle school, that all changed with a branch library closer to my home. I still remember looking books up in the early computer catalog and putting in interlibrary loan requests for research materials.

In college, the library was the tallest building on campus, and I spent a lot of time there. It was the hub of our college community. It is funny, even with the role that the library played in my life, it wasn’t until after I had my second child that I realized I could work in a library. To this day, I still don’t know why it took me so long to put the two together.

What was your biggest challenge in your job and how did you overcome it?
As a library administrator the biggest challenge is managing personalities. I also think it can be one of the most rewarding. Every member of your team is different with different needs, hopes, and dreams. Conflict is inevitable. How do you manage situations of conflict and help individuals grow/stretch and discover they are more than they thought? How do you provide the best environment in which to work? How do you help find purpose/value and support kindness? How do you keep everyone on the same page moving in the same direction?
I must admit that I have not overcome this challenge. I am still learning. When I was in Kansas, I took leadership courses. I still look for opportunities to learn. I have read and still read a lot of leadership books. I am convinced that being a good leader and supervisor requires a constant and consistent dedication to being good. And that is hard.

**What was the most fun you’ve had at work?**
When I was in Kansas, we helped a new library director transform her library. It was so full of books that you could not navigate the stacks. When you pulled a book out of the shelf, you ended up with three. The library was seldom used, and you rarely saw children. We helped the librarian weed, removed extra shelves, rearranged, improved flow, opened space for the computer lab, provided a new look for the shelves, suggested programming, changed policies, and much more. The new director started programming, had an open house, advertised new books at local businesses, partnered with community members, and became a vocal marketer of the library. After that, the library became the hub of the community and an education center. It was always busy with programs. There were tons of kids in the library after school and in the summer. It became a testament of what could happen with a good director working in tandem with a good board. We were so proud to be a part of their vision and making it happen.

**Favorite book(s)/movie(s)/whatever:**
My favorite book/s is the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings. I love Star Wars, Star Trek, so yes, I am a Sci-fi and Fantasy nerd. I love history. I love board games. Most of all, I love my family.

**What advice would you offer to someone interested in pursuing librarianship?**
Do it! Librarianship is one of the most rewarding professions. Don’t let the book challenges and nay-sayers get you down. When you help someone find themselves in a book, discover the resource they needed, find a friend, go someplace grand, or discover the world in reading, those are the moments in which we make a difference and change lives. It is not in the politics but in the everyday life.

**Is there anything you’d like to say to your fellow SDLA members?**
You are never alone and together we can do anything!

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**SOUTH DAKOTA UNCLAIMED PROPERTY**

Have you checked the South Dakota Treasurer database for unclaimed property for your library recently?

A search for “library” brings back twenty results!

[https://southdakota.findyourunclaimedproperty.com/](https://southdakota.findyourunclaimedproperty.com/)
SDL A ANNUAL AWARDS

Librarian of the Year | New Librarian of the Year |
Support Staff of the Year | Distinguished Service Award |
Trustee of the Year | Friend of the Library Award |

The deadline for 2024 nominations is July 31st.
Learn about the Awards and Submit at

HELP WANTED!

MPLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

If you are detail oriented and love libraries, this might be the role for you:
mpla.us/jobs/jobline/mpla-executive-secretary
President: Sarah Jones-Lutter  
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Contact Grego Argo at Minitex for information on joining the Open Education Network at a consortial discount.

Open Education and Affordable Content Librarian  
Greg Argo  
argo0009@umn.edu

Quick News:
- Kits for Checkout -- Libraries can check out Citizen Science Kits, SEAL (Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries) Kits, and NASA Kits through interlibrary loan from the State Library.
- ALA Council voted to change the association’s Core Values. The new Core Values are among the foundational documents of the association.  
  Press release

Remember: Report Book and Material Challenges

EST Report
Feb 2024
Wells Fargo Checking............$14,199.25
Wells Fargo Savings...............$3,029.67
Ameriprise Savings Cert......$15,102.09
Ameriprise Savings Cert......$20,004.78
Raney Endowment...............$101,703.20*

*15,473.34 avail to spend as of 12/31/23

Membership Stats  
Total: 393  
Institutional: 29  
Personal: 364  
Book Marks Subscriptions: 3

Please report Book and Material Challenges to SDLA via the form under "Members" on our website.

Challenges will be kept strictly confidential and no identifying information will be released without your express permission.