**VIRTUAL NJLA CSS MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2024**

**PRESENT;**

Jenise Sileo, 1st Vice President; Heather Kristian, Immediate Past President; Teresa Carlton, Secretary; Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist for Lifelong Learning, NJ State Library; Katy White, NJLA Associate Director, and Jen Apgar, NJ State Library TBBC; Jen Fitzgerald, Melissa Mitchell, Dana Skwirut, Lana Abbott, Rachel Talbert, & Jane Sawyer (on briefly)

**MEETING LINKS AND SCHEDULES:**

Jenise is hoping to have all CSS meeting dates and links put on the NJLA website calendar. Teresa noted that the meeting schedule on the website is from 2020-2021. That needs to be updated.

**REPORT FROM TEEN LIBRARIAN RACHEL TALBERT:**

* **Summer Reading Workshops:**

Rachel is the co-chair of the statewide SR Committee. All the SR workshops are scheduled and registrations are open. One workshop will be at the Mullica Hill Library, one at Livingston Public Library, and the third will be a virtual idea sharing workshop.

* **NJLA Readers Advisory:**

Rachel is also the President of the Readers Advisory Section. There will be a Lunch and Learn gathering with Library LinkNJ called “What Are You Reading?” It will be held on **Wednesday, February 28, 2024**, from **1:00-2:00 pm**. It is open to all library workers.

Are you looking for reading suggestions for yourself or your patrons? Do you like to know what other people are reading? Do you like to talk about books? **Then this informal virtual lunch and learn is for you!**Come share books that you're reading, or that you've recently enjoyed with other library staff members. You'll be able to add books to your growing TBR list and find some great suggestions for your patrons! Grab your lunch and log on for this casual conversation, facilitated by members of the NJLA Readers' Advisory Section.

Registration can be found here: <https://librarylinknj.org/calendar/readers-advisory-lunch-learn>

**NEW JERSEY LIBRARY REPORT/SHARON RAWLINS:**

**Summer Reading Workshops - Registration Open**

The Statewide Summer Reading Committee has scheduled the dates for the 2024 Summer Reading Workshops for public library staff, two of which will be in person and one will be a virtual craft/activity session where all committee members and participants are invited to share ideas.

The in-person workshops will start at 10 am, with registration at 9:30 am. The virtual session will start at 10 am.

* Friday, March 1st – Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill (in-person)
* Friday, March 8th – Livingston Public Library (in-person)
* Wednesday, March 13th  – Virtual Idea Sharing  (10 am – noon)

Register for the workshops on the NJ Summer Reading [website](https://njsummerreading.org/workshops/). You must be subscribed to the website to access the workshop registration page.

For the in-person workshops, you’re invited to bring a program idea, example of your reading logs and instructions, and/or craft sample to share with the group.

You’re also welcome to bring old prizes you can’t get rid of for the Incentive Swap – and take home something new. Questions? E-mail [njlasummerreading@gmail.com](mailto:njlasummerreading@gmail.com)

Sharon added that she will have some cool prizes: 2 performer raffles at $250.00 each, and some items she bought from CSLP, and books to raffle. She can also provide Professional Credit to attendees.

**State Librarian’s Monthly Updates**

January’s [report](https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/State-Librarians-Update-January-2024.pdf) is posted, along with previous monthly updates on the NJ State Library’s website under the *About the State Library* tab, then under the *New Jersey State Library Publications* [tab](https://www.njstatelib.org/about/njsl_publications/), then under State Librarian’s Updates.

**Smokey the Bear Reading Challenge**

The US Forest Service has offered to provide materials for a reading challenge to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday in 2024. The challenge (and accompanying materials) will be available until December of 2024 and were recently sent to the State Library for me to distribute to public libraries. Each library will get 1 roll of 500 Smokey stickers, 1 pack of 50 Smokey cards, and 1 Smokey stamp. I am sending enough for standalone libraries and library systems. Please share the items with all the libraries in your system if you have branches. This ties into CSLP’s  2024 Summer Reading adventure theme and slogan “Adventure Begins At Your Library”, connecting families to outdoor activities and state/national parks.  This is an optional program and you don’t have to participate, but I’m sending the materials (or will arrange to get it to you) just in case. The US Forest Service has created a digital toolkit too. Here’s the link: <https://smokeybear.com/library-toolkit-reading-challenge>. Sharon will also send out evaluations for any library who participated.

The US Forest Service is working with Beanstack and READsquared to make this challenge available electronically to all paid account holders too. I will be surveying all the libraries at the end of December 2024 to see if you participated and to ask for some basic statistics. If you have questions, just contact me at Sharon Rawlins, [srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org).

In addition, NJ Forest Fire Service (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/fire/>) is responsible for wildfire Suppression, Preparedness, and Prevention across NJ.  As part of their Prevention programming, they partner with the US Forest Service, US Ad Council and Natl. Assoc. of Foresters to provide wildfire prevention messaging and education in the Garden State alongside our friend Smokey Bear. They have a Smokey the Bear costume that public libraries can borrow if they want to promote the reading challenge.

They are planning a series of additional Smokey 80th events across NJ, including:

* Atlantic City Airshow – Smokey in helicopter
* Banner plane – Cape May to Sandy Hook: Aug. 9th
* Smokey’s birthday celebration (location TBD)
* Various parades, events and festivals, ball games

If you have questions, contact:

Joseph V. Battersby, Division Forest Firewarden

New Jersey Forest Fire Service

Mail Code: 501-04

PO Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625

609-349-4247

njwildfire.org

The Fire Warden can come to events. She’s thinking of seeing if he can come in costume to the NJLA Conference and Sharon can prepare a poster session. There is also an author from the forest service - she could highlight the book, maybe have the author visit.

**Palace Project**

In partnership with Lyrasis, NJSL has rolled out a statewide virtual barcode for the Palace Project, providing access to eBooks and digital audiobooks for every New Jersey resident who chooses to sign up. This content includes the Digital Public Library of America-curated Palace Bookshelf of approximately 17,000 items, perpetually-licensed Boundless (formerly Axis 360) titles in the New Jersey State Library’s eRead New Jersey collection, and items purchased through the Palace Marketplace by the State Library. New Jersey residents can create a virtual barcode in the Palace app, with just an email address and authentication through geolocation (anywhere in NJ). Read more at https://www.njstatelib.org/thepalaceproject, and download the app at: <https://thepalaceproject.org/>.

**NJ State Library Webinars Presents**

Our NJ State Library (NJSL) Presents Webinars are free and open to anyone interested in attending. Registration is required in advance and all webinars are recorded and posted to our [**YouTube page**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0018ARgy2plswCdHkAHsKt3VHZDwFbQ9MQrfE_nODAPurUELpJ7ICeGKL5lQzZo7ccAoLaxfUBhKFNEnUwocSqdrkJvO3ggxRLTkY4wOWhDeddOM7WEPPr9BTJp7o-RtVCE75kwoHz5IGYpKCNWEic6MOex96UZ8_RJJf4MkzlyYQXkK8MHTR0ogDeyloUwDwygje5QvGLUnpGgiN6yOylTxl8jXD2X3NAJwVp6fqoJ2yRE_zQMBku3fg==&c=E9eaKOuQ9nN9GPzP5QeD7ATkZakW32RpNOAcks8DZK20rQRvGFbNng==&ch=mA7c_JSxsVq9gZ8_msXbzETj4b5BX3clOQjt4j2tIEuKyMPGcm78hA==) afterward. Please feel free to share these events with your patrons! Here's what we have coming up this month, click each event to learn more and register.

* [**Investigative Genetic Genealogy**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0018ARgy2plswCdHkAHsKt3VHZDwFbQ9MQrfE_nODAPurUELpJ7ICeGKJqlZ_uh6UA_rHdoGYlQVw9wNFF0hglZF7RunB_Lkigz5WpIxhfeQzkt0-3LD6LIcrJTmrbRdxsKKkhmh1_j2Wa2oTaa144QCUU5JT1z0w-26i4XIwFD6G5-7eCPqgiXndZXzrZmQGjaRuTG8CeVyKEC59uBhwRROg==&c=E9eaKOuQ9nN9GPzP5QeD7ATkZakW32RpNOAcks8DZK20rQRvGFbNng==&ch=mA7c_JSxsVq9gZ8_msXbzETj4b5BX3clOQjt4j2tIEuKyMPGcm78hA==) - Feb. 21st @ noon
* [**Legal Resources at the New Jersey State Library**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0018ARgy2plswCdHkAHsKt3VHZDwFbQ9MQrfE_nODAPurUELpJ7ICeGKDeswFw4u9eC3amY71EK1IRVTSNKqHeqNzQOThmTgU0cY2tn1DZxlk5hXf0czMCb5Mo2RJTz3Jf428jnCgo0_zIqquqpPF5OlP91bkzpSKh-yWIQnWS4JJ3QXTWg2Nwb-ezKKWyVxlOgiFcmAMeRFrPqHqP4PfFR1IG5Hse5ebDgctLcMzfzrJs=&c=E9eaKOuQ9nN9GPzP5QeD7ATkZakW32RpNOAcks8DZK20rQRvGFbNng==&ch=mA7c_JSxsVq9gZ8_msXbzETj4b5BX3clOQjt4j2tIEuKyMPGcm78hA==) - Feb. 28th @ noon
* [**Introduction to Finding Grants**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0018ARgy2plswCdHkAHsKt3VHZDwFbQ9MQrfE_nODAPurUELpJ7ICeGKJqlZ_uh6UA_5e08CYT4KzxJ6JDkGxvYTx9Bgd0Hshb3eDSzd0zBM3bHurhty75GMtISVRkoCGrDFIKY-TtykOId3-t66As4OOvFquAnxoCcVGKubbu8r5h6E6BBlybjBXxOeDWPPikTX81eemcIvYFpO9YI_kWaHQ==&c=E9eaKOuQ9nN9GPzP5QeD7ATkZakW32RpNOAcks8DZK20rQRvGFbNng==&ch=mA7c_JSxsVq9gZ8_msXbzETj4b5BX3clOQjt4j2tIEuKyMPGcm78hA==) - Feb. 29th @ noon

**NJSL’s session for NJLA Conference: Building Equity Based Summers (BEBS)**

**Rethinking Summer Library Services Programming**

Discover how your library can reconsider the WHY of summer programming to center summer library services on equity to better meet the needs of youth and families from systemically marginalized communities. Library staff participating in the IMLS funded Building Equity Based Summers (BEBS) Project will discuss strategies for redesigning summer services that honor diversity and inclusion in equity-based library initiatives by giving systemically marginalized community members a voice and leadership role in implementing these services. Gina Marie Vaccaro, Head of Youth Services, Livingston Public Library, and Beverly Rowan, Librarian, Dover Free Public Library are participating in the BEBS training and will be on the panel with me for this State Library sponsored session.

**CSLP Updates**

From their newsletter, <https://mailchi.mp/f8bf6b57dcea/cslp-newsletter-august-6689354?e=c18caf2bb6>(you can subscribe to it yourself from that page)

Take a look at these outdoor programming resources from our [Summer Symposium](https://cslpreads.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=043a7515ceb3ad45bdd2dd405&id=54c3202cab&e=c18caf2bb6) presentation:

* [1,000 Hours Outdoor Sample Calendar Handout](https://cslpreads.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=043a7515ceb3ad45bdd2dd405&id=6af214b33e&e=c18caf2bb6)
* [1,000 Hours Outside Ready-Made Resources](https://cslpreads.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=043a7515ceb3ad45bdd2dd405&id=1bae6c15e9&e=c18caf2bb6)

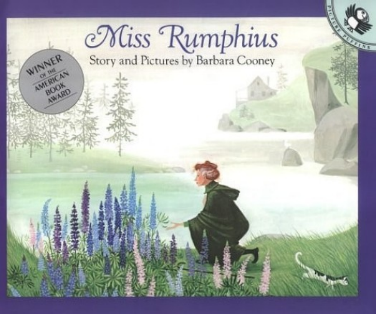
Finally, we have some Canva templates to share this year.  You will need at least a free level account with [Canva.com](https://cslpreads.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=043a7515ceb3ad45bdd2dd405&id=33b764f19f&e=c18caf2bb6) in order to customize these templates:

* [Book Tent Design from Love My Library T-Shirt](https://cslpreads.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=043a7515ceb3ad45bdd2dd405&id=8c1d6d90a7&e=c18caf2bb6)
* [Sample Banner with Slogan and Library Logo](https://cslpreads.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=043a7515ceb3ad45bdd2dd405&id=c003e28be6&e=c18caf2bb6)
* [Yard Signs with Slogan and Library Branding](https://cslpreads.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=043a7515ceb3ad45bdd2dd405&id=d88a0215b9&e=c18caf2bb6)
* [Facebook Event Covers](https://cslpreads.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=043a7515ceb3ad45bdd2dd405&id=5772196061&e=c18caf2bb6)
* [Road Trip Reading Log](https://cslpreads.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=043a7515ceb3ad45bdd2dd405&id=bf0a28f41c&e=c18caf2bb6) (thanks to Brittney Thompson at Paul Mem. Library)
* CSLP’s “Love My Library” themed merchandise is being phased out because the slogan has been trademarked by another organization.The new slogan voted on by the Theme and Slogan committee is ***Libraries Are Life!.*** This new slogan will be available on ball caps and beanies that are available now at shop.cslpreads.org. This new slogan will be featured on more apparel as we move through 2024, so keep an eye out for this merchandise.
* **CSLP link to the 2024 manual code:** <https://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/New-Jersey-2024-CSLP-Manual-Access-Code.pdf>
* **CLSP Incentives Orders** are being processed so they should start to ship them out to public libraries within the next 2 weeks. All libraries (including branches) will receive a banner, children’s, teen and adult bookmarks and posters.

**CSLP Summer Symposium – Archived Recordings Available**

TheCSLP Summer Symposium was held on December 7th. It was a half-day virtual offering for public library staff to connect, learn, and collaborate as we plan for summer library programming around the 2024 theme of **Adventure Begins at your Library.** If you couldn’t make it, here’s the link to the recordings of the sessions:[CSLP Summer Symposium 2023 page](https://www.cslpreads.org/summer-symposium/). Feedback on any of the sessions is appreciated!Summer Symposium Evaluations:<https://forms.gle/PqKDiTA8UM2tJecD7>.

**Awards/Grants from Other Organizations**

**Miss Rumphius Award – Deadline to Apply March 15, 2024  **

The New Jersey Center for the Book proudly presents the annual *Miss Rumphius Award,*based upon the title character of the National Book Award winner by Barbara Cooney.

In the spirit of Miss Rumphius, we seek to amplify the work of exemplary librarians, library staff, library students, and school librarians who implement creative and engaging programs to improve their environments. We hope the *Miss Rumphius Award* inspires other librarians to plant the seeds of these ideas to enhance literacy in their own communities!

**Eligibility:** The candidate must be employed in New Jersey as a professional librarian, library staff member, library student, certified educator or teacher assistant, and must have developed a creative activity or program to enhance learning and literacy. The activity or program should be collaborative, innovative, and able to be replicated by other librarians and educators. Candidates may be nominated by colleagues or community members or self-nominate.

**Application:** A link to directions for completing and submitting your application can be found [here.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZQgwy9fd2Su8dEIry74FEDIw-DRXbMhPx5Xe5fBVYeVr-wg/viewform) The *Miss Rumphius Award*will be presented to the winner(s) at an upcoming library association meeting. A $300 honorarium is offered to the winner(s).For additional information or clarification, **please contact Sharon Rawlins at**[srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org)**.**

Check out our [previous award winners.](https://njcenterforthebook.org/category/miss-rumphius-winning-program/)

**Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture Grant 2024 Grant Information- Deadline to Apply is March 15, 2024**

***Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture*** is a family literacy initiative that connects Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI), and American Indigenous or Alaskan Native (AIAN) communities across generations. The Talk Story micro-grant celebrates and explores AANHPI and AIAN stories through books, oral traditions, and cultural arts to provide interactive and enriching experiences for all ages. This grant provides financial support to libraries and community organizations who are motivated to promote intergenerational literacy through programming, services, and collections. Talk Story programs may be conducted in-person or virtually.

The Grant Information and Application fields are below and can also be accessed on the APALA website: [*apalaweb.org/talkstorytogether/grant/*](https://www.apalaweb.org/talkstorytogether/grant/) and the AILA website: [*ailanet.org*](https://ailanet.org/).

To submit your proposal, please use the online form:

<https://forms.gle/3vUy3EuCFUxBuiKZ9>. If you need an alternative method for submitting your application, please do not hesitate to reach out to the program contact of the organization through which you intend to apply for a *Talk Story* grant.

**Deadline:** March 15, 2024

**Awards Announced:** May 1, 2024

**Grant Amount:**$500

**Grants Offered:** 4 total; 2 by each organization

**Grant Period:** May 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024

**Program Contact**

[familylit@apalaweb.org](mailto:familylit@apalaweb.org)

[AILA.TalkStory@gmail.com](mailto:AILA.TalkStory@gmail.com)

**News From Other Organizations**



[**Sophie Blackall Named 2024 Children's Book Week Poster Artist, Inaugural Spokesperson**](https://pubwkly.omeclk.com/portal/wts/ue%5Ecn92dg0aqm76hEvycAzkrDf0kNOkxEwPVTc)Two-time Caldecott Medalist Sophie Blackall has been selected as the poster artist and first official spokesperson for the 2024 Children's Book Week. Slated for May 6–12, this year's national literacy celebration will feature the theme “No Rules. Just Read,” which is showcased in Blackall’s poster art. [**MORE http://www.publishersweekly.com/images/email/red_arrow.gif**](https://pubwkly.omeclk.com/portal/wts/ue%5Ecn92dg0aqm76hEv2cAzkrDf0kNOkxEwPVTc)

**Wellpoint New Jersey Supports Literacy**

Every year, Read Across America week is celebrated nationally from March 2nd to the 6th. During this week, a number of events and activities are organized across the nation to promote reading amongst children.

Over the past few years, Wellpoint New Jersey, a Medicaid health plan that provides NJ FamilyCare benefits to many members throughout NJ, has asked New Jersey native celebrity personalities to narrate their favorite children’s story. Books like "Welcome to your World, Baby” and "Michelle's Garden" were virtually narrated by celebrity guests such as actress Brooke Shields and NFL player Malcolm Jenkins, for the public to enjoy.

Wellpoint asked if I would share this link to its online video collection that they created to help reach even more children in the state. Here is a link to the virtual library: [Wellpoint New Jersey Supports Literacy - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@wellpointnjsupportsreadacro143/videos) (<https://www.youtube.com/@wellpointnjsupportsreadacro143/videos>)

If you have any questions, contact Filomena Degregorio, [filomena@insprmedia.com](mailto:filomena@insprmedia.com)



**PROPOSED POSTER SESSION:**

I proposed for the NJLA Conference was accepted. It's an overview of the IMLS funded program our state participated in called Building Equity Based Summers. It examines the WHY of summer reading and the goal is to get marginalized communities to co-design summer services to achieve better equity.

**REPORT FROM TBBC/JEN APGAR:**

The NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center will be involved with the following programs at the upcoming NJLA Conference:

**A Week In the Life of an Accessible Library** Thursday, May 30 - 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM – Presented by TBBC Staff

**Literacy for All: Supporting Dyslexic and Neurodivergent Children and Teens in the Library** -- Thursday, May 30 11-11:50 AM – Presented by Jen Apgar from TBBC and Brie Mintz from Springfield Free Public Library

**ALSC's Notable (Outstanding! Distinguished! Just Plain Great!) Children's Books**Friday, May 31, at 11:40am-12:30pm presented by Liz Burns and Dr. Ellen Pozzi

**Talking the Talk: Supporting & Valuing Bilingual Staff** - Thursday, May 30 - 4:40 PM - 5:30 PM – Presenters: *Rachel Montanez, Ocean County Library, Luisa Martucci, NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center, Tanya Finney Estrada, Pennsauken Free Public Library, Jennie Pu, Hoboken Public Library, Moderator Darby Malvey, LLNJ*

TBBC is excited to share that we have recently received Spanish language large print books for middle grades and YA that we are working on adding into our already robust large print collection.  Some titles include: Estrella de mar (Starfish) by Lisa Fipps, Tumbos (Tumble) by Celia C. Pérez, Yo no soy tu perfecta hija Mexicana (I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter) by Erika L. Sánchez, and more.

Jen Apgar, Youth Services Librarian for TBBC, will be doing a presentation for Disabilities Rights NJ’s Tech Tuesday on Tuesday, March 19 at noon.  You can register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAufu6prDMjGNYFyD5N2x5mpFz2jNBeS1Jo#/registration>

TBBC has also recently received LEGO Braille Bricks.  If your library is having an event and you think they may be a good fit to include, please reach out to Jen Apgar, Youth Services Librarian at the Talking Book & Braille Center, [japgar@njstatelib.org](mailto:japgar@njstatelib.org). If she can fit it into her busy schedule, she may consider having a poster session.

**CSS PROPOSALS FOR NJLA CONFERENCE AND OTHER UPDATES./JENISE SILEO:**

* **CSS Programs:**

**Creative Outreach**:

Date: Thursday, May 30

Time: 9:00 AM

**Embrace Your Inner Child: Imagine, Design, and Create a New Library Space**:

Date: Thursday, May 30

Time: 9:00 AM

**Diversify Your Readers Advisory from Picture Books to Young Adult**:

Date: Thursday, May 30

Time: 2:00 PM

**CSS Mixer/Meeting: Thursday, May 30 5:30- 6:30 PM** – start thinking about ideas for this – such as an art activity or game

**Reliable Reads for Story Time Success**:

Date: Friday, May 31

Time: 2:10 PM

**Take a Look, It’s in a Book: Book Clubs for All Ages:**

Date: Friday, May 31

Time: 2:10 PM

**The What, Whys, and How’s of Sensory Story Time:**

Date: Friday, May 31

Time: 3:10 PM

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LTXPtORvyAo0aBGTJgSpcl3eoHgUfdAGuax9sbPa0UI/edit?usp=sharing>

* We will have a table at CSS informative table also.

* **Revision of By Laws:** the CSS board members met Feb 12 and updated several of the current bylaws; however, more time is needed and they will meet again in March before the next meeting.
* **Start thinking about joining the CSS board!** We have openings for next year’s CSS board (VP/President Elect, Member at Large) and would love to hear from you sometime before the March meeting.
* All poster proposals are due March 22. Steve Hrubes is on the committee for Poster Session. And shared photos of past poster sessions. If anyone has any questions, he can answer them.

**Guest Presenter:** Steve Hughes (NJLA) Poster Session (10 minutes)

* March 6 - **Performer's Showcase at Mullica Hill Library**. Saturday, February 24 is the last day to register. Children’s performers will be in the morning. Adult performers in the afternoon.

**NJLA REPORT/KATY WHITE:**

Working on Freedom to Read Bill

Library Construction bill

Fully Fund Per Capita State Aid.

**SPECIAL MEETING TO WORK ON BYLAWS**

We will have a special meeting to continue working on finalizing the changes to the bylaws on **Monday, March 4, 2024, at 2:00 pm.**

**NEXT REGULAR VIRTUAL CSS MEETING:**

NEW CSS MEETING DATE: **Friday, March 22, 2024**

## Recurring CSS Zoom link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86758573935>

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Carlton