

# NJLA NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

March 2022

Vol. 20 Issue 2

*Embracing  
Opportunity*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message 2

Letter from the Executive Director 3/4

Public Service Feature 5/6

Committee Spotlight 7

Snapshots from Snapshot Month 8

Book Awards Feature 9

Member Spotlight 10/11

Featured Partner 12

People & Places 13

## Important Dates

### NJLA Executive Board Meeting

April 19, 10 a.m.

May 17, 3 p.m.

June 21, 10 a.m.

### Library Workers of Color Section Meeting

March 31, 10 a.m.

April 22, 10 a.m.

May 20, 10 a.m.

### Making the Most of Your Media

April 26, 10 a.m.

**NJLA Pre-Conference** June 1

**NJLA Conference** June 2-3

View the [NJLA Events Calendar](#) for all meetings and events.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Embrace and Engage

by **KATE JAGGERS**

Being everything to everyone at all times is, well, impossible. Prioritizing what it is that we can best provide, produce, or accomplish can be an incredibly daunting task, particularly when aiming to provide excellent service. We are bound to make mistakes, miss deadlines, put one need over another, fail to communicate, and feel like we are falling short. But we also have so many opportunities at every new turn for positive change and contribution.



Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned—in life, but also in leadership—include the notion that your team is often your biggest strength. It's so important to learn from each other, but also to embrace and rely on each other's knowledge, experience, and perspective. Recognize when others are offering support and promising action, and encourage that kind of energy by allowing that network to engage with the work, to brainstorm the ideas, or to simply be the shoulder on which to rest for just a moment.

Working together is what allows us to reach great heights. As we embark on new journeys and partnerships in NJLA, I challenge you all to keep thinking big. Keep speaking up. Keep sharing what you love, what you want to see improve, and how you can contribute. Embrace the opportunities to continue, to create, and recreate your Association. Nobody can do it all, but together we sure can try.

**Kate Jagers is the Director at the Highland Park Public Library. She is also the 2021-2022 NJLA President.**

---

## NJLA EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The **NJLA Scholarship Subcommittee** is thrilled to announce that applications are now open for the new **NJLA Equity Scholarships!** This opportunity is a partnership with NJLA, Rutgers University School of Communication and Information Department of Library and Information Science, New Jersey State Library, and LibraryLinkNJ.

Application can be found [here](#), and more information [here](#).

The application deadline is **April 15**.

---

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by **JULIET MACHIE**

Greetings NJLA family. I hope that so far, the year 2022 has been good to you. We celebrate the arrival of Spring as a symbol of new beginnings. The sunshine, longer daylight, and budding flowers bring joy and remind us that winter always gives way to springtime. We embrace the new season with tempered expectations, that the pandemic we have endured the last two years is now on its way to our rear-view mirror.

Congratulations to our newly elected NJLA Executive Board members. Thank you for your willingness to serve this great organization. I encourage you, if you have never volunteered for a committee or section to please sign up. The networking and learning are impactful when you volunteer to serve. In addition, through service, we cultivate friendships and relationships that last a lifetime.



NJLA is always at work for you. In the last few weeks, we have completed eighteen virtual legislative visits with New Jersey Senators and Assembly men and women. Our legislative drive is focused on increased funding for the Per Capita State Aid Bill. We are also advocating for ARPA funds for library connectivity and infrastructure, an increase to the Library Network Aid Bill, and a permanent library construction fund. Thank you to our Public Policy Committee and the library directors that accompany our legislative visits.

Thank you to those of you that attended our NJLA Town Hall meeting on March 9th. I am super excited that the NJLA Annual Conference is returning to Atlantic City on June 1-3, 2022. Please register for the conference and join us as we learn together and celebrate ourselves as New Jersey's library workers.

Thank you also to the many that attended our Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Town Hall on February 24th. The Town Hall successfully fulfilled its goal to introduce an EDI Framework for New Jersey's libraries. It is now time for all of us to do the work that is needed, to begin to affect the changes that we all desire. Please sign up for any of the EDI work groups and feel free to suggest an additional work group to guide our work.

We are pleased to introduce NJLA Equity Scholarships to encourage New Jersey's Black and

*Article continues on next page.*

---

Indigenous Persons of Color (BIPOC) to attend Library Schools. Thank you to NJLA's Executive Board and partners - LLNJ, NJSL & Rutgers, for funding the new NJLA Equity Scholarships.

I want to remind you that it is NJLA's goal to continue to invest in you, to equip you to be your best self, as you serve the needs of your library communities. NJLA is You! Our association is stronger, more relevant, and growing, all because of you. Thank you, New Jersey libraries and library workers, for all that you do, and all that you represent.

I celebrate you, and I wish you joy, in whatever new beginning that springtime represents for you.

**Juliet Machie, Ed.D., is the Executive Director of the New Jersey Library Association.**

---

## NJLA Newsletter

### **President**

Kate Jagers

### **Executive Director**

Juliet Machie

### **Editorial Board:**

Kate-Lynn Brown, Editor

Akiema Buchanan

Erica Deb

Jennifer Heise

Jasmine Riel

Kerry Weinstein

New Jersey Library Association

163 US Hwy 130 North

Building 1; Suite 1C

Bordentown, NJ 08505

609-482-1282

## OTHER NJLA NEWSLETTERS:

**Use these links to access the latest newsletters from other NJLA Sections.**

[Professional Development](#)

[College and University](#)

[History and Preservation](#)

## INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING?

For all inquires please contact

**[newsletter\\_editor@njlamembers.org](mailto:newsletter_editor@njlamembers.org)**

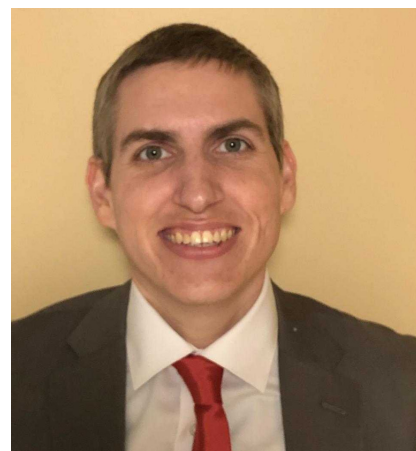
Proposals for the Summer 2022 issue are due on MAY 16TH.

---

# PUBLIC SERVICE MEANS SERVING ALL OF THE PUBLIC

by **JEFF CUPO**

A few years ago, while I was an MLIS student and having just started as the trainee YA Librarian at Montville Township Public Library, I attended my first NJLA Conference. During a speech to a crowd of hundreds of librarians, the NJLA President compared teenagers in the library to rats infesting a silo. The room erupted in laughter and cheers. I was horrified. As public servants, we must serve all members of the community.



Instead of mirroring the NJLA President's sentiments on teens, Montville Public Library built a teen area comparable in size to the Kids Room and established a Teen Advisory Board (TAB). As a result, Montville teens steadily grew to become some of the library's most dedicated users. They visited the library daily and in large numbers. Additionally, TAB members were the only members of the public that attended every Board budget meeting during the last five years of my employment at Montville Library. When the library was updating its Strategic Plan, the teen focus group was the best attended. Librarians work very hard to cultivate the value of the library to children, only to chase them out once they get a little older. At Montville, we showed that we valued teens, and they valued the library in return.

While many libraries now serve teens through dedicated teen librarians, spaces, and departments, the mentality that certain groups remain a blight on the library persists. People experiencing homelessness are one of these groups, and a manifestation of that mindset comes as policies against issuing library cards to people without permanent addresses.

According to a recent D&O Section survey, the idea that people experiencing homelessness cannot be trusted with library materials is entirely unfounded. <sup>1</sup> Addressless patrons are 50% more likely to be responsible with library materials than the average patron. What's more, there is no apparent connection between limits on the number of items or A/V materials borrowed and whether or not addressless patrons owe more than average. These survey results objectively show, with hard data, that there is no reason not to issue cards to patrons.

---

<sup>1</sup> Survey results not yet published.

*Article continues on next page.*

---

---

Another group facing the scorn of librarians and the public in general are people who use drugs. There are exceptions – Elizabeth Public Library, for example, offers free fentanyl test strips (FTS) to members of the public to take away for self-use. Fentanyl is responsible for a massive increase in overdose deaths as it's extremely potent, undetectable to any of our senses, and now taints significant percentages of every drug supply. **2** FTS are incredibly effective and can be acquired from the New Jersey Harm Reduction Coalition for free. Research shows that FTS help people to be better informed, which leads to behavior changes and adoption of harm reduction measures. **3** Similarly, Needle Exchange programs do not increase drug use, **4** and people who use those services are five times more likely to enter drug treatment. **5**

One might say that it's not within the purview of libraries to offer these test kits to the public. However, as providers of information, I can think of no more vital piece of information that libraries can provide than whether the substance our patron is about to ingest is a deadly poison or not.

As bastions of knowledge, we must follow evidence-based practices and remember what librarianship and public service mean. Equitable access to information is a core value of our profession, and our current policies do not reflect that. We are duty-bound to identify and assess who is being excluded from our services. We must identify these gaps in service and expand to serve everyone in our communities.

---

**2** [Center for Drug Use and HIV|HCV Research](#)

**3** [National Harm Reduction Coalition](#)

**4** [Center for Disease Control](#)

**5** [American Civil Liberties Union](#)

**Jeff Cupo is the Head of Information and Adult Services at Elizabeth Public Library, and the former Young Adult and Community Services Librarian at Montville Township Public Library. He is the current President of the Diversity and Outreach Section.**

**Views reflected in this piece are the views of the author and not his employer.**

---

## NJLA COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

by LEAH WAGNER



Each year as an NJLA member, you receive a ballot with names of people running for office.

Did you ever wonder who creates the ballot, tabulates the votes, and who coordinates the elections? This is where the NJLA Nominations and Elections Subcommittee steps in.

Nominations and Elections is a small committee with a wide representation from the Association's leadership. The committee consists of five members including the Past President, who chairs the committee, the Prior Past President, one appointee from the Leadership & Education Subcommittee, the Past President of the NJLA College and University Section, and the Past Chair of the Member Services Committee.

Their first and most important task of the committee is to solicit and recruit nominees, and to accept petitions from the membership to run for office of the Association. The committee works together to compile a list of names with a broad representation of New Jersey Libraries. Members who are not recruited from the Committee but are interested in running for a leadership position are welcome to submit a petition between September 1 and December 31.

Once the ballot is complete, the election dates are set and membership is notified. When the election is complete, the Committee presents the new candidates to both the Executive Board and NJLA membership at the Annual Conference, which is held in June.

**DON'T FORGET!** If you are interested in running for an office, let the Committee know! You can contact current committee chair Jen Schureman Brenner at [jmschureman@gmail.com](mailto:jmschureman@gmail.com).

**Leah Wagner is the Director of the Monroe Township Library and a Past President of NJLA.**

---

# SNAPSHOT ON: SNAPSHOT MONTH

## Selected Photos from Snapshot Month 2022

provided by the NJLA Public Relations Committee



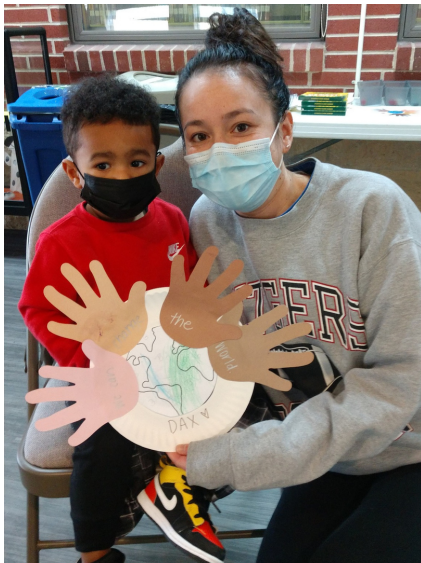
Totowa Public Library



Sea Girt Public Library



Hawthorne High School



Otto Bruyns Public Library



Bloomfield Public Library



Northvale Public Library



Secaucus Public Library



Trinitas Regional Medical Center Library



# AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

## How to promote award-winning books in your library

by ERICA DEB



The Youth Media Awards winners were announced at ALA's LibLearnX this January. So, now what? In a room full of amazing titles, you may be wondering how to promote the recent winners in a way that will excite and engage patrons. Beyond the traditional displays, here are some ideas for getting award winners, past and present, into the hands of your children and teens.

**Booklists** - Create bright and dynamic lists to display in the library highlighting this year's books, or a complete list of winners of each individual award.

**Reading Challenge** - Invite patrons to read ten Caldecott winners or include a Printz or Stonewall book in their summer reading. Create a checklist or a challenge sheet and offer a prize when they reach their goal.

**Book Talks** - If you are already doing book talks with schools or within the library's programming, include recent winners into the titles you discuss. This can also start further conversations about what the book awards are, their history, and their significance.

**Stickers** - It never hurts to add a sticker or a label to an award winning book to let patron's know it's special. This also has the benefit of highlighting winners for independent browsers. Stickers are available through multiple vendors.

**Staff Picks** - Encourage library staff to read award winners and ask them to write a short review. Display their favorite books and reviews where patrons can see them.

**Read, Read, Read** - The more familiar you are with award-winning books, the easier it is to promote them to your patrons. So get reading and enjoy the amazing work that we are celebrating this year!

**Erica Deb is the Youth Services Department Head at the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library. She holds a MLIS from Rutgers University.**

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: EMILY MAZZONI AND MOIRA WHITTINGTON

## YASS MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

**Emily Mazzoni and Moira Whittington are the organizers of the 26th annual Garden State Teen Book Awards.**



Emily Mazzoni is the Teen Services Librarian at Monroe Township Public Library in Middlesex County. As a Member-at-Large for YASS, one of Emily's favorite things is discussing what everyone is reading. Sometimes this question will come up in YASS meetings, and there just isn't enough time to discuss all the books the library workers want to!

Being a part of the Garden State Book Awards team allows Youth and Young Adult Services Librarians to read, reflect, discuss, (and sometimes argue over!) titles that have gotten Starred Reviews or major publicity over the past year.

### EMILY MAZZONI

Something Emily particularly loves, and often hears from colleagues, is that being a reader for GSTBA helps push people out of their reading comfort zones and broadens their knowledge of great books. While Emily doesn't read many middle grade books, thanks to GSTBA she reads a few each year. More importantly, she becomes familiar with popular authors and titles to recommend to her patrons.

Teen patrons statewide get to vote on the list to choose their absolute favorites. It's a great tool for marketing books, breaking the ice at TAB meetings, and creating displays. Become a reader for the Garden State Teen Book Awards! It's a fun and easy way to connect with books – and your NJLA colleagues.

Moira Whittington works with teens and tweens at East Brunswick Public Library. She has served as Vice-President and President of the Young Adult section of Libraries of Middlesex (LMx) and is currently a member of NJLA's Library Workers of Color, and Diversity & Outreach sections as well as Member-at-Large for the Young Adult Services section.

Moira was encouraged by a professor to join the American Library Association (ALA) when she was studying to become a

*Article continues on next page.*



**MOIRA WHITTINGTON**

---

librarian. She discovered that student members of ALA could get a free membership to NJLA—and the rest is history. She was able to join committees, exchange ideas, and collaborate with peers about pressing topics or changes in the fields of her interest.

As Member-at-Large for YASS, Moira attends monthly meetings and promotes NJLA and the section to colleagues. She is also co-chair of the Garden State Teen Book Award (GSTBA) committee, which puts together a ballot for young adults across the state to vote on their favorite nonfiction book for grades six through twelve, fiction book for grades six through eight, and fiction book for grades nine through twelve. One year a teen asked her how the books on the ballot were selected, and that sparked her interest in becoming a Member-at-Large for YASS to work on the GSTBA.

GSTBA has a luncheon at the NJLA Annual Conference, in conjunction with Garden State Children's Book Award (GSCBA), and announces the winners from the three categories there.

**This year's Garden State Book Awards luncheon will take place Friday June 3.**

---



*Embracing  
Opportunity*

NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Registration is OPEN!

Please use the QR code above or follow the link below for more information and to register for the 2022, in-person conference.

\*Early bird registration ends May 16.

<https://njlaconference.info/content/attendee-registration>

---

---

## FEATURED PARTNER

# LIBRARY LINK NJ

LibraryLinkNJ (LLNJ), the NJ Library Cooperative, is a nonprofit designed to serve New Jersey's multi-type libraries with a variety of services, professional development opportunities, and more. Many NJ library workers already know about LLNJ's statewide delivery, but there's plenty available for library staff of all types! Recent highlights include:

- **Continuing Education Opportunities** including webinars, Skill-Sharing Conversations, and our popular Super Library Supervisors series, which returns at the end of March!
- **The MentorNJ Network**, which includes a Mentor Directory, valuable PD opportunities, and our Online Meetups on a wide array of topics.
- Grant programs, like our current **"Ready for Anything"** program, which awarded more than \$50,000 in contract awards to public and school libraries across the state.
- The **On-Demand Staff Development Subsidy**, which helps fund staff training and professional development for your organization!
- Our recently announced **EDI Collaborative for NJ Libraries**, an exciting new partnership with NJLA and the NJ State Library.

Access to LLNJ services and attendance at events is almost always free, and you can visit the LLNJ website to set up your free online user account. This allows you to register for PD opportunities, join the Mentor Directory, and post to group forums. While you're there, check out our calendar of upcoming events, including the "Well, What Now?" series co-sponsored by NJLA, MentorNJ's "LGBT From A to Z" webinar, and Skill-Sharing Conversations that allow you to share skills and ideas with library colleagues.



**Find out more about everything LLNJ has to offer at [librarylinknj.org](https://librarylinknj.org) or reach out to us with questions, suggestions, and feedback by emailing [suggestionbox@librarylinknj.org](mailto:suggestionbox@librarylinknj.org).**

---

---

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**Kevin Chung** is the Branch Manager and Adult & Teen Services Librarian at the Newark Public Library – North End Branch.

**Linda Cooper** retired after 45 years of dedicated service to the Woodbridge Main Library on December 30, 2021.

**Tina Doody** is the new Director at the Glen Ridge Public Library.

**Karin Finnegan** is the new Director at the Spotswood Public Library.

**Jenny Lichtenwalner** is a Senior Librarian in Adult and Teen Services at the Piscataway Public Library.

**Sadé Green-Puik** is the Youth Services Manager at the East Brunswick Public Library.

**Melissa Nemitz** started as a Teen/STEM Librarian at the Hunterdon County Library System in May 2021.

**Katie Salerno** is the Youth Services Librarian at the Watchung Branch of SCLSNJ.

**Rachael Trotter** joined Verona Public Library as Children's Librarian on March 7th.

**Kerry Weinstein** is the new School Librarian at Bayonne High School.

**Michelle Yeager** started as the Outreach & Diversity Librarian at Cherry Hill Public Library in January 2022.

Have a job change, retirement, or announcement to share?

Email [newsletter\\_editor@njlamembers.org](mailto:newsletter_editor@njlamembers.org)  
to have it included in our next issue!