



NJLA NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

March 2024

Vol. 22 Issue 1

Important Dates

Lawn Games, Leaf Blowers & Telescopes, OH MY: Starting, Growing, and Maintaining a Library of Things

Thursday, March 21
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Virtual: Trans and Gender Diverse Voices in Libraries

Friday, March 22
1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Personnel Administration Subcommittee Meetings

Mondays, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

NJLA Conference

Wednesday, May 29 - Friday, May 31

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

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NEW JERSEY
NJLA
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by **CARINA GONZALEZ**

I recently left public librarianship and returned to being a high school library media specialist. I haven't been on the job for very long, but the weeding has begun in earnest. 5,000 of the 11,000 books haven't been checked out in over ten years. The average publication year of the collection is 1998.

My journey in weeding this library has reminded me how absolutely vital collection development is to our profession. Collection development and analysis is the cornerstone of intellectual freedom. You have the power to decide what an entire community can and cannot access. People can get very passionate about what resources should or should not be accessible, especially when it comes to children.

I get it. I've been there and I'm back to making those tough calls every day. I am removing items that should no longer be part of the collection, while trying to educate the staff, faculty, and students on why the librarian is throwing away books.

Here is a sample of titles I have deaccessioned from this collection in the past month:

- Is the U.S. Ready for a Minority President?
- Slavery Defended
- Keep U.S.A. 1 Nation Under God
- For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide

Sharing this is scary because someone reading this list will believe these items should not have been removed from the collection. They would say they have historical value, which I can't deny, but they don't support the current high school curriculum and will provide outdated and incorrect information to our students.

I am being transparent on this topic because we don't talk enough about how hard it is to be the one who makes final decisions on access. NJLA's Technical Services and Collection Development Section and Rapid Response Team are always available to assist members. To learn more about speaking with a member of the Rapid Response Team, or to lend a hand, please visit: <https://www.njla.org/fight-censorship>.

Carina Gonzalez (she/her) is a Library Media Specialist at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights and the current NJLA President. Her passions in librarianship include social justice, access, and intellectual freedom. She began her career as an Elementary School Library Media Specialist followed by being a High School Library Media Specialist. She then went on to become an Outreach Academic Librarian, and then five years as an Adult Services Public Librarian, before returning to school librarianship. Carina is an accomplished writer, professional web designer, and entrepreneur. You can learn more about her at www.librariancarina.com.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by **BRETT BONFIELD**

One of my favorite writers is Douglas Husak, a Distinguished Professor at Rutgers. One of the central insights in his work on the philosophy of law is that almost all of us are ignorant of the law almost all the time. The law is complex, and often unintuitive, incomplete, contradictory, or inscrutable. As a society, we assign many of our brightest minds, spend inconceivable dollars-per-minute, and expend indefatigable effort in creating, enforcing, and interpreting our laws. What is distinctive about the law is, unlike most of humanity's other intensively scrutinized activities, rather than developing consensus, it is common for smart people to disagree.



Reading Husak has helped me develop empathy for almost everyone who works closely with the law (or is subject to its punishments). My work has instilled this empathy, too. It is difficult to create and interpret policies that govern collection development, circulation, conduct, computer use, or anything else related to our work in libraries.

A fundamental part of NJLA's work is advocating for legislation that supports library staff. We want laws that support our values. It seems simple. It is not simple.

After an extensive recruiting and vetting process, on February 1, we hired Porzio Government Affairs, a registered lobbying firm, to help us in our work. Their initial focus is the Freedom to Read Act, state aid for public libraries, and library construction funding. You will see a message from them in this and each subsequent NJLA newsletter.

Creating a new law is a lot like curating a library collection... if every author, publisher, and reader exercised their right to share their ideas about every item you purchase, what you keep in the collection, how you catalog each title, and how you shelve and display your books and materials.

I love it when passionate, knowledgeable people share their ideas and values. Almost everyone I have encountered appears to be exhibiting goodwill almost all the time. It seems like it should be simple. It is not simple.

I am grateful that you have entrusted me with the responsibility to advocate on your behalf, in partnership with NJLA's Executive Board and several committees, primarily Public Policy. And I am grateful that Porzio and numerous library partners, advocates, and elected officials share our values and support our work.

Brett Bonfield is NJLA Executive Director as of March 2023. He has worked in libraries since 2006, including 11 years as the director of two public libraries in NJ. Most recently, Brett served as the Chief Operating Officer at the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library. Brett has held leadership positions in nonprofits and library organizations including NJLA, the American Library Association, Public Library Association, Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, and OhioNet. Brett received his MS in Library and Information Science from Drexel University.



NJLA Newsletter

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the latest newsletters from
other NJLA Sections.**

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INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING?

For all inquires, please contact

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Proposals for the Summer 2024 issue are due on April 29th.

ADVOCACY: ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE LIBRARY

by **LINDA HOFFMAN**

Receiving an email invitation from the Governor's Office for a Bill signing is undeniably exciting, even if it seemingly has no connection to my role as a Library Director. This intriguing scenario unfolded one regular Thursday afternoon when I found myself invited to witness the signing of Bill # A5684/S4055 (Coughlin, Speight, Murphy, Haider, Wimberly/Ruiz, Turner). The legislation, known as the "Working Class Families Anti-Hunger Act," requires certain nonpublic schools to provide meals to all students and allows for an expansion of income eligibility for free lunch.



Linda Hoffman with Speaker Coughlin.

Initially, I questioned the legitimacy of the invitation, thinking it was a mistake. After making some calls, I confirmed that I was indeed invited. It then dawned on me - could our library's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day service project be the reason behind this unexpected invitation?

This year's community service project, a collaboration between the library, mayor, council, and school district, involves collecting meal kits named "Weekend Eats." This initiative aims to provide essential meals to community members facing food insecurity during weekends.



Governor Murphy, Speaker Coughlin, Congressman Pallone, Assemblywoman Haider, NJ Food Advocate Mark Dinglasan, South Amboy School Administrators and NJ Education Representatives.

Undeterred by challenging weather conditions, I made the journey from Woodland Park to South Amboy, asking myself at times, "...and why am I doing this?" The answer became clear as the event unfolded. It wasn't just a bill signing; it was an inspirational gathering with heartfelt speeches from state and federal leaders, legislators, and fellow advocates. More importantly, it provided a unique

Article continues on next page.

opportunity to engage with key leaders and discuss the vital role of public libraries in addressing food insecurity and beyond.

During conversations, I highlighted how public libraries act as crucial bridges in the fight against food insecurity. For instance, some libraries provide access when schools cannot by offering free lunches in their buildings during the summer months. Our libraries host various programs for families, teaching them how to prepare low-cost nutritional meals, offering financial literacy programs, free digital literacy training programs, and leveling the playing field by providing free access to materials, special collections, computers, resources, services, and programs. Arguably, the most crucial aspect is the availability of trained professionals and staff who can aid patrons in addressing their essential needs, such as applying for SNAP, affordable health care programs, and various other social service programs.



*Linda Hoffman with
Assemblywoman Haider.*

Attending this event reinforced the significance of advocating for libraries beyond traditional book-related initiatives. I showcased our role as community hubs that address pressing issues like food insecurity, emphasizing the integral part we play in enhancing the well-being of our patrons. Embrace every opportunity that comes your way, and discover the path that leads back to the library. Let's remember the broader impact libraries can make and the importance of advocating for our invaluable contributions!

Linda Hoffman is the Director of the Alfred Baumann Public Library in Woodland Park. She holds an MLIS from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. Linda was co-chair of the NJLA Public Policy Committee and continues to serve as a member. She is passionate about advocating for NJ libraries. Her email is hoffman@abwplibrary.org.

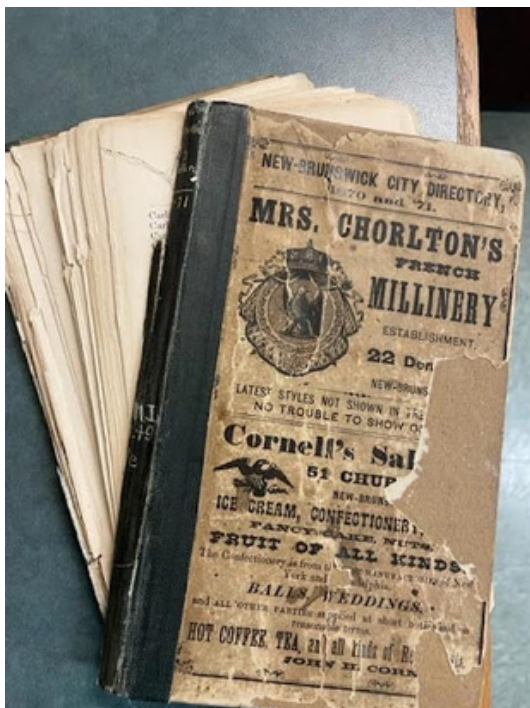


PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF NEW BRUNSWICK WITH COMMUNITY WEBS

Digitized City Directory Project

by JACQUELYN OSHMAN

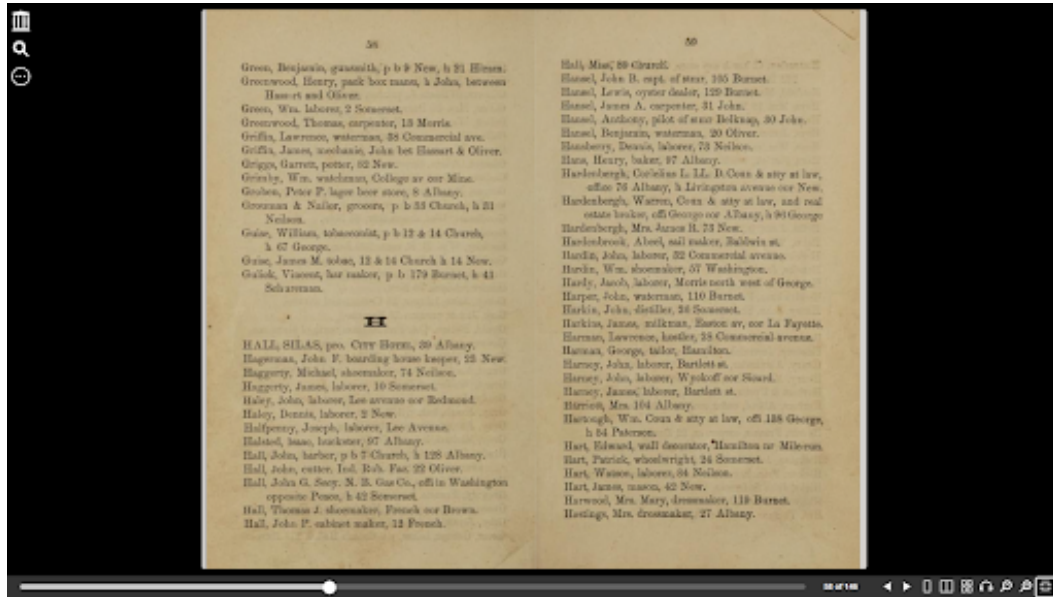
When the Community Webs program of the Internet Archive announced digitization opportunities with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission Archives Collaboratives grant, we at the New Brunswick Free Public Library expressed interest and shared our city's unique and pressing need for digitization of our four oldest city directories dating from 1855-1871. Not only did we want these volumes to be digitized for easier research and access, we also wanted to capture a more complete history of New Brunswick online alongside our [web archive collections](#), and to prevent more damage to the physical volumes.



Damaged physical copy of 1870-71 City Directory at the New Brunswick Free Public Library.

After the digitization was completed in autumn 2023, we created a new page on [our website](#) that linked to the four directories on [archive.org](#). We publicized the digitization with announcements on multiple online genealogy and history sites so interested patrons would be aware. Moreover, I will be presenting with other Community Webs digitization partners on a panel at the New England Archivists Spring Conference in Providence, Rhode Island in March, along with grant partners Brooklyn Public Library and Forbes Public Library.

Article continues on next page.



Screenshot of sample page from the digitized New Brunswick City Directory 1855-1856.

The Internet Archive and Community Webs are thankful for the support from the National Historical Publications & Records Commission for Collaborative Access to Diverse Public Library Local History Collections, which will digitize and provide access to a diverse range of local history archives.

For more information about joining Community Webs, visit:
<https://communitywebs.archive-it.org/>

Jacquelyn Oshman is Head of Circulation and Local History Librarian at the New Brunswick Free Public Library. She holds a Masters in Library Science from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. She has worked at the library since 2004 and became the library’s web archivist in 2017.



Youth Services Forum 2023

by **EMILY MAZZONI**

The Youth Services Forum took place at Monroe Township Public Library on December 12, 2023 with the theme of “12 Things I Love about YOUth Services.” The unconference-style schedule enabled really great small group conversations on everything from

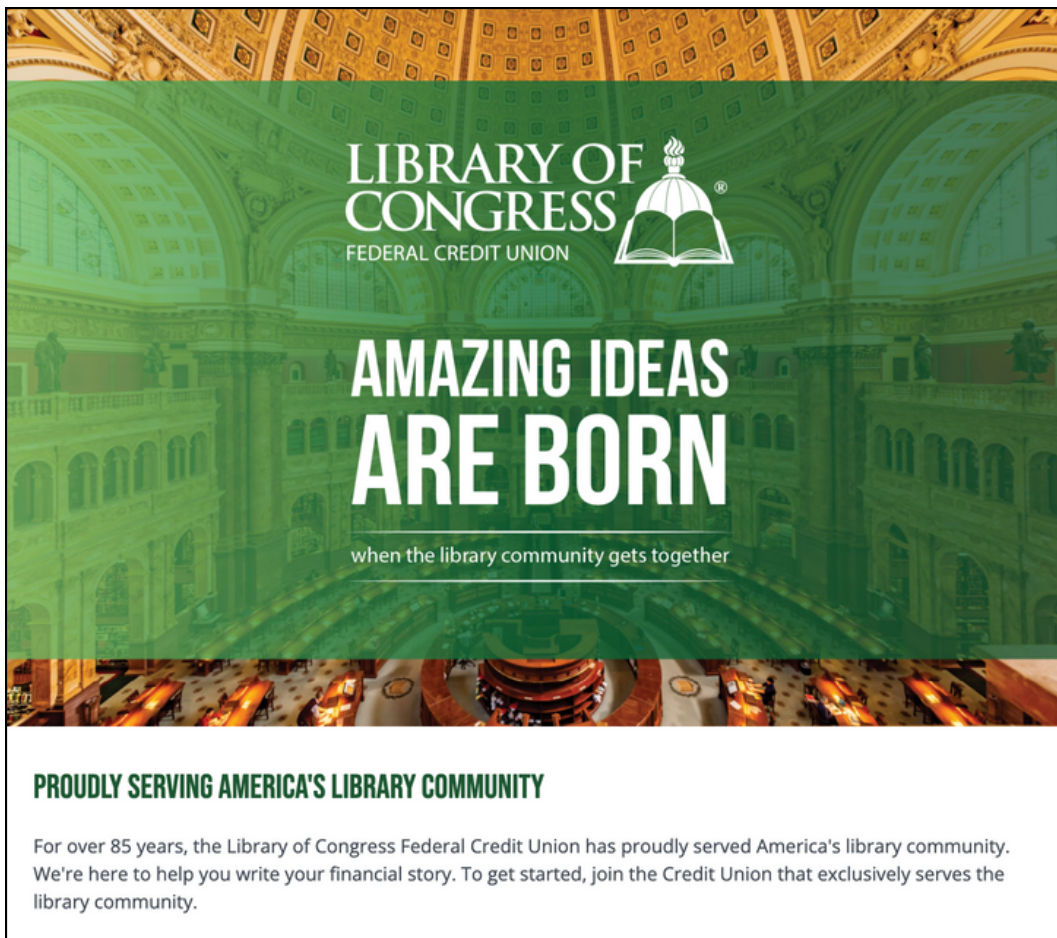
Article continues on next page.

policy, story times, crafts, volunteering, getting staff on board with working with teens, and how to deal with difficult parents.

We also welcomed the Brodart team to talk about new releases in children's and teen's books. Rounding out the afternoon was the delightful and funny Kyle Lukoff, author of *There's No Such Thing as Vegetables*. Mr. Lukoff is also known for *When Aidan Became a Brother* (Lee and Low Books, 2019), which was a 2020 Stonewall Award Winner and *Too Bright to See* (Penguin/Dial Books, 2021) which was a 2022 Stonewall Award Winner, a Newbery Honor Book, and a National Book Award Finalist.

We love Youth Services!

Emily Mazzoni is the Teen Services Librarian at Monroe Township Public Library in Middlesex County. She also serves as President for the 2023-2024 YASS Executive Board. Ask her about cooking classes, directing Readers' Theaters, and strange SFF/Horror books.



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ARE BORN**

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The Library of Congress Federal Credit Union is a supporter of the NJLA Newsletter. More information can be found [here](#).

LIBRARY COMMUNICATION BOARDS FOR NON-VERBAL PATRONS

by **ADELE PUCCIO**

In early 2023, I was approached by Barbra Seltzer, a speech/language pathologist and assistive technology professional, about collaborating with the New Jersey Speech and Hearing Association (NJSHA) on an initiative to make libraries more accessible to non-speaking/partially speaking individuals. The goal was to make communities more aware of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).



From Left: Barbara Seltzer from NJSHA, Kate Nafz, Supervising Children's Librarian in Fair Lawn, Adele Puccio, Director, and Donna Spillman-Kennedy, President of NJSHA.

The NJSHA AAC Committee completed two library communication boards: one for adults and one for children. The NJSHA Board and all committee members are volunteers who work on projects like these in addition to their jobs as speech/language pathologists. Barbara asked how we could introduce these boards to libraries in New Jersey, and I suggested she bring it to NJLA, specifically the Diversity &

Outreach Section, to make the boards available and accessible to all.

In January, I attended an online planning meeting with Barbara Seltzer, Sharon Owens, Katy White, and NJSHA President Donna Spillman-Kennedy. We decided that the library communication boards would be available via the NJSHA website and linked on the NJLA site. We held the kickoff for the boards with a presentation by NJSHA at the Maurice M. Pine Public Library in Fair Lawn on January 24th. Emiliana Tuohey, Senior Library Assistant and Graphic Design Specialist printed and mounted the boards for visibility.

Kate Nafz, Head of Children's Services, pointed out that the boards are great, not only for non-verbal patrons, but also for patrons who are not fluent in English. These will be good tools to have at our public information desks.

Adele Puccio is director of the Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library in Fair Lawn and is currently serving as president of BCCLS. She holds an MLIS from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Her email address is puccio@fairlawn.bccls.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MEGAN KOCIOLEK



Hello, everyone! I'm Megan Kociolek, and I'm thrilled to share my journey with you. With 17 years of experience in the library profession, I've had the privilege of serving in various capacities, each contributing to my growth and passion for librarianship.

My journey first began when I embarked on my career as a librarian at the Nutley Public Library. For nine years, I had the pleasure of specializing in teen and children's services, where I found immense joy in fostering a love for reading and learning among our youngest library patrons. Designing creative programs and maintaining a welcoming environment for children and teens became my mission. I cherished every moment spent helping them discover the magic of literature.

Driven by a desire to make a broader impact, I transitioned into a leadership role as the library director at the Clark Public Library, where I've had the privilege of serving for the past seven years. By leading our library with vision and dedication, I've worked tirelessly to ensure that our institution remains a vital hub of knowledge and community engagement.

In addition to my roles within the library, I'm also deeply committed to the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA), where I've been an active member for 17 years. As co-chair of the Conference Committee, I'm passionate about advancing our profession and ensuring the success of our upcoming conference. It's a role that allows me to collaborate with fellow library professionals, share ideas, and contribute to the ongoing growth and development of our field.



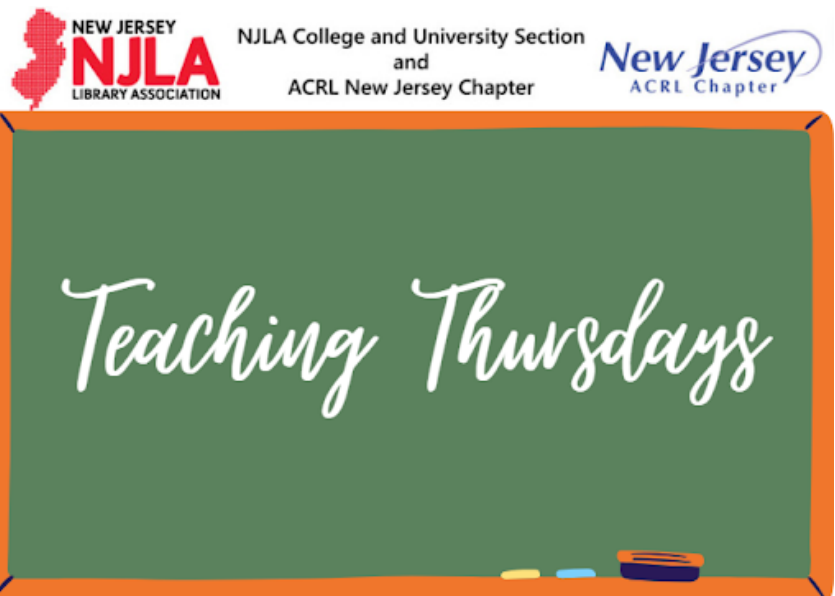
TEACHING THURSDAYS

by **GARY MARKS JR.**

The NJLA College & University Section (CUS) has launched a new collaborative initiative with the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL). Teaching Thursdays is a virtual teaching circle held monthly on a selected Thursday. Organized by the CUS President Gary Marks Jr., the initiative provides a forum for sharing instructional tools and strategies, lesson plans, advocacy and outreach efforts, resource tools and tips, and networking for K-12 librarians, media specialists, and academic librarians. The programs are structured to provide a 20-30 minute presentation on a selected topic and 20-30 minutes of discussion and sharing.

CUS called on the vast expertise of the academic library community in New Jersey to develop programming that provides professional development opportunities for K-12 librarians. CUS held the first Teaching Thursday event on February 29th. Librarians Justin Savage and Drew Wallace of Montclair State University led attendees in discussing career readiness resources.

The spring semester includes three more events covering demystifying academic libraries, assisting instructors with teaching information literacy, and grant writing tips & resources. The complete list of programs, abstracts, and registration information is available on the [Teaching Thursdays website](#).

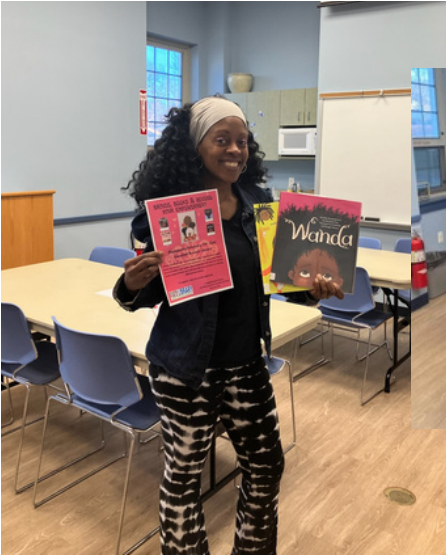


Teaching Thursdays are open to all librarians and educators in New Jersey.

CUS is also working with Open NJ, and NJ Open Access Repository to have all the Teaching Thursday programs recorded and freely accessible within the repository. Teaching Thursdays is an effort by librarians to build a cohesive community of practice in New Jersey. This new initiative aims to create a continuum of information literacy skill development from kindergarten through higher education.

Gary Marks Jr. is a Reference and Outreach Librarian at the Cheng Library at William Patterson University. He also serves as President of the College and Universities Section of NJLA.

AROUND THE STATE: Programs and Celebrations in New Jersey Libraries



From Left: Braids, Books, and Beyond: Hair Empowerment with Ms. Ahava Felicidad, Holistic Hair Healer; Memorializing African American History Done by Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps. Photos courtesy of Gabriel Ramos/Vauxhall Branch of the Union Public Library.

To right: Lunar New Year at the Manville Branch of the Somerset County Library System. Photos courtesy of Emily Lail.



Above: Miss Mary's Lunar New Year Program at the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Miller.



Above: Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration at the Cherry Hill Public Library. The organizers for this event were honored with a Cherry Hill township proclamation for their efforts in bringing Chinese culture to the community. Photo courtesy of Jasmine Riel

SECTION SPOTLIGHT: Honors & Awards

by **MARIANNE SIEVERS**

Have you ever wondered how the honorees of Thursday night's awards ceremony at the NJLA Conference are selected? It's due to the work of the Honors & Awards (H&A) Subcommittee!

H&A was originally established as a standing committee in 1937, progressed through several configurations, and was re-established as a subcommittee of Public Relations in 1996.

It was renamed Honors & Awards in 2003. This subcommittee also recommends new awards to establish (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is the newest, established in 2021).

From January through March of each year, H&A—in partnership with the Intellectual Freedom Committee, the NJ Association of School Librarians, the College and University Section of NJLA/NJ Chapter of Association of College & Research Libraries, and the History and Preservation Section—puts out a call for library workers throughout the state to nominate worthy individuals and organizations across fifteen categories.

Once the nominations are in, H&A members work hard to sort through the submitted materials to choose the best of the best in each category. This is one of the most difficult tasks for subcommittee members, as many deserving entries are submitted each year.

Once the winners have been selected, the committee arranges the ceremony to publicly recognize honorees for their achievements. The opportunity to celebrate all the great people, activities, and efforts by and for libraries and library workers makes all the H&A subcommittee's efforts worth it.

All of us on the subcommittee hope to see you at the ceremony!

Nominations for this year are open through March 29, 2024 and can be submitted at njla.org/honors-and-awards.

The 2024 Honors & Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 30th at the NJLA Conference.

Marianne Sievers is the '23-'24 Chair of the Honors and Awards Subcommittee. She is a 2021 graduate from Drexel University's LIS program and has recently assumed the role of Local History & Genealogy Librarian with the Hunterdon County Library System.



NJLA Executive Director Brett Bonfield at the 2023 Honors & Awards Ceremony.

FEATURED PARTNER:

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL)

by **BETH RAFF**

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians is the professional organization for school librarians in our state. We believe that every student deserves a certified school librarian and access to diverse resources that support the NJ Student Learning Standards and state mandates. Currently, we have 586 members and are the premier provider of professional development for school librarians. Our conferences, workshops, and online resources help librarians stay abreast of the latest developments in the field.

In January 2023 we were delighted to have the Information Literacy bill signed by Governor Murphy. Our members are working with NJDOE on the related student learning standards. In addition, we are part of the IMLS grant given to the State Library to develop a model curriculum that will be rolled out nationally.

NJASL has a very active advocacy group that has been hard at work protecting the right to read and supporting school librarians who face challenges. Currently, we are working with NJLA and other stakeholders to get the Freedom to Read bill proposed by Senators Andrew Zwicker and Teresa Ruiz passed. NJASL's Rapid Response Team works jointly with NJLA and ACRL/CUS-NJ to provide support for librarians facing book challenges. In addition, we issued a joint statement with NJEA and NJLA supporting librarians facing censorship issues.

NJASL and NJLA members attend and present at each other's annual conferences. Please consider attending our Spring Meeting, School Librarians Busy as Can Bee, on Saturday, May 4, 2024. The event will be held from 9-1 at The College of New Jersey. We look forward to continuing our relationship to strengthen libraries throughout the state.



NJASL Board Members met to celebrate Read Across America.

Beth Raff is President of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians and the Media Specialist at Mt. Tabor Elementary School in the Parsippany-Troy Hills School District. She holds both a Master of Information from Rutgers University School of Communication and Information and a Master of Education from Rutgers Graduate School of Education. She was a 2019 ALA Emerging Leader. Her email address is president@njasl.org.

A MESSAGE FROM PORZIO GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



by **BARBARA DeMARCO, VP**

With 45 days under our belt, the Porzio Governmental Affairs team is quickly learning how libraries are funded as well as the most important policy issues impacting libraries.

As it relates to the State Budget, PGA and Brett Bonfield met with the Governor's Office policy team as well as the relevant members from the State Treasurer's Office in mid-February to request an increase in funding for Fiscal Year 2025. NJLA requested full funding, a \$7,289,550 increase over the Fiscal Year 2024 allocation of

\$4,676,000 for a total of \$11,965,082. This request was made prior to the release of the specifics contained in the proposed FY 2025 budget. NJLA's request for an increase was tied to investment in information and media literacy, technology access and training, workforce development, and access to government services. Given that this request was made only ten days prior to the Governor's FY 2025 State Budget Address, PGA knew this would be a huge lift. Budget requests from interested parties are generally given to the Governor's staff to consider in November and December of the previous year, which PGA and NJLA plans to do in 2024 for the FY 2026 budget.

Unfortunately, once the full proposed budget was received on March 12, NJLA learned that while per capita state aid remained flat at \$4,676,000, New Jersey's library network funding would be reduced by 20%. This proposed reduction would adversely impact LibraryLinkNJ (which provides professional development, book delivery from one library to another, and other fundamental services), along with services the State Library provides directly (technology support for libraries, database subscriptions that are shared by everyone in New Jersey, and support research, entrepreneurs, and workforce development).

To compound the confusion on library funding, the Governor announced on March 15 that NJ libraries would receive more than \$30 million for the State Library's Building Community Resilience project. This project will address disparities in access to education, jobs, and health monitoring by investing in capital improvements at community facilities. This allocation came from the United States' Capital Project Fund to support critical capital projects.

Article continues on next page.

As a result, PGA and NJLA need to analyze how this \$30 million for the State Library Community Resilience Project will offset losses in state funding. To this end, PGA and members of NJLA will sit with partisan staff to figure out exactly how the cut in additional funding and the increase in federal funding will play out. All we can say is.... stay tuned.

On the legislative front, the Freedom to Read Act was not posted for a vote in the Senate Education Committee on March 14 as expected. The committee, instead, took testimony on school funding reform. As such, the NJLA Public Policy Committee and the PGA team, will work on amendments to the bill over the legislative budget break (April 2024). In addition, NJLA's Public Policy Committee will evaluate whether the new OPRA Reform bill is something State libraries can support or oppose.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORNER

"Well, how did I get here?"

by **KARIN ROSLUND**



I'm Ms. Karin, a Children's Librarian at the Piscataway Public Library! I develop children's programs for ages birth through 5th grade in addition to assisting with collection development, children's reference services, and outreach. What led me to this career was not a long held dream. In reality, I didn't have experience working with children until my final year of college. But through exploring my interests and discovering new ones along the way, I've happily found myself where I am today.

Article continues on next page.

As an undergraduate, I attended Bard College in upstate NY where I earned a bachelor's degree in Literature. I studied Japanese for three years and studied abroad in Japan for a summer after graduation. When I returned, I decided to continue pursuing my passion for the language and applied for an internship at the Japan Society in NYC. I interned for the Family and Education department and helped coordinate family crafts, storytimes, and festivals. I remember greatly enjoying the work, and being impressed with our storytime hosts and their charisma. I wanted to continue working in nonprofits so I applied for an internship at the Museum of Chinese in America. One of my responsibilities there was writing brief articles on items within the museum's collections. This work sparked an interest in archival science, and as a result I decided to apply to Pratt Institute for their Library and Information Science masters program.



While I went in with the intention to focus on archives, I found I enjoyed the classes that spoke about academic and public libraries the most. In the second semester of my program the pandemic hit, so the rest of my classes happened online. I didn't get my first job working at a library until my final semester when I started doing adult and children's circulation at the South Orange Public Library. Helping kids find books became the highlight of my day. I eventually went on to work at the Dunellen Public Library facilitating children and teen programs. It was here that I conducted my first storytime, STEAM craft program, Super Smash Brothers tournament, outdoor water programs, and more. I loved these activities because I could see the joy they gave parents, children, and teens in the community.

I started working at the Piscataway Library in July of 2023. While it's been less than a year, I've had many opportunities to help with large scale in-house and outreach events. I've learned a lot about what it takes to serve such a big community and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know new families as a result.

Children's librarianship was an interest I discovered and a skill I worked on. I remember being terrified during my first storytime! But overcoming that obstacle allowed me to discover something I now love. While I ended up on a different path than I intended when leaving college or going into library school, I think I've ended up somewhere just as exciting.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Carina Gonzalez is now the Instructional Media Specialist at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights.

Barbara Shallit, age 85, passed away on Monday, December 11, 2023. Barbara was the former Director of Roselle Park Veterans Memorial Library from June 1996 until she retired March 2004. She previously served as the Children's Librarian from September 1981 - June 1996. Barbara was extremely active in the Roselle Park community and continued her work with NJLA for many years. Barbara is survived by her loving husband Isaac, her son Dan (Johanny), her daughter Aliza (Leif) Novie, and her five adored grandchildren; Paige, Tori, Alexa, Justin, and Helene.

A memorial fund has been set up, in Barbara's memory, to provide books and tutoring to foster children at [JAFCO Children's Shelter](#).

JAFCO - 4200 North University Drive, Attn: Sydney Schneider, Sunrise, FL. 33351

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

Email newsletter_editor@njlamembers.org

to have it included in our next issue!



Breaking Barriers
INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION
