



NJLA NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

September 2024

Vol. 22 Issue 3

Important Dates

Social Media Strategic Planning

Wednesday, October 2, 3 p.m.

Getting to YES! Sustainable Funding with a Johnson Act Referendum

Tuesday, October 8, 10 a.m.

Diversity and Outreach Unconference

Wednesday, October 16
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Youth Services Forum

Wednesday, November 20
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Starting A Public Library Foundation

Tuesday, December 10, 10 a.m.

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

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NEW JERSEY

NJLA

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by **JEFF CUPO**

Hello friends! For my inaugural message to the membership, I wanted to touch on a couple of very important partnerships we're developing this term.

In the interest of including Indigenous voices in our EDI efforts and to support the goals of their text, communities and organizations, NJLA is partnering with the

Lenape Center to help distribute their *Lenapehoking: An Anthology*. Recently published by the Lenape Center and Brooklyn Public Library, it is the only scholarly publication composed entirely of Lenape voices, bringing knowledge of their culture and history to the public, through essays and interviews on a variety of subjects. Our hope is to get this anthology in libraries across the Lenape homeland, and so the book will be made available at no cost. For a copy, please contact the Lenape Center at lenapecenter@gmail.com.

NJLA is also working with the NJ Department of Human Services to try to get all libraries across the state to distribute Narcan for free to the public. While the Overdose Prevention Act of 2021 mandates that all libraries have Narcan on hand to administer as needed, and at least one staff person trained (or regular volunteer) to do so, DHS and NJLA encourage all libraries to take the next step and provide it directly to the public. Due to the spread of fentanyl, the lives being lost in every single community in NJ have skyrocketed. Each Narcan kit doesn't just stop an overdose, but also provides an opportunity to give our patrons the information they can use to get treatment. There is nothing libraries can do to save more lives than this. Your library can get large supplies of Narcan for free at <https://dmhas.dhs.state.nj.us/NDP>.



Jeff Cupo serves as the Head of Information and Adult Services at Elizabeth Public Library. He manages EPL's Health and Wellness Station, which provides free life-saving items, including Narcan, condoms, feminine hygiene products, socks, etc. He led EPL in becoming one of the first libraries in NJ to hire a social worker, and one of the few libraries in the country to offer lockers for homeless patrons to store their possessions. Jeff also runs a monthly Homeless Focus Group for housing-insecure patrons to share ways the library can better serve them. As NJLA President, Jeff hopes to make practices like these more widespread, to improve the lives of our patrons across the state, and is more than happy to help anyone get started.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by **BRETT BONFIELD**

There is power in conversation, relationships, and community. They shape how we see ourselves and feel about others. Enable us to preserve what is good and collaborate on change. Afford us representation and increase the possibilities for kindness and justice.

How might NJLA increase the power of libraries, library staff, and library advocates? It requires us to talk with each other. Get to know each other. Welcome our differences. Create common ground through the difficult, messy process of building consensus.



For that to happen, we need NJLA to provide spaces for its members to come together, in person and virtually, in real time and asynchronously. Ours is a growing, evolving organization, sometimes a majestic cheetah and sometimes an awkward baby giraffe.

NJLA is committed to being the association you want it to be, to being the place where you have the conversations you want to have and create the projects you want to exist. Since the last time I wrote to you, the Executive Board approved partnerships with four credit unions. Once they receive regulatory approval, they will provide free membership to every NJLA member. Like the Community Foundation of New Jersey, which stewards NJLA's investments and savings account, these organizations share our values and provide superb services at lower costs than most of their competitors.

The Executive Board also approved a partnership with Amazon, which will soon provide Amazon Prime for Business to NJLA's Enhanced Institutional Member libraries. This is another way to provide value for NJLA's members, an important step in making NJLA membership available to as many New Jersey library staff as possible.

We want NJLA membership to be a "no brainer" for every library and library staff member in New Jersey, both because they support NJLA's priorities and strategies, and because NJLA membership delivers far, far more than it costs in money or time. We want to be the place where you have crucial conversations that you do not have anywhere else, where you take on projects and create change that would be less enjoyable and effective without NJLA.

Thank you for your commitment to libraries and to professional association. I appreciate your belief in the possibility of kindness and justice.

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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OTHER NJLA NEWSLETTERS:

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

[College and University](#)

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INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING?

For all inquires, please contact

newsletter_editorenjlamembers.org

Proposals for the Winter 2024 issue are due on November 4th.

INTRODUCING STELLA

by ERIC LOZAUSKAS



It certainly has been a time of change for our consortium! In June, we welcomed new member libraries, migrated to a new integrated library system, and changed our name from “Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium,” or LMxAC, to “Sharing & Technology Enhancing Local Library Access,” known as STELLA.

As our membership grew beyond Middlesex County, we felt it was time for a name that better reflects our mission and represents all of our members. We also wanted a name that was easy to remember, as LMxAC’s letters were often jumbled by patrons and sometimes referred to as LMx, a separate organization. It also gave us the opportunity to retire the old term “automation” from the acronym. After several rounds of surveys to our membership, committee meetings, and collaboration with a branding firm, we determined that our new name would be “Sharing & Technology Enhancing Local Library Access.” The firm was careful to craft a concept that feels trustworthy and resonates with all library patrons. The expanse of the acronym clearly defines what we do, serves as our tagline, and allows us to simply go by STELLA.



The logo for STELLA features the word "STELLA" in large, bold, blue capital letters. A light blue line with yellow dots and starburst shapes connects the letters. Below the word is the tagline "Sharing & Technology Enhancing Local Library Access" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

Sharing & Technology Enhancing Local Library Access

Our new logo design has a common thread connecting varied shapes in our main logoform. This design invokes a feeling of connection and collaboration, which is at the heart of being a member of STELLA.

Article continues on next page.

As part of our new brand launch, member libraries received window signage that reads “Member of STELLA” so that patrons can easily identify member libraries that are part of the consortium. This ingredient branding concept serves as a visual reminder to patrons of the multitude of services available to them through the consortium. We also had the branding firm create a bookmark design that is both visually appealing and informative, listing all member libraries where patrons can use their cards. We’re excited to roll out these bookmarks in the near future.

This name change coincided with our migration to a new ILS, resulting in a refreshed brand concept alongside a new discovery layer and updated library app. In the weeks leading up to our go-live, we released PR material showcasing new features from our upcoming catalog to build familiarity and excitement. With this new ILS, we have an easier to use staff client along with a suite of tools that we licensed for all member libraries. We’ve started launching a new events management system that also supports room booking (powered by Vega Program), and a new analytics platform that provides our libraries with collection development tools, DEI analysis, and community demographic information to help them better serve their communities (powered by LibraryIQ). We also licensed a new email marketing tool to help our libraries engage with their patrons (powered by Vega Promote), which we plan to launch in 2025.

With all of these new and exciting products for our member libraries, it is no surprise that June was also a time of growth for our consortium! We were thrilled to welcome 4 new member libraries from Union County: Garwood Free Public Library, Hillside Public Library, Rahway Public Library, and Union Public Library. By joining STELLA they expanded their collections to over 3.5 million items, and their patrons are benefitting from a brand new online catalog with search results grouped by title, rich author pages, librarian-curated lists, and an interface designed for serendipitous discovery.

Eric Lozauskas is the Executive Director at STELLA in Edison. He holds an M.S.I.S. in Information Management from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. He has nearly 25 years of experience working within consortia, formerly at the Bergen County Cooperative Library System and now at STELLA since February of 2023.

SUMMER READING AROUND THE STATE Adventure Begins at Your Library

by ERICA DEB

Whether it was intricate displays and bulletin boards, thematic children’s programs, or walks outside through nature, New Jersey libraries took this year’s CSLP theme in stride. The adventures came in all sizes, providing summer fun for communities.

We look forward to 2025 when we Color Our World!



Clockwise from top left: The Dorothy Henry branch of SCLSNJ; The Manville branch of SCLSNJ; Millburn Free Public Library.

Article continues on next page.



*Clockwise from top:
Summer Reading Board-
Bernards Township Library;
Bergenfield Public Library;
Plant Walkabout at NJ
School of Conservation in
Stokes Forest; GCLS
Margaret Dombrosky
Swedesboro Public Library;
Circulation Assistant Rachel
at the Cherry Hill Public
Library.*



Erica Deb is the Head of Youth Services at the Matawan Aberdeen Public Library. She is the Chair and Editor of the NJLA Newsletter, and an active member of the Young Adult Services Section. She holds an MLIS from Rutgers University. You can contact her at newsletter_editorenjlamembers.org.

NJ'S UNSUNG LIBRARIES: PART 1

Highlighting the libraries who are too busy serving their patrons to highlight themselves

by **JEFF CUPO**

NJLA President Jeff Cupo is visiting one library per month for his term as part of the Unsung Libraries Initiative. Each library will get a bit of spotlight in the NJLA Newsletter, and one of their staff will be awarded the NJLA President's Award at our annual conference.

July Visit: Atlantic Cape Community College Libraries

The staff at ACCCL are a small, but mighty team, with just five full time staff, along with part time student workers, to manage three campus libraries across two counties, 50 miles apart. The care and enthusiasm they have for their students and their success is infectious. Their students' needs are not dissimilar from that which you'd see in an urban library: balancing combinations of schoolwork, jobs, parenting, caregiving for parents and siblings, financial difficulties, learning differences, hunger, homelessness, learning English, anxiety.



L-R Leslie Murtha, Jeff Cupo, Janet Hauge, Michael Sargente, Mickey DiCamillo, (not pictured, Pamela Baker)

They have worked out a reciprocal borrowing agreement with the county, so that the students can borrow more entertaining fare from the public library, and the public can borrow more technical books from the college. Libraries are the great leveler, as librarian Mickey DiCamillo says, "Throw down the walls!" The amount of incredible programs and services they have there, from free snacks and printing, to an LGBTQ+ focused study room, are too many to list.

Despite their overflowing plates, the staff work hard to make their students' lives easier and give them a break from the stress. Mickey worked to launch a calculator lending program for their students who can't afford them, with great results: at \$150 each, they can make a big dent in a student's budget. The speed at which he was able to get this program going from conception to implementation is astounding (including repairing the calculators himself along with their custodian Virgil). Along with Mickey, librarian Leslie Murtha started trivia and game nights, open to the public so students can bring their families, and with the theater majors reading the questions, a good time is had by all. Director and Assistant Director, Janet Hauge and Michael Sargente (who made the point that I should just highlight their staff and not them- sorry!), are ideal examples of true leaders, who genuinely care for their staff and strive to get them the credit they deserve. They are a wonderful, good-hearted team and I am happy to know them all now.

Article continues on next page.

August Visit: SCLSNJ's Bound Brook Branch

In October of 2023, Bound Brook Library had to close unexpectedly for asbestos remediation, and it is still closed nearly a year later. The dedicated staff, undeterred, pivoted to find ways to creatively continue serving the public. Bound Brook has a population of about 12,000. About 54% of the town are Spanish-speaking. The digital divide is large in their community, and without the library, many lack access to the internet. Through the efforts of their director, Cathy DeBerry, with the support of SCLSNJ and in partnership with Somerset County's Department of Human Services, they created the Somerset County HELPS van to provide computer, printer, and internet access. This digital van is parked once a week at the Bound Brook commuter train station parking lot, along with a variety of nonprofits, government organizations, and community support groups.

Additionally, the outreach team—consisting of Alyssa Titus, Rebecca Ward, Alejandra Vargas-Brenes, Laura Curry, Marlene Barcelo, Mark Cockburn, and Aaron Pickett—launched a series of other regular outreach events throughout the town. The incredible ingenuity of the staff and tireless compassion for their community has allowed them to be quite literally everywhere. On a weekly basis, they are setting up shop at the food bank, schools, parks, and monthly town events, to give out holds, run summer reading, etc. They serve a large percentage of the town, with over 4,000 patron transactions, out of 12,000 residents, all without a physical building. It's a staggering success. It was a rough year to do this with the blistering heat, but they were out constantly, only canceling the digital van twice due to severe weather.

When I visited, News12 NJ had just done a story on the team, and the digital van was swamped with a crowd for hours. Despite a long, hot summer, Alyssa, Rebecca, Laura, Mark, and Steve Barrientos, were a well-oiled machine, displaying remarkable energy and enthusiasm as they interacted with patrons. With a year like they had, you might expect them to be beat down, and exhausted, but there was none of that. They are dedicated and caring, and that has driven them to fight the good fight, despite the odds. It was a sight to see, and one I won't soon forget.



L-R: Mark Cockburn, Steve Barrientos, Laura Curry, Aaron Pickett (back), Rebecca Ward, Cathy DeBerry (back), Alyssa Titus, Brian Auger (back), Alejandra Vargas Brenes, Allie Ziff

2024-2025 NJLA EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

by **Cassandra Collucci**

Have you been a librarian for less than five years? Are you interested in developing your leadership skills to enhance your career? NJLA's Emerging Leaders program will be accepting applicants starting at the end of August through October 1st.

The Emerging Leaders Program is open to librarians who have been working professionally for less than five years, and have been working in New Jersey for less than five years. This program consists of five full-day sessions from November 2024 to March 2025.

Presenters with various backgrounds within the NJ library community and beyond will lead discussions and interactive sessions that will encourage attendees to learn about leadership and explore their own leadership style. Attendees will also be able to network with other emerging leaders, meet State Library and NJLA leaders, and learn about the structure of NJLA.

The session dates are: Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, and Mar 13 from 10–3:30 p.m. Locations will be held throughout the state at NJ Libraries. The cost of the five sessions is \$200; registration fee covers lunch and the cost of materials. Meetings will be held at various public library locations in New Jersey from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; participants agree to attend all five days of sessions. Space is limited!

To apply, fill out the google form application, cover letter introducing yourself, a resume, and a statement of support signed by your Supervisor through the google form. If you have questions, please email emergingleaders@njlamembers.org. NJLA membership required to apply.

Cassandra Collucci, MLS, is the Customer Experience Manager for the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey where she manages system activities such as staff training, circulation, passport and notary, social work interns, and special projects. Cassandra has worked as a librarian for 16 years in a variety of capacities from being a teen librarian, to youth services supervisor, to training staff. Cassandra has held leadership positions within NJLA such as chair of Leadership and Education Subcommittee, past vice president of the County Library Section, and a past member of Elections and Nominations Committee. She has also been elected to 2 terms as Treasurer and President Elect of ALA's Learning Round Table.

FEATURED PARTNER

South Jersey Alliance of Independent Libraries (SAIL)

by **WEN GU**

The origins of the SAIL Library Consortium trace back to a pivotal meeting held on February 11, 2020. This gathering marked the beginning of a significant initiative to unite independent municipal public libraries from Camden and Burlington Counties. The primary goal was to foster a collaborative alliance among these libraries to enhance resource sharing and mutual support.



In March 2021, a survey was conducted to select a name for the consortium. The results led to the adoption of the name "SAIL", which reflects the consortium's commitment to navigating the future of library services through cooperation. By December 2021, a draft of the bylaws that laid the groundwork for the formal establishment of SAIL was presented at a membership meeting. During the same year, an unofficial Executive Board was created to advance the alliance's development.

In 2022, the consortium's Board members assumed the key roles: Tanya Finney Estrada as Chairperson, Laverne Mann as Vice Chair, Eric Zino as Treasurer, Dana Nicklas as Secretary, and Wen Gu and Carissa Schanelly as Members-at-Large. Later that year, the SAIL Library Consortium had its official launch. Tanya Finney Estrada expressed her enthusiasm for the consortium's formation, stating, "I am thrilled that this group of independent libraries has come together to offer mutual support and newfound opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing. I hope this alliance will continue to grow and flourish as we work together to promote our common goal of improving access to library programs and services throughout Camden and Burlington County".

SAIL now represents 16 independent municipal libraries serving approximately 314,000 residents across Camden and Burlington Counties. Its mission is to support, promote, and enhance access to library materials and information resources among its member libraries. The consortium aims to share information and resources, and promote excellent library services while exploring opportunities for technology sharing, training, and programming. SAIL aspires to achieve these goals through collaboration, cost savings, and resource sharing.

Wen Gu is the library director at the Gloucester City Library. Graduated from SILS, Rutgers, Wen has been in the New Jersey library world for about eighteen years. She has navigated through all types of libraries - a college library, a corporate library, a school library, and some public libraries. She joined the Gloucester City Library ten years ago.

SECTION SPOTLIGHT

Finance Committee

by **WILL PORTER**

Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes with NJLA's complex finances? Let's lift the curtain a little on our Finance Committee.

While the treasurer, with the support of the Budget Subcommittee, takes the lead on the budget, the Finance Committee's charge is to:

- review annually the major income-generating activities (e.g., membership, conference);
- coordinate the activities of the Investment, NJLA Store, and Fundraising Subcommittees; and
- advise the Executive Board on matters pertaining to the Association's financial status.



Which is to say that the Finance Committee does a lot of the forward-looking, behind-the-scenes work that keeps NJLA well-positioned to take on all sorts of new initiatives when they come up. As an example, the Enhanced Institutional Membership option planned and recommended to the Executive Board by the Finance Committee, has enabled significant growth in revenue, membership numbers, and communities of members.

But it's not all spreadsheets and policy planning. Ok, it's a good chunk of spreadsheets and policy planning, but in the best possible way. The Finance Committee meets monthly on the second Monday, and we have a blast doing it. The meetings often feature lively discussions, where ideas, numbers, and strategies are shared in a collaborative and upbeat environment.

The Committee's efforts play a huge part in keeping our organization running

Article continues on next page.

smoothly and our mission moving forward. If you would like to participate in the Finance Committee, please feel free to reach out to me or to the NJLA staff.

Will Porter is the Director of the Sussex County Library System. With over 20 years of professional experience in NJ public libraries, he has a first-hand understanding of the vital role NJLA plays in the statewide library community. He has served on the boards of the New Jersey Library Association, LibraryLinkNJ, Main Library Alliance, the NJ Broadband Access Study Commission, the Andover Regional Board of Education, and the Newton Board of Education.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Maria Deptula

Hi, my name is Maria Deptula; I am a librarian by fate more than by choice. During my college years in Poland, I studied history to become an archivist. I left Poland just before major changes in Eastern Europe unfolded. My first archivist position was at the Polish Historical Institute in New York City. I then worked at the American Bible Society (ABS) archives in NYC. As I write this on the anniversary of 9/11, I recall my bus trip to NYC that day and recognize it as the start of my transition from archivist to librarian. The aftermath of 9/11 hit ABS hard financially, leading to significant staff reductions in 2003, including 80% of the library and archives team. My response was to apply to the Rutgers School of Library and Information Science, where I earned my MLIS degree and began working in public and academic libraries.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, as libraries faced another wave of significant layoffs, I was working at Berkeley College. Recognizing the high demand for expertise in the healthcare field, I completed my Medical Coding and Billing degree. When the opportunity arose, I decided to use my skills in technology, academic librarianship, and health sciences and applied for a position at the Rutgers Health Sciences Libraries. I was thrilled to be offered the job. Currently, I serve as the Collection Development Librarian at the George F. Smith Library in Rutgers Health, and I am also this year's President of the New Jersey Academic Librarians, a section of the NJLA.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORNER

by **KATIE KOTACSKA**

At the NJLA Conference in May 2024, the NJLA Professional Development Committee proudly presented "How did we get here? Breaking down barriers in our library careers," featuring the following librarians:

Bonnie Lafazan, Springfield Public Library: Moderator

Caitlin Decker, Mercer County Library System

Christina Getaz, Caldwell University

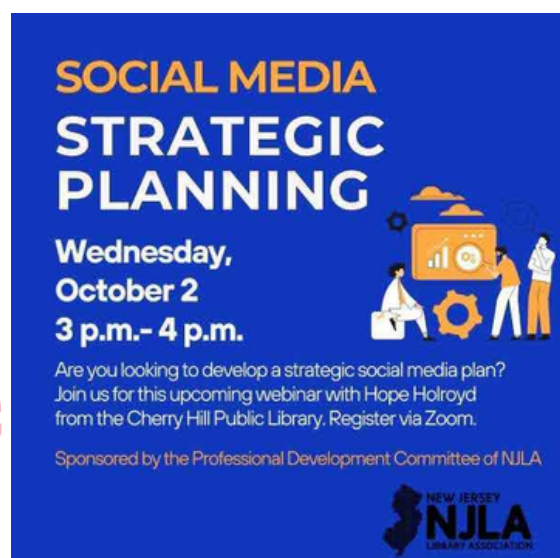
Neil Grimes, William Paterson University

Nicole Marconi, Hoboken Public Library

Susan Vignuolo, Piscataway Public Library

The target audience for our session was library students, early career librarians, and folks considering a career change within the library sector. Our panel consisted of librarians who work in different types of libraries and were at different stages of their journeys. Each panelist described their professional path, shared their insights on how they broke down barriers to build their careers, and gave some tips on best practices they use to develop their networks and skills. We finished up with a robust Q&A session. The PD committee was very excited about the results and received a lot of positive feedback from attendees. We are planning to present this session again at next year's conference, so please stay tuned!

SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIC PLANNING




SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIC PLANNING

Wednesday,
October 2
3 p.m.- 4 p.m.

Are you looking to develop a strategic social media plan? Join us for this upcoming webinar with Hope Holroyd from the Cherry Hill Public Library. Register via Zoom.

Sponsored by the Professional Development Committee of NJLA

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The poster features a blue background with white and yellow text. It includes an illustration of three people (two men and one woman) standing around a table with a laptop and a gear, symbolizing strategic planning. The NJLA logo is at the bottom right.

Are you looking to develop a strategic social media plan? In this training, learn how to create a formal strategic communication plan for social media content. See how to use strategic communication goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics to elevate your library's engagement on social media channels. Receive tips on differentiating content across platforms, learn about helpful resources for building content, and get suggestions for using style guides and templates to create content faster. Lastly, learn how to evaluate social media analytics for future content development. Please click [here](#) to register.

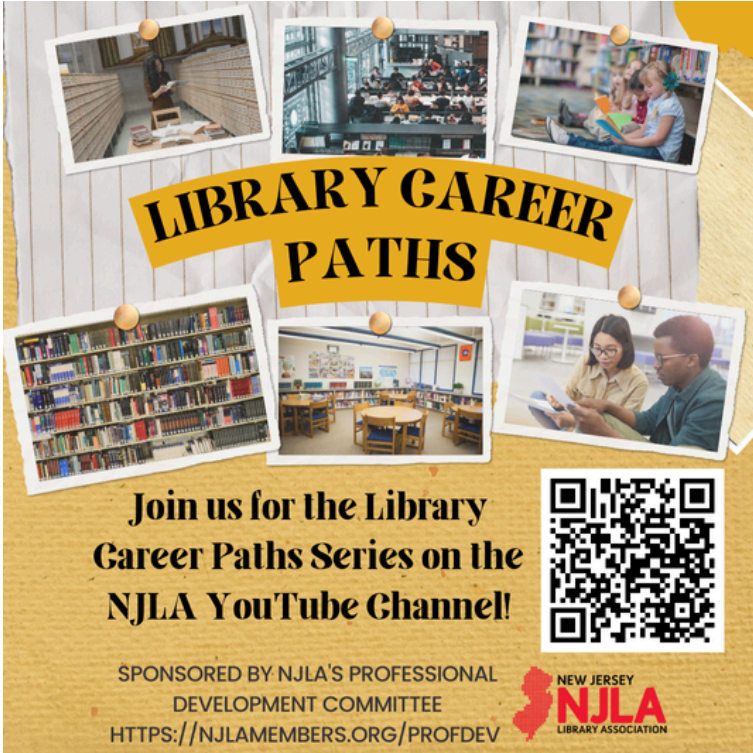
Article continues on next page.

About the presenter: Hope Holroyd, MA, is the Public Relations & Marketing Coordinator for the Cherry Hill Public Library. She creates press materials for reporters and local news media; develops a social media strategy for marketing and content management across seven social media channels; designs internal and external graphics and promotional materials in print and digital formats; maintains the Library website and online events calendar; writes, edits, and distributes the monthly e-newsletter and other email marketing campaigns with Constant Contact; and works with the Director, Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, and departments on fundraising and sponsorship opportunities. She graduated from Rowan University with a Bachelor's Degrees in Public Relations, Advertising, and American Studies. She earned her master's degree in Strategic Communication from Rowan University in 2019.

LIBRARY CAREER PATH SERIES

Sponsored by the NJLA Professional Development Committee

Join us for the eighth video in the Library Career Path series where we interview librarians and library professionals from a wide variety of positions within the field so newcomers and seasoned librarians alike can learn more about the many career options available. This interview features Natasha Zaleski, Cataloging Librarian & Technical Services from the New Jersey State Library. Click [here](#) to view the latest video and check out the others! Please like and subscribe to be notified of future videos.



The graphic features a central yellow banner with the text "LIBRARY CAREER PATHS" in bold black letters. Surrounding the banner are several photographs: a person working at a desk, a library interior, children reading, a bookshelf, a library study area, and two people looking at a tablet. Below the banner, the text reads "Join us for the Library Career Paths Series on the NJLA YouTube Channel!". To the right is a QR code. At the bottom, it says "SPONSORED BY NJLA'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE" and "HTTPS://NJLAMEMBERS.ORG/PROFDEV". The NJLA logo is in the bottom right corner.

Join us for the Library Career Paths Series on the NJLA YouTube Channel!

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A MESSAGE FROM PORZIO GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



by **BARBARA DeMARCO, VP**

With the close of the Spring Legislative Session, NJLA walked away with a significant legislative win. The \$850,000.00 in Library Network Aid that was cut in the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget was restored. The Legislature added a sweetener, too, by including an additional \$200,000 in additional Library Network Aid on top of Fiscal Year 2025 funding levels.

Freedom to Read also cleared the General Assembly by a vote of fifty-three yes and twenty no votes. Six members of the Legislature did not vote and one member abstained. The bill is now slated to be heard this fall in the Senate. The

bill received extensive amendments when heard in the Assembly Education Committee. Porzio Governmental Affairs is not expecting additional amendments to be made in the Senate.

Beyond the presidential election, all Congressional members are up for reelection. The electorate also will be choosing a United States Senator. The Democratic candidate is Andy Kim, a current Congressman. The Republican candidate is Curtis Bashaw, a hotel/hospitality entrepreneur, who was once Executive Director of the New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority. Most of New Jersey's Congressional seats are not contested. However, the seats held by Congressman Kim, and the late Congressman Donald Payne as well as the late Congressman Pascrell need to be filled. The Democrats are expected to win all three open Congressional seats. The Democratic candidate for Kim's seat is Assemblyman Herb Conaway, the Chairman of the General Assembly Health Committee and the Republican candidate is Dr. Rajesh Mohan. The Democratic candidate for Payne's seat is LaMonica McIver, the former Newark City Council President. Her Republican challenger is Carmen Bucco.

For the late Congressman Pascrell's seat, the Democratic candidate is State Senator Nellie Pou, Chairwoman of the Senate Commerce Committee, and Bill Prempeh, a Patterson native who has run twice against Pascrell is the Republican candidate.

Once the November 2024 elections are in the books, Porzio Governmental Affairs is expecting the politics of 2025 to quickly become the new targets with the Governor and all eighty seats of the General Assembly up for reelection. Governor Murphy will be completing his second term in office. As such, we are expecting an eventful 2025 primary season with multiple candidates vying for the Republican and Democratic nominations.



DIVERSITY AND OUTREACH UNCONFERENCE

The Diversity & Outreach Section, in collaboration with the Library Workers of Color (LWOC) Section, invites you to join us for our biannual Unconference on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at Princeton University.

This year's theme is Community Partners, and we are excited to announce that it will once again be an unconference format. This means most sessions will be driven by participants.

We will invite discussion proposals from all in attendance, on topics ranging from EDI, Community Engagement & Partnerships, Outreach, Mental Health & Wellness Support, and Advocacy. This event offers a unique opportunity to connect with others who share the same passion as you and to inspire new ideas amongst the collective. This conference is offered to you at no-cost.



The poster features a central image of two hands holding a white silhouette of a diverse group of people. Overlaid on this is a circular logo with the text '2024 Unconference Community Partners' and '2024' at the bottom. Below the hands, the text reads '2024 DIVERSITY & OUTREACH UNCONFERENCE COMMUNITY PARTNERS'. To the right, it says 'THIS EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE'. Below that, the date and time are listed: 'Wednesday, October 16 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM' and the location 'Princeton University'. A QR code is provided for registration, with a yellow button that says 'Register Here'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Diversity' (with the tagline 'COLLABORATE, SHARE & SHOWCASE') and 'LIBRARY WORKERS OF COLOR'.

Click [here](#) to register. After you register, you will receive more information about breakout sessions and workshops.

Please help us spread the word! We're excited to welcome not just library workers, but also social workers and social service providers who collaborate with libraries. Share this with any library social workers, interns, or community partners who might be interested in participating. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

Hope to see you at Princeton University on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.



The banner has a black background. On the left, the text 'FREEDOM TO READ DAY OF ACTION' is written in large, bold letters. 'FREEDOM TO' is in pink, 'READ' is in white, and 'DAY OF ACTION' is in blue. On the right, the text 'COMMUNITIES UNITE AGAINST BOOK BANS' is in white. Below that, 'OCTOBER 19, 2024' is in blue. At the bottom, 'HOST AN EVENT OR VIEW THE LIST OF PARTICIPATING NJ LIBRARIES' is written in pink.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Erin Oswald began as a PT Adult Services Librarian at the Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library in Sewell, NJ in July 2024.

Christina Sirianni began as the Adult Services Supervisor at the Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library in Sewell, NJ in September 2024.



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

Email newsletter_editor@njlamembers.org to have it included in our next issue!
