

# Newsletter

## Reference & Adult Services Section

### Reference & Adult Services Section

The primary activities of the Reference & Adult Services Section are the organization of an annual continuing education program for the Reference & Adult Services librarians and library workers of New Jersey and sponsoring informational sessions at the annual NJLA conference. At other times throughout the year, members meet around the State at various libraries, or via Zoom, to network, brainstorm, and share ideas regarding reference-related and adult services issues.

#### Reference & Adult Services

##### Section Leadership

**Deborah Blackwell, President**

Ocean County Library

[dblackwell@theoceancountylibrary.org](mailto:dblackwell@theoceancountylibrary.org)

**Kate Russo, Vice President**

South River Public Library

[kate@southriverlibrary.org](mailto:kate@southriverlibrary.org)

**Muriel Odrick, Secretary**

Ocean County Library

[modrick@theoceancountylibrary.org](mailto:modrick@theoceancountylibrary.org)

**Joy Robinson, MAL**

Piscataway Public Library

[jrobinson@piscatawaylibrary.org](mailto:jrobinson@piscatawaylibrary.org)

**Ruby Armour, Student Representative**

South River Public Library

[rubyarmour95@gmail.com](mailto:rubyarmour95@gmail.com)



Deborah Blackwell, President &  
Kate Russo, Vice-President



Joy Robinson, MAL

#### Meeting Schedule 2023 on Zoom:

Wednesday, August 16, 2023—9:30 a.m. Executive Board; 10:00 a.m.. Section Membership

Thursday, January 25, 2024 - 10:00am

Thursday, September 28, 2023—10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 30, 2023—10:00 a.m.

#### The Reference & Adult Section Forum:

Friday, October 20, 2023—9:00 a.m. at Monmouth Library Headquarters, Symmes Road, Manalapan, NJ. *Caring Community Mental, Emotional Health and Enhanced Meaningful Communications*

#### Meeting Schedule 2024 on Zoom:

Thursday, January 25, 2024—10:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 22, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 25, 2024 – 10:00 am

### NJLA CONFERENCE: BREAKING BARRIERS: INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION

May 29-31, 2024

Proposals submitted by Reference and Adult Services Section

Deborah Blackwell & Laura Giacobbe: Opening the Eye of Diversity Around equity and Power

Kate Russo: Coworkers on the Spectrum: Effective Communication and Support Strategies for Neurodiverse Employees

Sara Picone: True Crime Workshop Session

Muriel Odrick: The Global Minorities Way to Librarianship

Linda Tripp and Nathalie Levine—World Language Collection and Development



# Reference & Adult Services Section Newsletter

Reference and Adult Service Section Forum held at Monmouth Library Headquarters, in Manalapan, NJ



Speakers: Maria Robinson, author and business consultant advisor and Amber Railey, Licensed Professional Counselor at Empower U.

In attendance: Lindita Cani, Robin Megow, Briana Weatherholtz, Claire Thomas, Erika Dragonetti, Natalie Niziolek, Margaret Trupio, Laura Migliore, Deborah Blackwell, Kate Russo, Joy Robinson, Ruby Armour, and Muriel Odrick

Points of interest from the Adult Forum: A member of the R & A Services Section gifted each attend with a sticker reading: *My Job is Library*; retention is where communication comes from in using the five senses (see, hear, touch, smell, taste) brining us into the moment of our chaos, three words to stop a bully *Are You OK*; what your attention for the day all starts with the intention to make sure you do - your brain depends on it; behavior is a form of communication; healing is not a destination it's a journey, know when to ask for help; gratitude—be thankful for everything. Our President, Deborah Blackwell, pointed out that the power of the collected voices in the room assisted an attendee with a workplace challenge. The Vice-President notated always stay open to new ideas and

### Gallery of photos from the Adult Forum



Deborah Blackwell addressing the Adult Forum attendees



Erika Dragonetti

Briana Weatherholtz (L) & Natalie Niziolek (R)



Pictured: Standing—Deborah Blackwell, Lindita Cani

Sitting guest speakers (L) Amber Railey & (R) Maria Robinson