

What if...Academic Libraries Used Data to Advance Student Success and Work Environments?

The College & Research Libraries Division (CRLD) of the Delaware Library Association (DLA) would like to announce the upcoming spring program:

What if...Academic Libraries Used Data to Advance Student Success and Work Environments?



Date: Thursday, April 4, 2019

Time: 9:00 - 12:00pm (optional library tour after program)

Location: University of Delaware, Morris Library, Room 114

[Please RSVP by Thursday, March 21st -- RSVP Form](#)

Presenters include:

Maisha Carey, Instruction Librarian and Organizational Learning Coordinator; Jennifer MacDonald, Associate Librarian and Coordinator, Special Collections Cataloging Unit; Amy Eyre, Library Assistant I, University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press

Tameca Beckett, Reference and Access Services Librarian, Delaware State University

Jim McCloskey, Library Director / Associate Profes-

sor, Wilmington University Library

[Click here for full program details](#)

Membership in DLA or CRLD is not required to attend the program but strongly encouraged. Please consider joining or renewing today!

Please consider volunteering at the silent auction table at the annual conference or donating to support the CRLD baskets. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out for an hour!

We look forward to seeing you in April!

Best,
Molly

On behalf of the 2018-2019 CRLD board:

Molly Olney-Zide, president

Amanda McCollom, vice-president / CRLD conference chair

Sabine Lanteri, treasurer

Lynda Gillow, secretary

Rusty Michalak, past president



The Imagination Library: Dolly Parton and Libraries Make a Perfect Pair

Most people know Dolly Parton for her twangy music and over-the-top personal style. But if you ask her what she'd like to be remembered for, it's the Imagination Library. Back in 1995, she launched this early literacy program in honor of her father, who could never achieve his true potential because he was illiterate. She started distributing books to the children in her home county of Sevier, Tennessee, in the hopes of improving access to books for children there -- so many of whom were in great need.

Since then, the program has grown to become an international effort, distributing more than 1 million books a month. In March of 2018 it achieved a ma-

major milestone: sending out its 100 millionth book. In 2000, the Dollywood Foundation began an effort to foster national replication of the program, and as a result, anyone can get the Imagination Library started in their community. The Lewes Public Library did just that in September of 2018, becoming the Local Champion for the Imagination Library in the Cape Henlopen School District.

The Dollywood Foundation provides a mammoth amount of support, including an easy-to-use book ordering system, marketing materials, cost estimate



calculators, and more. To become a Local Champion, an organization must do just a few things:

1. Raise the money for the wholesale purchase and bulk mailing of the books, which averages \$2.10 each.
2. Provide a 501(c)(3) that can pay those invoices and serve as the return address on books.
3. Promote the program.
4. Maintain the database of registered participants.

That's it. The Dollywood Foundation does everything else. They provide an online portal for registration and can customize your brochures. They have a treasure trove of research available on the Imagination Library's success to help you educate potential funders about the program. The books (a mix of classics, award winners, and popular titles) are curated by child development specialists, and tailored to children based on their age and developmental stage. They provide a bulk mailing permit for shipping, and all books are sent directly from a special warehouse in Tennessee. It seems almost too good to be true. But it's for real.

Libraries are a perfect fit to serve as Local Champions for the Imagination Library. Literacy is part of our mission. Helping to get books into the hands of young children, while at the same time fostering interaction around books within families, is something we should be doing. Since launching its program September 15th, Lewes Library has registered more than 400 children between the ages of 0 - 5 (the eligibility requirement). A child registered at birth will amass a library of 60 books – 100%

free to their family – by the time they age out on their 5th birthday, and prepare to enter kindergarten. By the end of March, nearly 1500 books will have been received by participants in the Cape Henlopen School District, and that is something that's getting the positive attention of parents, teachers, and the school district administration. But nothing can compare to the joy on a child's face when they receive a book in the mailbox with their name on it. "This is for me? It's mine?" one Mom reported her young daughter, Lucy, asking. "And who got this for me??" The Library did, Lucy. The Library. And we hope you'll come back for more.



Lucy with a book she received thanks to the Imagination Library

Written by Jennifer Noonan, Children's Librarian – Lewes Public Library



New Experience in Research

As I started out within my new role as a librarian, I had the invaluable opportunity to connect with a librarian mentor through the Association for Library Service to Children [ALSC](#) division of ALA. During our monthly talks of encouragement and professional tips, my mentor, Paula Holmes, encouraged me to view my role as a librarian more broadly. She encouraged me to think about what types of contributions I wanted to make to the profession and what areas I wanted to grow in professionally. One of those areas was research and publication and the other was outreach to communities. Prior to our many discussions, I had thought that research and writing was beyond my reach, but Paula planted the seed that it was a possibility. She gave me the opportunity to practice my writing by inviting me to submit a brief experience piece to the ALSC newsletter about my time as a mentee. Fast forward, a year and I have the distinct pleasure of working in the health care arena again, but this time with a library focus within the DHSS Library. Here my mentoring continued but this time with my director, Alison Wessel, who provided direction, resources, and the most appreciated feedback as I formulated, revised, and defined the research question that I would pursue. After researching and reading arti-

cles on the topic of healthcare and libraries, attending a few webinars on the topic of [library outreach endeavors offered by National Network of Libraries of Medicine \(NNLM\)](#), and learning a few foundational concepts on the topic of [community based outreach from NNLM](#) I felt I had finally defined my research topic. I entitled it, “Enhanced access to health information resources for the community and library staff through collaboration between a health and public library.” The next steps were even more fun; creating and collecting data via a survey to public library staff to discover what the health information needs of public library patrons and staff actually were. Then the next step was to analyze the data. This data would become the substance of my [research poster](#), which I had the amazing opportunity to present at the Delaware Health and Social Services Research, Innovation, and Humanity Day this past month. In addition, I recently received the news that my poster will be included in the DE/MD Joint Library Conference poster sessions this upcoming May (so please stop by and say hello). One of my goals accomplished! I have not as of yet written anything for submission in a journal, but I believe the process has begun and the possibilities are endless. I also plan to utilize the valuable data gained from the research survey to help fuel ideas and guide me in support of community health and library outreach initiatives. More to come...

Written by Marlowe Bogino



Kent County Levy Court Rolls Out New Mobile Library

After a year-long hiatus, Kent County’s mobile library service is taking to the road again. The new unit “rolled out” on Saturday, February 2, at 10 a.m., at the Kent County Public Library (497 S. Red Haven Lane, Dover).

The new mobile library delivers books, periodicals, audiobooks, and movies throughout Kent County on a weekly basis. Added services include: a Wi-Fi hot spot, computer workstations for the public’s use, and limited printing services. Also new to the unit will be the driver, Brittany Mosely, who was hired in December for the post.

Previously, Kent County retired “Lucy, the Bookworm” unit due to increasing mechanical issues. The new unit, “Linus,” is smaller than “Lucy”, but is expected to be more fuel efficient, maneuver-

able, and cost effective over a long period of time. Planning for the updated service was led by the County Librarian, Dr. Hilary Welliver, and Bookmobile Supervisor Denise Cayz. “We wanted to improve and expand services,” Welliver said. “We hope to develop a broader outreach than in the past, ensuring library access to enrich every segment of the community.”



With that goal in mind, the bookmobile schedule was changed to stabilize weekly stops, but also provide the flexibility to accommodate requests for outreach to school functions and community events such as parades and festivals. Initial stops beginning in February included: Hartly UM Church, Byler’s on Rt. 8, Cheswold Fire Hall, Spring Meadows, the Milford Veteran’s Home, Felton Fire Hall, Modern Maturity Center, Kent County Administration building, and the County Parks on Saturdays. Current schedule of stops can be accessed on the County Library’s website at <http://co.kent.de.us/kc-library.aspx>

Also, Dr. Welliver reminds the public that the mobile library is an extension of the Kent County Public Library. “Whatever is available in our library, we tried to duplicate on the mobile unit on a smaller scale,” Welliver said. “The unit is also a public relations tool. When people see the mobile library, it may prompt them to visit our brick and mortar building, as well!”

Written by Hilary Welliver

Friends of the Delaware Libraries

The Friends of Delaware Libraries invites all of its Friends, and those who would like to be Friends, to a Spring Get-Together at Fraizer's Restaurant in Dover on Wednesday, March 27th, from 6-8:30. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, fellowship with other Friends, and a presentation of Ed Okonowicz's rollicking "Yarns, Tall Tales & Bold-Faced Lies". There will be a cash bar available, too. This is a free event to honor all our Friends. If you are not a Friend, you can join too — it only costs \$10.00 to be a Friend of Delaware Libraries. Hope to see you there!

Written by Kay Bowes



Friends Helping Friends Make
Libraries Better

Friends' Spring Event

Place: Fraizer's Restaurant
9 E. Lockerman Street
Dover, DE 19901

Date: March 27, 2019
Time: 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres
Coffee, Tea, and Soda
Cash Bar
Door Prizes

Special Guest Speaker -- Ed Okonowicz,
folklorist, author, and storyteller

Come join us at this free event! Meet your colleagues!

All Are Welcome!

Friends of Delaware Libraries is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Annual dues are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families, and \$25 for Friends organizations.

Please RSVP by March 18 to kaybowes@gmail.com

Register now for the MLA/DLA Joint State Conference

Join us May 1-3, 2019 in Cambridge, Maryland for the Maryland and Delaware Library Associations joint state conference. View the conference brochure and searchable schedule at www.mladlacon.com. You have the option to register online or by submitting the paper form, but act fast as hotel rooms book up quickly and early bird registration rates end March 15th. The website also offers other helpful information about the Hyatt Regency and surrounding area. If you would like to submit items for the Silent Auction or assist the Silent Auction Committee, please contact Kay Bowes at kaybowes@gmail.com and Pam Stevens, PLD

Vice President/Conference Chair at pamela.stevens@newcastlede.gov. If you have any questions about the conference or would like to sign up for a volunteer opportunity, please contact Conference Co-Chairs Alison Wessel at alisonwessel.dla@gmail.com and Michelle Hughes at michelle.hughes@lib.de.us. We hope to see you at the conference!

Written by Alison Wessel

Kent County Opens Sixth Little Free Library

One of the most successful ways to improve literacy is to increase access to books. Through Little Free Libraries, a community book exchange initiative, Kent County Division of Libraries exchanges thousands of books annually. According to *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, (M.D.R. Evans et al, June 2010), academically, children growing up in homes without books are on average three years behind children in homes with lots of books, even when controlled for other key factors. Kent County Librarian, Dr. Hilary Welliver, hopes that Little Free Libraries will impact this situation by providing 24/7 access to books and encouraging a love of reading in areas where books are scarce.

The most recent Little Free Library was dedicated at the Magnolia Fire Department in October 2018. The first Little Free Library, opened in Brecknock County Park in September 2014, was followed by installations in Big Oak County Park, Brown's Branch County Park, Bylers Country Store (Route 8), Magnolia Fire Department, and Kent County's Park and Recreation Center. A new Little Free Library will be installed in Farmington this summer.

Kent County's Little Free Libraries are designed and built by Bill Redick, a Friend of Kent County Public Library. Christy Shaffer, a member of the Kent County Library Advisory Committee and Library Friend, provides the graphic design on the exteriors. The Friends, volunteers, and library staff collaborate to ensure that at least 30 volumes are delivered to each site weekly, year-round.

Written by Hilary Welliver



Executive Director Update – Advocacy is a Key

Every year, I attend the American Library Association’s Midwinter and Annual conferences and represent the Delaware Library Association as its Executive Director. On Fridays during each conference, library associations (called “Chapters”) from across the nation gather together for a day of learning and sharing. Executive Directors, Chapter Councilors, Presidents and Presidents-Elect and others discuss ways to collaborate and effectively support the libraries in their states.

What I have found is that each Association has unique challenges and ideas. Where something might work for one, another might take a different tactic simply because, like every library community, each Chapter has unique needs and interests. But what is universal among us all is library advocacy.

Advocacy speaks to the active funding and care we all want from legislators. We want their continued recognition of the essential value libraries have in our communities and schools. Advocacy encourages local backing from library administrators, directors/managers, trustees, and board members.

Additionally, gaining support from colleagues and partners is another form of advocacy. It extends into how each of us actively participates with DLA and libraries. It flows through our interactions and word-of-mouth marketing and promotion. It’s a strong current of networking and involvement.

Much of what the Delaware Library Association does is to provide leadership opportunities, offer ways for members to get their hands on experience in an area of library work that they may not be able to do within their current employment, and to network across varied types of libraries. There is no where else that provides this to library staff outside of furthering your education, such as by attending ‘library school’.



As we continue along these lines, it naturally falls into place that when we talk to our co-workers, colleagues, supervisors and friends about the exciting events and activities we’re involved with, we are advocating for DLA as well as for ourselves and our libraries! For example, we had a great Delaware Library Legislative Day (Tuesday, January 15, 2019) despite the challenges posed by moving the date from March/April to January this year. The Legislative Action Committee

is the largest it has ever been and every person jumped in to help with developing legislative meetings. The committee also partnered with the Friends of the Delaware Libraries and the Delaware Division of Libraries to collaborate on the initiatives and entire event. This year, the “One Ask” initiative to provide one message to library funders and supporters made our unified voice clearer and stronger.

Our advocacy work is not done. Take a look at the Delaware Library Association’s Legislative Action Committee’s documents (<https://dla.lib.de.us/legislative-action/funding-and-library-support-documents-fy20/>) to see options for possible future action between now and June, when the fiscal year ends and the ink is dry on the final budget for 2019-20.

One other area where we are expanding legislative action is through Engage, the software provided through the American Library Association to State Chapters. The DLA Chapter Councilor, Lauren Wallis, worked with ALA’s Office for Library Advocacy to develop a pilot program for a virtual library legislative day held on the same day as the in-person Legislative Day. This allowed advocates to contact legislators through email and tone/content was similar to what we did in person, on the same day. It broadens our reach to use such tools, and provides a unified message through alternative options from constituents.

Want to get involved with DLA? Contact dla@lib.de.us to find out where you’d like to fit in to help make a difference with Delaware Libraries.

-Cathay Keough, DLA Executive Director

Outstanding School Librarians

Last year we saw awards given to two school librarians in the Brandywine school district - Bonnie Yurkanin (District Teacher of the Year) & Tammy Parker (Building Teacher of the Year). Both have served as mentoring librarians for teachers in the school library certification course of study through RTC at University of Delaware.

Bonnie has received special recognition for projects like the Rock Your Socks video "Our Friend, Aaron." She commits herself to the school community at Claymont Elementary School. The list of her accomplishments is endless. She was one of twenty educators nominated by their districts for their ability to inspire students with a love of learning, demonstration of professional traits, and devotion to teaching, according to the Delaware Department of Education



Tammy, librarian and building Teacher of the Year at Maple Lane Elementary, is also an involved educator who is a technology leader in her school. Tammy is not only a great school librarian, she is also an accomplished children's author. Tammy is dedicated to her students who inspire her penmanship.

Click [here](#) for access to Tammy's author page on amazon and [here](#) for her Teachers Pay Teachers page.

Written in part by Kim Read. Other credit goes to the Brandywine School District website.

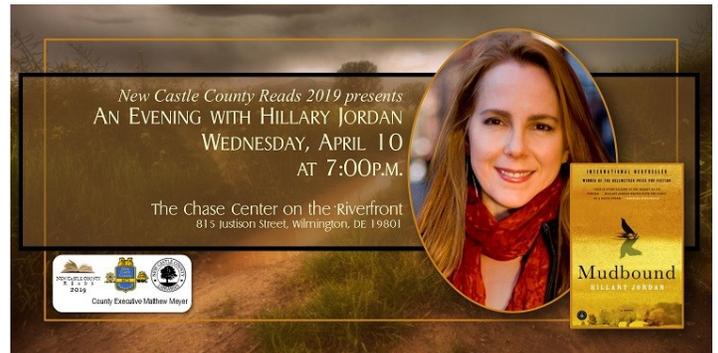


NCC Reads 2019

"Mudbound" by Hilary Jordan

Wednesday, April 10 @ 7 PM

The Chase Center on the Riverfront



Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines

Have something interesting you would like tell the community for an upcoming bulletin? These are the future dates and deadlines for the year! Email Nicole Ballance (Nicole.Ballance@lib.de.us) to submit your article!

- Summer 2019 Issue = Publication on Friday, May 31. Submissions due by Friday, May 24.
- Fall 2019 Issue = Publication on Wednesday, September 4. Submissions due Wednesday, August 28.
- Winter 2019 Issue = Publication on Friday, December 6. Submissions due on Wednesday, November 27.