



Bulletin

Delaware Library Association Bulletin

Summer 2019

Conference

By Alison Wessel

The 2019 Joint Conference of the Maryland and Delaware Library Associations offered many professional development and networking opportunities for library staff and supporters. The conference was again held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge, MD, and the gorgeous weather made enjoying the beautiful hotel grounds and amenities that much easier.

The Delaware Library Association sponsored the Friday morning keynote speaker, librarian technologist Jessamyn West. Our four association divisions and the Delaware Division of Libraries sponsored thirteen workshops. DLA members also participated in an additional three workshops sponsored by MLA.

We had some fun this year with offering a button making table and hosting a screening of the film "I Know a Man ... Ashley Bryan." Thanks to the many generous donations to the Silent Auction, DLA raised \$1,408! Kay Bowes deserves a special thanks for serving as the Silent Auction Chair for the past three years and making the program such a success. The Scholarship, Awards & Citations Committee honored many deserving individuals. Check out the DLA website for more details.

The 2019 conference had a record breaking 784 people attend! If you would like to be involved in making next year's conference an even bigger success please consider joining the conference committee. The first meeting will be held this summer. Contact DLA Vice-President and Conference Co-Chair Catherine Wimberley at [Cathe-](#)

Happening at WilmU

Jim McCloskey

Wilmington University Library Director

Library users throughout history have appreciated libraries and library workers, and, vice versa. Most

of us have fond memories of a librarian who took the time to understand us enough to recommend that one book that changed the trajectory of our lives, or heard the expressions of gratitude from a library user.

In order to sustain our appreciated role in society, libraries, like other organizations, must constantly adapt to the major disruptions emerging from such influences as big data and artificial intelligence. Wilmington University staff acknowledge and seek to incorporate these changes into our operations, yet remain committed to sustaining our high level of personal service to library users. As we adapt, we are also working to keep our organization healthy and vibrant so that library users continue to appreciate the library. This led us to consider steps for developing a new strategic plan that will express not only appreciation of the library and our users, but also our staff. Together, WilmU library staff have embarked on developing a new strategic plan through an organizational development concept known as "Appreciative Inquiry." Ironically known as AI, this approach aligns very well to strategic planning simply because it encourages participants to focus on a desired future state in order to stimulate transformational change.

Psychologist William James wrote, "The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated." Rather than focusing on problems, gaps and shortcomings, appreciative Inquiry, as described by originator David Cooperrider, involves "the art and practice of asking questions that strengthen a system's capacity to apprehend, anticipate, and heighten positive potential." Appreciation is at the heart of the Wilmington University Library's efforts to adapt to the many changes occurring in higher education and in the world of libraries. Specifically supporting our strategic planning process is the 4-D Cycle.

Discover – What are our strengths? What do we do best?

Dream – Envision the possible. What could be?

Design – Build the ideal. What should be?

Deploy – Executing with excellence. What will be?

We are in the early stages of the strategic planning process and understand that AI is not a magic wand. However, what we seek to do is create a collective sense of what needs to be achieved, reorient our thought processes away from threats and weaknesses and toward a desired future that is engaging and motivating, helping us to collaboratively promote adaptability as we respond to complex challenges. We look forward to the journey.

Kent County has a New MLIS Graduate

Kristine Mera, Kent County Division of Libraries, graduated from Clarion University's ALA-accredited Master of Library and Information Sciences program, *Magna Cum Laude*, on May 4, 2019. Ms. Mera is two-time recipient of the *Ada Leigh Soles Memorial Professional Librarian and Archivist Incentive Program*.



In May 2017, Ms. Mera graduated *Summa Cum Laude*, with a Bachelor's of Science degree from Clarion University, while a *Soles* scholar. Ms. Mera completed both degrees working full-time in Delaware libraries and comple-

ting an internship at the Delaware Public Archives while serving as Secretary on the executive board of the Friends of Kent County Public Library.



Delmar Public Library Celebrates Achievement of Vision

Library Dedication - Wednesday, April 24, 2019

The Delmar Public Library's Board of Commissioners and employees welcomed the public as the library was dedicated to the community on Wednesday, April 24th. The dedication followed a vital expansion and renovation project initiated by ground-breaking in 2017.



The Delmar Public Library seeks to enhance the quality of life within the community by providing opportunities for community members to en-

gage in a multitude of activities and events. The library's growth from 4,980 to 15,000 square feet affords patrons a volume of resources. The building space includes "green" elements such as geothermal climate control as well as the use of natural light throughout the building. A courtyard provides a welcoming space for patrons to gather and read.

Access to technology, larger meeting spaces, community service events, and youth education opportunities are readily available and scheduled. Commission President Beverly Wilson expressed, "Libraries have evolved into community hubs. We are life, learning, and career supporting facilities".

The library hosts a collection of Delmar railroad history which is displayed as patrons enter the library. Subsequently, the Town of Delmar is being preserved and presented in the library signifying the value of its railroad heritage.

In 2015, the Delmar Public Library celebrated 75 years of service to the community. In 2019, the library shaped itself into providing modern resources and inviting patrons to utilize and engage in its purpose.



Library employees seek to meet the needs of all patrons and are available throughout a patron's visit. The Delmar Public Library has grown and will continue to do so in order to meet the communities' needs for many years to come. We welcome you to visit the Delmar Public Library!

President's remarks

As the DLA President, I would like to welcome and introduce the newest executive board members: Catherine Wimberley as Vice President/Conference Co-Chair, Jaclyn Hale as Treasurer, and Marlowe Bogino as Secretary. Sarah Katz is now serving as Past President, and Michelle Hughes gets to relax after organizing the annual conference three years in a row in addition to her other responsibilities throughout her term.

I would also like to welcome our incoming division board members and our new Website Chair, Kaityln Tanis. We are still seeking a chair for the Legislative Action Committee. This is an excellent opportunity to become more involved with DLA; please contact me if you are interested. If you would like to be a part of any of the committees, get in touch with the committee chairs listed on the [website](#).

While it feels like we just hosted the joint state conference with MLA, my thoughts have already moved on to the upcoming ALA Annual Conference in June. DLA is partnering with the Maryland, Virginia, and DC Library Associations to host a [chapter social](#) on June 20th and staff an exhibit booth June 21st - 24th. We are looking for volunteers to help at the [exhibit booth](#); please sign up if you are available. A large conference like ALA can feel overwhelming, so I created a Google Group for DLA members to share opportunities to connect while there. If you are interested in joining the group, please email me at alisonwessel.dla@gmail.com.

I look forward to supporting DLA this year as president. Please feel free to email me questions, comments, or concerns regarding DLA.

With honor and appreciation,

Alison Wessel

DLA President

alisonwessel.dla@gmail.com

Delaware Libraries support Delawareans to be

SCHOOL Ready!

HEALTH Ready!

EMPLOYMENT Ready!

When *community*
social infrastructure
including *libraries*
— is **strong** —
individuals AND communities
flourish!

Friends
of Delaware Libraries

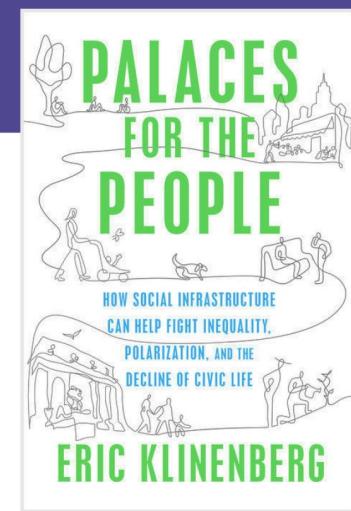
DASL Update

By Katelynn Scott

The Delaware Association of School Librarians is proud to report the mighty things this small division has been able to pull off this year. We feel it is so important to **advocate for a certified school librarian in every school**, and to that end, DASL President Kim Read and Vice-President Katelynn Scott attended Library Legislative Day in Dover in January. They, along with many public librarians, met with Senators Baumbach and Sturgeon to find new ways to remind politicians and school administrators and staff that there is a direct link between certified librarians, broad availability of print and digital resources, and ultimately student test scores. The visibility and presence of certified school librarians is needed, essential, and pertinent. Another goal of the division is to **find and promote meaningful professional development** for school librarians, and the annual MLA-DLA Conference in Cambridge, MD in May was a great chance to showcase our division. Katelynn Scott co-presented a pre-conference workshop about Makerspaces and how they encourage literacy in libraries. Harry Brake, DASL Treasurer, presented a poster demonstrating how a partnership of public librarians and school librarians can change the community around them. Collectively, DASL leaders and members networked and learned from the experiences of so many others. As a bonus, at the MLA-DLA Conference Silent Auction, DASL's donated items sold like hot cakes and raised a good amount of money for DLA and their efforts. Finally, we as a division seek to **celebrate school library successes** wherever they can be found, and at our End-of-Year Banquet in May, we awarded our top prizes. Jennifer Delgado from H.B. du Pont in the Red Clay District was honored as our 2019-20 School Library Media Specialist of the Year, and Dr. Ed Gurdo and Mrs. Amy Jones from Bunker Hill Elementary School in the Apoquinimink School District were honored as our Administrative Team of the Year. At the same dinner, State Librarian Annie Norman and University of Delaware Professor Elizabeth Simmons spoke about the importance of libraries and working together across the state to build a love of reading. This year has been full of lessons learned and relationships made. Students across the state in school libraries and classrooms grew

their research skills, digital and technological literacy, and confidence to be readers, explorers, writers, transformers, and shapers of the future. Our school libraries are the beating hearts of our schools, places where students can gather to collaborate and find acceptance, and are a space that ignites their love of learning. Please join the Delaware Association of School Librarians Facebook group [@DelawareAssocSchoolLibrarians](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareAssocSchoolLibrarians) to make your stories from this year heard!

IF ALL THE DELAWARE LIBRARY COMMUNITY Read the Same Book...



Libraries Share!

Keep for future reference or return to your public library. This book is also available in the Delaware Library Catalog eBook collection.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee – My Story

By Jaye Birch

I would like to share a story with you, my story, or at least part of it. Just about 3.5 years ago, I made a decision to stop living a lie just so that everyone else would be comfortable., I had had enough...enough of living a life designed to make those around me happy. Ever since I can remember, I mean as early as 4 or 5 years old, I knew I was different. Everyone knew it even then, except their word for it was "tomboy." I wouldn't have a word for it until I was an adult, that's when I first heard the word Transgender. All I knew as a child was that I felt like a boy, dressed like a boy, and played with other boys.

Around the end of 2015 I made a decision to live the rest of my life for me. That meant I needed to begin the process of transitioning to male. What that meant exactly, I had no idea, especially due to the very limited LGBTQIA services and support available locally. Not knowing where to start, I decided to call John's Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. From that one call, I got the names of a few doctors who were seeing trans patients and I just started calling them. Finally, I was able to get in to see a few different trans specialists and ultimately we came up with a plan to move forward. I made the decision to take a year off work and began my medical/surgical transition.

In 2016 I decided to give myself a fresh start—in a new state, with a new job, and a new freshly printed Delaware driver's license that said MALE. Having worked in veterinary medicine for the previous 15 years, I was not sure what career path I should follow. One day, a friend mentioned that they saw an ad on Facebook for a local library that was hiring. I have always been an avid reader, and as those who have spent time with me will tell you, I am a bit of a compulsive organizer. I thought this might just be the perfect thing for NOW.

I was hired in September and I attended my first Sussex County Staff Development just a month later, where I learned all about the "Best Small Town Library in America" panel. Which was basically all about how libraries had rebranded themselves as community centers. Libraries had essentially TRANSITIONED to something new and better. This was a concept I knew all too well and for me the beginning of a sense that maybe I had found the exact place I was meant to be.

In 2018 I received an email informing me that the DLA had set aside money for the formation of a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and that they were looking for people to be on the committee. I immediately responded that I was interested in participating in whatever capacity the committee felt I could be useful. Within a few months, I was officially a committee member, a part of an amazing group of people—people that I am proud to know and proud to work with.

We have only had a few meetings in person but I am excited about the things that we have decided to work on. Some may seem like small things to address at first. For example: if we want to change our name, we have to draft a mission statement that is in line with DLA's mission statement and we are preparing to march in Delaware's PRIDE festival that takes place in Dover on June 1st. If you are interested in walking with us to show your support for the LGBTQ community, please come out and join us. If you've never been to a pride festival, I'd like to encourage you to step outside your comfort zone a little and come experience the love and fun that PRIDE is known for.

My experiences over the last 20+ years, as a woman, wife, mother, lesbian, sister, and daughter then as a man, husband, father, brother and son, have completely shaped my philosophies about how I treat people and how I believe they should be treated. Having experienced a great deal of that hatred and hostility myself personally, it has become a passion of mine to help advocate for other marginalized groups of people. If you've had a similar experience or if you haven't but just feel like no one should have to go through that, please consider getting involved with the DLA'S, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee.

For the first time in my life, I am comfortable in my own skin. I love myself, I love my work family (shout out to Greenwood Library staff), and my job. I have found, through my experiences that the answer is always more love; more love for yourself and more love for others. I believe we are at our best when we are our truest most authentic selves. I look forward to the work this committee will do, using language straight from "DLA – Advocating, Empowering and Educating a DIVERSE Library Community."

DLA Silent Auction 2019

2019 was another successful year at the DLA Silent Auction. All of DLA's Divisions, plus several Friends groups donated items that were very biddable by both Delaware and Maryland librarians. Thanks to the following Friends groups:

Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library
Friends of Claymont Library
Friends of Delaware Libraries
Friends of Hockessin Library
Friends of the Kent County Library
Friends of the Newark Free Library
Friends of the South Coastal Library

Pictured below were some of the donations that were the most popular.

There were two raffle items that also stirred a lot of interest. The VEX Robotic kit — donated by VEX Robotics — as well as the handmade afghan by DDL's Beth Emerson were highly sought after.

All in all it was a grand time at the Silent Auction. The MLA Silent Auction Committee and the DLA Committee worked together to make a unified bid sheet, plus arranging the donations side-by-side, to make everything much easier to peruse as well as manning the tables. Many kudos to all who worked at the Silent Auction and those who donated the wonderful offerings.

The thirty (30) donations raised \$1408.00 for DLA. Consider what you might donate next year — and perhaps you would like to be on the DLA Silent Auction Committee?



Community Engagement Grant 2019 Award News

by Michelle Hughes

DLA awarded three Community Engagement grants in FY19. It was an overwhelmingly impressive field of applications that were received. Twelve applications were received in total from a mixture of public and school libraries. Thank you to the Grant Review Panel who worked hard to deliberate and narrow the field down to our three recipients.

Congratulations to the New Castle Public Library!

On January 8, 2019, New Castle Public Library was awarded a \$500 Community Engagement grant for their proposal Bike Bookmobile. In talking with Nicole Ballance she said her inspiration for the idea came from her local park. "There are lots of people around the library and in the nearby park all summer long, including summer camps that are nearby. A bike bookmobile would make the library visible where the people are". Nicole has done a lot of research on bike bookmobiles through Facebook and social media. As far as she's aware, this would be the first one for Delaware. She has been in contact with libraries that have done this and learned that it's most cost effective to build your own. A mountain bike has been donated to the library, and funds from the grant, plus possible support from their Friends group, will go to purchase the wood and other hardware needed to construct the book carrier.

Nicole envisions starting with children's books, chapter books and picture books and hopes to check the items out at the park. "A lot of this will be experimental. We want to bring the bike bookmobile to places where people are out and about, and maybe expand this outreach to other locations if the logistics can be figured out" said Nicole.

The goal is to have the bike bookmobile ready for the Separation Day parade in June.



Shown in photo from the left:

Cathay Keough, DLA Executive Director

Michelle Hughes, DLA Immediate Past President and Grant Coordinator

Sara Thomas, Children's Librarian, New Castle Public Library

Nicole Ballance, Principal Library Assistant, New Castle Public Library

Julie Kirk, Director, New Castle Public Library

Sarah Katz, DLA President

Joel Rudnick, DLA Treasurer

Congratulations to the Laurel Public Library!

On January 9, 2019, Laurel Public Library was awarded a \$500 DLA Community Engagement grant for their proposal Healthy Living with the Laurel Public Library. In talking with Wenona Phillips she said her inspiration came from the mall! She wanted to create an indoor walking space at the library, similar to what you would find in many local malls. And not just walking. Users can check out a leg machine, pedometer, or fitness cards. Laurel launched this initiative January 2, 2019 and it's had a successful start. Wenona has plans to add dumbbells for future checkout and also to partner with the Food Bank of DE for

healthy family food programs. The Teen group at Laurel had added exercise equipment at the Roger C. Fisher Memorial Park, which is just around the corner from the library, a few years ago so this is a nice tie-in with the new Healthy Living program.

Carol Mitchell, President of the Friends of Laurel Public Library is happy the teens will be involved in this initiative. Gail Bruce, Library Director, agrees. "This is really exciting! It's taken several years, but the Library offers the perfect safe and warm space to replicate a mall walking loop. The Laurel Public Library has a good working relationship with the community and this is another extension of our community service". Wenona has the teens partner with the local senior center, where teens offer to walk with a senior. The teens will also be creating outdoor trails this spring / summer, once the weather breaks.



Shown in photo from the left:

Back row:

Carol Mitchell, President, Friends of Laurel Public Library

Gail Bruce, Director, Laurel Public Library

Rev. Howard Backus, Board member

Wenona Phillips, Assistant Director & Head of Circulation, Laurel Public Library

Cheryl Martin, Board Treasurer

Moggie Moyer, Board President

Terry Wright, Board Vice President

Mona Wright, Board Member

Front row:

Gregg McCullough, Adult Services Librarian, Laurel Public Library Michelle Hughes, DLA Immediate Past President and Grant Coordinator Cathay Keough, DLA Executive Director Sarah Katz, DLA President Joel Rudnick, DLA Treasurer

Congratulations to the Dover Public Library!

On February 27, 2019, Dover Public Library was awarded a \$500 Community Engagement grant for their proposal Tuesday in the Parks. Tuesday in the Parks was a successful pilot program the summer of 2018, and this year Margie Cyr, Library Director, plans to expand services, which the DLA Community Engagement grant will help her do! Through last years efforts she has found that programs specifically crafted for large audiences and that involve interaction and audience involvement are most successful. Kent County public library will also be providing bookmobile services at the Tuesday events.

"Library staff have long been aware that recent cultural and demographic changes in our community have created a population of community members who, due to work, family dynamics, lack of transportation, cannot attend in-house library programs" said Margie Cyr. Through talks with fellow co-workers in the Parks & Recreation department she found they were having the same conversation. By partnering with the Parks & Rec department, the library can bring a reading or learning enrichment program followed by a physical activity and lunch coordinated by Parks & Rec staff. Said Margie "Bringing the library and its staff outside the library walls and engaging with the public in an informal manner extends the library into the community and promotes the library as a service and not a facility".

The Tuesday in the Parks programs will run from June 18 – August 6.



Shown in photo from the left:

Sarah Katz, DLA President

Sherwanda Rachal-Speaks, City of Dover Recreation Specialist

Kirby Hudson, Director, City of Dover Parks & Recreation

Margie Cyr, Director, Dover Public Library

Michelle Hughes, DLA Immediate Past President and Grant Coordinator

Cathay Keough, DLA Executive Director

Joel Rudnick, DLA Treasurer

**UNLEASH
A UNIVERSE OF
OPPORTUNITY
& CURIOSITY**

A Universe of Stories
Sign up for the 2019 Summer Library Reading Program at Delaware Libraries!
delawarelibraries.org/summerreading

DelawareLibraries.org

EXPLORE NEW WORLDS!
READ. DISCOVER. CREATE.

Sign up for the 2019 *A Universe of Stories* Summer Library Reading Program at your Delaware public library.

delawarelibraries.org/summerreading

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!

- 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.

