

FALL
2022



QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In every newsletter, we will shine a spotlight on a DLA member. We ask some questions to get to know members better and post their answers in our Bulletin.

JACLYN HALE

Administrative Librarian, Delaware Division of Libraries
DLA Treasurer

How long have you been a DLA member?

Nine years!

What do you like most about your work with DLA?

Being Treasurer gives me an opportunity to play a role in many of DLA's initiatives. It is rewarding to work with creative and passionate DLA members throughout the state to help bring their projects to fruition.

What are you reading / watching / interested in right now?

As a Tolkien nerd, I'm here to attest that I enjoyed the first season of Rings of Power.



[Click here to be featured in a future Member Spotlight!](#)

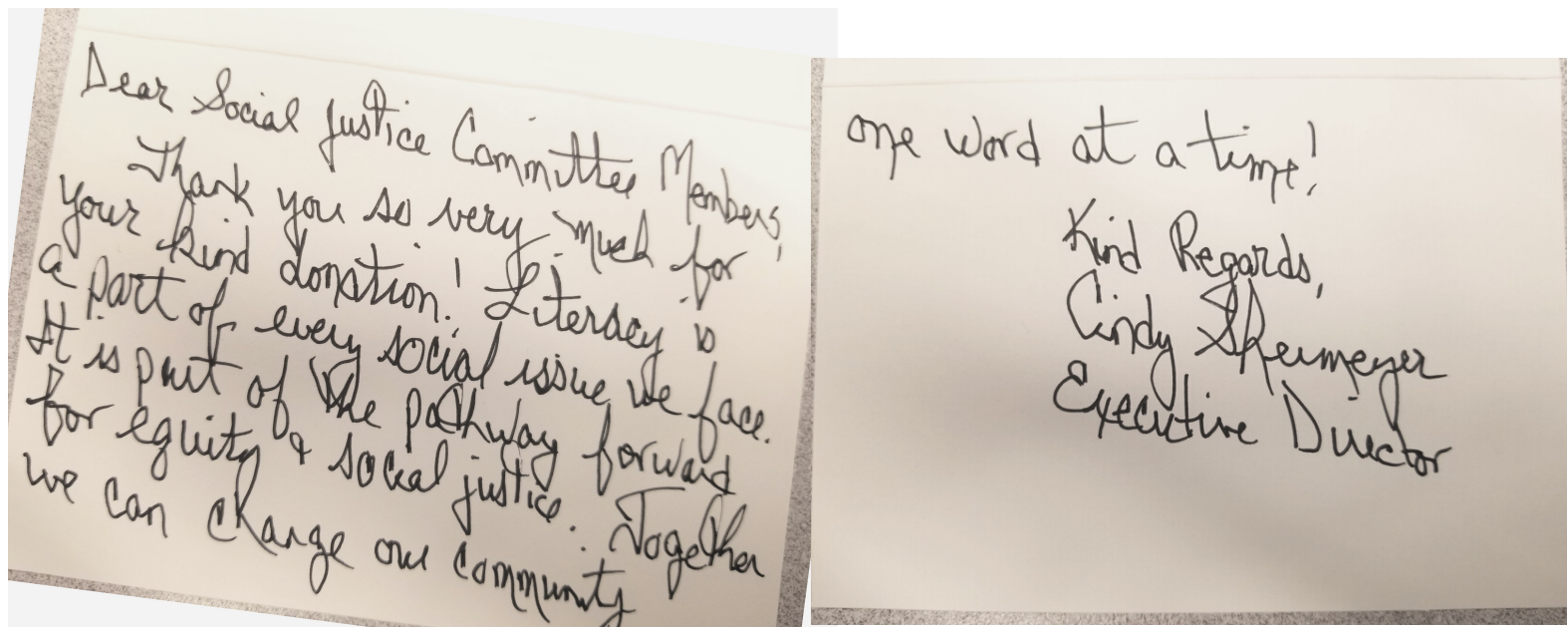
DLA UPDATES

DLA has 4 divisions, 9 committees, and 1 interest group. Read on to see what they've all been up too lately!

DLA raises \$193 for Literacy Delaware

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the December 2021 fundraiser in support of Literacy Delaware, who "advanc[es] literacy through training, tutoring, English language acquisition and advocacy for all Delawareans." The Social Justice Committee sponsored this fundraiser, to support our Delaware immigrant communities, among others. It was a success, and the committee looks forward to future collaboration with Literacy Delaware!

Cindy Shermeyer, Executive Director of Literacy Delaware, sent SJC a nice thank you note.



Updates from the PLD Executive Board

The Public Library Division (PLD) is excited to continue our Showcase Showdown initiative. Please visit our website for more info:

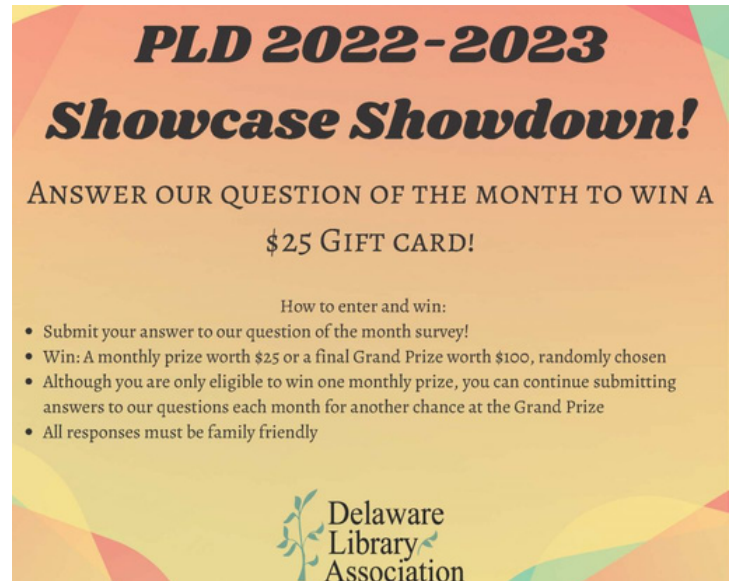
<https://dla.lib.de.us/divisions/pld/pld-showcase-showdown/>.

Our September randomly selected winner was Tina Sonzogni for her response to the question "What is the best reference question you've ever answered?" October's Showcase Showdown question is "What is the scariest place in your library?" and we will select a winner and release the November question at the beginning of next month.

What is the best reference question you've ever answered?

"Most of the odd questions come in by phone. "How do I get to the library?"

I asked where they were coming from and they didn't know where they were. Guess that is why they couldn't find the library."



**PLD 2022-2023
Showcase Showdown!**

ANSWER OUR QUESTION OF THE MONTH TO WIN A
\$25 GIFT CARD!

How to enter and win:

- Submit your answer to our question of the month survey!
- Win: A monthly prize worth \$25 or a final Grand Prize worth \$100, randomly chosen
- Although you are only eligible to win one monthly prize, you can continue submitting answers to our questions each month for another chance at the Grand Prize
- All responses must be family friendly

Delaware
Library
Association

PLD's Fall Program takes place on October 26, and we would like to thank Ella Alonso for discussing Boundaries in the Workplace! See the events section below for more information and to register.

CORRECTION: DLA Fine Free Recommendation

CORRECTION: A previous version of this letter was erroneously addressed to the Delaware Division of Libraries. The letter has been corrected and is now directed only at the Delaware Library Consortium, our county divisions, and public library directors in Delaware.

The Social Justice Committee of the Delaware Library Association thanks the Delaware Library Consortium for their decision to suspend fines during the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe the statewide suspension set a positive precedent for moving forward as a fine-free system. As library workers, we believe that information access should be free and available to all people, at all times; and as members of this committee, we recognize that the issue of library fines is an issue of equity and social justice.

When we impose fees on overdue items and block user access as those fees accrue, we create a barrier to access for the users who are most in need of the services we provide. There is also ample evidence that fines disproportionately impact those who are poor or unhoused, again alienating a group most in need of our services. While these are examples of demonstrable negatives to charging fines, there are also demonstrable positives in doing away with them: research has shown that fines keep people from returning to the library, and ending fines encourages those users to come back. Not only that, it encourages those patrons with overdue books to return those materials without fear of repercussion, and in fact, many libraries are learning that ending fines results in patrons bringing more books back to the library.

In the American Library Association's January 28, 2019 Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity, it was resolved to update the ALA policy manual to reflect that ALA "urges libraries to scrutinize their practices of imposing fines on library patrons and actively move towards eliminating them." The resolution also states that "monetary fines ultimately do not serve the core mission of the modern library".

With this in mind, the Social Justice Committee asks the Delaware Library Consortium, our county divisions, and all public library directors in our state to continue in this positive direction and consider making the move to becoming permanently fine-free here in Delaware.

- This statement was approved by the executive board of the Delaware Library Association on October 5th, 2021.

¹

https://infopeople.org/sites/default/files/civCRM/persist/contribute/files/webinar/2019/11_20_19/Slides_EliminatingFines.pdf

²

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pk77n53ujmsi2ec/AADvJVNQnt0hWKZmprErd_9sa?dl=0&preview=Articles+and+Research+-Going+Fine+Free.docx

³

<https://www.npr.org/2019/11/30/781374759/we-wanted-our-patrons-back-public-libraries-scrap-late-fines-to-alleviate-inequity>

⁴

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org/aboutala/files/content/Resolution%20on%20Monetary%20Library%20Fines%20as%20a%20Form%20of%20Social%20Inequity-FINAL.pdf>

Additional info can be found in the Delaware Libraries Fines & Fees LibGuide

Results of DE General Assembly Candidate Survey

*This piece was written by Catherine Wimberley.
Chair of the Legislative Action Committee.*

The Delaware Library Association (DLA), with assistance from EveryLibrary.org, recently conducted a survey of all candidates running for seats in the Delaware General Assembly to gauge their support for school and public libraries. School librarians help guide the reading interests and abilities of students and teach research and other information and technology skills. As of the 2020-2021 academic year, Delaware ranks 46 out of 51 states and D.C. in the number of full-time librarians and 32 out of 51 states and D.C. for the number of students per librarian. There are fewer school librarians instructing more students.

The State recognizes the importance of early literacy; DLA thanks them for funding the statewide Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Initiative, which sends free books in the mail to children under the age of 5 years old. Yet, public library budgets to purchase books, media, ebooks/e-audiobooks, and databases remained essentially flat between FY 2010 and FY 2021, and the cost to provide these materials continues to increase.

The DLA Candidate Questionnaire was launched to inform the public about where their candidates stand on these school and public library issues. With a survey response rate of 40%, respondents overwhelmingly expressed their support for school and public libraries. Respondents represented a mix of candidates including both Republicans and Democrats seeking House and Senate seats.

Selected and summarized responses include:

- 95% agreed that it is very or extremely important that all Delaware students have access to effective school libraries staffed by certified school librarians.
- 94% agreed it is very or extremely important that all Delaware public schools provide their students with a comprehensive education in digital citizenship, and information and media literacy.
- 96% agreed that it is important that there are defined ratios for positions like school librarians, school counselors, social workers, and music and art teachers to students.
- 100% agreed that libraries are an essential resource for children and support them providing programs for our younger residents.
- 94% agreed it is very or extremely important that Delaware libraries have a budget that provides the resources needed to meet our community's needs including the purchase of books, media, ebooks/e-audiobooks, and databases.

For the complete list of the questions, cumulative responses, and a list of those who responded, visit <https://dla.lib.de.us/2022/10/12/2022-candidate-survey-results/>.

Address any comments or questions to Catherine Wimberley at catherinewimberley.dla@gmail.com.

School Librarianship 101 and SB 195

The following piece was written by Harry Brake, Woodbridge High Library Specialist and President of DASL.

I have been talking much about the passing of Senate Bill 195, first in the Senate, and now the House, requiring Media Literacy Skills to be part of any educational curriculum in Delaware. That sounds kind of insignificant, quite obvious that it should be and a “No Duh” statement/action, or leave many scratching their heads and asking, “So, what that does this mean?” or “Who cares?”

In order to see the value of SB195 and see how it is tied to librarianship, it is essential to break down some “Do you know’s” of Librarianship and what exactly librarianship is. So here we go:

1. Standard Procedure – In education, there are standards that various educators/disciplines have to guide the essential skills that various disciplines follow in order to get across an enriching education for students. For example, you have heard of Common Core Standards, in Science there are Next Generation Science Standards, in mathematics exists a heading of IXL aligns with Common Core Standards, Social Studies has standards specific to Delaware,

English /Language Arts, Visual and Performing Arts, FFA and Agricultural focuses, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Standards, Physical Education, World Language and Immersion Standards, School Counselor Standards, School Nurse Guides/Manuals and ongoing training, soooooooo, what about certified School Librarians? Yes there are awesome positions where paraprofessionals support the goals of a Library Media Center, (yes this term encompasses the wider job description area many might not be aware of), but what about certified School Librarians? What does that mean? There ARE a specific set of standards that encompass the wide range of knowledge students encounter in research, media, organizational strategies, and literacy – known as the AASL (American Association of School Libraries) Standards. It is vital to understand what a certified librarian is.

2. Just as you would not want an untrained, unlicensed educator to be providing insights and passing them onto future graduates, the same goes for first having a certified librarian at every level,

School Librarianship 101 and SB 195 continued

and making sure there IS an individual, certified. What does certified mean? Can't anyone basically check books out to students? (it is true in fact that anyone that works in a library does not necessarily make them a librarian), and yet, there is some VERY important work paraprofessionals do to promote librarianship. A- ha! – so here is the important thing to know. The idea that books being checked out to individuals makes up the main role of a librarian- that is a task that an assistant, a paraprofessional, and of course a certified librarian CAN do, but a certified librarian means: a) In Delaware (every state has unique requirements for being a certified librarian)- just like every other discipline. Delaware requires a teaching license as well as a degree from an accredited college/university in an ALA (American Library Association approved program). The ALA national recognized degree is also stated in the Delaware Standards Board.

3. How does Delaware provide a path to be a librarian? Good question! Some individuals have a Master's Degree and the missing professional classes the University of Delaware offers helps provide insights into the professional knowledge that changes in intellectual literacy as this area changes. Check out the options [HERE](#) . ALSO – there is a great program called the Common Market, that is a full-blown Master's Degree Program in Information Science (which is a licensed, ALA program for certification of librarians), that specific schools can be attended, that will count you as in-state tuition, if your home state such as Delaware, does not have a Master's program in that area.

This is a GREAT opportunity and a HUGE saving, while providing the top professional insight into ever changing approaches to educate future generations in media literacy.

4. If you look at a typical Library Media Specialist/Librarian field of study, technology is a part of this training, obviously, but also HOW to interpret the world around us in lieu of so many claims, social media claims, public relation statements, and dealing with false news versus factual events, eliminating bias and prejudice, it is essential that future generations are not told what to believe based on someone's agenda, but truly, knowing what are facts and what are false facts, in order for every person to be able to decide for their own, based on the facts that have been presented to them and facts they can internalize as true versus being fooled.

Visit Harry Brake's blog, [PAVEing the Way](#), to read the rest of this piece.



EveryLibrary Update May - September 2022

The following piece was written by Michelle Hughes, Administrative Librarian at the Delaware Division of Libraries.

The partnership between EveryLibrary and the Delaware library community continues to grow. In the second year of partnership, EveryLibrary is looking to work with several public library directors and managers on local issues, especially funding from cities and counties. They are continuing to push on the issues affecting school librarians, and are looking towards established legislation that can help support a ratio funding formula for school librarians.

John Chrastka and Patrick Sweeney presented at the 2022 MLA/DLA conference. Their 2 hour presentation “Beyond stories: building engagement, influence & support” was an intensive session that focused on concrete ways to engage supporters and influence local leaders to enact change through effective organizing. They talked about using data, messaging, and digital tools to identify, cultivate, and empower supporters, encourage tangible action to build support for funding libraries, and increasing political power and support for libraries.

SB195 is a bill to create new media literacy standards in all Delaware schools. School librarians in the state lobbied the sponsor, Sen. Sarah McBride, to include certified school librarians and DDL in the bill framework. In order to amend the bill to include our colleagues, EveryLibrary collaborated with DLA and FODL to create a public outreach and activation campaign that included direct actions by constituents, media placements, and testimony to the Senate Education Committee. SB195 was signed by

the Governor on August 29, 2022. SB195 will ensure that school librarians have a place at the table in setting standards for Media Literacy and pathways to collaborate on curriculum development. This bill is a catalyst for further legislative work supporting school libraries and librarians.

Governor Carney proclaims September Literacy Month and will be celebrating programs that promote reading throughout September. [Read the proclamation.](#)



EveryLibrary Update May - September 2022

Starting in February 2022, John has been leading DLA leadership and members of the Legislative Action Committee through an intensive policy framework workshop. Here the group is really delving into the values, mission and vision of the association, and under that lens, really looking to determine if our priorities are reflected in the budget and if we are partnering with like-minded groups. Our next focus is on coalition building.

Libraries are very good at programming and building our program partners, however programs get done by a committee, policies get changed because of a coalition. Through this working group we are looking at power mapping Delaware for coalition success. To do that, the group looked at potential coalitions either in a common case or common concern focus in the following categories:

- School ready
- Health ready
- Employment ready
- Immigration services
- Incarcerated populations
- Entrepreneurship

The group is continuing to review potential coalitions and develop next steps.



John and fellow EveryLibrary associates have been working with the Division of Libraries to be involved at the planning level for opportunities for libraries in state broadband and digital equity planning.

The Division of Libraries is working with Probolsky Research to develop a library support survey. Survey questions are currently under review. The survey will be conducted through multiple formats and reach a significant cross section of the population in all three counties.

For more information on EveryLibrary's work with DLA and DDL, [visit the guide](#).

Kent County Levy Court Honors Mobile Library Unit

Kent County Levy Court presented Dr. Hilary Welliver, Director of the Kent County Division of Libraries, and the drivers of the Kent County Mobile Unit, Cayla Ehekircher, Susan Lanyon, and Heather Gill, along with Bookmobile supervisor Michele Lapinski, with a Tribute on December 15, 2021, to recognize their efforts in supporting COVID-19 vaccination outreach throughout the Greater Kent County Community, in partnership with several community agencies, organizations, and nonprofit groups, including the Kent County Coalition led by Rev. Rita Paige, who was also honored that evening.

The initiative focused on reaching out to underserved communities where vaccination counts were under 37% and resulted in the inoculation of over 11,000 individuals.



Graphic Medicine as Health Literacy

The following piece was written by Evelyn Hudson, Library Director at the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS).

"The intersection between the medium of comics and the discourse of healthcare."

- Dr. Ian Williams

You may not think that art and healthcare coincide, apart from strange stock images you might encounter in the doctors' office. Now, there is an emerging medium that moves healthcare from black-and-white into color. Graphic medicine is a new way of giving voice to the experiences of those living with physical and/or mental health conditions. Artists and authors detail their health journeys in the graphic novel format and provide readers with a whole new way of understanding.

The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Library, a member of the Delaware Libraries Consortium, is proud to house a graphic medicine collection. Our collection is only a few years old, but so far, we have 122 graphic novels catalogued. The included topics are many, including depression, infertility, trauma, Alzheimer's disease, and sexual orientation. Gender Queer, the most challenged book of 2021 according to the American Library Association, is included in the collection.

If you aren't sure where to start, we recommend Graphic Medicine Manifesto by MK Czerwiec, et al. This book reviews the research about graphic medicine and will give you a good foundation on the

subject. The book is available from the DHSS Library.

Did you know that October is Health Literacy Month? Graphic medicine is an excellent choice for non-native English speakers or those with low literacy levels. Unfortunately, low health literacy frequently comes with low overall literacy, so graphic medicine is a great way to help bridge the gap.

The books in our graphic medicine collection are available in the catalog. We participate in the transit system, so feel free to place holds for yourself or your patrons. To learn more and browse our collection, visit guides.lib.de.us/dhsslibrary/sg_graphicmedicine. You can also email the library with any questions at DHSSLibrary@delaware.gov.



DLA Community Engagement Grant Winners

The Delaware Library Association (DLA) awarded three Community Engagement Grants in FY22 totaling \$1500. The DLA Community Engagement grant is awarded annually and is open to any personal or institutional member of DLA. More information on the grant, including the current grant cycle, can be found at

<https://dla.lib.de.us/about-us/grant/>

Information and interviews written by Michelle Hughes.

Congratulations to the Frankford Public Library!

The Frankford Public Library was awarded \$500.00 for their proposal; Family Literacy Summer Camp. The project will provide weekly activities to help adult participants learn how to speak English and grow their reading skills, while the children will have a fun activity separate from the adults. The adults and children will come together for the last 30-45 minutes of the program to do a combined activity related to the weekly topic. The program fosters family fun, encourages library usage and introduces Literacy Delaware programs to another population.

We talked with Dale Ashera-Davis; Literacy Delaware Sussex County Coordinator, and Heather Bernat; Associate Director at Frankford, and asked them what was the inspiration behind this idea.



Pictured, left to right: Heather Bernat, Dale Ashera-Davis, Jen Wilson, Jaclyn Hale

DLA Community Engagement Grant Winners

Both organizations have aligned missions in encouraging library use, engaging community resources, and relating to the needs of the young families. According to Dale, Literacy Delaware is moving towards a family model. They want to be able to communicate and connect with the children. In looking at what was stopping individuals from accessing help, it was clear that children need to be involved in the process with their parents. The Frankford Library is more than happy to help. Frankford is a small library, but that works to their benefit for this program says Heather. The small space is family friendly, and promotes a positive way to help adults and families work on their English skills for their kids.

In talking with these ladies, it was evident the strong bonds of partnership these two organizations have. “Building stronger individuals, stronger families, and a stronger community; that’s how this project embodies community engagement” says Heather. This is the second year the family literacy summer camp will run. Literacy Delaware will administer pre and post assessment of English use by the participants. Dale and Heather will take ideas from last year and tweak and add some new elements. Each year is a learning process, but they are committed to helping their community together.

Congratulations to the Laurel Public Library!

The Laurel Public Library was awarded \$500.00 for their proposal; Dementia 101. The project is a two-part program. In partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association, the library will hold a program on Dementia and Alzheimer’s awareness where patrons will learn the warning signs, and support resources. The second aspect of the program will be a sensory/fidget blanket making workshop. Everyone who attends would be able to make a blanket for a loved one battling this condition, or donate the blanket to someone in need. The library has sewing machines and can provide hands-on help. They are looking to host the program in the fall, possibly to coincide with Dementia awareness month.

The inspiration for this program is personal, as staff at the Laurel library have family members dealing with it, but the program also fits into the You’re Valued initiative. In 2016 the library changed their focus and started asking what they could do for the community. According to Wenona Phillips; Assistant Director and Head of Circulation, Laurel has “a desire to help meet needs and help get our patrons connected to vital resources. We want to inspire hope that resources are out there and they’re not alone”. Information from a Sussex County Health Coalition meeting revealed that over 19,000 Delawareans suffer from this condition and Sussex County has the fastest growing population of seniors.

DLA Community Engagement Grant Winners



Laurel is utilizing their partnership with the Alzheimer's Association to assist with the informational programming, and their partnerships with the Laurel Senior Center and Laurel Commons Retirement Community for helping to get the word out to the community at large.

Pictured, left to right: Kristen Chelmow, Gail Bruce, Wenona Phillips, Jaclyn Hale, Father Dr. Howard Backus, Jen Wilson.

Congratulations to the University of Delaware Education Resource Center!

The University of Delaware Education Resource Center was awarded \$500.00 for their proposal, Read Aloud and Puppetry: Practical Interventions for High Needs Schools. The project is looking to provide diverse puppets and social emotional resources to incorporate into the curriculum provided at the Education Resource Center (ERC), and is based on social trauma care and interventions to help trauma survivors in Delaware's high needs schools.

The objective is for teacher candidates to introduce social emotional vocabulary, ask open ended questions, and have students engage.

Puppetry is an inclusive way to help K-5 students externalize feelings through storytelling and help to build language skills; especially essential to English as a second language (ESL) students to help break down language barriers and increase class participation. The project will outreach to University of Delaware teacher candidates, local K-12 school districts and University of Delaware faculty.

Ameerah Stafford, head librarian in charge of the ERC, is very grateful for the opportunity to start this project.

DLA Community Engagement Grant Winners

When asked why this project embodies community engagement, she said “...puppets can bring story time to life”. They can show relationships, friendships; they serve so many multi-modal ways to teach with purpose that’s engaging with the students. She also highlighted that this project aligns with Executive Order 24 that Governor John Carney implemented in 2018, making Delaware a trauma-informed state. The negative effects of trauma can lead to disruptive classroom behavior, school delinquency, self-harm, and risky health behaviors. The ERC can disrupt these ripple effects by serving as a centralized location for trauma informed resources and a training space for teacher candidates. Ameerah’s goal is “To support and empower future educators with ERC resources and services to make better educators”.

Pictured, left to right: Ameerah Stafford, Jaclyn Hale, Jen Wilson.



Congratulations to all our grant awardees!

Welcome Events at Delaware State University Libraries

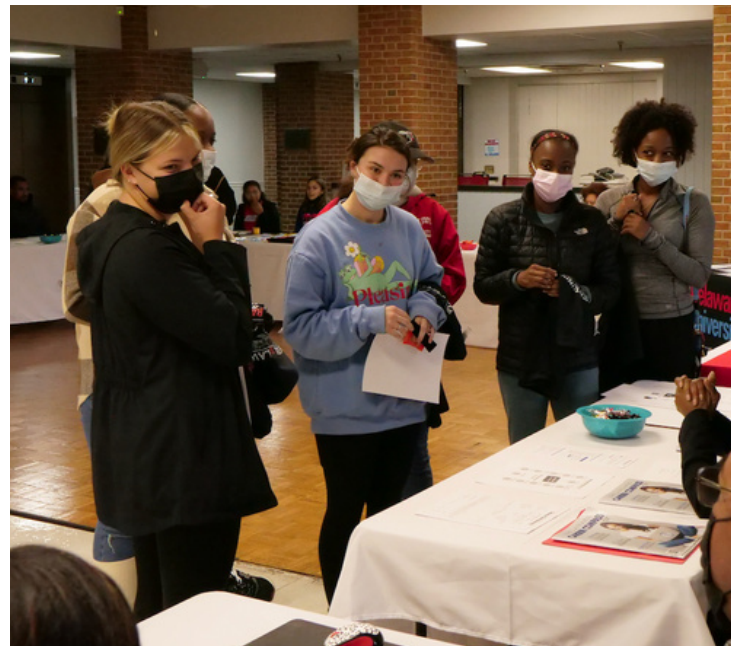
The following piece was written by Marjorie Ramsey, Reference and Public Services Librarian at DSU Libraries.

On September 20 and October 4, 2022, Delaware State University's Library and Office of Student Success teams hosted two "Welcome Events" at the William C. Jason Library on Main campus and at the Parker Library on the new Downtown campus.

The purpose of both events was to welcome students to our libraries and share information about the resources available there. The DSU library team hosted both events and included tabling from inter-departmental colleagues who offer students services including advising, tutoring, graduate studies, honors programming, accessibility services, and peer-mentoring. Delaware State University staff from these areas fall under the Office of Student Success (OSS) and provide students with the academic support they need to excel at DSU.

At right: Students talking to academic advisors tabling outside of the Parker Library at DSU's Downtown.

The September 20th event, hosted on the main campus at the William C. Jason Library was the 2nd annual such event. The event was first held in fall of 2021, spearheaded by new Executive Director for Library Services, Ondrea Murphy, and was an important step for welcoming students back post-COVID. In both fall 2021 and this past year, the events at the Jason Library included free food, a DJ just outside the library, giveaways, raffles, and opportunities for students to make sure they had information about library services, set-up their library accounts, and knew about all the student support services located in the library and OSS.



Welcome Events at Delaware State University Libraries

This year's event expanded into the recently acquired Downtown campus with the first annual Parker Library event on October 4, 2022. Following the 2021 acquisition of the former Wesley College campus by DSU, the university has been transforming the campus into the Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences and now offers more classes, dormitories, and dining services to students at the Downtown campus. The Office of Student Success now has advising and tutoring services on the Downtown campus, so this year's event, hosted by the Parker Library downtown, was able to highlight the library's spaces and services as we continue to update and improve them as well as the ancillary student services now available Downtown.

Moving forward, the DSU library team plans on continuing these 'Welcome Events' annually. Based on the number of students who visited and asked very general questions about the library -- or were surprised to learn about what we offered -- these events have allowed us to reach students who either aren't normally library visitors or have only visited for a specific purpose (such as visiting a staff member whose office is there.) One of the most surprising library facts many students learned at the William C. Jason Library on the main campus was that the library has six floors! At the Parker Library, Downtown, we had a large percentage of students drop in who didn't know the library was open yet at that campus or what the hours were. These interactions with our students will help library staff determine other ways to best reach our students and ensure they're getting the most out of what their libraries have to offer.

At left: Library staff share information about library services with two students, including how to set up their accounts, at the William C. Jason Library on DSU's main campus.



Second Chances Record Clearance and Job Fair at Route 9 Library

This piece was written by Scott Businsky, Adult Services Librarian at the Route 9 Library & Innovation Center.

On April 28th, the Route 9 Library hosted the Second Chances Record Clearance and Job Fair. This event was a result of the work being done by the DLA Correctional Services Interest Group, and various community partners throughout Delaware. Partners include the Delaware Center for Justice, ACLU of Delaware, Clean Slate Delaware, Delaware Department of Justice, Office of Defense Services, Parents with Incarcerated Children, Delaware Criminal Justice Information System, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, and APEX.



Approximately 210 people attended in-person and another 92 people checked in through Zoom with 84 people being matched with an attorney. Employers, such as Amazon, ShopRite, and Goodwill were in attendance, alongside community organizations such as Wilmington Alliance, Delaware 211, New Castle Prevention Coalition, State of Delaware Reentry/Workforce Development Team, West End Neighborhood House, and more. The DLA Correctional Services Interest Group continues to look for ways to strengthen our services and increase our partnerships with justice-aligned organizations.

Rebecca Lowe Honored by ACLU Delaware

Each year, the ACLU of Delaware remembers Gerry Kandler, former president of ACLU Delaware, and honors the work of members of the community who exemplify his tireless commitment to the defense of all Delawareans' civil liberties. The text of this article was taken from the [official announcement](#) on the ACLU website. DLA congratulates member Rebecca Lowe on this prestigious award!

WMS-DE was formed in 2017 in response to the first Women's March on Washington and is dedicated to harnessing the power and raising the voices of everyday women in Delaware, and Sussex County in particular. The group is committed to bringing about transformative social change in the areas of economic justice, reproductive freedom, freedom from violence and harassment, labor, criminal justice, and LGBTQ+ rights.

Over the past year, as access to abortion has been under attack in Sussex County and across the nation, WMS-DE joined a coalition of other organizations to lead the fight for reproductive rights in Delaware. Rebecca has been proud to represent WMS-DE on the coalition, working to engage Sussex County residents through rallies and legislative action.

As a library worker, Rebecca's favorite Dewey Decimal number is 361.2, which covers the area of social action. In her role as Adult Program Coordinator, she works to ensure the library is a vibrant hub for free thought and discussion. Through partnerships with other organizations and community leaders, the library hosts presentations and conversations on key civil liberties and rights issues. Of particular note is the Lives in the Law series, which brings together noted figures in the world of law – lawyers, professors, scholars, historians, journalists, and activists – to join in dialogue about law and its significance, past and present. A high point for Rebecca was getting to ask Lawrence Tribe a question, then pressuring him to answer it.

Rebecca and her husband, Bill, have lived in his hometown of Lewes since 2000. They raised two children who embrace their 302 upbringings. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College three times, with a Bachelor's in Psychology, a Master's of Social Service, and a Master's of Law and Social Policy. Rebecca acknowledges and is deeply indebted to her WMS-DE sisters and her LPL colleagues for the work they have done and the accomplishments they have achieved together. She is pleased to accept the Kandler award on their behalf.



SJC Recipients Reflect on the MLA/DLA Conference

The DLA Social Justice Committee, with support from DDL, awarded four conference sponsorships that covered registration and travel for the MLA/DLA Conference 2022. Recipients were from groups underrepresented in librarianship, such as black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), the LGBTQ+ community, religious minorities, or disabled. This year's recipients reflect on their experience at the conference.

Carlos Álvarez-Díaz

"The opportunity to attend the conference was an experience that was only made possible by Social Justice Committee. In no other way a library worker with the salary typically paid for circulation would be able to attend. I have never been to a conference with many exciting and highly educated people with a heart for service. Intellectually, socially and culturally, it was one of the most intense and enriching experiences ever, from the conference rooms to the meals. It was three days of learning and growing while meeting exceptional colleagues.

There were so many essential presentations and valuable resources at the conference that were new to me that by the end of the conference I was drained and fueled at the same time. One of the many slogans that talked to me in the session called "Open Doors, Hidden Curriculum: Working together to Dismantle Structural Exclusion" was "Strive for progress and not for perfection" The speaker shared that if we focus on the progress in and out of the library, that will ensure that we are moving forward even if we are far away from ideal. I believe it is healthy and encouraging to serve with that vision.

My favorite session at the conference was Everyone Leads Facilitator Training; interestingly, I wandered into this session not knowing that this was an ongoing training that was not for everyone at the conference because it was a training that started previous to the conference. I was able to enjoy it that day, but at the end of the session, they noticed that I was not a registered member of the training, and they asked me to please choose any of the other sessions available. Either way, the information I was receiving was exactly what I needed to start a new program at the library, with the mindset to encourage everyone to lead according to their interest."

James Argot

"The MLA/DLA conference really made me appreciate the resources which we have here in Delaware for libraries. Especially combined with the resources of our friends over in Maryland, it creates a perfect environment for them. The Email session was likely my favorite and the one which I have already implemented the most. Went from not deleting any emails in a single file to deleting with reckless abandon. It was also interesting to hear about the legislative work being done and how that affects us on the local level."

In Memoriam: Bob Wetherall



At the MLA/DLA Conference in May 2022, we took a moment to honor Bob Wetherall, who dedicated his career to Delaware Libraries. The memorial sign is above , and you can read his [full obituary online](#).

Friends of Delaware Libraries Update

Delaware libraries have been essential partners during the COVID pandemic — providing curbside service (so users could still get materials for recreation and/or learning opportunities); free wifi in parking lots for school and job-related use; online programming was fantastically utilized by the public and all ages. (One of the advantages of the online programming is the opportunity for Delawareans to attend programming ordinarily not available to them — from all over the state); and library users could be parts of book clubs across the state, too; as well as children becoming part of storytimes from all different libraries. What a boon this is for our library users!

Libraries also partnered with DHSS to provide COVID testing kits around the state — as well as virtual sessions with Social workers; plus some libraries were instrumental in providing food stuffs to their neediest community members — more great examples of how our Delaware libraries were essential partners in their communities.

However, during COVID (especially in the early days) there were few Delaware Friends groups meeting, because of the rampant pandemic. Some Friends groups were able to meet virtually, but many were unable to do so.

The Friends of each Delaware Library are one of the best assets. We support the Delaware Library Association and EveryLibrary's push for our libraries. Hopefully, the Friends groups have begun to meet again more regularly, for the sake of their beloved library. The Friends have always been extremely successful in fundraising, in helping to provide for their library's needs. However, it is equally important for each Friends group, all library Boards and Trustees, and all library lovers to advocate for their library — talk about how important the library is to your community to your neighbors, your elected officials, everyone you know. The citizens of Delaware need to be aware of all the ways our libraries are benefitting our communities.

Delaware Libraries offer services that made:

- Our Children SCHOOL READY
- Our Citizens JOB READY
- Everyone HEALTH READY

So, Friends, we are here to help you support your library in any way that we can. We usually meet the first Tuesday of each month and we welcome your questions or suggestions. And please feel free to share our meeting. We are now gearing up to support our libraries in any way we can. Join us! We need you to be on the library bandwagon!

The first Annual Meeting of the Friends of Delaware Libraries will be held on November 14, 2022. The meeting is open to all, and a recording will be made available after. More information is available on the [Friends website](#).

Friends of Delaware Libraries Board:

Kay Bowes (kaybowes@gmail.com), Sonja Brown, Gwen Elliott, Steve Newton, Theo Loppatto, Kay Wheatley

Disaster Blaster

The following piece was written by Pat Young, Library Assistant at South Coastal Library and current Chair of the Delaware Libraries and Disasters Initiative (DLDI).

Welcome to “Disaster Blaster” – a regular feature to appear in the Delaware Library Association Bulletin! This feature hopes to address many basic topics related to the disaster cycle and how it can impact libraries. What is the “disaster cycle,” you say? I’m so glad you asked!

The “disaster cycle” includes 4 stages – mitigation (decreasing the potential impact of disasters as much as possible through a variety of means and actions), preparedness (being as ready as possible for what may come), response (dealing with disasters in the immediate aftermath), and recovery (the long-term actions taken to get life back to normal – or the new normal, as we so often hear).

And while we’re on the subject, you might wonder what the difference is between an emergency and a disaster. (Again, I’m so glad you asked!) Well, it’s really a matter of scale. Many of us have experienced one or more emergencies in our lives – think a house fire, a car accident, a child suddenly falling and breaking a bone, etc. And some of us have also experienced a disaster such as a flood, tornado, or hurricane. With emergencies, the situation typically changes suddenly and has more of a local effect. With disasters, situations can change suddenly (as with tornadoes and flash flooding) or gradually (as with hurricanes, gradual flooding, etc.). And typically emergencies can be handled by those impacted with the assistance of a few others (think a trip to the local Urgent Care or Emergency Department). However disasters often require help from those outside the impacted area – First Responders (fire fighters,

police, EMTs) who come from neighboring communities or states to assist those impacted by whatever has happened. Bottom line – emergencies can usually be handled with local resources (people, money, etc.) while disasters often require greater resources than are locally available.

Now that you have a basic introduction to two important concepts, future articles will help you develop some basic skills to address emergencies and disasters you might face. And I’d love to hear from you! What questions do you have about disasters? What have you found to be successful when preparing for disasters in your library? What would you like to know more about with regard to disasters? Drop me an email at patricia.young@sussexcountyde.gov and I’ll try to include your question or input in a future article.





Exciting DLA events coming up soon!

MLA / DLA Conference May 10-12, 2023



Our 2023 joint conference with the Maryland Library Association will be held May 10-12, 2023. More information, including registration and a program, coming soon!

Social Justice Committee Sponsorships

Those who are members of groups underrepresented in librarianship, such as black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), the LGBTQ+ community, religious minorities, and the disabled, are eligible to apply for a conference sponsorship to offset costs. The DLA Social Justice Committee will again sponsor attendance at the conference this year for some DLA members part of one or more of these groups. Watch the DLA website and social media for more details coming soon! Questions may be directed to the SJC Chair, Carlos Alvarez Diaz (cralaw@me.com).

PLD Fall Presentation: Recognizing and Respecting Boundaries in the Workplace with Ella Alonso



Ella Alonso (she/her) has been a Library Associate for Prince George's County Memorial Library System for six years. Her training style focuses on building a foundation of comprehension before diving in deeper. "Recognizing and Respecting Boundaries at Work" concentrates on developing more genuine interpersonal work relationships by exploring the nuances of boundary setting in the workplace.

Participants will learn how to assess and react to body language signals, detect and prevent assigning emotional work, and internalize and incorporate constructive feedback through real-world examples. They will be able to critically assess how these boundaries change when dominant culture and power dynamics are unbalanced.

This program takes place on **October 26, 10am-12pm** on Zoom. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/pldfall2022>

Festival of Words Delaware



Yamille Saied Mendez, author of *Furia*

The Festival of Words DE has moved to a new month, and it's coming up soon! Join us on December 3rd, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for this fun event that encourages a love of reading and writing by introducing young adults to diverse authors and ideas.

Attendees will get to meet authors K. A. Holt and Yamile Saied Méndez and participate in a variety of breakout sessions on topics such as zines, creative writing, publication opportunities, and more!

We hope you will encourage your library patrons to take advantage of this wonderful FREE event! A flyer has been shared via the DLA listserv but can also be sent to you upon request. You can also find more information on [Festival of Words DE's website](#).

Volunteer at the festival

There will be a Delaware Libraries table at the event to advertise all of our libraries' wonderful services, and we are in need of volunteers! Interested in volunteering? Please reach out to Jaclyn Hale (jaclynhaledla@gmail.com) and Andrea Rashbaum (festivalofwordsde@gmail.com). Volunteers will have the opportunity to watch the keynote speakers and enjoy a free lunch!



K.A. Holt, author of *House Arrest*



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANT

Up To \$1,500 Award | DLA Members Only

The objective of a DLA funded grant is to provide funds that help cover library programs or exhibitions that foster a sense of community engagement, and/or present timely topics of interest in areas such as civics, humanities, pop culture, world events, literature, health, family, or other areas as deemed appropriate.

Applications can be submitted for new and ongoing programs.

REQUIREMENTS

- Application must be submitted by an active DLA member or from a library with an active DLA institution membership
- The max amount awarded will be \$1,500
- The grant application **must** be completed online
- Mailed applications will **not** be accepted
- All promotional pieces must include the DLA logo and mission statement
- Final report must be submitted after conclusion of awarded program

HOW TO APPLY

- Visit **dla.lib.de.us/about-us/grant**
- Review the grant applicant fact sheet
- Complete the online application
- Application deadline is **December 15, 2022**
- Applicants will be notified mid to late February 2023

Grant information and Q&A session

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 (virtual)

For registration information visit

dla.lib.de.us

Write for the DLA Bulletin!

The DLA Bulletin is an excellent way to let other DLA members know what's going on your in library! All the Bulletin content is written by **you, DLA members**. Things you could share:

- A recap of a successful library program
- A division, committee, or working group update -- what is your group working on right now?
- A cool collection or program you have at your library
- Awards or recognitions for DLA members
- Upcoming professional development opportunities for DLA members
- Events for DLA members
- A call for participation -- need volunteers for a DLA-adjacent event? Or a collaborator for a project?



Deadlines to submit for DLA Bulletin:

January 13, 2023

August 11, 2023

[Submit here!](#)