

WINTER  
2023



## 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.

## ELIZABETH MILLER

Youth Services Librarian

Member, Youth Services Division (YSD) and Scholarships Committee

### How long have you been a DLA member?

Since 2019

### What do you like most about your work with DLA?

It's really great to be able to see what's going on behind the scenes, get involved, and see the direct impact of any of my work (or my colleagues work) come to life.

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

I'm currently re-reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer for a young adult book club that I'm a part of; it's one of my favorite books and it's been nice to have a chance to discuss it in community. Also, I have recently started listening to a podcast called the "Slow Home Podcast", which talks about slow living, gratitude, & mindfulness, and I've found that to be a really helpful and calming tool for trying to balance work-life stressors and focus in on what matters at the end of the day. :)



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



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

# Institutional Memberships for School Districts

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Beginning on January 1, 2023, school districts in the state of Delaware will be eligible to take advantage of the Delaware Library Association's (DLA) three levels of Institutional memberships:

- Institutional Member - \$35, provides unlimited job advertising
- Sustaining - \$50, includes two memberships and job advertising
- Substantial - \$100, includes four memberships and job advertising

Previously, this membership option was only available to individual schools that generally only employ one or fewer employees interested in being DLA members. This enhancement to the existing membership model will provide the Delaware Association of School Libraries (DASL) the opportunity to fully participate in the membership options.

Please reach out to the Membership Chair, Kathy Joseph, with any questions at [dlamembership@lib.de.us](mailto:dlamembership@lib.de.us).

# Save the Date! YSD Spring Program

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Mark your calendars! YSD and Baker and Taylor are hosting a Spring program that is open to all Youth Services staff, not just YSD members. This program will be hosted at the Route 9 Library on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Registration link and more details coming soon.



# PLD Showcase Showdown Winners and Updates

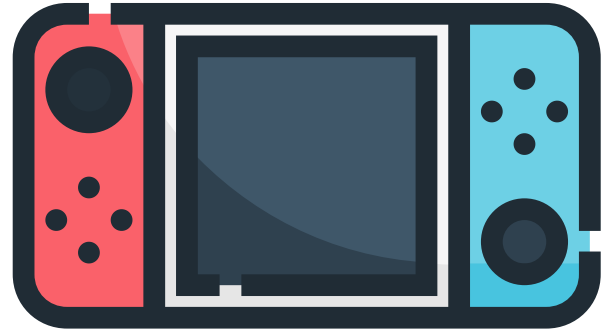
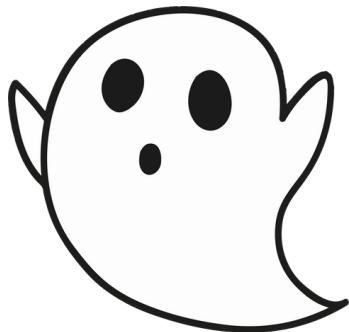
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## **October - What is the spookiest place in your library?**

Submitted by Anthony Connolly,  
Millsboro Public Library

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## **November - What are patrons most thankful for?**

A patron recently told us how thankful they are for our video game collection. They appreciated the ability to try out a bunch of different games without having to purchase them. They said: "Thank you! With cost of living the budget appreciates the game rentals. It's really neat."

Submitted by Rosie Mujica,  
Dover Public Library

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# PLD Showcase Showdown Winners and Updates



## December - Share your winter / holiday decorations!

Submitted by Janis Mcknight, Mount Pleasant High School Library

## January - What is the wackiest thing in your lost and found?

The winner will be drawn the first week in February. Look for February's question in your inbox soon and thank you for answering our question of the month! All of our monthly winners get a \$25 gift card and all participants are entered to win our \$100 grand prize!

JOIN NOW



## PLD Secretary Needed

The Public Libraries Division is in need of a candidate for the position of Secretary. If you are interested, please reach out to Rachel Culver [Rachel.culver@lib.de.us](mailto:Rachel.culver@lib.de.us)! We would love to have you on our team!



# Rachel Culver named one of Delaware's Top Women in Business

*The following piece was originally published in [Delaware Today](#).*

Congratulations to DLA President Rachel Culver on being named one of Delaware's Top Women in Business!

Rachel Culver is her own best customer. As a newcomer to library administration—she was assistant director at Georgetown Public Library in fall 2020 and stepped up to director five months later—she is always learning. “That’s what libraries are for, right?” the University of Delaware graduate and current president of the Delaware Library Association points out. “I don’t come into this job or any job thinking I know all the answers,” she says. “So I’ve been blessed and lucky to be able to ask questions, attend meetings and learn a lot about the industry and how to help people.”



Culver’s library has 45,000 people coming through its doors annually, and she oversees everything from watering the flowers and securing a six-figure grant that will upgrade a 12-year-old HVAC system to planning events like the annual Summer Reading Kick-Off Party at Sandhill Fields. Her next objective is to build out a room for teens. “We’re offering the programs now. It’d be nice to have a designated space for them,” she says.



# Kwanzaa (and Christmas) Display in Wilmington

*The following piece was written by Mae-Lynn Smith, MLIS at the Community Education Building in Wilmington.*

Holiday time! In a school built around the tenets of Kwanzaa, our holiday display must be top notch. This year, we were able to include all of the elements: a kinara with seven candles, the mkeka, mazao basket, and unity cup. This year, our kinara was crafted from paper. Thanks to the donation of a talented carpenter, our kinara next year will be the more traditional dark wood.



We also had a Christmas display, as seasonal books are always heavily requested by patrons.

*Editor's note:* Learn more about [Kwanzaa](#).

# Annie Norman Appointed to National Museum and Library Services Board

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*This official announcement was originally published on [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov).*

Dr. Annie Norman, State Librarian of Delaware and Director of the Delaware Division of Libraries, was appointed by President Biden to the National Museum and Library Services Board in 2022. The National Museum and Library Services Board advises the agency on general policies with respect to the duties, powers, and authority of the Institute of Museum and Library Service relating to museum, library, and information services, as well as the annual selection of National Medals recipients.

Dr. Annie Norman is State Librarian of Delaware and Director of the Delaware Division of Libraries. Under her leadership, the Delaware Library Catalog was established; currently 74 participating libraries are sharing 2.5 million items for the benefit of Delawareans. Delaware Libraries launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in 2020; now every Delawarean under age 5 is eligible statewide.

Norman received her Doctorate of Education in Innovation and Organizational Leadership from Wilmington University and is a recipient of the Audrey K. Doberstein Award for Leadership for her dissertation, *Librarians' Leadership for Lifelong Learning*. She is the first librarian to be inducted into the *Hall of Fame of Delaware Women*.

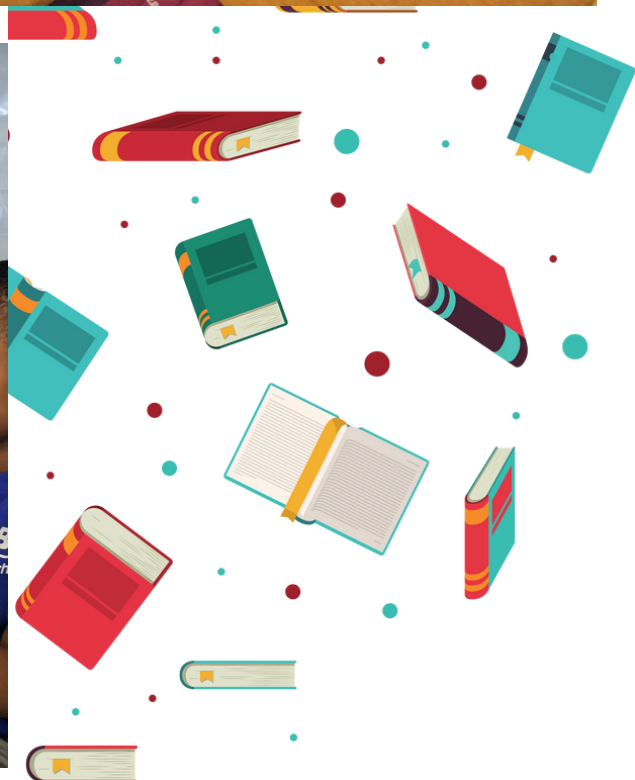
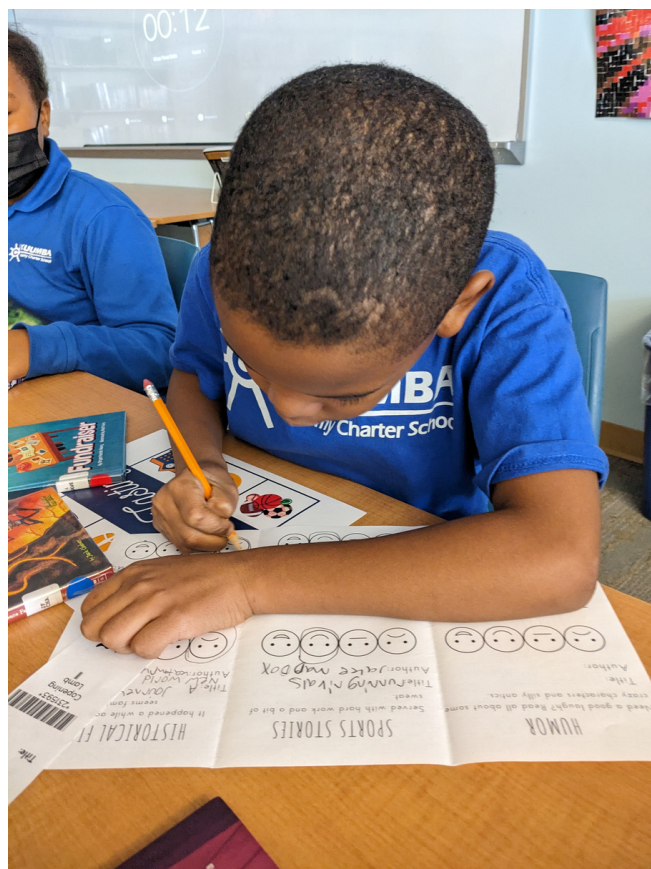




# First Ever Book Tasting

*The following piece was written by Mae-Lynn Smith, MLIS at the Community Education Building in Wilmington.*

Our fourth graders participated in a book tasting just before winter recess. This was our first ever, and the students were excited to try this new experience. Tables were sorted by genre, and students were able to place hold on a book that was especially appealing. We are already looking forward to our next event, with a focus on series.





# In Memoriam: Patty Langley

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We remember Patty Langley, who was an Administrative Librarian at the Delaware Division of Libraries. Patty's career and work was well-known throughout the state, and her colleagues at DDL put together this [wonderful tribute](#) to commemorate her contributions to library services in Delaware.



What I love most about Patty was her deep thinking in our planning for library development and lifelong learning. Her work was super fun -- and profound.

*-Dr. Annie Norman, State Librarian, DDL*



Read Patty's [full obituary online](#).

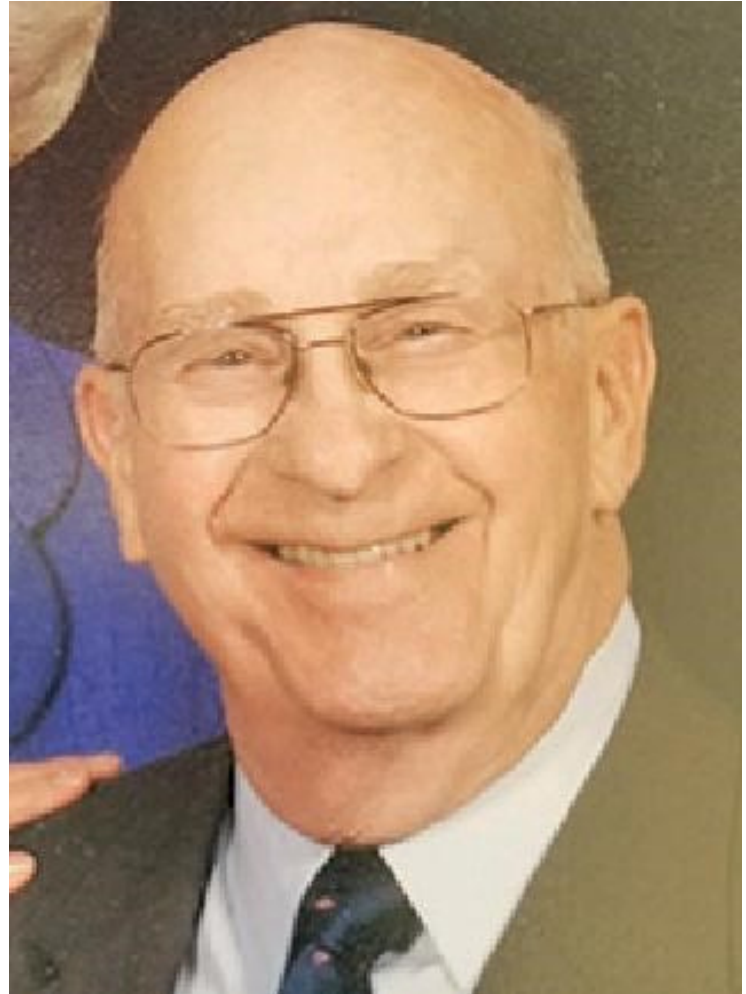
# In Memoriam: Ralph Hinzman

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We remember Ralph Hinzman, who served as a librarian at Dover High School.

You can read Ralph's [full obituary online](#).

"'Librarian' was just a title; many students remember working as library aides, receiving support in the library and in other ways as Ralph and Twyla formed lifelong relationships mentoring and caring for scores of Dover High students. Ralph was a DHS Band Booster and enjoyed watching DHS sports and taking tickets at games. He also ran the library at the Groves Night School in Woodside for many years; he recounted stories of his students overcoming obstacles to complete their education and was pleased he could assist them. The technological advent ushered in huge changes in library functions; Ralph worked long hours to make it so. He shared fond memories of his work and colleagues over the years; his stories were copious!"



# Lewes Public Library is Enhancing Health Literacy in Sussex County

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*The following piece was written by Dana Ravyn, Consumer Health Information Specialist at Lewes Public Library.*

Many people experience low health literacy, regardless of education or print literacy. People with low health literacy have difficulty understanding directions from health care providers and finding reliable health information online. Low health literacy is estimated to cost the US economy more than \$236 billion every year (1) and is associated with more hospital stays (2), emergency room visits (3), greater mortality (4), and higher health care costs (5). Health literacy is lower in older adults and in marginalized communities, including people who are African American, Hispanic, and LGBTQ+.

## **Be A Health Hero**

In 2022, Lewes Public Library (LPL) launched Be a Health Hero, a series of initiatives to improve individual, organizational, and community health literacy. LPL conducted a community needs assessment to evaluate health literacy gaps among healthcare providers and human service organizations. The results showed that health literacy programs and services are urgently needed. Eighty percent of respondents offer few or no health literacy services or programs for their constituents. With grants from the National Library of Medicine, LPL created evidence-based interventions to address identified health literacy needs. A professional development workshop held in partnership with Beebe Healthcare provided hands-on training for the LPL staff. The training significantly enhanced staff knowledge and confidence in identifying and

evaluating health information and advising patrons. Kim Blanch, RN, Director of Community Outreach at Beebe Healthcare, presented the results of their 2022 community health needs assessment to expand staff awareness of the most prevalent health needs in the LPL service area. Staff discussed ethics and professionalism when assisting patrons with health information.

## **On Demand Health Answers for Patrons**

Health Answers at Lewes Public Library is a new initiative that provides patrons access to a certified consumer health information specialist by telephone, email, in-person meetings, and virtual appointments. The service is free and confidential and empowers community members to better identify and evaluate authoritative health information and avoid scams.

**"People want to understand their health but often don't know where to find reliable information. The programs and services at Lewes Public Library empower people to find, evaluate, and use authoritative health information for themselves and loved ones."**

*-Dana Ravyn, Certified Consumer Health Information Specialist, Lewes Public Library*



# Lewes Public Library is Enhancing Health Literacy in Sussex County

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## Teen and Older Adult Activities

This spring LPL will host a mural-painting event featuring artist and educator John Donato. Teens and their families will paint murals using a superhero theme in an imaginative approach to instill greater health confidence and literacy. The murals will be exhibited in local schools, healthcare organizations, and other libraries.

Upcoming workshops in March and April will offer older adults an opportunity to work hands-on to gain practical skills in evaluating and understanding health information online. Participants will gain the confidence to go beyond “Dr. Google” and identify misinformation.

## Leading the Way for Better Community Health

Libraries are a rapidly growing resource for unmet health information needs. The infodemic, burgeoning misinformation, scams, and the diminishing access to patient-provider communication underscore the important role librarians have in improving health for patrons. Best practices go beyond answering questions to empower patrons with skills and confidence navigating health information. Enhancing health literacy is a proven avenue to improving the health of individuals, families, organizations, and communities.

*If you are interested in obtaining curriculum materials used in the professional development workshop, or if you have questions about LPL activities and programs, please contact Dana Ravyn, PhD, MPH, CHIS at [dana.ravyn@lib.de.us](mailto:dana.ravyn@lib.de.us) or call (302) 703-3026.*



## References

1. Vernon J, et al. Low Health Literacy: Implications for National Health Policy. University of Connecticut. 2007.
2. Baker DW, et al. Journal of General Internal Medicine. 1998;13(12):791-798.
3. Griffey RT, et al. Academic Emergency Medicine. 2014;21(10):1109-1115.
4. Baker DW, et al. Archives of Internal Medicine. 2007;167(14):1503-1509.
5. Haun JN, et al. BMC Health Services Research. 2015;15:249.

# Dover Public Library Rebranding

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*The following piece was written by Brantley Craig at the Dover Public Library.*

To coincide (roughly) with the ten-year anniversary of our library building, the Dover Public Library is launching a rebranding campaign designed to increase the library's public profile and improve the consistency of our image. For years, the library has had a single logo and no standardized formats for marketing materials. We believed this was confusing for patrons and did not accurately reflect all the library had to offer.

Beginning in the Spring of 2022, our Marketing Committee convened to discuss the things we wanted for our image and for our marketing materials. We then worked closely with graphic design firm Lobster Phone to create a dynamic new identity for our brand. We are excited to begin sharing the results with the public. The new brand is designed to more accurately reflect the diversity of collections, programs, and services offered by the library. Different color schemes assigned to each library department make identifying relevant programming easy, while a bold, recognizable font for common use plainly marks everything as ours. We also created a new logo that is more easily

adaptable to a variety of sizes and formats. We will be rolling out the new design in coming months through everything from flyers to mugs to business cards. Our hope is that the new look helps our community recognize the library as a single location for a variety of helpful programs and resources.





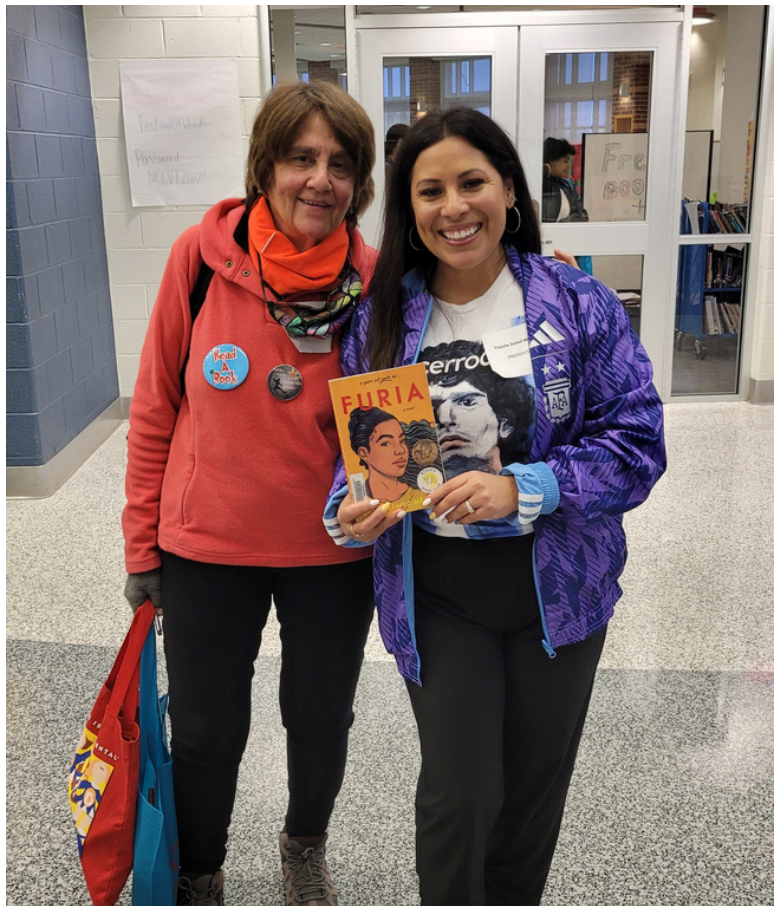
# Festival of Words 2022

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

## **Creativity. Freedom. Discovery. Repeat.**

Such was the mantra you would see occurring at the December 3rd Festival of Words held at St. Georges Technical High School in Middletown in Middletown, Delaware. Despite the chilly onset of a rainy morning to greet all 60+ registered attendees, the glow of literary excitement was in every corner of the halls as you entered. Authors, artists, students, librarians, and faculty all became intertwined in the excitement of a reading free for all that represented the return of Festival of Words through the hiatus that COVID had brought to many literary events.



Heavyweight representation in the form of UDLIBSearch, DLA, DE Public Libraries, SORA, DASL, came bearing the gifts of what any bibliophile would look for – opportunities, services tied to literacy, activities, reading supplies, and books represented in full force. Artistry in the form of bracelets for purchase that supported individual countries, a workshop creating letters from metal mediums, practicing monologues, to designing buttons represent attendee's own personal addictions to reading provided the wide range of where literacy could be found. Keynote author Yamile Saied Mendez empowered the excitement of the ongoing World Cup with the possibility of empowering women in futbol and providing a look into her world of Argentina and becoming an author, while keynote author K.A. Holt let loose and reinforced how poetry and characters can bring creativity to the forefront of everyone's attention.

The diversity of perspectives brought by authors such as Ryan Gebhart that combined architecture and writing, C.H. Williams that illustrated worldbuilding within writing, the artistry of lettering from Jennifer Greer, diversity representation thanks to Deshanna and Trinity Neal, poetic monologues performed with Dr. Traci Curry, to the ins and outs of self-publishing with E.S.Rosaylenn, attendees were given the best gift of all, the gift of choice. Art again became the focus this year with the opportunities to bring student artwork to the New Castle County Imagine project and funnel talents into the technicalities of creating and working with the medium of Zines.

Outside of offering over 300 books at the pick your own book for free station set up,



# Festival of Words 2022

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in between sessions attendees were able to rub shoulders with the representatives of native Delaware literary programs such as the Delaware Public Library system working alongside countless physical and digital resources available through SORA. The Delaware Association of School Libraries taught students how to design and manufacture buttons that could be worn and representing attendee's literary values, while UDLIB Search continued to offer the many avenues to assist attendees in research and discovery beyond the physical pages being found at Festival of Words.

Don't be fooled, the sheer success of moving the Festival of Words from Spring to Winter, and organizing a plentiful collection of artists, food and refreshments and the social interactions among so

many age groups did not come without the guidance of director Andrea Rashbaum, the Festival of Words Organizing Committee, and the support of the Delaware Library Association, student and Delaware state volunteers, strongly supported by the sponsors that make this one, insightful Delaware festival for teens the exciting event it is. Months of outreach, planning, organizing and creativity are rewarded as you see in every possible corner and classroom, attendees finding a space they belong to read, collect literary bling, hoard autographs, selfies, and countless bags of books; all memories that continue to emphasize the power of literacy, libraries, and learning.

Visit Harry Brake's blog, [PAVEing the Way](#), for more photos and information.



Planning has already started for the next Festival of Words- your energy and creativity is also welcome to be a part. Reach out to the planning Committee at [festivalofwordsde@gmail.com](mailto:festivalofwordsde@gmail.com) to continue to grow this amazing festival that celebrates all that Delaware can do to bring literary dreams to reality!

# Disaster Blaster

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*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).*

In my last article, I introduced the “disaster cycle” – mitigation-preparedness-response-recovery. Whether this concept was new to you or just a refresher, I hope you found the description included in the article helpful and informative. I also discussed the difference between an emergency (an event you can handle on your own or with the assistance of a few other local service providers) and a disaster (a larger scale event that requires assistance from outside the impacted area to aid recovery). Equipped with this basic understanding, keeping the disaster cycle in mind, I’m now going to encourage you to think about steps you can take to deal with potential emergencies and disasters.

The first piece of the cycle is mitigation. How can you mitigate against emergencies and disasters? Well, the best way is to be aware of what might be coming your way. Do you work or live near a pond, stream, lake or the ocean? If so, flooding could quite possibly be a concern. Are there active railroad tracks nearby? If so, freight trains carrying hazardous chemicals or other materials could derail, causing toxic spills. Is your home or library older? If so, it might be more susceptible to storm damage. Thinking about your surroundings and considering possible hazards or risks is the first step to being better prepared for what Mother Nature or your fellow human beings might bring your way.

Most of the time, mitigation steps take place at the community level. Neighborhoods or towns and cities might decide to put barriers in place near water to decrease the chance of flooding. Communities might



gather details on train schedules and decide to put resources in place for times when hazardous shipments will be moved through the area. Municipalities might decide to invest funds into improving public buildings and structures to decrease the possibility of storm damage.

There are steps you can take as well. One example would be to install a retaining wall on your property to decrease potential damage from flooding. Another might be to rethink where collections are kept in the library building and to consider moving material around to minimize damage resulting from a storm. Much of what you can do to decrease the potential impact of emergencies and disasters happens by being better prepared and we’ll explore that topic in the next article.

In the meantime, I would love to hear from you. What questions or concerns do you have when it comes to being ready for the next hurricane, tornado, flash flood, or other weather event? Email me at [patricia.young@sussexcountyde.gov](mailto:patricia.young@sussexcountyde.gov) and I’ll address your questions and comments in a future article.



Exciting DLA events coming up soon!

## MLA / DLA Conference May 10-12, 2023

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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, the DLA-L email list, and social media for more details coming soon! Questions may be directed to the SJC Chair, Carlos Alvarez Diaz ([cralaw@me.com](mailto:cralaw@me.com)).



# Write for the DLA Bulletin!

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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 of 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:  
August 11, 2023**

[Submit here!](#)