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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.

JAMIE MORRIS

Librarian, Dover Public Library
President, Public Library Division (PLD)

How long have you been a DLA member?

3 years

What do you like most about your work with DLA?

I like getting to connect with library staff members, it also gives me more reason to interact with former coworkers who still work in the state.

Please share any interesting facts, new hobbies, current reads / watches / or listens!

I'm from rural Ohio, love crochet, and have been binge listening to the Park Predators podcast about crimes (mostly murders) that take place in or very close to parks.



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

INSTITUTION SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to the recent winner of the
Library/Institutional Award at the 2023
DLA/MLA Conference!

LAUREL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Over the last year, Laurel Public Library has created engaging and impactful partnerships, programs, and services. A few of their accomplishments, include:

- Partnering with the Food Bank and the Harry K Foundation to support our food carts and outreach - replacing our food carts with a new food stand
- Hosted a Mobile Food Bank Drive Thru and served 100 families
- Maintaining our hygiene stations and adding period packs
- Hosting ESL and GED classes
- Hosting the Christiana Care Van and Tidal Health Van monthly
- Partnered with Operation Warm and United Way DE to distribute coats and toys to families
- Outreach to Seniors
- Adult healthy cooking classes, art and exercise programs
- Family literacy programs
- Annual Block Party





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.

DLA's Volunteer of the Year Award

Judie Baldini is DLA's first Volunteer of the Year!

Judie Baldini has volunteered at New Castle Public Library for eight years. Her main duty is to pull holds. Besides pulling holds, she also brings problem items, mislabeled or miscataloged items to the attention of library staff. She was one of the first volunteers to return after the library reopened in 2021. During this time, due to staff shortages, she was willing to help with preparing transit by packing items.

While her regular volunteer duties are very helpful to the library and staff, it is her attitude and advocacy that make her an outstanding volunteer. Judie is willing to do whatever extra tasks are needed to keep the library operating efficiently. She has helped clean shelves, assisted in the process of weeding books, and offered to substitute for other volunteers unable to come in.



From Left: Preethy Cherian, Volunteer Coordinator; Judie Baldini; Julie Kirk, Library Director

DLA's Volunteer of the Year Award

"I am honored to be a part of this wonderful institution. I encourage everyone to get involved in some way and enjoy the resources the library has to offer."

*-Judie Baldini, DLA
Volunteer of the Year*

In its second year now, the program is held at the library to showcase the library as a community gathering space.

Not only does this bring in residents who otherwise may not use the library, but exposes the presenters to the many resources available at the library.

Due to her influence, the library has also had a much larger presence in community events such as A Day in Old New Castle, and National Night Out. Judie truly represents the values at New Castle Public Library and is an integral part in helping the library staff carry out our mission.

Congratulations, Judie. Upon receiving the award, Judie shared how much fun she has volunteering and being involved in the library. "I am honored to be a part of this wonderful institution," she said. "I encourage everyone to get involved in some way and enjoy the resources the library has to offer."

And she has been instrumental in increasing the library's presence in the larger New Castle community. She spearheaded a program, "On the Same Page: Your City and You" which is a series of presentations over three nights that give organizations, city government, and businesses within the city the opportunity to share their mission, explain how the community can get involved or help out, clear up any misconceptions and answer questions.

CRLD Visit at DSU Library

..... COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARY DIVISION

MEET & GREET

9AM-NOON

Join CRLD members for a Meet & Greet! Light breakfast provided. Learn about DSU's archives and time capsules and chat with colleagues!

Saturday, September 23

W.C. Jason Library @ Del State U

1200 N DuPont Hwy, Dover

Please RSVP to mramsey@desu.edu ~Sept 8

An illustration at the bottom of the flyer shows a stack of books on the left, with one book titled 'MOTIVATIONS'. In the center is a white cup of coffee with steam rising from it, sitting on a saucer. To the right of the coffee are two chocolate-glazed donuts with colorful sprinkles. On the far right is an open book with a yellow sticky note on one of its pages.

CRLD members are invited to visit Delaware State University's library on Saturday, Sept 23 from 9a – noon for a Meet & Greet! Coffee and light breakfast will be provided. DSU Libraries & Archives will be sharing information on our recent Time Capsules and the DSU Art Gallery's Herman S. Holloway Exhibit will be open for viewing.

Please RSVP to mramsey@desu.edu by ~Sept 8.

Save the Date! Fall Youth Services Division (YSD) Meeting



Mark your calendars for the fall 2023 YSD meeting. The meeting will be held on October 12 at the Dover Public Library. More information, including registration, coming soon.

2024 MLA/DLA Conference

This update was submitted by Scott Businsky, Vice President of DLA.

My name is Scott Businsky, I am a librarian at the Route 9 Library and the new Vice President / Conference Co-Chair of DLA. I am excited to serve DLA in this capacity and work with colleagues across Delaware.

Rachel Culver, Past President / Conference Co-Chair, and I are excited to share some conference updates with you below.

- The 2024 Conference is scheduled for **May 8-10, 2024**, and will be located at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, MD.
- Let us know what topics and speakers you'd like to see at the conference! The DLA Conference Committee has released a conference planning survey through the DLA Listserv. The deadline for submission is **August 31st**.
- There will be a Silent Auction again this year. Please work with your divisions and think of some great ideas to contribute to baskets!
- If you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas, do not hesitate to reach out to either of us: Scott Businsky (scott.businsky@newcastlede.gov) or Rachel Culver (rachel.culver@lib.de.us).



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 Brandywine Hundred Library!

The Brandywine Hundred Library was awarded \$1000.00 for their proposal; Big Feelings Book Bags. The project will help support parents and caregivers as they address important but normal issues facing their children. Each Big Feelings bookbag will consist of a set of pre-selected, developmentally appropriate books on a particular topic, which can easily be located and borrowed as a kit.

Bernadette Davis is the Children's Librarian at the Brandywine Hundred Library. Her inspiration for this project came from years of working the Children's reference desk and having parents ask for help with big, tough questions; such as the addition of a new sibling, loss of a pet, death of a grandparent, and starting a new school just to name a few examples. It would become a frantic search for what materials on this topic are currently offered in the catalog, and also searching a variety of related topics. She thought it would



Pictured, left to right: Renee O'Donnell, Library Manager; Bernadette Davis, Youth Services Librarian; Rachel Culver, DLA President; Jaclyn Hale, DLA Treasurer

DLA Community Engagement Grant Winners

be great to have a set of resources already curated along with expert information and articles, and the Big Feelings bookbag idea was born.

The audience for the Big Feelings bookbag is parents or caregivers of children aged 2-6 years old. The kits will have approximately 6 books on a particular topic that is targeted for children, along with a resource folder for parents. The kits will be available to place on hold in the Delaware Library Catalog, so families statewide can make use of them.

The goal is to get the items into parents hands to help kids process their big feelings, and help parents have more conversations with their children. “I am very gratified that as a society we’re putting more of a value on children’s social and emotional well-being,” said Bernadette. Bernadette also hopes that families who use these bags will know that the library recognized the challenges they face as parents, and because of a positive experience with this resource, families will be more likely to turn to the library for future support and information as they need it.

Congratulations to the Route 9 Library & Innovation Center!

The Route 9 Library was awarded \$500.00 for their proposal; Let’s Make It: A Place to Call Home. The project will utilize the library’s Maker Lab resources to provide access, create connection, and empower unhoused populations in their community. The library plans to partner with The Hope Center, which they have a new partnership with but hope that this project will help strengthen that relationship.

Upper-level New Castle County leadership is also excited about this project and are looking to see how it develops.

The project is the inspiration of Scott Businsky, Jessi Glassco, and Reshma Khan. They feel that this is a great way to increase library visibility with a vulnerable population. They will utilize staff and patron volunteers to assist the participants. Initially the library will host an outreach table at the Hope Center to meet the residents, share library information, and provide a quick 5-minute make-and-take craft. The main program will be two, three-hour sessions where an attendee can choose an item to make. The attendee will work with a staff member or volunteer to set up the equipment, and work together to craft the desired result.

In talking with Jessi and Scott they have defined tangible and intangible goals. The tangible goal is they hope that people will visit the library to make more stuff. Completed projects from the participants can be used for promotional efforts, and incomplete projects are also useful to evaluate the initiative. Jessi and Scott stress that’s it’s okay if projects aren’t finished. Some may find they don’t enjoy this type of DIY project and that’s okay. They tried and they learned something about themselves in the process.

The intangible goal is they want people to feel empowered that they created an item just for themselves rather than receiving donated items. Creating a sense of comfort will make them feel more “at home” in their transitional and/or permanent housing by displaying something

DLA Community Engagement Grant Winners

they crafted on their own. It's okay if people don't finish the project during the program time.

Participants will be invited to come back to the library and they can work on the project during their own time.

Jessi and Scott are excited to launch this program. This will help them develop a better understanding of the needs of some of their most vulnerable community members.

Left to right: Rachel Culver, DLA President; Alix Jefferson, Library Manager; Scott Businsky, Adult Services Librarian; Jessica Glassco, Makerspace Director & Library Specialist; Jaclyn Hale, DLA Treasurer



Congratulations to all our grant awardees!

Apply for a DLA Community Engagement Grant!

DLA Community Engagement Grant Opening Soon! Mark your calendars!

The FY24 application period
will open **September 15th**

Detailed information will
be available soon!



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.

The current application period will open September 15, 2023.

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

Legislative Action Day 2023

The following piece was submitted by Catherine Wimberley, New Castle County Libraries and Chair of the Legislative Action Committee.

The Delaware Library Association held its first in-person Legislative Action Day since 2019, on May 3, 2023. The event was an opportunity for DLA members, library workers, supporters, leaders, and community stakeholders to meet with legislators and discuss how libraries support their communities. Over 40 people participated in Legislative Action Day and met with over 30 legislators.

The day started with a networking breakfast at the Dover Public Library. Attendees then tabled in Legislative Hall and met with their representatives. Advocates:

- Discussed an increase to the State Standards Fund; with an additional \$5 more per resident, Delaware libraries can expand physical collections, digital & instructional resources, and partnerships, as well as meet increased staffing & operating costs.
- Encouraged legislators to reach out to school superintendents in their districts about joining the Delaware Library Catalog
- Requested the bond bill be fully funded.



Tanya Moya, Manager of Woodlawn and Elsmere Public Libraries with Representative Sherry Dorsey Walker

Our legislators were able to share their community priorities and discuss how academic, public, school, and special libraries can help meet the needs of the community. Legislative Action Day was also an opportunity to celebrate Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 (SCR38) proclaiming April 24-29, 2023 as Delaware Libraries Week 2023. Thank you to Senator Huxtable and Representative Baumbach for sponsoring the resolution and to everyone who voted for its passage. The day ended with a cookie break to celebrate and thank legislators as well as their aides and staff for everything that they do.

Legislative Action Day 2023

If you weren't able to attend the day in person, please schedule a meeting with your legislators. You can also write to them and ask them to support DLA's "One Ask."

Thank you to our library advocates and legislators for making it such a successful day!



*Representative William Bush
with Catherine Wimberley,
Programs and Services
Coordinator, New Castle
County Libraries*



*Delaware librarians, library
supporters, and legislators pose
with Senate Concurrent
Resolution 28 (SCR38)*

DSU Library Staff Accepted to MLIS Programs

The following piece was written by Marjorie Ramsey, Librarian at Delaware State University.

Kudos to two Delaware State University library staff members who will both begin pursuing their MLIS this fall! Both were recently granted scholarships through DDL Ada Leigh Soles Memorial Professional Librarian and Archivist Incentive Program.

Congratulations to Mark and Timothy!



Mr. Mark Harris, Library Assistant for Circulation and Stack Maintenance, will be studying through the online program at Old Dominion University.



Mr. Timothy Patterson, Digitization Copy Cataloger and recent DSU alum, will be studying through San Jose State University's online program.

Corbit Chronicle: Created by Teens for Everyone!

This piece was written by Katryna Cera-Proulx, Library Director at Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library.

The teen club got together this weekend with a staff member who has MLS and used to be middle school librarian and developed a teen magazine has a project. It's pretty awesome. There are book recommendations, interviews, call out for poems and writings. The next article is going to call out for summer vacation pictures from our community and more!

[Read the full zine.](#)



Librarian at Christiana Care Wins Medical Library Association Award

Stephanie Clare Roth, Medical Librarian at the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Care, received the 2023 Medical Library Association President's Award. Stephanie and colleagues were recognized for their work penning an open letter to NLM Regarding MeSH Term Changes. Below, Stephanie provides some background on what drove her to the work.

When I was a new Chair-Elect of the MLA (Medical Library Association) Systematic Reviews Caucus in 2021, I helped to draft an official statement against acts of violence and hate for the caucus.

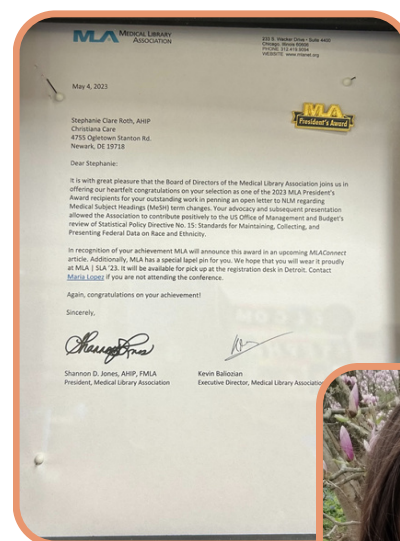
A year later, I was beginning my term as the Chair of the caucus and I saw a tweet about the introduction of the Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) term, "Blacks". I was shocked at how racist the scope note for the term was and when another medical librarian tweeted about wanting to write a letter about it, I sent her a message and that is how I became involved. There were several people involved who didn't get an award who are also deserving of one, I believe I was awarded this award since I was officially an MLA member. I feel that my big role was pushing this letter out to our caucus which at the time was close to 500 members. As a new leader, I encouraged them to sign the letter and that was important to me because of the official statement we released the previous year stating that we would "support efforts to disrupt discrimination, microaggressions, racism or hate within our professional communities." I'm proud that as a Caucus leader that I was able to follow through on that commitment. It's also nice to see that the letter resulted in real changes made to the 2023 MeSH headings and allowed the association to make

further contributions as they noted in the award letter.

Receiving the MLA President's award was a surprise to me. I was on maternity leave when I received noticed of the award. I feel like I played a very small role, and I didn't see any other option at the time. I felt that not doing anything would just further perpetuate racism and discrimination in our profession.

Congratulations Stephanie!

[Read the full letter.](#)



Award and letter of acknowledgement



*Stephanie Roth, MLIS AHIP-D,
Medical Librarian*

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 back to Disaster Blaster! To borrow and modify a favorite phrase of Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and the Scarecrow, “Hurricanes and tornadoes and floods, oh my!” It seems like we are seeing more and more weather-related events not only around the country but right here in Delaware. We are now in the midst of hurricane season – usually noted by weather watchers as running from June 1st through November 30th – and Delaware has also seen a tornado or two since the last DLA Bulletin was published. In the midst of what is typically considered one of the higher risk times of year you might be asking yourself what you can do to be better prepared for what might come your way.

One of the most important steps – and perhaps **the** most important – is having accurate information about what’s coming. How will you know what weather events might be in your immediate area? What information sources will you turn to for reliable updates? The best source of information in our state is the **Delaware Emergency Notification System** or DENS. The service is free throughout the state and all land lines are automatically registered within the system. However, it’s perhaps even more important to be able to receive emergency alerts on your cell phone, especially if you don’t have a land line or aren’t near it when emergencies arise. Cell phones must be registered with the system to receive those all-important alerts.

How does DENS use your cell phone to help keep you safer? According to DEMA’s website, “Registering your phone enables DENS to geocode your phone



**Sign up to
receive alerts**

POWERED BY:
RAVE
PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency alerts and notifications via

Phone call, text message, email and social media



Sign Up Now

DEMA.DELAWARE.GOV

number to your home (or work) address and can send messages to your cell phones and VOIP home phones.” Although being able to receive emergency notifications from the DENS system won’t necessarily protect you when you’re out and about, it could be a life saver when you’re at home or work / the library. And given that we tend to spend most of our time in one of those two places, odds will be in your favor for safety with DENS in your preparedness toolbox.

Once you sign up for DENS it’s also important to keep your profile up to date. Have you moved recently? Have you added members to your household – human or furry? Has someone moved out of the household recently? Have you done major home renovations? Don’t forget to update those details in your profile.

To sign up for DENS today or to update your existing profile or to learn more, go to <https://dema.delaware.gov/onlineServices/index.shtml?dc=dens>.

In Memoriam: Richard Kreuger, Jr.

We remember Richard Kreuger, Jr., retired Library Director at the Dover Air Force Base. He was preceded in death by Richard Kreuger, Sr., longtime Kent County Librarian.



Richard Lee Krueger, Jr., of Smyrna, passed away peacefully, Tuesday, January 17, 2023 in Kent General Hospital, Dover. He was 54.

Richard graduated from Millersville University in Lancaster , Pennsylvania in 1990 with a Bachelors Degree in Library Science. Richard then continued his education at Penn State University, receiving his Masters Degree in Library Science in 1992.

"Richard had a great sense of humor & a deep love for family and friends. He was a humble, caring, and giving man who loved music, and recently took up painting & doing artwork. He had worked at various libraries throughout his career, and concluded his career as the Director of the Dover Air Force Base Library for 5 years."

Richard fought and won a tough battle with Leukemia, which unfortunately cost him in the long run with various future health related issues.

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

School Libraries: Join the Book Flood!

All Delaware school libraries are invited!
Join the statewide Delaware Library Catalog!



DelawareLibraries.org



DelawareLibraries.org/bookflood

Contact

Dr. Annie Norman, State Librarian
Annie.norman@delaware.gov

The Delaware Library Catalog is an infrastructure of more than 70 libraries sharing 2.5 million items for the benefit of Delawareans. This initiative, under the leadership of Representative Valerie Longhurst enables school libraries to join and participate.

“Representative Longhurst’s leadership is instrumental in launching the first state initiative to address school libraries,” said Dr. Annie Norman. “Connecting the school libraries to the statewide Delaware Library Catalog achieves the ‘last mile’ in **ensuring equity of access for all Delaware children, regardless of whether they are taken to a public library.**”

[Learn more on the DDL website.](#)

Student Impressions and Empowerment

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

So here's impressive. Awhile back, I asked students (because I feel often, so many opinions are not asked to the correct audience) their thoughts on libraries, censorship, etc..).

[Their opinions came in many different waves and forms](#)- and one particular student took these questions around to his classes, he was THAT interested and vested in this topic.

On top of that, this same student wrote an actual essay – ON HIS OWN, not for an assignment, which is featured below.

And finally, when asked, he conducted a podcast, on his own, and editing on his own, with a visiting poet/author, [Shelly Puhak](#), that visited Woodbridge High School students during Poetry Month. With the collaboration of [The Delaware Humanities](#) and the Lewes bookstore [Bibliion](#), we were able to breathe life into instruction. (Check out that awesome experience in the [lower half of this blog post](#)).

Being able to find and locate community members, public and school librarians, poets, authors, teachers, students, and community members and combine and empower them, to add creativity and innovation, as well as variety in how and what is taught to tie into basic skills literacy, it works, and it works well. Only if all are given a path to indeed work together.

I suspect Logan learned much from diving in to these opportunities, but I learned much more about what



*Poet and author
Shelly Puhak*

students can do if given the reins of opportunity, well done Logan!

Listen to Logan's [podcast with poet/author Shelly Puhak](#). Logan's essay and call for others to advocate is below!

It's been an ever present issue that's become more apparent in the more recent years. A controversy that's begun to plague libraries across the country: the banned books controversy. For those that don't know, it's a controversy that regards the issues of people, such as the government and parents, deciding that certain books should no longer be allowed to be read by the public. All over the world, including in America, there are books that are being banned due to their 'offensive' topics. These offensive topics can range from things such as LGBTQ+ representation, portrayal of dark historical events, violent depictions, portrayal of different groups, and various other 'problems'.

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

EVENTS

Exciting DLA events coming up soon!

MLA / DLA Conference May 8-10, 2024



Our 2023 joint conference with the Maryland Library Association will be held **May 8-10, 2024**. More information, including registration and a program, coming soon!

The theme this year is ***Seeds of Change***.



Volunteer and Save the Date: Festival of Words Delaware

Unearthing and Growing Delaware Youth Literacy

Tapping into the roots of literacy, branching out with local authors and being motivated by artists of all calibers surrounding Delaware has NEVER been easier. Combining inspiring keynote speakers with creative sessions, Festival of Words this year investigates and promotes local literary talent found in and around Delaware. Growing, networking, and developing a community of readers, writers, artists, and dreamers, Festival of Words 2023 invites you to our local literary world.

The Festival of Words DE has moved to a new month and it's coming up soon! Join us on **December 2nd, 2023** at St. George's Technical High School for this fun event that encourages a love of reading and writing by introducing young adults to diverse authors and ideas. Attendees will meet well represented and local authors with the ability to participate in a variety of breakout sessions; topics exist that offer ways to present countless examples of literacy, and ways to turn literacy into opportunity!

We hope you will encourage your library patrons and Middle School/High School students to take advantage of this wonderful, FREE event! A flyer will be shared via the DLA listserv but can also be sent to you upon request. Check out last year's event on the [Festival of Words DE website](#). There will be many services and of course a Delaware Libraries table at the event to advertise all of our libraries' wonderful services.

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!



Calendar Roundup

Summary of events in this issue -- see respective sections for details.

- **DLA Community Engagement Grant Applications open** - September 15
- **CRLD Visit to DSU Library** - September 23, 9am-12pm, Dover, DE
- **YSD Fall Meeting** - October 12, Dover Public Library
- **Festival of Words** - December 22, Middletown, DE
- **2024 MLA/DLA Conference** - May 8-10, 2024, Cambridge, MD



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 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?



**Deadline to submit for the DLA
Bulletin Fall Issue:**

October 13, 2023

[Submit here!](#)