

FALL  
2023

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# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In every newsletter, we shine a spotlight on a DLA member. This issue's spotlight is on a DLA Award winner.

## ROSIE MUJICA

Recipient of DLA Distinguished Library Staff Citation 2023  
Dover Public Library

Rosie Mujica, Dover Public Library, received the Distinguished Library Staff Citation at the 2023 DLA/MLA Conference. Rosie received this honor for their exceptional dedication, achievements, versatility, and efforts to meet the changing needs of the library's patrons and community.

We asked Rosie to share some accomplishments of the last year:

"Over the past year, the Dover Public Library underwent a rebrand and has increased their marketing efforts as a result. I have been a

part of that process and am really proud of the work we've done. We have a modern logo and cohesive look to our marketing materials now. I am also proud of our Wednesdays in the Woods program in partnership with the Howell Mill Nature Center. We have a great group of families that come each time and create meaningful connections with nature."  
Congratulations, Rosie!

*Rosie Mujica reads "Winter Plants" by Julie Murray to children at Howell Mill Nature Center*



*Rosie Mujica teaches a child about growing seeds*





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.

# Public Library Division (PLD) Update!

*Submitted by Jamie Morris, President of PLD.*

The Public Libraries Division is doing the Showcase Showdown with a question of the month format. The most recent month's winners and link to this month's question can [be found here](#).

We want to thank Ewa Wojciechowska for presenting on Serving Underserved Families for our Fall Meeting. She did a fabulous job and provided many great ideas for reaching out those who could benefit most from library services.

We are working on providing some new and exciting programs for the MLA/DLA conference and appreciate all the feedback provided to make that happen!



Although it is early, we are already thinking ahead to next year's board and will be seeking a secretary. This is a fun team and a great way to get more involved in the Delaware Library Association. If you are interested please email [delawarepld@gmail.com](mailto:delawarepld@gmail.com)!

# Message from the President

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*Message from Anne Hiller-Clark, DLA President.*

Happy Fall! We have many things to be grateful for and to look forward to as we approach the holiday season. I'm particularly grateful for all of the Delaware Library Association's members who volunteer their time to make great things happen for all of us.

Many Division activities are underway for our members. Our Youth Services Division had a successful fall meeting at the Dover Public Library in October – members said it was both productive and enjoyable. Also that month, DASL was a sponsor for the second annual fall school librarians' professional development day with participants from several states. And a final example of a timely topic: the Intellectual Freedom committee sponsored two training programs this fall.

Don't forget the December 15, 2023 application deadline for our Community Engagement Grants. This year, DLA has \$2,500 to support programming in Delaware libraries that will occur between May 2024 and June 30, 2025. The committee held a virtual information session last month, and more information is available [here](#), including past projects and an example of a successful application.

Other things I'm looking forward to include:

- Legislative Action Day in early 2024. Keep an eye out for more information to come.
- January 18th, 2024 is the 90th anniversary of the Delaware Library Association. Look for celebration activities in the New Year, especially at the MLA/DLA Conference in May. This is an opportunity to look back on past accomplishments and look forward to good things to come.
- MLA/DLA annual conference, May 8-10, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, MD. DLA's conference planning committee has developed a great set of programs and speakers. Let's have a good showing of Delaware Library staff at the conference!

If you'd like to become more involved with DLA, we are currently looking for members to serve on this year's Nominations Committee. Members in good standing, except those serving on the Executive Board, are eligible to participate. Please [contact me](#) if you are interested in this or other opportunities.

All the best,  
Anne Hiller Clark, MS, MS LIS  
DLA President, 2023-2024



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANT

Up To \$2,500 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.
- Total grant funds available is \$2,500. The expectation is that multiple awards will be issued, typically in the \$500-1,000 range.
- 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](https://dla.lib.de.us/about-us/grant)
- Review the grant applicant fact sheet.
- Complete the online application.
- Application deadline is **December 15, 2023**
- Applicants will be notified mid to late February 2024.

Join Us!

Grant Information  
Q&A Session  
Friday, October 27, 2023  
(virtual session)  
Register at [dla.lib.de.us](https://dla.lib.de.us)



 Delaware  
Library  
Association

# Recap: CRLD Meet & Greet at DSU Library

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*Submitted by Marjorie Ramsey, CRLD Secretary and Reference & Public Services Librarian at Delaware State University.*

On September 23, 2023, members of DLA's College and Research Libraries Division braved the rain at the edges of hurricane Ophelia and got together at Delaware State University's William C. Jason Library in Dover for a Meet and Greet. Over coffee and pastries, we viewed some of the time capsule contents in DSU archives, viewed an exhibition on Herman S. Holloway Sr.'s life and work in the DSU Art Center Gallery, and shared with each other news of their projects, processes, and learning opportunities. Librarians and staff from Delaware State University, University of Delaware, and the Hagley Museum and Library were present. Here's hoping our next get together is in better weather!



*Librarians from Delaware State, University of Delaware, and the Hagley Museum and Library visit DSU Libraries.*

## “Barbenheimer” Phenomenon Sparks Show Cases at Hagley

*The following piece was submitted by Alice Hanes, Technical Services Librarian at Hagley Museum and Library.*

The release of two major motion pictures on July 21 unleashed the cultural phenomenon of “Barbenheimer.” For staff at the Hagley Museum and Library, this presented a golden opportunity to show off some materials from our historic collections that reflect the consumer culture of *Barbie* and others that document the Manhattan Project of *Oppenheimer*. Casual conversation among colleagues quickly turned into collaboration that produced three exhibits installed in our public reading rooms through October.

Our first display shines the spotlight on Barbie. Resources include a biography of the doll’s creator Ruth Handler, a Sears catalog, a vintage full-page ad, and market research conducted by Ernest Dichter for Mattel Toys. Paper dolls stand in for their plastic counterparts, whose off-gassing may harm the other artifacts. Tying it all together are movie quotes, such as “Barbie changed everything, then she changed it all again.”





# “Barbenheimer” Phenomenon Sparks Show Cases at Hagley

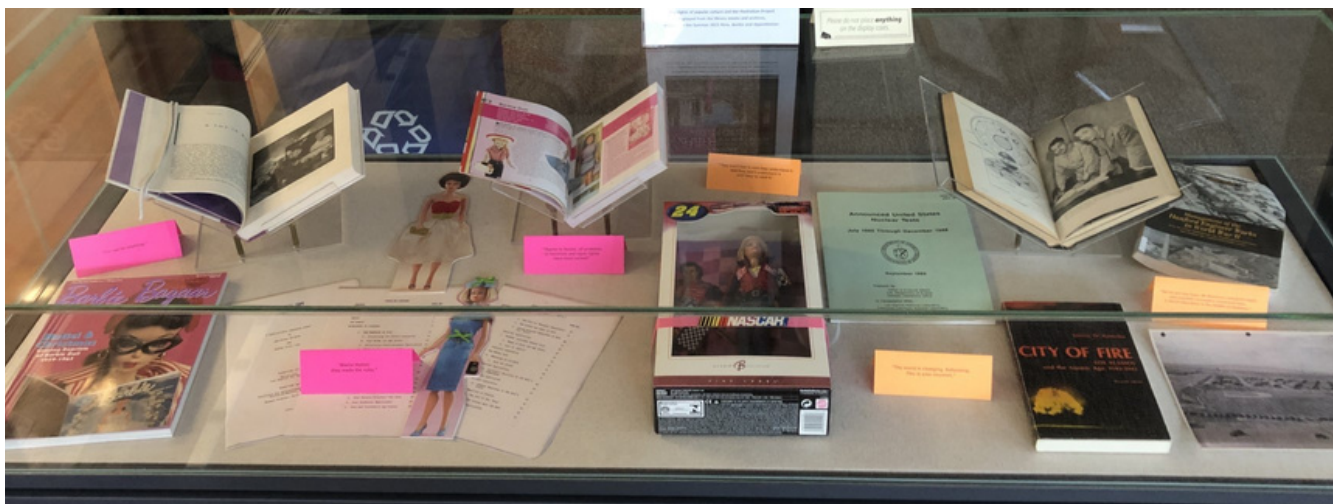
Our second feature projects the role of E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company in developing the first nuclear weapons. A quote from the film sums up the enterprise as “Build a town, build it fast.”

Preservation photocopies safeguard original photographs taken at the Hanford, Washington site of plutonium production. A Mylar sleeve insulates the acidity of its employee newsletter, Sage Sentinel. Rarely do archival materials, such as the diary of DuPont Company President Crawford Greenewalt, see such sustained light of day, so our conservation staff monitor the exposure of all library materials to ultraviolet light.



The third exhibit – my personal favorite – is a mash-up that invites viewers to consider the transformation of our world. This is where gender roles explored by “Barbie” meet revolutionary technology advanced by “Oppenheimer.” Inspired by this array, a Hagley volunteer offered to loan us her special collector’s edition NASCAR Barbie, honoring DuPont-sponsored #24 Jeff Gordon. In this case, the plastic figure is permitted due to the protective shell of its original package.

As a cataloger at Hagley, I describe a variety of publications that complement the archives we maintain on the history of business and technological innovation. Since I usually work behind the scenes, it was a pleasure to step out of my box to work on this joint public-facing venture, thanks to Reference Librarian Linda Gross, Head of Reference Angela Schaad, Library Conservator Laura Wahl, Library Coordinator Hannah Pfeifer, Hagley Historian Lucas Clawson, and volunteer Lee O’Brien.





# Two Mobile Library Drivers Awarded Ada Lee Soles Scholarships

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Kent County Division of Libraries is proud to announce that Carolina “Phoenix” Cote and Susan Lanyon were awarded Ada Leigh Soles Memorial Scholarships beginning the 2023-2024 academic year. The two full-time Kent County Levy Court employees both plan to pursue degrees in library sciences.

“Phoenix” Cote is studying for a bachelor’s degree at the Southern New Hampshire University. Her interest in library work began as a teen volunteer and she successfully applied for a part-time post at Kent County Public Library, where she was later promoted to a full-time post that is split between the library and mobile unit. Phoenix successfully initiated KCPL’s annual Young Writers & Illustrator Conference and also launched and coordinates the Friends of Kent County Public Library’s Annual Car Show (now in its third year), a successful fund raiser.

Susan Lanyon will pursue a Master’s in Library and Information Sciences at one of the nation’s top five library science schools: Syracuse University. Currently she works full-time in a post split between the Kent County Mobile Unit and Library. Her background experience includes leadership posts in high-profile nonprofit organizations such as the Delaware Chapters of the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association and the American Cancer Society.

The purpose of the Ada Leigh Soles Memorial Scholarship is to enable and encourage academically talented Delawareans to pursue careers as librarians in Delaware. The program is administered by the Delaware Division of Libraries. The award covers full tuition, books, and a laptop for an entire academic degree.

Congratulations to the grant awardees!

*Pictured left to right: Carolina “Phoenix” Cote and Susan Lanyon*



# Robin Agar Coordinates New Zealand Pen Pal Program

*The following piece was written by Hilary Welliver, Kent County Librarian.*

Kudos to Robin Agar who spearheaded and coordinates the New Zealand Pen Pal program!

Kent County Public Library has partnered with Wellington City Libraries in New Zealand for a pen pal program. Due to the high interest in the program, KCPL invited all other DE libraries to participate as well. Now the Greenwood, Milford, Dover, Newark, Elsmere, Kirkwood and Claymont public libraries are also participating.

Delawareans of all ages are making new friends who live 9,000 miles away where the seasons are opposite. This is a great way to learn about another country, explore a different culture and make a new friend. This program is open to adults, teen, and children ages 6 and up. Children under 18 years of age must have parental permission. About 240 Delaware library patrons are participating. Once registered, patrons are matched with a New Zealand patron of similar interests and age. Patrons write letters and drop them off at the library for safety and convenience. Letters are shipped all together to New Zealand where they are distributed through their libraries.

The Friends of KCPL cover the international shipping costs. New Zealand patrons write and drop their letters off at their respective libraries



as well and Wellington City Libraries mails their letters to KCPL. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. People are enjoying the slower pace of the pen pal program. They enjoy taking the time to actually write a letter, and the anticipation of receiving a letter adds to the excitement.

Anyone with any questions about joining the program can stop in at one of the participating libraries or email

[robin.agar@kentcountysde.gov](mailto:robin.agar@kentcountysde.gov).



# Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School Adds 3 New Libraries!

*The following piece was written by Sara Thomas, Librarian at Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School. (Editor's note: Welcome back to DE, Sara!)*

Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School, located in Newark, DE, has added three new libraries to its beautiful building. The school moved into the old Comcast building just in time for the 2022 school year to begin and has continued to grow ever since! Executive Director Mercedes Alonso had a vision of separate libraries for Kindergarten through 2nd grades, 3rd through 5th grades, and middle school -- and this summer I worked to make that vision a reality. We joined the Delaware Library Catalog and received our books from Follett on October 11th. Academia is a Spanish Immersion Charter School, so students spend half of their day learning in English and the other half of their day they learn in Spanish. It was important to me that the library reflect that, so about half of the books are Spanish or bilingual. The spaces are really coming together and starting to feel like a "real" library. The teachers and students are so excited to visit the library and check out their books!



*Library for 3rd through 5th grades*



*Above: Library for kindergarten through 2nd grade*



*Left: Library for middle school grades*



# 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” – the article that aims to equip you with more knowledge you need to stay safe during and after emergencies and disasters. As we continue to focus on the disaster cycle – mitigation / preparedness / response / recovery – one of the most important things to prepare for is your response to an emergency situation. It might sound odd, but yes, you can actually **prepare** for your response. What will you do when an emergency happens? Where will you go? Or will it be safer to stay where you are? By considering these and similar questions ahead of time you’ll be more likely to be able to stay calm, make smart decisions and stay safer when the time comes.

The question, “Do I stay or do I go?” is sometimes the easiest to answer. If there is a mandatory evacuation order in place, **evacuate!** These orders typically come from local, county or state government offices and are not made lightly or in haste. Thoughtful and careful consideration goes into activating the order based on situation conditions, first responders’ ability to address the situation, and other factors. For example, if a major hurricane is coming our way, emergency management personnel will watch what’s happening using tools such as the National Weather Service ([www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)) and the National Hurricane Center ([www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)). As conditions worsen, evacuation may be strongly encouraged. The more people that evacuate the area early on, the smoother the evacuation will happen. When residents wait until just before a storm hits to leave or they decide to stay in place, not only are they running the risk of getting stranded by floodwaters

or being harmed by other hazards, but they are also putting first responders – those who would attempt a rescue – in harm’s way.

But some emergency situations don’t provide an opportunity to “watch what’s going to happen” prior to possible evacuation. Examples might include a tornado, flash flooding, or a gas leak or chemical spill. In these cases, it is often safer to shelter in place. And even in these situations there are things that you can do to increase your safety. When tornadoes are in your area, move to an inner room with no windows if you are indoors. Doing so will protect you from flying / broken glass. If you are outside, lie down in the lowest spot – a ditch or gully, for example. If you get word that a gas leak or chemical spill has hit your area, close all of your windows and turn off your air conditioning / heating system so that the air where you are recirculates and doesn’t pull potentially harmful or contaminated air in from outdoors.

By thinking about the most common risks in your area and considering what you would do if those things happen, you’ll be better able to respond clearly, thoughtfully and calmly. And you’ll be more likely to stay safe!



# In Memoriam: Bill Smith

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We remember William (Bill) L. Smith II, who devoted over 28 years to the Wilmington University Library as Public Services Librarian and Associate Professor.



“As a public services librarian, Smith embodied the culture of Wilmington University regarding student services, so he always put students first. His relationship with them was that of mentor, cheerleader, teacher and dedicated listener.”

*The following piece was derived from Jim McCloskey’s tribute to Bill on Wilmington University’s [blog](#).*

[Bill] began his career in March of 1994 as a temporary librarian charged with cataloging a collection of books purchased by the University from the closed Cushing College in Massachusetts. This work eventually resulted in Smith’s recognition as Librarian of the Year by the Delaware Library Association.

The **Bill Smith Library Research & Writing Award** builds on this colleague’s dedication and hard work. It will seek to cultivate information literacy by connecting the library research experience with the reading and writing experience at Wilmington University.

Read Bill’s [full tribute online](#).



Exciting DLA events coming up soon!

## MLA / DLA Conference May 8-10, 2024



Thank you to everyone who submitted session proposals for the conference!

Our 2024 joint conference with the Maryland Library Association will be held **May 8-10, 2024**. Keep an eye on the DLA-L mailing list for programs and registration.

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





# Registration Open for Festival of Words Delaware

## Reading Local

Registration for Festival of Words 2023 is OPEN! This FREE event takes place on **Saturday, December 2nd from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm** at St. George's Technical High School. Lunch will be provided to all attendees and volunteers.

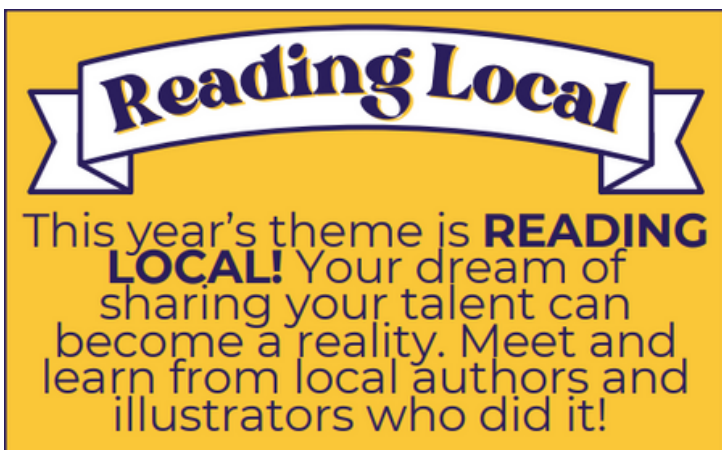
Festival of Words is a free, annual event for secondary students, teachers, and librarians. The event was developed to encourage a love of reading and writing by introducing young adults to diverse authors and ideas. The theme this year is “Reading Local”!

Visit the [Festival of Words website](#) to find out more and to register. You can also download and print a flyer [HERE](#) to share with your patrons.



Delaware Libraries and Imagine will be hosting tables at the event. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Jaclyn Hale ([jaclynhaledla@gmail.com](mailto:jaclynhaledla@gmail.com)).

Festival of Words is sponsored in part by the Delaware Library Association.



# Calendar Roundup

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

## Events

- **Festival of Words** - December 2, Middletown, DE

## DLA Updates

- **DLA Community Engagement Grant Applications due** - December 15
- **90th Anniversary of DLA** - January 18, 2024

## Events

- **2024 MLA/DLA Conference** - May 8-10, 2024, Cambridge, MD



# 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 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
- A call for participation -- need volunteers for a DLA-adjacent event? Or a collaborator for a project?
- Awards or recognitions of DLA members
- Upcoming professional development opportunities for DLA members
- Events for DLA members
- In Memoriam pieces - remember a Delaware librarian who has passed away



**Deadline to submit for the DLA  
Bulletin Spring Issue:  
March 1, 2024**

[Submit here!](#)

Contact the Bulletin Editor, Kayla Abner, with any questions ([kabner@udel.edu](mailto:kabner@udel.edu)).

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