

SPRING
2024

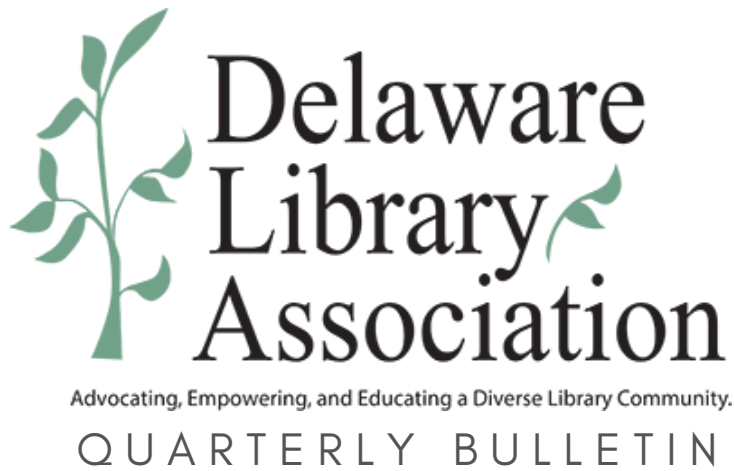


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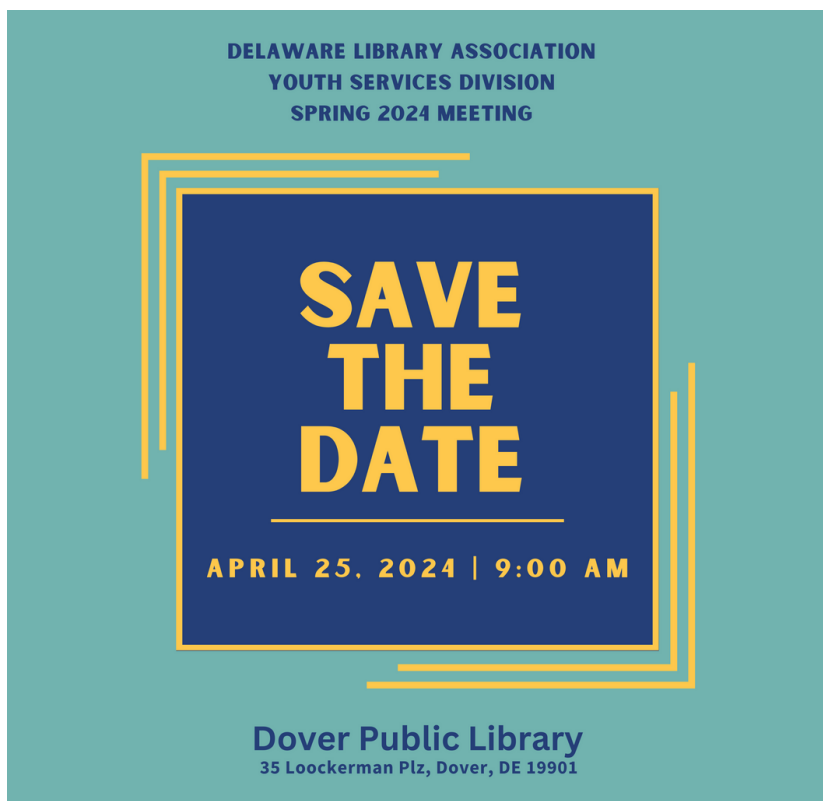
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DLA has 4 divisions, 9 committees, and 1 interest group, all in 1 awesome organization! Read on to see what they've all been up to lately.

Youth Services Division (YSD) Spring Meeting



[Registration is now open](#) for the Spring Youth Service meeting. This meeting is open to all Youth Service staff and the meeting will be hosted on **Thursday, April 25 at 9am**. Those interested in attending can register at: <https://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/event/12013633>.

If you have any questions, please email Susan Elizabeth Cordle, YSD President (susanelizabeth.cordle@lib.de.us).

DLA President's Message

The following piece is submitted by Anne Hiller Clark, DLA President.

Happy Spring! Warming weather brings two annual DLA activities to mind: Legislative Action Day and the MLA / DLA annual conference.

Legislative Action Day occurs in two parts this year: 1) a virtual [Briefing](#) program on March 12 (9:30 – 10 AM) to review our One Ask and 2) our in-person Legislative Action Day in Legislative Hall on March 28th (9 AM – 3 PM). Register for the briefing at the link and look for more details about March 28th soon. Your visits with legislators support this year's One Ask effort and emphasize the importance of libraries to all Delawareans.

Another annual event is the **MLA / DLA Conference 2024** in Cambridge, MD on May 8-10. The theme *Seeds of Change* brings many great professional development activities for public, school, academic and special librarians. Keynote speakers are Hilton Carter, Jennie Pu and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich. Don't forget to join the DLA Meetup on **Wednesday, May 8 from 7 – 9 PM** when we'll celebrate DLA's 90th anniversary. [Read more about the conference.](#)

Editor's note: we are also accepting poster session proposals for the conference until March 22. Submit your poster idea [here](#)!

DLA's Executive Board is still looking for members to serve on the Nominating Committee. It only takes a short time this spring. Please contact me if you are interested.

I look forward to seeing many DLA members at Legislative Action Day and the annual Conference!

All the best,

Anne Hiller Clark MS, MS LIS

DLA Sponsored Conference Sessions

WEDNESDAY (PRE-CONFERENCE)

INVITED SPEAKER: Creating and Sustaining Meaningful Library Services for Incarcerated People and People in Reentry with Dr. Jeanie Austin

INVITED SPEAKER: Political Power Theories Workshop (Two Parts) with Patrick Sweeney

Transforming Teen Services: Cultivating Positive Teen Relationships in the Library

INVITED SPEAKER: Coworker to Supervisor – How to Manage Previous Peers with Resa Mai

Farming Seeds of Information - Student / Librarian Projects in the Field

THURSDAY

INVITED SPEAKER: A Developing Community: Accessibility and Virtual Reality with Jasmine Clark

Collaborative Digital Discovery with the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

Cultivating Lasting Connections Through An International Pen Pal Program

Farm to Patron: Talking about Food Insecurity in Rural Communities

Graphic Medicine: Planting the Seeds for Health Literacy

"Show Me The Money": Financial Literacy for All Ages at the Public Library

Tending the Garden of your Mind: Sensory Blankets - an Approach to Dementia

Time Capsules: Preserving our Collective Memories

FRIDAY

DLA KEYNOTE: Our Grandest Challenge with Rebekkah Smith Aldritch

Author Visits, Virtual and IRL

Basic Book Repair Essentials: Hinging, Tipping, and Page Restoration

Cultivating an Inclusive Environment: Engagement and Outreach in Academic and Public Libraries

Visit mladlacon.com for full details, including program descriptions and times.

Legislative Action Day

DLA's Legislative Action Day is an opportunity for library supporters throughout Delaware to advocate for libraries. Attendees will be able to network, hear from special guests, and meet with elected officials and their staff to discuss the value of Delaware libraries and champion library issues.

The Legislative Action Committee will set up meetings with local representatives. If you are interested in speaking with your representative about Delaware libraries, please be sure to state that when you register.

When: Thursday, March 28, 2024 - 9:00 am to 3 pm

Where: Dover Public Library - 35 Loockerman Plaza, Dover, DE 19901 and Legislative Hall - 411 Legislative Ave, Dover, DE 19901

Registration: Visit: <https://bit.ly/DLALegDay2024>



SUPPORT STATE AID FOR ALL DELAWARE LIBRARIES

*Invest in the people and collections that make
Delaware Libraries Great.*



DLA's Legislative Action Committee's big "Ask" this year is to increase state aid -- the official letter is available on the following page.

DLA and FODL Endorse New Funding Standards

Delaware Library Stakeholders Endorse New State Standards Budget Level For Fiscal Year 2025

The Delaware Library Association (DLA) and the Friends of Delaware Libraries (FODL) endorse a recommendation by the Delaware Council on Libraries (COL) to increase State Standards funding to public libraries for the fiscal year 2025. This increase is a crucial step towards aligning operational funding with the State's investment in Public Library Construction over the past decade. The proposed state budget outlines an increase of \$2,254,264 in order to bring the total State Standards budget to \$8,469,864.

While Delaware's commitment to library infrastructure has been commendable, operational funding has not kept pace, adversely affecting the ability to maximize the benefits of the new library facilities and services on behalf of Delawareans. Counties shoulder the majority of library operating costs, with their contributions growing in response to rising operational expenses. However, state contributions have not kept pace for more than a decade. To fully leverage the state's investments in facility improvements, an increase in state Library

Standards funding, aligned with library construction investments, is overdue.

Delaware library construction, supported by Federal ARPA funds and state appropriations, is foundational to providing equitable services statewide. These services include Telehealth, workforce support, literacy programs, and much more. Libraries serve as community cornerstones, offering a plethora of programs and resources that cater to all ages, abilities, and interests.

DLA and FODL urge state officials, the legislature, and the governor to consider this increase to State Standards to sustain the libraries that play an indispensable role in community building and individual growth.

For additional details about the impact on this increase to state standards on libraries in Delaware, please contact Catherine Wimberly, Chair, DLA Legislative Action Committee, catherinewimberley.dla@gmail.com, and Kay Bowes, FODL Board, kaybowes@gmail.com for more information.

YSD Blue Hen Book Award Winners

The Blue Hen Book Award is a children's choice award sponsored by the Youth Services Division of the Delaware Library Association. The award encourages literacy and library use by children and teens. Children and teens read the nominees and vote for their favorite to win! For more info, visit <https://guides.lib.de.us/bluehen>.

★ Blue Hen 2024 WINNERS ★



Young Readers



Middle Readers



Teen Readers



Middle Readers Graphic Novel



Teen Readers Graphic Novel

Delaware Division of Libraries Highlights: School Libraries and RFID Tagging

Submitted by Anne Hiller Clark.

In February Colonial School District (CSD) showcased its pilot self-checkout machine and library RFID inventory management program to the media and parents. This partnership with Delaware Libraries has brought nine district libraries into the Delaware Library Catalog. As part of joining the catalog, the libraries' collections were weeded and then expanded so students have access to more current and inclusive materials. All materials are now barcoded and RFID tagged which makes circulation and inventory management easier. Colonial School District's Supervisor of Educational Technology & Libraries Tom Gavin and Delaware Division of Libraries' (DDL) Administrative Librarian Michelle Hughes led this very successful project.



Colonial School District has seen very large increases in student use of library materials since the partnership began. Students demonstrated how they can check out their own book using the self-checkout machine and talked about how it made them feel more confident and independent.

Colonial School District is the pilot program in the longer-term effort to create a “book flood” for Delaware students at their school libraries and public libraries to improve literacy rates and promote a love of reading.

DDL is working with schools across the state to bring their libraries into the Delaware Library Catalog with many associated benefits. Recent additions are the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District and the Capital School District.

Representative Valerie Longhurst's leadership has been instrumental in bringing school libraries into the Delaware Library Catalog. For more information, contact State Librarian Annie Norman.

Left to Right: Supervisor Jennifer Wisowaty (CSD), Supervisor Tom Gavin (CSD), Administrative Librarian Michelle Hughes (DDL), Pleasantville Elementary Principal Renee Griffith (CSD) and Colonial School District Superintendent Jeffrey D. Menzer celebrate the Pleasantville Elementary's remodeled library including its self-checkout machine and updated collection.

NEWS

News from DLA, Delaware libraries, and beyond.

UD Celebrates Love Data Week!

The following piece was submitted by Kayla Abner, Digital Scholarship Librarian, University of Delaware.

UD celebrated Love Data Week for the second time this year! Led by [ICPSR](#), Love Data Week takes place during the week of Valentine's Day every year and is a chance to show your love for data. Our table event included "Blind Data with a Dataset," data valentines, and a real-time bar chart where participants answered the question: How do you feel about Valentine's Day? We also held workshops on "Storytelling with Data" and "Basics of Data Management" to celebrate.

Love Data Week raises awareness for good data stewardship practices, as well as the services and expertise the library provides in finding data, data analysis and visualization, and research data management.

How do you feel about Valentine's Day?



"It was invented by Hallmark and the candy companies" was a popular option



Data valentine

UD Love Data Week Continued



Inspired by “Blind Date with a Book,” students and faculty went on blind dates with some fun datasets, like “World Spider Catalog,” “Delaware Beach Trash,” and “Love Island Contestants.”

Stephanie Saggione Appointed to ALSC Caldecott Committee

The Association of Library Services to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA, convenes the Caldecott Award Committee, whose charge is to “select...the most distinguished American picture book for children” each year.

Congratulations to Stephanie Saggione, School Librarian at ASPIRA Academy, for being appointed to the committee! Below, Stephanie reflects on her experience with the committee and the importance of the Caldecott Award.



Stephanie, first from left, poses with last year's award winner and the rest of the Committee.

“This is part of the committee at the conference right after the awards were announced. We got to put the first sticker onto the publisher's copy of Big!”

For the past year, I was honored to be the first-ever Administrative Assistant for the Caldecott Committee. I took (silent) part in all of the activities from book evaluation to book discussions to the ALA Youth Media Awards in Baltimore last month. Although not a voting member, I was included in all book discussions and learned so much about the process. Calling the winning illustrators was a highlight of the whole event! I was recently appointed to fully serve on the current Caldecott Committee for the 2025 awards. We will start the process soon and will meet in Phoenix next January for LibLearnX. I encourage other Delaware librarians to recommend books through the ALA Connect blog. You can also lead or join Mock Caldecott groups to predict winners. If you are interested in someday serving on a committee, I suggest that you get involved with ALSC somehow. There are many opportunities to learn about book evaluation or work on other committees before applying to join the Caldecott Committee.

Cooking by the Book at South Coastal Library

The following piece was written by Rachel Noguera, Library Assistant II at South Coast Library.

Our library is experiencing a post-COVID phenomena where certain programs that were not successful pre-COVID are now flourishing.

One such program is our book club. Prior to COVID, we only had one book club which garnered steady numbers. Despite this, any other book club we tried to start during that time did not share in the original's success.

However, in this post-COVID era, our book club has been thriving. In fact, it's been so successful that it led us to try starting other, genre-specific book clubs. To our surprise, these post-COVID book clubs have succeeded where the pre-COVID book clubs had failed. However, one in particular has exceeded all of our expectations.

Enter Cooking by the Book, a monthly library program where participants vote on a cookbook from which the entire group will cook. Each participant picks a recipe from the selected book and brings what they made to the library. Participants then have the opportunity to try what others have made, discuss their experience making their own recipe, and meet others in their community.

For some, it is an opportunity to expand their palate. For others, it's a way they can meet and connect with others in their community. Some use this as a time to practice and show off their cooking skills. **For many, it's the perfect place to accomplish all three.**



Patrons of "Cooking by the Book" enjoy the fruits of their efforts

Cooking by the Book at South Coastal Library

Since starting this program in November 2023, I have had many participants tell me how much this program has impacted their lives in a positive way. For some, it is an opportunity to expand their palate. For others, it's a way they can meet and connect with others in their community. Some use this as a time to practice and show off their cooking skills. For many, it's the perfect place to accomplish all three.

Statistics-wise, this program has completely exceeded all of my expectations. While I originally did not expect to have a full program, I have been able to pull consistently high numbers every month. I have seen many new faces enter our library to participate—many of whom leave with fresh library cards in addition to full bellies.

I believe the reason for the success of this program lies in the desire many members of the community have to connect with people after being so isolated during COVID. I also believe that the promise of a free, homecooked meal has something to do with it as well. This is a low-budget program that I believe any library could find successful. As the great chef, James Beard, said, "Food is our common ground, a universal experience."



Desserts, deviled eggs, and so many crockpots!

New Zealand Pen Pal Program Expands to More DE Libraries

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

Robin Agar is familiar to many families throughout Kent County as “Miss Robin,” the storyteller who leads Kent County Public Library’s well-attended weekly preschool story time each Thursday at 10 a.m. The part-time contracted employee, recognizing the importance of early childhood literacy, coordinates the library’s “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” reading challenge, with support from the Friends of Kent County Public Library. Robin also records Kent County Public Library’s “Dial-a-Story” (302-741-4171); stories are changed frequently, and the service is free and available 24/7 for everyone calling in from anywhere – no library card required!

While putting together a display of library cards from around the world to celebrate the 2023 Summer Reading Program theme “All Together Now,” Robin gathered cards from libraries on all seven continents and all U.S. States and territories and displayed them, along with maps, in the children’s section of the Kent County Public Library. The display received a lot of attention. Children as well as adults enjoyed seeing all the different cards. It was from her contact for New Zealand’s library card that the idea blossomed for a partnership with Wellington City Libraries for an [international pen pal program](#).



The pen pal program launched in June 2023 and is still going strong. There was so much interest that the program was opened to other Delaware Libraries. There are now ten Delaware libraries taking part, including all three Delaware counties. The initial pool of participating patrons has expanded from 300 to over 540 participants and continues to grow each week!

Adults, teens, and children (6+) are enjoying new friendships with people living on the other side of the world while savoring the anticipation of receiving “snail mail.” Through this, true, meaningful connections are being forged. Because of the program’s success, it is the focus of an upcoming panel at the 2024

New Zealand Pen Pal Program Expands to More DE Libraries

Maryland/Delaware Library Association Conference (**Thursday, May 9 at 4:00 p.m.**) and has recently been recognized nationally by the American Library Association via “[Programming Librarian](#).”

Patrons who register for this program are carefully matched with a pen pal in New Zealand. All letters are dropped off and picked up at participating libraries for safety and convenience! Approximately once every other month, a package is mailed from Delaware to New Zealand. The Friends of Kent County Public Library generously cover the cost of postage. Then, in the months between Delaware’s mailings, a return package arrives from Wellington, NZ. Patrons typically have about two weeks to pick up letters and write responses. Participants are unquestionably excited when letters arrive!

The pen pal program shows no signs of slowing down. New participants sign up each week and citizens in both countries enjoy learning about each other and fostering new connections.

Robin Agar is a creative, talented woman. She initiated and videotapes the library’s annual Countdown Crafts series, a successful online video event with craft tutorials posted every day in December. During the COVID closure, Robin recorded the library’s weekly story time which was viewable on Facebook (KCPLibrary).



Photo credit: Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand

She is also the creator of the Delaware Head Huggers (DEHH), a charity that makes and donates chemo caps to cancer patients throughout the United States. Kent County Public Library is DEHH’s primary drop-off site. In her free time, Robin is a dedicated wildlife photographer.

Anyone with any questions about joining the program can stop in at one of the participating libraries or email robin.agar@kentcountymd.gov.

EVENTS

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**. Registration is now open and the full agenda is available at mladlacon.com.

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



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 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 Summer Issue:
August 16, 2024**

[Submit here!](#)

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