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Arkansas Library Association

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Arkansas Library Association, 2022

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Cover Photo: *Winter at the Rogers Public Library.*

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FROM THE ArLA PRESIDENT: The New Normal

by Rachel Shankles, ArLA President

Our first 'in-person' conference since 2019 was such a success on every level. From the three keynotes, I took away an over-arching theme about breaking down barriers. This was such a fitting theme for any library worker. All of the breakout sessions had good attendance and meaningful information. Several very in-depth panels were held with distinguished panelists, and the award winners were amazing representatives of our trade and so deserving.

The Fort Smith Convention Center was a great venue. The hotel bar was really jumping during the conference, with a great turn out for the New(ish) Members' Cocktail Hour on Friday sponsored by the Membership Committee. Britt Anne Murphy led the group of new members in playing icebreaker games, with sponsors from the ArLA Board, Membership Committee, and ArLA leadership buying drinks for a few lucky new members as prizes. I know I bought quite a few drinks for my new librarian friends during that hour!

Then Saturday evening after a huge gathering in the bar for Trivia with Master of Ceremonies Amber Wilson, I heard from the hotel staff that librarians are a rowdy crew! The Basket Auction raised more money than ever for LEAF and the Scholarship Fund with a display of excellent themed baskets that drew

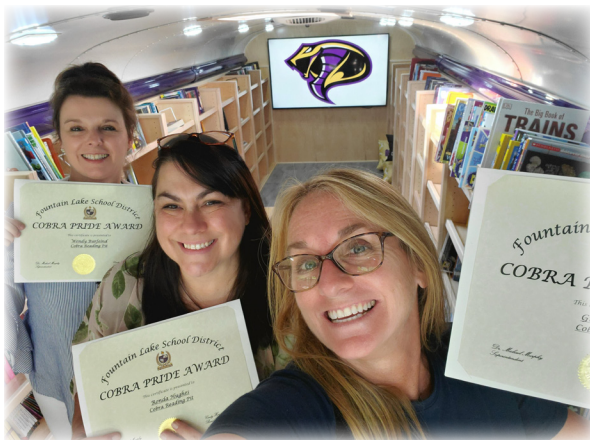


Shankles



everyone's attention. This conference left me feeling that ArLA was alive and growing because of all the participation. Many thanks to the hard-working Conference Committee and Carol Coffey. It was an excellent experience. I hope such a successful in-person experience stimulates the membership to sign up for next October when the conference moves to Hot Springs.

Rachel Shankles is a retired high school librarian and LIS instructor and is an author of books for children. She serves as president of the Arkansas Library Association for 2022.



Fountain Lake Middle School librarians Ginger Murphy, Wendy Burfeind, and Rhonda Hughes promoting the Cobra Bookmobile (please see article on page 16).



Fall at Rogers Public Library.

FROM THE EDITOR: You Are Not Alone

by *Britt Anne Murphy*

Library Director, Hendrix College

In the time between summer and winter, a lot has happened in libraries across the nation. When choosing the profession of librarianship, I regarded my profession as one that would never make me rich but would allow me to promote some fundamental rights, such as access to information and the right to read and be informed. Up until this time I never envisioned librarianship as one that might endanger me or my colleagues. What American wouldn't love their public library for its obvious commitment to every person in their community? Or think their school librarian wasn't a hero for promoting literacy? Or respect an academic librarian for trying to make access to scholarly information affordable? I had a romantic vision of librarians as always looking out for the least in our society and being respected and beloved for that.

And then came the winter of our discontent. Or a lot of taxpaying Americans' discontent. As more and more communities voiced their discontent with our content, librarians suddenly became the enemies of the communities we had so carefully and consistently served. These vocal minorities didn't *seem* like minorities at school board meetings or library board meetings, but they sure did want to drown out the voices and representation of minorities in our communities – those who might fit a BIPOC description, and especially those in the LGBTQ community.

Here in Arkansas we've witnessed censorship take hold in every different library setting, and fear settle in the hearts of librarians, many of whom now carry stress of losing their jobs if they speak up for intellectual freedom, or even worse, the stress of suffering physical and emotional trauma. The anxiety of impending cuts in our budgets weigh heavy. How can we possibly serve all in our communities with even fewer resources and staffing? And then we wonder if our commitment to librarianship is really worth it.

I hope this issue of *Arkansas Libraries* will



Murphy

convince you to stay in the game a little longer. You'll read about all the wonderful things Arkansas library workers are *still* doing – from cultural programming at Bentonville Public Library, to bookmobiles at work in the Fountain Lake School District near Hot Springs, to learning about the health sciences library at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education in Fort Smith. For those of you who didn't make it to the ArLA conference in Fort Smith, take heart when you read about the diversity of programs, expertise of speakers, and fun community building events.

You see, we are not alone, and the more we gather together to support one another, the easier it will be for us to see how much our communities really do support what we do and who we are. Read the article about the new ArLA institutional membership, which will hopefully allow more library workers entry into a community of support and advocacy that is the Arkansas Library Association. If your institution can't swing a membership, take a moment to reach out to library workers in your community whom you may not have met. Listen to them and hear their anxieties – provide a space in their professional lives where they know they are supported.

Britt Anne Murphy, the managing editor of Arkansas Libraries, is the director of the Olin C. Bailey Library at Hendrix College.



Fountain Lake Librarian Rhonda Hughes in the stacks at the Cobra Bookmobile (please see article on page 16).

The New Normal: ArLA's 2022 Annual Conference

by Carol Coffey,

ArLA President-Elect/2022 Conference Chair

For the first time in three years, Arkansas library workers gathered in Fort Smith October 14-16 for the 2022 ArLA Annual Conference. With ArLA President Rachel Shankles' selection of *The New Normal* as our conference theme, we acknowledged that life has changed in large and small ways, and now we must figure out what that means for libraries, library staff, and patrons. After meeting online in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID pandemic, it was so good to be back together in the same physical space, where we could laugh, discuss, learn, and share all the ways we're finding to make things work in our libraries. In all, more than 200 library workers from across Arkansas attended the 2022 conference. About 20 vendors sent representatives to staff booths in the exhibit hall, giving attendees the opportunity to make connections and learn about products and services that might be useful for their libraries.

Addressing Intellectual Freedom

Intellectual freedom and the problems of book challenges and bans are front of mind for many of us this year. With that in mind, the conference committee planned several events and programs around the topic of the First Amendment and intellectual freedom. We began on Friday morning with a preconference titled *Know Your Rights: First Amendment Rights in the Library*. Due to the unexpected illness of the scheduled presenter, John McGraw from Faulkner County Library graciously stepped in at the last minute and allowed the preconference to take place.

Librarians are always looking for the best way to communicate with the public about what we do and why. The need has become even more urgent

now that there are so many challenges to intellectual freedom and the right to read. To that end, Steve Hughes from Hit Your Stride gave a keynote presentation on Saturday morning titled *Influence: The Art and Science of Changing Minds*. In his address, which was well received by attendees, Steve emphasized the importance of framing your message in such a way as to influence your audience to see your point of view. He also presented a breakout session titled *Captivate: Presentations that Engage and Inspire* for those who wanted to take what they had learned in the keynote address even further.

And finally, on Sunday morning, a panel of librarians from across the state and different types of libraries shared their perspectives and answered questions from the audience regarding intellectual freedom. While originally intended to be one of several breakout sessions during the time slot, it was decided that the topic was important enough to make it a no-conflict general session that all could attend. The session was well attended and garnered good reviews in the post-conference survey.

Serving Everyone

In the second preconference, Amanda Moore and Jessica Riedmueller helped attendees think practically about ways to make their library services more accessible to patrons with autism in *Creating an Autism Friendly Library Environment: A Hands-on Workshop for Library Employees*. The attendees were given the opportunity to begin planning how to better serve patrons with autism.

In a breakout session titled *Rural Libraries & Community Resources*, Rebecca Beadle and Mekkos Barbee shared their experience serving as Community Resource Specialists (aka social



Kandice McClure wins a basket!



Keynote Speaker Steve Hughes.

workers) in a library and provided resources and suggestions to enable librarians in rural areas to find the resources in their communities that their patrons need. In *It's Not an Emergency*, Allie Stevens and April Sheppard shared ways to support LGBTQ+ patrons when they're not in need of crisis resources.

Programming and Public Service

The full conference got underway on Friday afternoon, with the President's Program and Opening General Session. Stony Evans, currently the Operations Manager of Cross County Library in Wynne, spoke to us on *Targeting the Library Experience*. He called on his years of experience as a school librarian to share tales of fun and educational programs for all ages. Stony emphasized using your own lived experience as a source for programming when appropriate, noting that he developed some programming based on his experience in the military.

A number of breakout sessions over the course of the conference presented new ideas for programming for various audiences. Rachel Shankles shared a full calendar of programs for middle and high school libraries in *A Calendar of Programs for 7-12 Libraries*. Carol Freyaldenhoven and Darcy Howard from the Central Arkansas Astronomy Society shared information about the coming full solar eclipse in 2024 to prepare libraries to share this amazing event safely with their patrons. Melissa Taylor and Chris Moody told their session attendees about the Center for Innovation at Fayetteville Public Library in *Innovation at Any Level*.

Several sessions addressed instruction and

resources for academic libraries. Jason Byrd presented on *Improving Asynchronous Instruction*, while John Boone discussed online education and ways in which librarians can support students in online classrooms. Academic librarians from across the state addressed the current state of Open Educational Resources (OER) in Arkansas. Philippe Y. Van Houtte talked about GIBLS (Guided Individual Brainstorm at the Library through Serendipity), an activity intended to open the minds of students to hidden or unknown library resources and guide them in using those resources.

Several librarians from the Arkansas State Library (ASL) presented programs intended to provide the latest information on resources available to libraries across the state. Katie Walton gave an overview of Traveler and its digital resources. Karen O'Connell and Jessica Kirk introduced Mockingbird, the new statewide virtual union catalog, and brought attendees up to date on Mockingbird's usage and status. Michael Strickland presented a program on Intellectual Property Basics for Arkansas Libraries, giving his audience information about the best resources for libraries and their patrons.

Attesting to the fact that the past few years dealing with the pandemic and cultural challenges have been difficult, Jenn Wann's breakout session *Customer Service: Remembering Why We Do What We do After Three Crazy Years*, was well-attended. For a different angle, Becky Fischer, Jasmine Jobe, and Amanda Moore presented a session entitled *In This Together, Understanding the Effects of Collective Trauma*.

In what is believed to be a first for the ArLA



Keynote Speaker Stony Evans.



Conference attendee Rodney Lippard.

conference, nine librarians from across the state shared the results of their recent work and research in poster session talks that took place during the last no-conflict exhibit hall time. The participants had created displays and were available to chat with their colleagues about the projects they were reporting on.

ArLA Business

The business of the Association was conducted at numerous sessions and meetings during conference. The ArLA Executive Board met on Friday morning, shortly before the full conference kicked off. Many Communities of Interest (CIs) and committees met throughout the conference, whether during a scheduled session or informally in the hotel lounge. The annual Membership and Business Meeting took place on Saturday afternoon. Among other topics, the results of officer elections and voting on bylaw changes were reported.

Social Events and Fun

After three years apart, attendees were naturally happy to spend some time socializing, and there were multiple opportunities to do so. Thanks to the sponsorship of Auto-Graphics, we were treated to drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the Friday Vendor Reception, while we spent time chatting with each other and with our exhibit vendors and kicked off the basket auction bidding wars.

The social events continued Friday night when the Association gathered to honor our colleagues at the annual Awards Dinner. Attendees at the dinner heard from nominators about the good work this year's honorees have done over the course of their careers in Arkansas libraries and applauded each winner.

Saturday morning kicked off with a continental breakfast, sponsored by LibraryReads. Breakfast was also a time for more basket auction bidding. At noon, the guest speaker for the annual Author Luncheon



Conference Keynote Speaker Don House with Carol Coffey.

was Don House, one of the authors of *Remote Access: Small Public Libraries in Arkansas*. Don's coauthor, Sabine Schmidt, was unable to attend due to an unavoidable conflict. Don shared photos from the book and told stories about the people and places they photographed. Right after lunch, everyone gathered in the exhibit hall, where they participated in some last-minute bidding on baskets and door prizes were handed out.

Late on Saturday afternoon, the staff of the Boreham Library at UA-Fort Smith hosted a reception and gave tours of their library for those who had not visited the library previously. The fun of Trivia Night began at 7:00 in the lounge of the Wyndham Hotel. A number of teams vied for the opportunity to boast about their ability to win at trivia with a bunch of librarians who know a lot about many topics.

Fundraising

ArLA supports libraries and library students through two initiatives, Scholarships and the Library Education and Aid Fund (LEAF). Various fundraising activities take place at conference, including the Basket Auction and Trivia Night, with a total of \$3,663 raised for the Association's funds.

This year, the basket auction raised \$2,505 for LEAF. There were almost 50 baskets, with the "Crime Fighting Introvert" basket provided by Deputy State Librarian Kristen Cooke bringing in the highest bid. Several vendors provided baskets including ProQuest, Emporia State, Amigos Library Services, the Arkansas State Library, and University of Arkansas Press. There was a three-way tie for institutions providing the most baskets. Hendrix College, AQuALib, and Friends of the Library at Faulkner County all provided four baskets per institution!

Trivia Night contributed \$538 to the Scholarship fund, with 11 teams participating. Renowned Trivia



Conference Sunday Keynote Speaker Bailee Hutchinson.

Emcee Amber Wilson (UCA Faculty Librarian) challenged participants with two rounds of questions. Teams could request songs and hints for extra donations. The winning team was “The Emmys” (named for an excellent German restaurant in Fort Smith where the team had just dined) with Arkansas State Librarian Jennifer Chilcoat, Nick Stow, Mary Spears Polk, and John McGraw from the Faulkner County Library winning bragging rights for the year. Congratulations, and the challenge is on for next year!

The conference committee also sold a new t-shirt design to raise money for LEAF. So far, the proceeds from the sale of t-shirts is about \$620. The committee is planning to do at least one more order of t-shirts, so we expect that the total amount raised will grow.

The New Normal

In the final keynote address, Bailee Hutchinson, current president of the Association of Rural and

Small Libraries (ARSL), shared ways in which we are all figuring out what the new normal is and how we, as library workers, will continue to serve our communities as well as we can, meeting new challenges along the way. As we closed out the 2022 conference, we left Fort Smith happy to have been together, re-energized, and looking forward.

The 2023 Annual Conference will take place at the Hot Springs Convention Center October 13-15, 2023. See you there!

Carol Coffey is the patron experience and library analytics coordinator at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock, Arkansas. She is the 2022 ArLA President-Elect and Conference Committee Chair.



Conference Breakfast attendee Sarah Sewell (on right).



Conference Basket winners Clare Graham and Jessica Reeves.



Full Intellectual Freedom panel.

2023 ArLA Officers Elected

by *Philip Shackelford*,
Nominating & Elections Committee Chair

Our 2023 ArLA Officers were recently elected, and we have a wonderful group of leaders ready to lead us into the new year. Our 2023 Board consists of new and seasoned members who bring a wide variety of experiences and skill sets together for ArLA's benefit. Here's a bit about each. While each officer is responsible for various aspects of governing our association, you may call upon any if you have a need or concern.

Officers

Taylor Vanlandingham is our president-elect. Taylor graduated from Missouri State University, majoring in Antiquities Near Eastern Studies. She briefly considered working in a museum, interning at the History Museum for Green County and Springfield, and volunteering at the Siloam Springs Museum. Taylor's formal career began as a children's services assistant, and she quickly decided to obtain her Master of Library Sciences from the University of North Texas. After six years in public librarianship, she changed careers, becoming an academic reference librarian. Taylor is now in her second year as director of the John Brown University Library. She has held the role of chair of the CULAR community of interest in ArLA and is organizer of the Community Outreach Committee of ARKLink.

Carol

Coffey is our president. Carol is the patron experience and library analytics coordinator at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock. In the 24 years since she made Arkansas her home,

she has served in a number of public service and administrative positions at CALS, including head of Reference Services and director of library resources. In addition to her work at CALS, Carol has served at various times as chair of the Digital Resources Round Table, the Scholarship Committee, and the Public Libraries and Trustees Division of ArLA, as well as member-at-large on the 2021 ArLA Executive



Vanlandingham

Board. When she's not working, Carol loves to read history and British mysteries, garden, and travel.

Rachel Shankles is our past president. Rachel retired in 2013 after more than 40 years in public school education with over 25 of those years in libraries. She took a short break before beginning a new career as the practicum coordinator for the Library Media Master's program at UCA. She taught online while living near Lake DeGray at Bismarck on a farm in a farmhouse that is 100+



Coffey



Shankles

years old. Although she says teaching is in her blood and has no desire to slow down, she retired from UCA this past summer to have more time for her volunteer work with organizations. Rachel has served in various positions within ArLA and AAIM, and won many awards from

both organizations over the years. Most recently, Rachel was awarded the Frances P. Neal Award from ArLA. And, last but certainly not least, Rachel writes children's books with the help of her young grandchildren, including the *Triple S Farm Adventures* and the *McLain Street Gang* about growing up in small town Arkansas.

Jessica Riedmueller was elected ArLA secretary. Jessica is the user experience and assessment librarian at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Arkansas. She is passionate about accessibility and



Riedmueller

inclusion in library spaces with a particular focus on matters of gender and sexuality. She is currently chair of *Making Arkansas Libraries Accessible*, the ArLA community of interest for accessibility. She has previously served on the board as Chair of both the *College and University Libraries Division* and the *Reference and Instruction Services Division*. She also served as interim secretary during ArLA's Bylaws revision. Jessica is a voracious reader of horror novels, has a music playlist ready for any situation, and has watched *Battlestar Galactica* all the way through at least four times. She resides in central Arkansas with her cat, Barry.

Kathleen Ashmore

continues as our treasurer. Kathleen is the director of the Lonoke County Library System in Cabot, and has worked in public libraries in Arkansas, Missouri, Nevada, and Montana for over 15 years. She lives in Cabot with her husband and son and enjoys regular family visits with her two adult girls. If she's not at work, she is probably at home hanging with family, reading, or finding more projects to do.



Ashmore

Ron S. Russ was elected as treasurer-elect. Ron



Russ

is the longtime electronic and public services librarian at ASU-Beebe. He has served in leadership positions in ArLA, ALA, ARKLink, and is currently a member of the Shared Governance Council at ASU-Beebe. He is also a recipient of the 2007 Suzanne Spurrier Outstanding Academic

Librarian Award and the 2016 and 2020 President's Award. His interests outside of libraries are jazz music, photography, and gardening.

Crystal Gates is our ALA Councilor. Crystal is the executive director at the North Little Rock Library System. Crystal has served in various roles for professional associations including ArLA, SELA, AAAL, and ALA. She was recently appointed to the ALA Membership Committee and ALA Chapter Relations Committee for 2021-2023. According to her family, because she made them check out her books using a file card box system as a child, she

was always meant to work in a library. Her passions include staff development, strategic planning, and creating inclusive library environments and services. During her downtime, you can find her reading, cooking, spending time with family, and traveling.

Emily Rozario is our SELA state representative.



Gates

Emily is a youth services librarian at the North



Rozario

Little Rock Library System. Emily moved to Arkansas from Iowa with her husband and has been working at the North Little Rock Public Library since August 2017. Emily works at the Argenta Branch of the North Little Rock Public Library System and enjoys working with the patrons. She's been serving as the SELA representative for the ArLA Board since

2018. Emily received her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. In her free time, she likes to read, knit, bake, and spend time with her husband and their new daughter.

Members-At-Large

We have four members-at-large. These individuals represent the entire ArLA membership. In addition to attending board meetings, they serve in liaison roles between the Board and Communities of Interest.

Jessica Kirk is the coordinator for Statewide Sharing and Engagement at the Arkansas State Library. She works with libraries in Arkansas on resource sharing and engages with various stakeholders throughout the state to help them discover and

connect with the information and services they need. Her work is influenced by the desire to support positive change in our communities and in support of an inclusive workplace culture. When not at the library,



Jessica Kirk

she enjoys casual outdoor excursions with her family, staring at plants, snail mailing pen pals, and justifying her collections of ephemera.

Simone Kirk is the recipient of the 2019 ArLA Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional award. After working as a certified bookseller in Germany, Simone never gave libraries much thought, since reading books, and having to give them back, seemed pretty cruel to this passionate reader. Her goal to work in the publishing industry in Germany was redirected with a move to Star City, Arkansas in 2004. After arriving she became branch manager at the Star City Branch Library, which changed everything: Simone fell in love with libraries, and decided to put her knowledge of book selling, marketing, and customer service training to work. Simone is constantly trying to invent new ways to serve her community, developing programs, and spread her love for literacy in Southeast Arkansas. She has been a member of ALPS since 2009, and is still active as an ALPS Representative.



Kirk

John McGraw is the regional director of the Faulkner-Van Buren Regional Library System in Conway. He has worked in various positions for both academic and public libraries. John previously served as the Public Libraries chair for ArLA and



McGraw

serves in leadership for AAAL. John lives in the woods with his wife, his beasts, and two children.

Jennifer Wann is the manager of library development at the Arkansas State Library in Little Rock. She is interested in developing statewide programs that assist libraries design services that meet their communities' needs; foster best practices in library management and administration; and facilitate the professional development of library workers at all levels of the organization. Jennifer writes the "Face of AR Libraries" column for *Arkansas Libraries*. She is a certified practitioner of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Jennifer's MBTI type is ISTP; she has two cats named Spooky and Bug; and her favorite novels of all time are the *Realm of the Elderlings* series by Robin Hobb.



Wann

Philip Shackelford is library director at South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado, Arkansas.

ArLA Scholarship Winner

by Chance Griebel,

ArLA Scholarship Committee Chair

This year we are excited to award Hannah Gillean with the ArLA Scholarship. Hannah is the branch manager of the Charleston Public Library, which is a part of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System.



Gillean

She is currently enrolled at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she is expected to receive her MLIS. Hannah is most excited to continue

Congratulations

bringing resources to under-served members of her community and making libraries as accessible and equitable as possible. Hannah is happily married to Jarred and currently resides in Booneville.

We wish Hannah the best as she pursues her degree!

Chance Griebel is the Teen Center manager/ acquisitions librarian at the North Little Rock Public Library System in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Arkansas Librarians' Achievements Recognized at the ArLA 2022 Awards Dinner

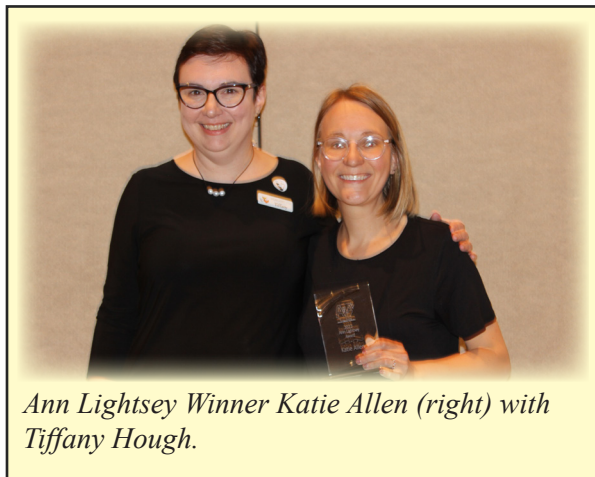
by *Quanta Wyatt*,

2022 ArLA Awards Chair

Each year the Arkansas Library Association recognizes the important work and accomplishments of Arkansas librarians through a variety of awards that are bestowed based on nominations from co-workers and colleagues. These awards are given during the Awards Ceremony that takes place at each annual conference, and we were especially grateful to make these awards in person after two years of virtual ceremonies! As you can see below, our fellow librarians across the State of Arkansas are doing wonderful things. We are privileged to have such talented and dedicated individuals working in our libraries to serve our communities and help our students, neighbors, colleagues, friends, cities, schools, and universities be the best that they can be.

The Awards Committee was fortunate to have a robust and illustrious slate of nominations to consider this year, and I would like to encourage everyone to consider nominating your colleagues and co-workers to receive these awards. These awards are a way that we have, as an association and as a profession, to recognize the achievements, dedication, and leadership that our colleagues bring to their jobs every single day. Libraries in Arkansas are alive and well, dynamic institutions, and that is due to the singular commitment and selflessness displayed by our Arkansas librarians. The following is a list of our 2022 award winners and a summary of the work that the awards are given to recognize.

The **Ann Lightsey Children's Librarian Award** recognizes a current or recently retired



Ann Lightsey Winner Katie Allen (right) with Tiffany Hough.

children's librarian who, like the award's namesake, has provided dedicated and exceptional service to young people in Arkansas. This year's recipient is **Katie Allen** who began her library career at Garland County Library in Hot Springs as a page in the youth services department 18 years ago, is now a beloved storyteller and librarian, according to her nominator, Youth Services Director Tiffany Hough.

The **Bessie B. Moore Trustee Award** is given annually to an individual trustee or a board of trustees that have made a substantial contribution to the development of a library at the local, regional, or



Bessie M. Moore Trustee Award Winner Bill Walmsley with Carlene Morrison.

state level. **Bill Walmsley**, chairman of the Board for the Independence County Library Board of Trustees, was nominated for this year's award by Carlene Morrison, interim director of the Independence County Library, for his work in support of the library's recent relocation and expansion from a 5,000-square-foot location to a 21,000-square-foot renovated historic building in downtown Batesville.

Debbie Hall is the recipient of this year's **Distinguished Service Award** for her 36-year career with the Arkansas State Library (ASL). Hall began work in the ASL reference department, and in 2001, she became Manager of Grants and Special Projects, overseeing the state's grant funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. In her nomination, Arkansas State Librarian Jennifer Chilcoat recognized Hall's efforts serving on many association committees and in leadership roles while representing the library on committees at the state and national level.

The annual **Frances P. Neal Award** recognizes a



Distinguished Service Winner Debbie Hall (right) with Jennifer Chilcoat.

career of notable service in Arkansas librarianship by a library worker who is retired or no longer working in libraries. **Dean Covington** is the recipient of this year's Frances P. Neal Award, recently retiring from the University of Central Arkansas' Torreyson



Frances P. Neal Winner Dean Covington with Rachel Shankles.

Library. In his nomination, ArLA president Rachel Shankles said Covinton's legacy will live on in the state through his service to UCA and Lyon College, but also through his service to the academic library consortium, ARKLink, where he was a founding member and served in leadership capacities and in ArLA, where he served in many roles on the Executive Board, but notably as ArLA vice president, president, and past president beginning in 2017.

Amy DeVooght, circulation manager at the Olin C. Bailey Library at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, is the recipient of the 2022 **Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award**, which is awarded for distinguished service by a paraprofessional library worker. DeVooght has invested in her own development through programs like the Arkansas Library Leadership Institute and by



Lorrie Shuff Winner Amy DeVooght (right) with Janice Weddle.

pursuing certification through the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association Library Support Staff Certification program. She regularly promotes developing the skills of co-workers and student workers by sharing what she's learned, according to her nominator, Janice Weddle, assistant librarian for Public Services of Bailey Library.

The **Retta Patrick Award**, given annually, recognizes an individual Arkansas librarian who has made an outstanding state or national contribution to school librarianship and/or school library development. This year's recipient, **Rhonda Hughes**, is immediate past president of the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media. In her nomination, ArLA President Rachel Shankles praised Hughes' enthusiasm and abilities for employing technological platforms in connecting with her students, working with authors for student



Retta Patrick Award Winner Rhonda Hughes (right) with Rachel Shankles.

workshops, and providing a bookmobile even during summer months.

The ArLA annual **Rising Star Award** is given to an individual who has been a library worker for less

than five years and who has provided exceptional service to their library community. This year's Rising Star, **Jim Curry**, was nominated by Christian Salazar, a librarian at Willow Creek Elementary in Fort Worth, Texas, for all the storytimes and readalouds Fayetteville Public Library live-streamed and shared on YouTube throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Janice Weddle, assistant librarian for Public



Rising Star Award Winner Jim Curry.

Services at Hendrix College's Bailey Library in Conway, Arkansas, is the recipient of this year's **Suzanne Spurrier Academic Librarian Award**. This award recognizes a currently employed academic librarian who exemplifies a spirit of outstanding service and dedicated professionalism. Nominated by director of Bailey Library, Britt Anne



Suzanne Spurrier Winner Janice Weddle (left) with Britt Anne Murphy.

Murphy, for her professionalism and devotion to fellow colleagues and the library profession, Janice has earned respect and admiration of her colleagues not only in Arkansas, but around the nation.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination for the 2022 ArLA Awards, and a huge thank you to the members of the committee for the time and energy they volunteered. This year, members of the committee included Chairperson Quanta Wyatt, Jessie Burchfield, Robin Campbell, Carolyn Filippelli, Melissa Freiley, Irene Gircente, and Adam Webb.

Quanta Wyatt is a media specialist with the Armored Public School System.

2022 Arkansas Emerging Leaders

by Allie Stevens,

ArLA Emerging Leaders Committee

Of the 49 participants in the 2022 American Library Association Emerging Leaders program, three were from Arkansas: Marikit Fain (sponsored by ArLA), Katherine Blake, and Jessica Kirk. The Emerging Leaders program is specifically “designed to enable library staff and information workers to participate in project planning work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers.”

In addition to attendance at the major library conferences held by ALA, the Emerging Leaders program is intended to jump-start the careers of promising librarians who have been in the field for five years or less. Jessica Kirk stated that being an

Emerging Leader was “a great way to engage in research not necessarily covered in my job duties and gain more experience presenting and talking about topics on a national level.”

Marikit Fain, the ArLA-sponsored Emerging Leader whose project was to create an Inclusive Pedagogy Toolkit for the Association of College and Research Libraries Instruction Division, sees benefits both short-term and long-term to having been a member of the 2022 EL cohort. According to Marikit, “the immediate benefit of being an Emerging Leader is the relationships I built within my team - we’ve continued to work together on projects, and I hope we continue to do so for a long while. Longer-term benefits started when I began serving on the ALA Spectrum Advisory Committee shortly after completing the Emerging Leaders program, and I can see how the experience will continue to open doors into conversations.”

While no Arkansas librarians applied for the 2023 Emerging Leader cohort, I would like to encourage all of you who are newer to the profession to consider applying next year for the 2024 cohort. I know that my time as an Emerging Leader was valuable in many ways that I (and the community I serve) benefit from every day and I cannot recommend it highly enough.

Congratulations to all three of this year's ALA Emerging Leaders from Arkansas. We are all excited to see what great things you will do next!

Allie Stevens is the director of Calhoun County Library and serves as chair of ArLA's Emerging Leader Committee.

Faulkner County Library Receives Community Impact Award

by John McGraw,

Faulkner County Library System

The Conway Chamber of Commerce in Conway, Arkansas, announced in July that the North Metro Healthcare Forum with the University of Central Arkansas as its presenting sponsor had recognized the Faulkner County Library with its Community Impact Award. A panel of healthcare executives from across the country selects each year's recipients

The Community Impact Award recognizes an organization or individual who has shown a commitment to a particular cause through community outreach efforts, increasing general awareness, fundraising events or other service projects.

Led by director, John McGraw, the Faulkner County Library System has been a long-standing provider of resources for the communities it serves.



**NORTH METRO
HEALTHCARE
FORUM**

From books and media, to community programs and instruction, area residents have utilized the library for everything from leisure and entertainment to peace and quiet. When faced with a global pandemic, the organization quickly realized that business could not carry on as usual and ensure safety for staff and customers. Quick to adapt, the organization implemented a new style of services allowing continued access to the library's resources, and much more. As the public faced lockdown, the library offered a sense of routine and connection. It became not only a source of literature, but of information, resources, COVID testing kits, and vaccination clinics.



Front row L to R: Tharuna Pannala, Mary Spears Polk, Kenya Boes, Amanda Jackson, Katie Larson, Jessica Sawyer. **Back row L to R:** Josh Robinson, Jessica Rutherford, Hope Rider, John McGraw, Jen Berittech, Melissa Mack, and Andraea Aguilera.

Does Your School Need a Bookmobile?

by Rachel Shankles,
School Librarian Emerita

Rhonda Hughes, school librarian at Fountain Lake Middle School in Garland County who recently was presented with the Retta Patrick Award from ArLA, truly emulates the hard-working school librarian for whom the award is named. Rhonda cites as her biggest success the creation and utilization of the Cobra Bookmobile, aka 'Cobra Reading Pit.' She initially came up with the vision for a bookmobile for her rural school district during COVID, but it took some time for it to come to fruition. Along with the other two librarians in her district, the idea of a district bookmobile was discussed with the superintendent who discussed it with the school board, and the project was approved. All knew a bookmobile would support the students' and community's need for reading material through the summer and at various times throughout the year.

The three librarians received a grant from Kamo's Kids and the Arkansas Community Foundation. A school bus donated by the district was retrofitted with Wi-Fi, a giant TV at one end,



Shankles

and custom shelving that leans several degrees backward because of the rural roads it must travel. The cabinetry was donated by a local family. Then the bus was wrapped with a giant copy of the school mascot and lots of colorful wording.

The greatest needs left were a generator and the reading materials. The grants supported the purchase of the generator which cost around \$10,000. For the books, the librarians received permission to use funds left in their budgets to buy around \$12,000 of new books from Books-a-Million in Hot Springs. Rhonda said, "Books-a-Million let us shop when the store was closed, and it was like Christmas in July taking our lists and going on this book buying spree!" The bus has everything from preschool to adult books, from *Pete the Cat* to cookbooks and everything in between. These books are labeled with a special sticker, and students can return books to any library. A laptop on board keeps track of circulation, with future plans to integrate these records with their library management system, Destiny.

The bookmobile has been taken out for scheduled stops the past two summers, so that families can borrow books to read and enjoy and then return them at the next visit. There is no public library in that area of the county. The district utilizes the mobile library often for school events such as literacy nights, kindergarten registration, Trunk or Treat, Homecoming games, and many more.

The Fountain Lake Cobra Reading Pit, aka bookmobile, is an incredible asset to the school,



Fountain Lake Cobra Reading Pit.

students, parents, and community that will continue to support the community's love of reading for years to come. Last year the three Fountain Lake librarians—Ginger Murphy at the high school, Rhonda at the middle school, and Wendy Burfeind at the elementary school, were recognized with the Cobra Pride Award from their district for establishing the bookmobile. School librarians can do big things to help reading and literacy scores for their schools.

It takes determination, advocacy, and energy – characteristics that Rhonda Hughes brought to the table at Fountain Lake School District.

Rachel Shankles is a retired high school librarian and LIS instructor, and has authored children's books. She serves as president of the Arkansas Library Association for 2022.

TRAINING: TIPS, TOPICS & TECHNIQUES: Online Resources as Part of New Hire Orientation

by Sarah Sewell,

Central Arkansas Library System

Greetings, all! I was so grateful to be able to attend the in-person Arkansas Library Association Conference in Fort Smith last October, and for the opportunity to see colleagues from around the state who work so creatively and diligently for their institutions and communities.



Sewell

Organizing the logistics of a conference is a huge endeavor, so a big thank you to all involved in making it a success!

To be honest, I am still sorting through all the take-aways from this year's conference breakout and general sessions. One take-away, which was personally a much needed refresher, was the information shared about online resources, such as the many Traveler databases available through the Arkansas State Library (ASL) site at <https://www.library.arkansas.gov/resources/traveler-statewide-resources-by-subject/>. (Thanks to Katie Walton!) ASL notes on its website that *"The Traveler Statewide Resource project is made possible by a grant from U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Arkansas State Library under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act."*

Hearing this information again at the conference about databases/online resources piggybacked well with some recent conversations I've been having at my library system about new hire orientation and how best to stagger all the things a new public service staffer needs to know. Keeping up with available research databases and other digital resources can be a challenge in our jam-packed schedules and can unfortunately be put on the

backburner sometimes when there are immediate issues to handle. However, having a working knowledge of what research databases are readily available is important in providing good customer service to our patrons.

The initial onboarding portion for a new hire entails a large amount of primarily internal information. New hire paperwork; in-house policies, procedures, and staff resources; safety and security matters; who to go to for what within the library system...the list grows. We maintain a check list to make sure we cover everything needed.

After the onboarding period, and after the new hire is hopefully settling in, ideally they should be given time to explore the different resources available for use in helping patrons, including online databases. For example, the Traveler portal through ASL includes the EBSCO LearningExpress database, offering online centers for public libraries, and college and high school libraries. LearningExpress has proven to be incredibly valuable, offering online access to materials on standardized test preparation, career preparation, such as civil service and occupational practice exams, and core skill information. For various reasons, print exam preparation books generally have a short shelf-life as circulating materials in public libraries, so having these resources available online is truly helpful.

Another example of a Traveler resource I was reminded about was ProQuest Central, with its easy access to credible, full-text articles on a multitude of subjects (and with a built-in citation tool). Still others are Mango Languages, CultureGrams, and World Book...all containing a vast amount of information at our fingertips and accessible to our library communities. In addition to having access to Traveler databases, my library system (like many) subscribes to additional databases and digital resources.

For new public service hires, an initial explanation and overview of how to access these resources is important as part of the learning process. And, for existing staff, periodically highlighting selected databases as a refresher is useful, as well

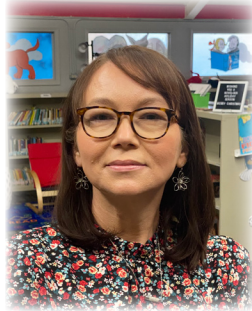
as sharing updates when a resource goes through a change, such as a new interface or added content.

I'm interested in hearing about how you and your organizations help your staff learn about and keep abreast of databases and digital resources. What are some methods you've tried that have worked well? Feel free to share your ideas with me. Thank you!

Sarah Sewell is staff development coordinator at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock, Arkansas. You can reach her at ssewell@cals.org or 501.918.3026.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES: An Open Book: Introducing Brandy Carlisle by *Brandy Carlisle, East Poinsett County Elementary School*

Hello fellow librarians. My name is Brandy Carlisle, and I am the new column editor for the School Libraries column published in *Arkansas Libraries*. I live in a small rural town in Northeast Arkansas. I graduated with my Master's Degree from Arkansas Tech University in May 2020. This is my fifth year as the elementary library media specialist for East Poinsett County School District. Throughout two communities, I serve approximately 400 students from kindergarten through sixth grade. As my students advance through each grade level, I am grateful to see their love for reading grow. The library has always been an important place not only for myself but also for my son and daughter. It is truly magical; just open any book off any shelf, and



Carlisle

within just a few words, students are transported to entirely new places.

Creating and operating the Warrior Book Bus is one of the highlights of my career. During the summer, the Warrior Book Bus drives through our communities and distributes books and snacks to children of all ages. With the help of school staff volunteers, we have distributed over 1,000 books and provided countless snacks. This also allows me the extra opportunity outside of school hours to build those essential connections with my students while sharing my passion for books and reading.

My goal as a school librarian is for my students to become lifelong readers and learners. It is crucial that I offer them ways to explore: whether that be in a beautifully illustrated picture book, a thrilling chapter book, an informative nonfiction book, hands-on play, makerspace projects, or STEM challenges. Providing every student with learning opportunities will always be my priority.

Brandy Carlisle is the library media specialist at East Poinsett County Elementary Library serving the communities of Lepanto and Tyronza in northeast Arkansas.

ASK THE STATE LIBRARIAN: Tidings of Comfort by *Jennifer Chilcoat, Arkansas State Librarian*

Even though the calendar tells us that we are in a time of renewal and optimism, I sometimes find that my optimism is seriously constrained these days. This is the most difficult time I've seen in my lifetime for libraries and librarians. Harder than the 2008 recession. Harder than my worst personnel problems. Harder than the pandemic we're only just recovering from. Libraries and librarians are under attack



Chilcoat

in many locales. In far-reaching rhetoric, we are accused of an organized campaign to undermine parents. Accused of working to instill a specific set of values in children, in opposition to those held by the children's parents. Accused of grooming young people to choose a gay or trans or promiscuous lifestyle. I've been a librarian for over 32 years now—28 of those as a public librarian—and I have yet to see a single instance of the activities we are being accused of. But, of course, perception is everything.

As an employee of the state, I need to studiously avoid any statements or activities that could be construed as advocating a political viewpoint or interfering in local politics. I appreciate and strive to conform to that requirement. But I don't believe I've just stated anything that is factually refutable.

I can't do much of anything to make these worries that we share go away. I can, however, remind you of things we already know, but that are hard to remember when you're involved in a

struggle.

For starters, this is not the first time. Most of us alive today were not around in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and even fewer were old enough to be politically aware. This was the height of the McCarthy era. Many librarians were required to sign what were called “loyalty oaths,” indicating that they had not had any interactions with organizations that were considered subversive. Librarians who ran afoul of these campaigns were fired and subjected to long court battles to win back their jobs. In one prominent case, Mary Knowles was fired from her public library job in Norwood, Massachusetts, after she refused to answer questions posed by the Senate Internal Security Committee. When she was subsequently hired at a small library outside of Philadelphia, even members of the Quaker congregation that hired her were subpoenaed and called to testify in front of the House Un-American Activities Committee. The turmoil of the time prompted Dwight D. Eisenhower to use his speech at the 1953 Dartmouth University commencement exercises to address the matter:

“Don’t think you’re going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don’t be afraid to go to your library and read every book, as long as any document does not offend your own ideas of decency. That should be your only censorship.”

Second, you are not alone. Among other State Librarians, I have seen first-hand how outpourings of support surround those in need of it. Each of us is there for the others, regardless of how small or large the need. The same holds true for all of you vis-a-vis your close colleagues. We all get busy with our jobs,

but we are never too busy to help a friend through a difficult time. Pick up the phone, email an S.O.S., or ask for cute baby photos to brighten your day on Instagram or Facebook. You won’t be disappointed. Reach out. I promise someone will reach back.

Third, the hardest times are the ones that strengthen you the most. Irrespective of the challenge at hand, when I look back on the times in my life that were the hardest, I am struck by the fact that they were also the times when I was the most alive. They are the times when I learned who my true friends were, where my strengths lay, and what was truly important to me. If you’re like me, you can probably look back on similar times in your life and say, honestly, that you are thankful for them and wouldn’t change them even if you could. It’s so hard to see when you’re in the thick of a struggle, and even harder when the struggle is lost. But your goodness, your strength, and your importance to others are still there, fighting to be seen again.

Finally, it wouldn’t hurt if you didn’t love your profession and the people you serve. The fact that this time is so difficult is a testament to the conviction you feel for the power of libraries and what they can do for people, for families, and for whole communities. Euripides said, “The fiercest anger of all, the most incurable, is that which rages in the place of dearest love.” That kind of love always comes with watchfulness, pain, and even anger. But love is always a blessing. And aren’t we lucky to have a calling that we love so fiercely? I know that I am.

Jennifer Chilcoat is director of the Arkansas State Library in Little Rock, Arkansas.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES:

Taylor Health Sciences Library at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education

by Zary Kamarei,

Taylor Health Sciences Library

Taylor Health Sciences Library (THSL) serves Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE), and is a private, not-for-profit institution located on 573 acres in Fort Smith, Arkansas. ACHE’s first college, the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM) opened in 2017 and graduated its inaugural class in 2021, the same year the School of Physical Therapy and the School of



Kamarei

Occupational Therapy welcomed their first classes. ACHE has been granted certification by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) to offer the following degree programs:

- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
- Master of Science in Biomedicine (MSB)
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)
- Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)
- Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPA)

The Taylor Health Sciences Library is named after ACHE’s previous chair of the Board of Trustees, John Taylor and his family. Jan and John Taylor have a passion for philanthropic causes, wish to promote lifelong learning, and are inspired by their public-school librarian daughter, Meredith Laurel.

Currently, three faculty librarians serve this library. The director of library services is long-time science librarian and science library director, Zary Kamarei. We also have two library liaisons, Sonya Lemke and Connie Manning; both have



— ARKANSAS COLLEGES OF — HEALTH EDUCATION

Library Science degrees and are certified AHIP librarians. Connie is the embedded library liaison to the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM) as well as our Electronic Resources Management Librarian. Sonya is our liaison to the College of Health Sciences as well as our Access and Systems Librarian.

Our library is predominantly electronic. The following are our holdings:

- 240,809 electronic books
- 40,330 journal titles
- 17,779 electronic media items
- 57 databases

In 2021, we did strategic planning for our library and received input from all faculty and students through focus groups or surveys. Here is the mission we came up with:

We empower our users by anticipating information needs and providing essential services and diverse, quality resources that facilitate learning. We accomplish this by collaborating with and teaching users' information seeking skills that enrich and fuel knowledge in health science information.

Here is our vision:

Our expert librarians make health science information accessible and understandable, so our ACHE community members are empowered and confident life-long information users.



Taylor Health Sciences Library.

It is always important to come up with values during strategic planning. Our values are *commitment, integrity, collaboration, and wellness.*

A strategic framework (goals) will guide our work until the end of 2024. We will

- Acquire, maintain, and enhance resources
- Advance user knowledge of resources and services
- Align library infrastructure with institutional needs

To accomplish our goals, it is always important to keep an eye on the library's role in contributing to student success, supporting the curriculum, and facilitating research. We have created a liaison program, where each librarian liaises and is embedded in their assigned departments. They understand the goals of the curriculum by collaborating with the teaching faculty and by interacting with the students directly. They are developing collections, teaching the students how to use the resources, and giving input for aligning the library with institutional needs. The director of Library Services reports to the provost, and this is another way of bringing the library in line with the academy.

ACHE community consists of Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM) and College of Health Sciences (CoHS) faculty, staff, and students. We also support the information needs of the resident physicians and faculty members that work in the Graduate Medical Education (GME) training programs at Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith, Unity Health in Searcy Arkansas, and Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center in Missouri.

The services we deliver to the ACHE community include access to our electronic and physical library, reference consultation, information literacy and scholarly communication education, and interlibrary loan.

To know more about our library please visit <https://library.achehealth.edu/homepage> or email us at library@achehealth.edu.

Zary Kamarei is director of Library Services at the Taylor Health Sciences Library at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

ALPS AT WORK: Calling All Paraprofessionals

by *Amy DeVooght, Hendrix College*

Paraprofessionals work hard to support our directors and other supervisors. To do this successfully, sometimes continuing education is necessary, and sometimes just the knowledge that there are others in your shoes is necessary. Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals (ALPs) is there for that support.

The mission of ALPs is to enhance the status and image of library paraprofessionals within libraries and the community at large, to provide a network of communication among its members, and to increase opportunities for educational and professional growth for paraprofessionals in all types of libraries.

ALPs became an entity on March 1, 1992. It began as a Division/Committee and, as of the last couple of years, we've been a Community of Interest within ArLA. Communities of Interest are groups of ArLA members who choose to organize around a type of library, type of activity, a special interest, or geographic area in order to further the mission of the ArLA. All internal workings of the CI are at the discretion of the members. They decide how to select chair(s), govern themselves, etc. The only ongoing requirement of an ArLA Community of Interest is to submit an annual report and list a current chair. The chair attends board meetings as liaison between the governing body and interest groups.

Right now, our community of interest is small but dedicated. We currently meet bi-monthly via Zoom



DeVooght

and discuss topics ranging from everyone's mental health to our library's current trends and policies. In May, we joined with the Reference and Information Services community of interest (RISci) to host a half day seminar on neurodivergent library workers. Also in May, our group met for dinner and drinks in Conway as a way to mingle and reconnect in the post-COVID world. We had several members attend, and it was a great meet-up. In June, one of our members led a meeting on LGBTQIA+ individuals and how we can support them in our libraries. Before the year ends, we plan to have a book discussion on Casper Ter Kuile's book, *The Power of Ritual*. Our activities are varied, and we try to cater to the interests of everyone!

In the next year, we want to re-establish InfoBits, a one-day workshop of different sessions geared towards professional development and community. We encourage all paraprofessionals from across the state to participate. We are currently in the planning stage. The theme for 2023 will be "All Together,," taken from the 2023 summer reading program theme. This will be the first time ALPs has hosted InfoBits since 2019. Our goal is to provide programs geared toward both public and academic libraries, providing enough variety to entice our members (and even non-members!) to participate.

We are in the process of recruiting new members for our CI, so if you have any paraprofessional staff who might be interested, please send them our way, or contact me for additional information at devooght@hendrix.edu.

Amy DeVooght is the circulation manager at Hendrix College's Bailey Library. She is the current chair of the ALPs Community of Interest.

Institutional ArLA Memberships Proposal Passes

by *Britt Anne Murphy,*

ArLA Membership Committee Member

The ArLA Membership Committee that served in 2020 brought forward a recommendation for ArLA institutional memberships after extensive research on best practices in other states. Their findings that more than half of



state associations have some form of graduated institutional membership dues, while only ten associations have fixed institutional dues like ArLA led to a proposal that ArLA adopt institutional memberships. The ArLA membership voted on the required bylaws changes and approved a new fees schedule for institutions at the ArLA conference this past October.

There were a few reasons this change came to pass. One of the biggest barriers to membership and participation in the Arkansas Library Association is the cost of individual memberships. Those who

can't afford an individual membership to ArLA are often those for whom even a lower dues payment is impossible, resulting in the exclusion of many paraprofessionals and those representing Arkansas's BIPOC population. The new institutional dues will remove these barriers to ArLA resulting in as full participation as possible. Many institutions cannot or will not pay for individual memberships in professional organizations, but might pay one cost for all library employees to participate in ArLA.

Another barrier to membership is a perception that ArLA membership does not deliver enough benefits for a library worker to pay the cost of an individual association membership in more than one professional association. Therefore, the 2022 ArLA Membership Committee, whose members are Chair Janine Jamison-Miller, Rachel Shankles, Lavioris Martin, Mandy Bashaw, Lynn Valetutti, Lacy Wolfe, and Britt Anne Murphy, proposed that ArLA consider adopting the below dues structure with the following benefits.

Benefits

The institutional fee would include ArLA memberships for *all of the professional and support staff members of that library* with the following benefits:

- Participation in as many Communities of Interest (CI) as desired, and ability to serve on ArLA committees, *however, to hold an office in ArLA or chair a committee or CI would require a personal membership.*
- Participation in ArLA events or workshops for free or at member/discounted rate.
- Participation in ArLA conferences at a discounted rate.
- Receipt of ArLA publications.
- Participation in elections (one vote per institution) and business meetings.
- Free access to ArLA listservs and participation in any ArLA blogs or online forums.
- Recognition of institutional members in ArLA publications, the ArLA website, and special recognition at the annual conference.
- Free postings on job lines.
- Discounted exhibit space at conferences and discounted ads in association publications.
- Access to group purchasing programs.
- Participation in statewide advocacy and legislative programs.

The ArLA Board would have the option of adding to or changing benefits over time and also adjusting the dues structure as needed.

Dues Structure

The dues structure below is informed by the

various dues structures reviewed during the 2020 process. This should offer small libraries an excellent opportunity to get all employees involved in ArLA at a very low cost, while also offering larger libraries full staff involvement at a significantly higher, but reasonable cost.

<u>Annual Operating Budget</u>	<u>Annual Dues</u>
Less than \$50,000	\$ 50
\$50,000 - \$99,000	\$ 75
\$100,000 - \$249,999	\$ 100
\$250,000 - \$499,000	\$ 250
\$500,000 - \$999,000	\$ 500
\$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999	\$ 750
Over \$2,000,000	\$ 1,000

School libraries can pay an annual fee of \$25 per school library.

Beginning with 2023, libraries will now be able to provide ArLA membership for their staffs for a reasonable cost. This change occurs at a time when library workers from all types of libraries need to collaborate in order to face a challenging future. The Arkansas Library Association can provide a structure for these important collaborations to happen, without sacrificing leadership involvement that supports the financial future of the Association. Now that the groundwork is laid, it will be up to library directors and managers to take the next important step! Look for more information that will come out in January 2023 through the ArLA website...supporting the future of your library employees is now within your reach.

Britt Anne Murphy is library director of Hendrix College's Bailey Library in Conway, Arkansas. She is the managing editor of Arkansas Libraries and served on the ArLA Membership Committee during 2022.



Early fall at Springdale Public Library.

AROUND ARKANSAS

by *Heather Hays, Associate Editor*

Rodney Lippard is the new library director at UCA. Lippard earned a Bachelor of Arts in radio, television and motion pictures from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Library and Information Studies from UNC Greensboro.

Lippard comes to UCA from the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA) where he served as director. While at USCA, he also served as director of the Center for Student Achievement. Lippard previously served as director of Learning Resource Centers, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in Salisbury, North Carolina, and as the Willis N. Hackney Library director at Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina.

Some of his professional accomplishments include being the current chair of the Budget Analysis and Review Committee of the American Library Association, current chair of the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries, and past president of the North Carolina Library Association.

Members of the Library Development District 1 (LDD1) gathered for the group's summer meeting at Fayetteville Public Library (FPL). The group discussed regional library business, participated in roundtable discussion and Marcia Ransom announced her plans for retirement from Springdale Public Library. After the lunch meeting concluded, David Johnson provided a tour of FPL's expansion.



Left to Right: Deidre Fears, Marcia Ransom, Kim Crow Sheaner, David Johnson, Misty Hawkins, Hadi Dudley, Jennifer Goodson, Anne Gresham, Linda Crume, and Karen Benson.

The LDD1 meeting was attended in person and online by: Suzanne Adams, Karen Benson, Kim Crow Sheaner, Linda Crume, Hadi Dudley, Deidre Fears, Jennifer Goodson, Anne Gresham, Misty Hawkins, David Johnson, Hannah Milligan, Rene Myers, Marcia Ransom, Sherry Simpson, and Kenya Windel.

Marcia Ransom retired September 30, 2022, after 27 years as library director at Springdale Public Library (SPL). Among her many accomplishments, Marcia automated SPL's catalog in the mid-nineties, led SPL's expansion in 2000, which doubled the facility in size to 43,000 SF, and implemented RFID in 2008.

Anne Gresham was promoted as Marcia's successor. Anne has worked at Springdale Public Library since 2011 in the roles of assistant director, librarian and technology coordinator.

We are saddened to report that Michael Klossner, 76, recently passed away in Little Rock. Originally from New York state, he lived in Little Rock for 33 years, including 23 years working for the Arkansas State Library. He was interred in a private ceremony in Constableville, N.Y.

The Central Arkansas Library System lost their longtime assistant director of Technical Services, Tracy Hamby, August 27, 2022. Tracy attended the University of Iowa where she received a Bachelor's

Degree in English, followed by a Master's Degree in Library Science. Tracy began her career in the Arkansas Library System in Harrison, Arkansas, in the late 1980s. In the early 1990s, she transferred to Little Rock and became part of the CALS family (Central Arkansas Library System), where she worked for over 30 years. Tracy was always reading and writing, and her life as a librarian ensured that she was always around books. She loved/hated finding grammatical and spelling errors in signage, collecting odd turns of phrases she would read and hear for her quote file, and sharing witticisms with friends and family. Tracy was also an author, with several books published under the penname Tracy Fabre.

A reminder to Arkansas librarians: please submit news items to me for the next *Arkansas Libraries* issue! Births, deaths, new hires, retirements, funding, new buildings, and news that affects Arkansas libraries would be perfect fits for this column. Just jot me an email at hhays@bentonvilliar.com, and you'll most likely see it published in our journal.

Heather Hays is senior librarian at the Bentonville Public Library.



Fayetteville Public Library Expansion.

Executing Cultural Programming

*by Nakeli Hendrix,
Bentonville Public Library*

One of the areas of focus that emerged from the Bentonville Public Library's Needs Assessment Study in 2021 was the desire for more adult workshops and classes. Adults were eager to learn new skills at the library. In the spring of 2022, we decided to re-introduce in-person programming after pausing during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, I pitched the idea to offer a lei-making program for adults. I was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, and have Hawaiian ancestry. The act of giving a lei to someone is special throughout Pacific Islander cultures and is used to communicate love, friendship, and celebration. While lei are often made with fresh



Hendrix

flowers, it is also common to make them with ribbon. Ribbon lei are usually given for graduations and are adorned with money flowers. I thought graduation season would be a great time to teach patrons how to make a ribbon lei.

I started planning and purchasing materials about a month in advance. We purchased rolls of satin ribbon and had volunteers cut them into five-yard



Art of Shibori. Photo by Jess Pendergrass.

strips. Each participant would be able to choose two colors to craft their *lei*. Once we opened registration, we promoted the class through our newsletter and social media. The class filled quickly (we capped it at 30), and we opened up a wait list. On the day of the event, I set up the room with tables, the ribbon, books on Hawaii and other Pacific Islander cultures and played some Hawaiian music. Although we only had 16 participants attend the workshop due to a severe thunderstorm that evening, it was a great success. I showed the participants how to craft the ribbon *lei* and fold money flowers. I shared my culture with them and answered questions about living in Hawaii. Patrons were excited to learn a new skill and be exposed to a culture they may not have been familiar with.

Encouraged by the success of the *lei* program, I began looking for other cultural programming ideas. Growing up in Hawaii, I was exposed to many different Asian cultures and was eager to bring some of those cultures into BPL's programming lineup. I saw a program online where a library held a workshop on *shibori*. *Shibori* is the ancient Japanese art of tie-dyeing and differs from Western tie-dyeing with its use of indigo dye and natural objects to create intricate patterns. I thought it would make a great cultural workshop for adults. I also had the idea to teach patrons how to use cloth to make *furoshiki*. *Furoshiki* is a Japanese method of using cloth to carry belongings or wrap gifts. With the holiday season approaching, I thought this would be a fun way to introduce sustainable gift-wrapping.



Crafted with Aloha. Photo by Jess Pendergrass.

Since we would be working with permanent dye, we scheduled the program outside on a September evening. We purchased a few *shibori* dye kits, white cotton bandanas and river rocks. We also used other supplies that we had on hand such as rubber bands, buckets, and plastic tablecloths. We opened registration, and it filled quickly (again capped at 30) with a wait list.

I wanted this to be an educational experience, so I researched the history of *shibori* and how it's used today. I made a display with pictures of *shibori* dyed clothing and created a brochure with the history and methods we would be using. I showed a short video at the beginning of the class about *shibori* to give the participants some context of what we would be doing. The 17 participants bound their bandanas using rubber bands, river rocks and squares, and we took them outside to be dyed. While waiting for the bandanas to soak in the dye, I taught the participants a few ways they could wrap presents using *furoshiki*. I also gave handouts about *furoshiki* from Japan's Ministry of Environment government website. The whole class took about 90 minutes. At the end, the participants produced lovely and intricate patterns on their bandanas. We received great feedback about the program and plan to offer it again in the spring.

When offering cultural programming, it's important to honor the culture and remain as authentic as possible. Since the *lei* program was part of my culture, I was able to bring that cultural knowledge and authenticity to the workshop. However, I am not Japanese so I wanted to make sure I was remaining true to Japanese culture when planning and executing the *shibori* program. A quick Google search on *shibori* will bring up an overwhelming number of websites, blogs, and videos. I tried to ensure that I chose sources that were either based in Japan or specialized in Japanese art and culture.

The thing I loved about these programs was it brought together a diverse group of people. Sometimes adult programming can bring in the same kind of patrons or demographics, but I felt these two programs brought together different cultures and ages. People connected over this shared experience of learning a new craft. Based on the positive feedback from these programs, we hope to offer them again and develop more cultural programming.

Nakeli Hendrix is an adult services and circulation specialist at the Bentonville Public Library and recently completed her MLIS from San Jose State University.

Southeast Arkansas Regional Library Celebrates 75 Years of Service

by Judy Calhoun,

Southeast Arkansas Regional Library

Long before the wonders of the digital age, the foundation of today's library system in southeast Arkansas was centered in three cooperating counties seeking to receive state aid for the creation of a regional library system. The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library (SEARL), serving Drew, Desha, and Lincoln counties, was established in 1947. Drew County was chosen as headquarters for the regional library system.



Calhoun

During the first six weeks of operation, approximately 7,500 books were processed for circulation with over 2,000 more on order or waiting to be processed. In addition to the issues of building a collection and housing it appropriately, there was a problem with making the collection accessible to potential patrons, particularly in rural areas. To this end, an essential aspect of library services was the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library bookmobile, which began operation in late 1947 with a Ford panel



An open house and reception gave everyone a chance to celebrate.

truck converted for this purpose. The partnership between the counties enabled member libraries to take advantage of practical economics such as bulk purchasing, centralized record-keeping, ordering, and processing materials. Staff development, hiring,



budget, fund-raising, and other administrative tasks developed around a Regional Library Board and librarian (later director) centrally located in Drew County, which provided a more reliable source of professional guidance and oversight.

Bradley County, with two branches in Warren and Hermitage, joined in 1983. First joining in 1958, Chicot County rejoined the system in 1994, adding the Lake Village, Eudora, and Dermott branches. During its 75 years of operation, SEARL has seen 10 directors, 16 branches opened, and many different buildings. Today's SEARL comprises Bradley, Chicot, Desha, Drew, and Lincoln Counties with nine branches serving Southeast Arkansas. In addition to the nine branches, SEARL services 12 satellite locations that include nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and volunteer libraries. The Region also maintains five Little Free Libraries in remote communities.

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library recently hosted an open house at the Monticello Branch Library in October 2022 commemorating 75 years of serving Southeast Arkansas. Games, activities, and refreshments were enjoyed all over the library, including activities such as The Neverending Story, Black Out Poetry, and the Great Diamond Hunt! Seventy five diamonds were hidden all over the library, and the lucky finders enjoyed a snack and a chance to win a grand prize. Patrons were treated to photo opportunities with Mouse from "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" and Llama from "Llama, Llama Red Pajama." The history of the Region as well as the history of bookmobiles, directors, and service locations were created into an historical exhibit panels and displayed in the library. In the evening hours, a reception was held for previous

board members, staff, and current employees of SEARL. Light refreshments and cake along with a jazz ensemble from the University of Arkansas at Monticello were enjoyed by all the guests.

"As the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library reflects on its history, it is also preparing for more decades of helping its communities thrive," states Regional Library director, Judy Calhoun. "We will always try to stay relevant. What we are doing now is very different from what libraries were doing 75 years ago. But the need to serve never changes."

Judy Calhoun is director of the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library in Monticello.



SEARL 75th Anniversary with Judy Calhoun cutting the cake.

Library patrons attend an open house to commemorate the 75th anniversary.

Fall/Winter Scenes from Arkansas Libraries



Hispanic Heritage Month at Rogers Public Library.



Children and pumpkins at North Little Rock Public Library's Laman Library.



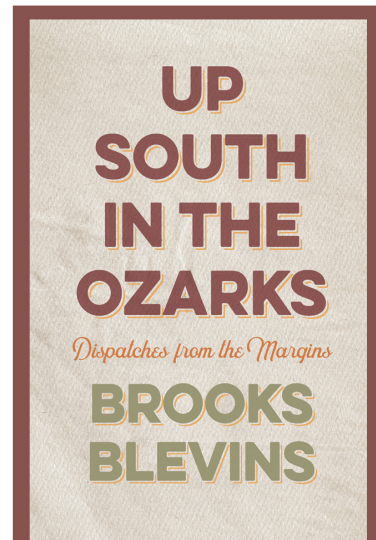
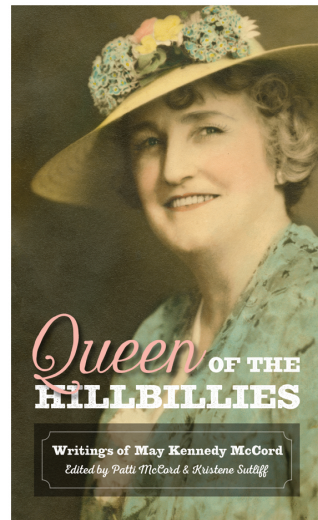
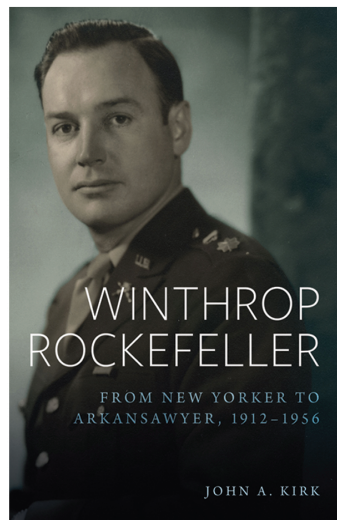
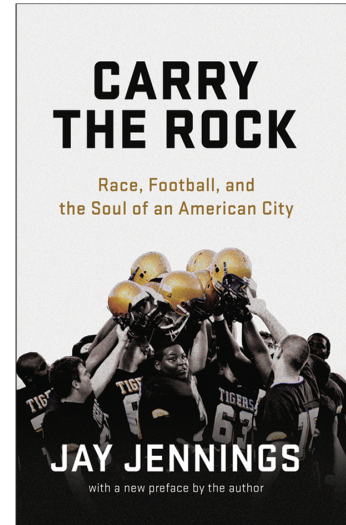
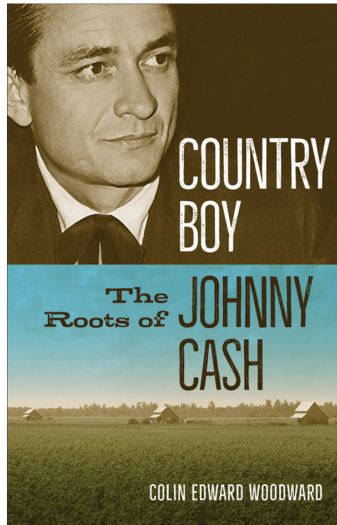
Trick or Treat at North Little Rock Public Library's Laman Library.



Rogers Public Library.



North Little Rock Public Library's Argenta Library.



“This book is more than just a remarkable collection of Ozark arcana (although it is that). Its good writing, wry humor, and deep, sympathetic understanding should appeal to anyone interested in the larger South.”

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Art of Shibori. See article on page 24.