David Paige elected 2020-2021 United for Libraries president

David Paige, Trustee at Conway (N.H.) Public Library and editorial director, Libraries Unlimited, has been elected 2020-2021 United for Libraries president. Paige will serve as president-elect during 2019-2020 under 2019-2020 United for Libraries President Peter Pearson.

“I look forward to the opportunity to serve as the face of United for Libraries and a voice for library civic leaders in the broader association at a time of change,” said Paige. “Trustees, Friends, and Foundations are not bit players in the library advocacy work that is foremost among ALA’s strategic action areas — we are where the rubber meets the road. As library policy makers, we are also critical stakeholders in the association’s efforts to promote and defend principles of inclusion, equal access and intellectual freedom. These are challenges our civic leaders face head-on alongside library staff, but typically without sufficient professional training. Our libraries will be stronger for a national association that understands the central importance of the service of library civic leaders and meets our unique needs. For these reasons, I will work to ensure United keeps its seat at the table and has a strong voice within ALA.”

Paige has been a corporate at large member of the United for Libraries board since 2016. He has served on the Conway Public Library Board of Trustees since 2014 (as chair from 2016-2018 and treasurer since 2018). He has been a professional editor for 16 years, culminating in his current work leading a team of editors at Libraries Unlimited, who produce LIS textbooks and professional books for practicing librarians of all types. Paige also served on the board of the Friends of the Carpinteria (Calif.) Public Library from 2010–2012, where he worked with colleagues on successful fundraising efforts, including outside-the-box events and a “Save Our Library” campaign in response to drastic cuts to public funding.

Four additional United for Libraries board positions were filled during the election. Kathleen McEvoy, vice president of communications for EBSCO Information Services, was elected Secretary. Charity Tyler, executive director of the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Public Library Foundation, and Kristi Pearson, executive director of the Friends of the Hennepin County (Minn.) Library, were elected to Foundation-at-Large positions. Patricia Hofmann, president of Citizens for Maryland Libraries, was elected to a Friend-at-Large position.
New Beginnings

“Ends are not bad things, they just mean that something else is about to begin. And there are many things that don’t really end, anyway, they just begin again in a new way. Ends are not bad and many ends aren’t really an ending; some things are never-ending.” — C. JoyBell C.

This is my last letter as president of United for Libraries. Last July started this journey, I am amazed on what I have learned and experienced. I have grown in unexpected and exciting ways. The above quote from C. JoyBell C. captures perfectly what I am feeling as I write this. I have always felt that: Reflection is good but only if you are the one holding the mirror. And, from where I sit, I see the passions and strength of the many people that I met during my time servicing as president.

I read this quote from Simon Sinek just the other day: “Simple ideas are easier to understand. Ideas that are easier to understand are repeated. Ideas that are repeated change the world.” What struck me is the truth in this. My goals as president of United centered on advocacy and advocacy training. During a particularly challenging year when state and federal library funding face extreme cuts, United worked to foster, educate, and support Friends, Trustees, and Foundation members who faced funding hurdles. When I started, this task was overwhelming to me. I looked to find a tool which helped me focus beyond the aspirations to me. I looked to find a tool which started, this task was overwhelming to me. I looked to find a tool which faced funding hurdles. When I started, this task was overwhelming to me. I looked to find a tool which shaped my story of reading Simon Sinek’s Finding Your Why. I realized that my own advocacy story focused more on the “How’s” and “What’s.” “Why” I believe that libraries change and grow communities was the key I needed to spark the fire of my belly. I feel passionate about library funding advocacy. As a full circle to my experience of ALA’s Legislative Day over two years ago, this past February I attended ALA’s Fly-In DC event of advocates to go “to the Hill,” meeting with representatives and senators and their staffs. Standing in the hallway before my first meeting, I remembered all the conversations I’d had with people who shared my same passions and convictions. The story I was telling, the enthusiasm that I felt centers in my belief that libraries make a difference.

As I come to the end of my term, I am seeing many new beginnings for me and for United. Peter Pearson is the incoming president. He is someone that I have had the privilege to work with both on United’s board and in the outside world of libraries. It is exciting to have him steering the ship. My new beginnings are to come. Things do not end but just continue down a different path. The never-ending story is that United plays a vital role. We play a key part in the education and support of those Friends groups, Trustees, and Foundation members who work diligently to ensure that libraries are an enriching part of our communities. How United continues to evolve is up to all of us.

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” — Seneca

United for Libraries will be at the following summer/fall conferences; for more information, visit www.ala.org/united/conferences.

ALA Annual Conference June 20-25, 2019 Washington, D.C.
www.ala.org/conferences/events

International Public Library Fundraising Conference July 28-30, 2019 Calgary, Alberta, Canada
http://iplf-conference.org

http://arls.info/annual-conference
United for Libraries’ webinar “Local, State, and National Library Advocacy: A Grasstop Approach” is available for viewing. Library Trustees, advocates, Friends, Foundations, directors, and staff can hear from experts about the difference between grassroot and grasstop advocates, how to identify them in their communities, and how to engage them in their efforts. Viewers will learn how to build key library advocates to cultivate allies and develop constituencies in support of their positions at every level of government.


To view the webinar, visit www.al.org/united/training/webinars.


Kathi Kromer is the associate executive director of ALA’s Public Policy and Advocacy Office. ALA’s advocacy and public policy staff work to secure information technology policies that support and encourage efforts of libraries to ensure access to electronic information resources as a means of upholding the public’s right to a free and open information society. Prior to joining ALA, Kromer was vice president of strategy and outreach for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association for 11 years.

Julius C. Jefferson Jr., section head of the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., was recently elected as the 2020-2021 president of the American Library Association. An active member of ALA for 15 years, Jefferson currently serves on and has been a member of ALA Council since 2011, and most recently completed a three-year term on the ALA Executive Board (2015–2018).

Chapter Advocacy Exchange webinar on ‘Empowering Trustees and Friends to Advocate Alongside Librarians’ now available

The ALA Chapter Relations Office, along with United for Libraries, presented a Chapter Advocacy Exchange webinar, “Empowering Trustees and Friends to Advocate Alongside Librarians,” that is now available for viewing.

Trustees and Friends offer a wealth of skills, experiences, and connections that amplify library advocacy, but they are often underutilized resources. How can state associations and individual libraries fully engage with Friends and Trustees in advocacy efforts? How can Friends and Trustees better integrate...
Harvin-Clarendon County (S.C.) Public Library designated a Literary Landmark

United for Libraries, in partnership with the South Carolina State Library, designated Harvin-Clarendon County Public Library a Literary Landmark on Thurs., May 2, in honor of children’s author Peggy Parish (1927-1988). The designation was one of several that took place as part of the 100th anniversary of Children’s Book Week.

Parish was born and raised in Manning, S.C. to a poor family. She went on to teach at elementary schools in Oklahoma, Kentucky, and New York, publishing her first children’s book while teaching third grade at a school in Manhattan. Parish was best known as the original creator of the popular Amelia Bedelia series.

Remarks were made by Harvin-Clarendon County (S.C.) Library Director Charlotte Johnston and State Librarian Leesa Aiken from the South Carolina State Library. A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place shortly after at the location of the plaque on the library building. The ceremony concluded with a reception with refreshments, storytime, and a craft activity for children in the children’s area. In attendance were community leaders from city and county government as well as library board members and local educators.

The Literary Landmark program is administered by United for Libraries. More than 165 Literary Landmarks across the United States have been dedicated since the program began in 1986. Any library or group may apply for a Literary Landmark through United for Libraries. More information is available at www.ala.org/united/products_services/literarylandmarks.

From left: Andersen Cook with the South Carolina State Library, Charlotte Johnston with the Harvin Clarendon County Library, and Leesa Aiken with the South Carolina State Library.

Other national programs include the Children’s and Teen Choice Book Awards, the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, in partnership with the Library of Congress, and Get Caught Reading.

Vera’s Story Garden at Ethelbert B. Crawford Library designated a Literary Landmark

United for Libraries, in partnership with Empire State Center for the Book, designated Vera’s Story Garden at Ethelbert B. Crawford Library (EB-CPL) a Literary Landmark on May 4 in honor of children’s author Vera B. Williams, whose work often featured diverse characters in urban settings. The Literary Landmark designated was one of several that took place as part of the 100th anniversary of Children’s Book Week.

Williams, the acclaimed author of A Chair for My Mother, moved to the Bronx neighborhood of New York at a young age. There, she pursued a career in the arts, studying dance, acting, and painting, and teaching at alternative schools throughout New York and Ontario. She moved to Canada in the late 1970s to pursue her goal of becoming a children’s author and illustrator.

Williams was awarded the Caldecott Medal and Boston Globe–Horn Book Award for A Chair for My Mother in 1983. In 2004, she was a U.S. nominee for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the highest recognition for children’s book authors. A Chair for My Mother inspired the chair in Vera’s Story Garden. Vera Williams returned to New York before passing at age 88 in 2015.

The dedication ceremony featured EBCPL Board President Lynn Skolnick, Friends of EBCPL President Helen Rados, and EBCPL Youth Services Librarian Cheryl Jones. EBCPL Director Mary Paige Lang-Clouse invited community members to speak about Vera B. Williams and her impact on the community.

Following the dedication, attendees enjoyed refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.

At noon, EBCPL’s children’s librarian lead a StoryWalk of A Chair for My Mother.
Julius Jefferson wins 2020–2021 ALA Presidency


Jefferson received 5,108 votes, while his opponent, Lance Werner, executive director of Kent District Library in Comstock Park, Mich., received 3,011 votes.

As ALA president, Jefferson will be the chief elected officer for the oldest and largest library association in the world. He will serve as president-elect for one year before stepping into his role as president at the close of the 2020 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

Upon learning the outcome of the election, Jefferson remarked, “It is an immense honor to be elected 2020–2021 president of the American Library Association. I am both humbled and appreciative of the confidence you have demonstrated in my ability to lead ALA in the service of libraries and library workers. I look forward to building our brand, focusing on the value of library workers, and advocating for the essential work being done to support our libraries. Together we will collaborate to strengthen our core values of equity, diversity, and inclusion; advocacy; leadership and professional development; and information policy, and address the internal and external challenges. It is my vision that together we will transform ALA into a modern library association, ensuring that libraries remain at the center of public engagement and enrich the lives of the communities we serve.”

An active member of ALA for 15 years, Jefferson currently serves on and has been a member of ALA Council since 2011, and most recently completed a three-year term on the ALA Executive Board (2015–2018). He has also served on a number of critical committees, including the Finance and Audit Committee (2017–2018); the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (2014–2018); the Intellectual Freedom Committee (2010–2014), serving as the 2010–2011 chair; and is currently chair of the Chapter Relations Committee, as well as on numerous other committees and task forces of the Association.

Jefferson is an active member of a number of ALA-affiliated entities, including Reforma: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (which became part of the Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies, in 2018), International Relations Round Table, the Black Caucus of ALA (BCALA), and the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA).

In addition to his service to ALA, Jefferson served on the board of the Freedom to Read Foundation (2012–2016) and served as its 2013–2016 president; served as president of the DC Library Association (2015); and served on the board of BCALA (2007–2009). He is the recipient of several awards, including BCALA Outstanding Contribution to Publishing Award (2013), BCALA Appreciation Award (2010), and Congressional Research Service Special Achievement Award (2010).

A frequent speaker on issues of importance to library workers, Jefferson has appeared on a number of media outlets, including National Public Radio. He is coeditor of The 21st Century Black Librarian in America: Issues and Challenges and is often sought as a speaker on library-related issues such as diversity, leadership, and professional development.

Jefferson holds a bachelor’s in history from Howard University and an MLS from the University of Maryland.
Facts for Friends & Foundations — Promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

BY ANNE PHIBBS, PhD
Strategic Diversity Initiatives

The following is a list of actions that Friends of the Library and/or library foundations can take to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and develop as a leader on these issues within their library system.

1. Make sure you and other members of your Friends of the Library and/or library foundations are aware of the EDI resources at your library:
   - Does your library have an EDI statement? Is that statement on your library’s website? How might potential staff, patrons, and community members be able to access it?
   - Does your library have an EDI committee? If so, do you know who chairs it and who is on it? Are members of Friends of the Library and/or library foundations able to participate? If not, how can you help your Friends of the Library and/or library foundations address EDI issues?
   - What EDI training and educational opportunities are available for staff, Trustees, and members of Friends of the Library and/or library foundations at your library? If none are available, what can be done to create these opportunities?
   - Does your library have a separate EDI strategic plan? If so, do members of your Friends of the Library and/or library foundations know about it? How do you apply the plan to your work? If no EDI Strategic Plan exists, how can Friends of the Library and/or library foundations be part of developing such a plan?

2. Research EDI-focused funding opportunities. Reach out to library systems — and other organizations — across your local area, your state, and the U.S. to ask how they are funding their EDI efforts. Learn what resources exist for moving EDI forward at your library.

3. Pay attention to the make-up of your staff, board, and Friends of the Library and/or library foundations. Do the people who work in your library and who are responsible for oversight reflect the community surrounding your library? Do the people who raise and support the work of the library reflect the community surrounding your library? Is diversity reflected in terms of race, class, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, age, etc.? If diversity is lacking, make hiring a more diverse staff and creating a more diverse board a priority, with resources to back up new initiatives. Consider how you can engage communities of color, Native communities, and other underrepresented communities in your work as Friends of the Library and/or library foundations. Remember that there are many ways to give back to a library other than financial support.

4. Review your relationships with external constituents and communities.
   - Do you have strong relationships with community leaders? If not, how can you develop them? Remember it won’t work to expect community members to come to you — as representatives of your library, you need to be out in the community yourself.
   - Pay attention to supplier diversity. From what vendors and suppliers do you purchase goods and services? What vendors do you use for fundraisers and

special events? Can you create a policy that minority-, women-, LGBTQ-, disability-, and veteran-owned companies and providers will be used whenever possible?

5. Suggest a review of all policies and procedures, using an EDI lens. For example:
   - If you have staff members, do you have equitable policies around parental leave (for parents of all gender identities, for those who adopt, etc.)? Do you have policies around PTO for all religious holidays?
   - Are your policies up-to-date around accommodating those with disabilities?
   - What information do you capture from your members and donors — and do you capture it in a way that is inclusive (e.g., giving more options than “male” and “female” on questions about sex/gender)?

Remember that all policies and procedures can be reviewed with an EDI lens, but you don’t have to review everything all at once. You can undertake this review one policy/procedure at a time.

6. Make a commitment to develop, personally, as a leader around equity, diversity, and inclusion. Let others in your life know that about this commitment. Ask them to hold you accountable for this commitment.

   - Commit to ongoing education and learning around issues of race, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, class, etc. Educate yourself about issues of microaggressions and implicit bias, and how these affect organizations, workplaces, and boards.

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Minnesota Association of Library Friends originally presented this two-part miniseries on Friends leadership recruitment, adapted with permission from a piece originally prepared by and for Library Strategies, its office management firm. United for Libraries is reprinting it with permission. Part one was featured in the April issue of The Voice.

3) Barn Raisers. Amish communities across America maintain the age-old tradition of “barn raising,” where families come together and pool their time and tools to erect a barn in the span of a day. You probably don’t have much use for a barn, but the basic principles hold true: little can get done without “elbow grease,” but many hands make for light work.

Barn Raisers are crucial to Friends and Foundations, particularly those with no paid staff to handle the “brunt” of on-the-ground duties. For instance, no book sale will get off the ground without organizers willing to sort books and coordinate volunteer shifts, and no author event can occur without a point person to oversee logistics.

If your board of directors is light on Barn Raisers, reconsider your nomination criteria with this need in mind. The archetypal “Friend Raiser” may have the influence to drive others to your functions, and “Curtain Raisers” the affluence to drive large donations based on their own charitable example. But, in addition to influence and affluence, consider work ethic and leadership interest when seeking and vetting candidates.

4) Consciousness Raisers. Ultimately, all your directors’ collective efforts are intended to better the library, and no public library can get by on private funding alone. For this reason — though this one may not roll off the tongue like the other three — Consciousness Raisers are arguably the most valuable psychographic profile of all.

Consciousness Raisers bring the knowledge and gumption required to lobby for the library’s continued public funding in public forums, and spearhead grassroots advocacy efforts within your community.

Dividends may not be immediate, but depending on a given director’s skill set, an hour spent in candid conversation at the office of your county commissioner might be exponentially more valuable to your cause than an hour spent directly soliciting private donations.

Remember, advocacy is essential everywhere. If you live in a small community or represent a budding nonprofit, you may be tempted to concentrate overmuch on recruiting Barn Raisers and Friend Raisers…and give Consciousness Raisers short shrift. Don’t! We know of many instances where a corps of activism-minded directors made a major impact on a small community’s public library funding levels.

Naturally, these four psychographic profiles are not mutually exclusive. In practice, for example, a Consciousness Raiser with a knack for public advocacy might also have a grassroots network they can tap as Barn Raisers or Friend Raisers. However, conceptualizing your leaders’ (and prospective leaders’) characteristics in this way will help ensure that you maintain a balanced board of directors.
The Regional Foundation Center of the Free Library of Philadelphia recently presented a “Good Talk!” panel discussion on “Accelerating Board Diversity,” with support from J2 Design.

Studies show that diverse boards are more successful, and many nonprofit leaders recognize the need to bring a variety of voices into the conversation. So why are so many boards still struggling to diversify their ranks? Change is needed, and it’s needed now. An “all-star” panel discussed how to ramp up board recruitment efforts and ensure that everyone has a seat at the table.

Panelists included Amber Hikes, executive director of the Mayor’s Office of LGBT Affairs for the City of Philadelphia; Greg El, CPA, of TriZen, LLC; Sulaiman Rahman, CEO at DiverseForce and founder/CEO of Urban Philly Professional Network (UPPN), and Andy Toy, development & communications manager at the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition (SEAMAAC). The panel was moderated by Alan Jacobson, strategic director and founder of J2 Design.

The panel kicked off with the simple question of what diversity and inclusion mean? What are the shared objects of diversity and inclusion initiatives? As Hikes pointed out, diversity and inclusion are merely the first steps. How is your organization engaging the community? What type of capacity building are you doing? Are you addressing intersectional issues (race, class, gender, sexuality, etc.)?

Rahman added a couple of common comparisons between diversity and inclusion: “Diversity is counting heads — inclusion is making heads count,” and “Diversity is what you see — inclusion is how you feel.”

To address why board diversity is important, the panelists discussed reasons why people serve on boards to begin with — to expand their networks, to accomplish their goals, to make an impact, to advance their career, and to have influence over an organization. A good question to ask about the board is: do the decisions of the board represent the people the board is serving?

To truly be inclusive, said Hikes, we need to examine social and economic barriers to board service. We need to analyze these and change them beginning with the application process — there should not be a “pay-to-play” model. If donations to your organization are required to serve on the board, ensure there is no minimum amount.

Toy also pointed out that if there is a peer-to-peer approach to board recruitment, the board will likely not be a diverse one. Reach out to other organizations in the community to recruit new board members.

Additional tips from the panelists:

• There may be a reluctance to even discuss diversity on boards on your organization. Get things going by starting the conversation.
• Avoid “tokenism” — this will give the “first” person on the board (the first person of color, the first female, etc.) imposter syndrome. Bring more than one “first” person on the board.
• For a simple diversity test — does your board look like your community? Examine your community’s demographics.
• Unconscious bias training is helpful for all boards.
• An organization may need a cultural shift internally before it is ready to reach out to diversify its board. If you don’t have a supportive environment, you are going to lose your new board recruits.
• Go to events and programs where you are the minority. This will get you out of your comfort zone and allow you to meet and network with diverse groups.

Presented in partnership with the Regional Foundation Center, Good Talk! is a quarterly panel series covering a variety of topics and issues facing today’s nonprofits. For more information about the Regional Foundation Center, visit http://libwww.freelibrary.org/programs/bric/nonprofit.

Facts for Friends & Foundations continued from page 6

• Make a commitment to have coffee with someone you identify as a leader around issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Ask them to tell you how they developed as a leader. Build a community of other EDI champions who will push you to continue to do this work, as it gets complicated, messy, and challenging.
• Keep a list (just for a week or two) of the assumptions you make about other people and notice how privilege plays out in your life. Consider jotting down times that you know your privilege made things easier for you.
• Learn the history of the nation or nations that inhabited the land on which your library sits.
Al Martin named ALA Trustee Citation recipient

ALA and United for Libraries has named Alfred E. Martin, president of the Maryland State Library Board and 2018 treasurer of Washington County Free Library’s Board of Trustees, a recipient of the ALA Trustee Citation.

The ALA Trustee Citation, established in 1941 to recognize public library Trustees for distinguished service to library development, honors the best contributions and efforts of the estimated 60,000 American citizens who serve on library boards.

Al Martin joined the Washington County Free Library’s Board of Trustees as its treasurer in 2011, bringing with him both his credentials as a CPA and his more than 35 years of government accounting experience. While Martin has been a hard-working asset in promoting and fighting for library funding at a local level, it is his work at the state level that has benefited, not only his own library, but the entire public library community of Maryland.

Additionally, Martin worked to pass a state law establishing an independent state library board under the public education laws of Maryland. Using his CPA and government accounting skills, he was able to do a forensic accounting analysis, using several years of the then-Division of Library and Information services’ budgets, to demonstrate to elected officials that DLDS (as it was known then) was being unfavorably handicapped by a higher percentage of budget cuts over several years than other divisions in its governing department.

Martin used this analysis in testifying successfully before the General Assembly, and in 2017, the division became the state library agency overseen by the state library board whose members are now appointed by the governor.

Martin, appointed by the governor, became Maryland’s first president of the state library board, a position that he currently holds. In the year and a half that the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) has been in existence, Martin has worked with Maryland State Librarian Irene Padilla to make MSLA a strong independent state agency, allowing Maryland’s public libraries to stand equally with K-12, community colleges and academics in providing equality education for all Marylanders.

ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo will present the Trustee Citation award to Al Martin during Opening General Session of the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., on Fri., June 21.

For more information on the ALA Trustee Citation, visit www.ala.org/united/grants_awards/trustees/trustee_citation.


Equitable access to information for all, including underserved populations, is a core value of librarianship. The growing awareness of where this inequality persists has led many professionals to take steps to advance social justice within their institutions, from creating book displays about the Black Lives Matter movement or LGBT History Month to hosting programs by potentially controversial speakers. But while libraries are often well-versed in protecting the right to read books, many lack policies and experience in addressing censorship of resources and services. Beyond Banned Books: Defending Intellectual Freedom throughout Your Library, published by ALA Editions, uses specific case studies to offer practical guidance on safeguarding intellectual freedom related to library displays, programming, and other librarian-created content. Written by Kristin Pekoll, Assistant Director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF), this resource:

• spotlights case studies drawn from public libraries, schools, universities, and government agencies dealing with library displays, artwork, programs, bookmarks and reading lists, social media, and databases;
• summarizes possible complaints and controversies related to each area;
• draws connections between the intellectual freedom principles involved and associated legal issues, with relevant court opinions when possible;
• shares questions to consider when strengthening a library’s defenses against censorship;
• discusses the importance of reporting challenges to OIF, and the professional and institutional support that OIF can provide when challenges arise; and
• includes key ALA policies on intellectual freedom as appendices.

Prior to ALA, for twelve years Pekoll was the youth librarian at the West Bend Community Memorial Library in Wisconsin. Her primary focus is supporting librarians who are dealing with censorship issues, and she also works to raise awareness of the value of intellectual freedom within the library profession and among the public.

To purchase this title from the ALA Store, visit www.alastore.ala.org/content/beyond-banned-books-defending-intellectual-freedom-throughout-your-library.
How to host an author event

BY LISA KIPPUR
Executive Assistant to the Deans, University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

United for Libraries hosted “Lunch with an Expert” for Boards of Trustees, Friends groups and library Foundations at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The roundtable “How to Host an Author Event,” with Robin Hoklotubbe, Project Coordinator for Book Club Central (www.bookclubcentral.org) and former director of marketing and public relations at Santa Clarita Public Library, gave tips and advice for success.

Here are some of her most helpful hints:

When to start?
Six to eight months in advance!

Space
Make sure your library has the proper infrastructure to host an event such as an author talk. Is there a community area? Is there space for a book signing table? Is the room large enough to accommodate?

Travel and Honorarium Costs
Set-aside funding should the author request the library pay for their travel or an honorarium. In some cases, you can make an offer to cover costs, if you have the budget. If costs are high, see if you can partner with another library in the area or a consortium of libraries in your city or state. You can all sponsor the event together.

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Finding the Author
• Book club events — popular fiction authors
• Events and conferences like ALA Midwinter or Annual Conference
• United for Libraries events like the Gala Author Tea sponsored by ReferenceUSA
• Author talks at conferences

I found an author
• Check their website for contact information, either the author’s direct email or publisher information
• If pursuing a publisher, get connected with that publisher’s marketing director
• A publisher can put you in touch with the author’s publicity agent as well.

When you make a pitch to the author, let them know the following:
• Average attendances of author talks in the past
• If this is an inaugural event or if you have author talks on a regular basis
• Ask what the author’s preference is for book sales
• Your library’s ability to pay an honorarium and/or travel fee

Author Host
Assign a Friend, staff member, or yourself to host the author by greeting at the door, giving a few minutes before the talk for a small bathroom break, and to answer any questions.

Book Sellers
If you or the author would like to have books on hand to sell, partner with a bookseller. Volunteers and staff members should not be involved in money exchanges, taxes, or other related business items having to do with the sale of books. In exchange for the bookseller agreeing to help, you can post their organizational name as a sponsor of the event. The other option, not recommended by Robin, is for the Friends of the Libraries to purchase books from Amazon and sell for a small profit or no profit.

Event ideas
• Author Festival, panels of authors speaking on a variety of topics throughout the day (young adult, children’s, or romance)
• Words with Wine — charge for your event and offer unlimited wine (within reason)
• Historical fiction themes
• Panels

Marketing and Publicity
• Find a graphic designer through your Friends Board, have a staff member in the library assist, or hire for a small fee
• Sign-up sheet with a column for e-mails so you can develop your mailing list
• Think about the type of author you are having, local will draw a smaller crowd than a well-known writer

Utilize the following:
• Social media
• Posters
• Bookmarks
• Oversized book marks
• Newsletters
• Flyers
• Post at Starbucks
• Post on the city calendars
• Issue a press release

Logistics and Special Touches
• Create directional signs
• Set up the signing table with fresh flowers
• Give the author a bottle of water (not a cup or glass which has the tendency to spill)
• Fine point sharpies for book signings
• A staff member to monitor and direct the crowd

Refreshments
Yes, always have some sort of hot tea or cold water available, and possibly cookies or snacks.

After the Event
Send out thank you notes. Robin finds handwritten notes are the best!

I found this information extremely helpful. I feel very fortunate to have attended the United for Libraries Gala Author Tea sponsored by ReferenceUSA, “The Laugh’s On Us” event sponsored by Ingram Content Group, and many other author panels and talks sponsored by United for Libraries. Thanks to Robin’s advice, I know if I’m tasked with planning an author talk, I’ll have a variety of tools to assist. Thank you, Robin!
Friends of the LeClaire (Iowa) Community Library

LeClaire, Iowa, a small river town, located on the banks of the Mississippi River. Early in the 2000s, the citizens of LeClaire voted in a referendum to withdraw from a county-wide library system and have its own public library. Soon thereafter, a Friends of the Library group was formed, and became one of many organizations that contributed time and money towards the opening of a new city library in July 2004. While the Friends have recognized National Friends of Libraries Week in past years, this year they planned a much larger celebration.

In the early fall, there was a multifaceted pre-promotion of Friends of the Library Week. For several weeks prior to Oct. 21, the library website, when opened, displayed a banner that announced “Friends of the LeClaire Library/Celebrate Friends Week Oct. 21-27.” Events planned during Friends Week were promoted on the website, many including recognition of the Friends and their support for the library, as well as on Facebook.

And finally, on Oct. 18 (just days before Friends week), an article appeared in the local newspaper highlighting Friends Week and the events and programs that would be held the following week.

Earlier in the year, the young adult area in LeClaire Community Library had been completely redesigned and reconfigured with all new furniture, shelving, and new gaming equipment. Since the Friends funded the majority of the project costs, it was decided to have a formal dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony during Friends Week. The town’s mayor and the city council member who serves as the library liaison both attended the event. The mayor read a proclamation recognizing National Friends of the Library Week. However, perhaps his most meaningful words were his recollections of using the library in his hometown as a young boy.

Several special library programs were held during Friends Week. Programs for the youth included pumpkin decorating and “Absolute Science.” For a broader cross section of ages, a local author spoke about his book Time to Ship Another Steer and what it was like growing up on an Iowa farm. And, being near Halloween, there was a presentation about searching for eerie creatures — vampires, werewolves, and chupacabras. At each program, a Friends member was introduced by the library director and given a few minutes to make a short talk about the Friends. More specifically, they reminded everyone that they Friends fund most programs at the library. Friends members remained after the programs concluded to talk with those in attendance, making sure to ask people to join the organization.

In LeClaire Community Library, there is a display case adjacent to the circulation desk. For the month of October, the Friends displayed their “mascot” — a giraffe named “Stretch.” The display included a large collection of giraffes — toys, pictures, etc. The Friends solicited some longtime library supporters (Friends, Trustees, past staff and patrons) to write a story about their involvement with the library, and called them Stretch Stories. They received several great stories and included them in the display.

One of the Friends fundraisers is a twice-a-year book sale. Last year’s fall sale was scheduled during Friends Week. This provided just another opportunity to remind more of the local community who the Friends are and what they do.

As LeClaire Community Library is smaller, it has been easy for the Friends to build a close working relationship with the library staff. As a way of thanking them for all their support, the Friends purchased gift certificates from a small delicatessen that is right across the street from their building. A gift certificate was presented to all staff members during National Friends Week.

Every year, the city holds a Halloween Parade called Witches Walk. 2018’s parade was on the Saturday of Friends Week; a member of the library staff participated in the parade on behalf of the Friends.

LeClaire Friends are small in number, but very dedicated. Somewhat concerned that membership was not growing.
Charleston (S.C.) Friends of the Library announces Jeanell Marvin as new executive director

The Charleston (S.C.) Friends of the Library (CFOL) are pleased to announce Jeanell Marvin as its new executive director. Starting June 17, Jeanell will continue the Friends’ ongoing efforts to support the wonderful programs, classes, activities, and events that make the Charleston County Public Library system outstanding.

“T am beyond excited to embark on a new journey as executive director of CFOL,” said Marvin. “I’ve witnessed firsthand the benefits of having a public library that goes above and beyond to meet the needs of its community members by way of literary programs, book sales, countless resources, and much more. I am thrilled that I get to be a part of a team that is dedicated to doing just that.”

Marvin is a former school teacher of nine years. She received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Charleston Southern University and obtained a master’s degree from Walden University. Although a Bronx native, Marvin and her husband are happily raising their four children near Charleston, where they love living just close enough to the beach. When not spending time with family and friends, Marvin can almost always be found nose-deep in a book or browsing the shelves of her favorite place in the world — the library.

Executive Director Brittany Mathis led a brief program that included remarks from herself, Charleston Friends of the Library Board President Katie Norris, and Charleston County Public Library Interim Executive Director Darlene Jackson. In addition, words of reflection were given to honor Charleston Friends of the Library Founder Sara Breibart who, during her time with the Friends, developed a number of library programs that helped to educate and inspire the community—many of which continue to this day, including the Charleston MET Opera series.

Charleston Friends of the Library Executive Director Brittany Mathis surprised two Board Reunion Celebration guests with a bouquet of flowers, thanking them for their hard work and dedication to the Charleston Friends of the Library. Volunteer and past board member Linda Daehn along with Charleston County Public Library staff member Frances Richardson were the two honorees.

In addition to the Board Reunion Celebration, Executive Director Brittany Mathis created posters that displayed the names of all Friends of the Library board members from the past 30+ years, thanking them for their dedicated service and commitment to making the Charleston County Library system a community gem. These posters were displayed at all 16 Charleston County Public Library branches during National Friends of Libraries Week. A framed copy of the poster was given to Charleston Friends of the Library Founder Sara Breibart.

Lastly, on Mon., Oct. 22, 2018, The Charleston Friends of the Library created and sent an e-blast to its more than 2,500 contacts announcing the week of Oct. 21 as National Libraries Week. The e-blast informed the public about the work that the Charleston Friends of the Library do in the community, and encouraged the public to participate in the celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week by becoming a Friend of the Library.

Last year’s National Friends of Libraries Week was a huge success. The Charleston Friends of the Library received plenty of praise for the first ever Board Reunion Celebration. Board members from the past who were no longer active with the organization expressed interest in getting involved again. Many renewed their membership, as they were inspired by the impact the Charleston Friends of the Library were making in the community.

National Friends of Libraries Week Awards continued from page 11
Marlena E. White named recipient of United for Libraries/ThriftBooks Friend Conference Grant


White will receive $850 plus full conference registration to attend the 2019 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. A presentation will be made at the conference at United for Libraries’ Gala Author Tea sponsored by ReferenceUSA on Monday, June 24, 2 to 4 p.m.

In her role as director of the Friends, White coordinated efforts between staff and the Friends to promote funding and awareness for Lexington Main Library. A proud accomplishment has been the creation of an annual Father Daughter Dance fundraiser, now in its 13th year. The event has sold out the last 3 years with an attendance of 1,200 fathers and daughters. Its popularity has raised funds but also recognition for the Friends, a valuable commodity in a growing community like Lexington.

As part of her ongoing effort to find new avenues for raising funds and awareness, she requested and received board approval to be a vendor at the 2018 SCLA/SELA Conference in Greenville, S.C. Reading and literary-themed items from the Friends Corner Gift Shop were available for purchase to conference attendees, netting a profit of more than $1,000.

To connect with other library supporters across South Carolina, White joined the Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL) and began attending annual meetings. In 2015 she joined the board, volunteering on the Finance Committee and Meeting Committee. In April 2017 she was asked to serve the remaining term for the then President and officially offered her service for a full two-year term as president at the Annual Meeting on April 3, 2019.

White’s long-term personal goals are to continue to serve as director of the Friends of the Lexington Main Library and complete her term as President of the Friends of South Carolina Libraries, which ends in April 2021.

“I also hope to pursue further education by enrolling in USC Palmetto College and applying my two associates degrees towards a BA in organizational leadership,” says White.

When notified of her winning status, White replied, “I am honored to receive the 2019 United for Libraries/Thriftbooks Friends Conference Grant! I am thrilled to be representing the Friends of the Lexington Main Library and the Friends of South Carolina State Libraries.”

The United for Libraries/ThriftBooks Friend Conference Grant enables a person who is active in his or her public library Friends of the Library group to attend the ALA Annual Conference for the first time. The Conference Grant, made possible by a gift from ThriftBooks, is administered by United for Libraries. For more information, visit www.ala.org/united/grants-awards/friends/thriftbooks.

ThriftBooks takes great pride in sponsoring the United For Libraries/ThriftBooks Friend Conference Grant. ThriftBooks provides libraries an easy and convenient way to earn top dollar for their discarded and donated books while making a difference. With ThriftBooks, the #1 online used bookstore, libraries increase fundraising, promote literacy, and help save the environment. Groups provide the books and ThriftBooks does the rest! From the largest selection of used titles to collectibles and new releases, our mission is to put quality, affordable books into the hands of readers. For more information about ThriftBooks’ library program or to shop for great deals, visit www.thriftbooks.com/library.
Focus on Friends

Literacy Access Fund announces 2019 grant award to the Friends of Welles-Turner Memorial Library, Glastonbury, Conn.

Literacy Access Fund, a 501(c)(3), public charity, awarded a grant of $7,500 to the Friends of Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury, Conn. This award to the Friends group was made possible through partnership funding from the George H.C. Ensworth Memorial Fund. The grant will help fund the acquisition of state-of-the-art technology for young children and other library resources.

Melinda Smith, president of the Friends group executive board, noted the board’s gratitude to Literacy Access Fund for the award. “We are pleased to provide this funding opportunity to the library to increase their book collections and technology for brand new readers. It is important for students to find materials that they can confidently access to maintain reading skills over the summer months.”

“This funding will help us increase our collection of books for new readers and enhance our summer reading program,” said Barbara Bailey, director of the library. “Adding digital tablets will allow the children and their parents to work together in a quiet area, enhancing their early literacy skills that are the focus of our weekly Tinkerlab. This will also target brand new readers in kindergarten and first grade at the six Glastonbury elementary schools.”

Deborah B. Sorgi, Ed.D., chair, director, and president of Literacy Access Fund, shared her thoughts. “Literacy Access Fund is pleased to support the Friends of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library’s efforts to enhance literacy skills for young children. Ms. Bailey’s initiatives to add digital technology to enhance basic reading skills for the library’s youngest patrons is admirable and will help serve the Glastonbury community in a positive way.” Dr. Sorgi also noted, “We continue to identify and support underfunded public libraries to help their littlest members read and succeed in school and life.”

Literacy Access Fund secures funding from corporate, foundation, and individual partners in order to provide financial support to underfunded public libraries through a competitive granting process. The goal of the organization is to help libraries provide equal access to quality resources for young learners, regardless of economic factors.

For more information about Literacy Access Fund, visit www.literacyaccessfund.org or call (610) 833-6411.

About the Friends of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library

The Friends of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library promote a cultured and literary community by providing supplemental funding for the facilities and services of the Glastonbury public library. Activities over the past year include sponsorship of the library’s summer reading program, fundraising through book sales, purchases of books, CDs, and DVDs to augment the library’s collection, and more.

About Literacy Access Fund

The mission of Literacy Access Fund is to make literacy a possibility for every child, in every community. The organization supports the public library as a community learning hub and a vital extension of the classroom and awards grants to underfunded public libraries to increase equal access to early literacy skills for young learners. Literacy Access Fund is headquartered in Chester, Pa., with the ability to support public libraries across the United States.

For more information about statewide Friends of the Library groups, visit www.ala.org/united/friends/statefriends. To connect with other statewide Friends of the Library groups, join the United for Libraries statewide Friends email discussion list. Instructions can be found at www.ala.org/united/friends/states/electronic-discussion-group.
Friends of Vanderbilt Libraries hosts Antiquarian Book & Manuscript Roadshow

Friends of Vanderbilt Libraries hosted the Vanderbilt Libraries Antiquarian Book & Manuscript Roadshow on Nov. 7, 2018. Rare book professionals, librarians and conservators from across the country served as experts and appraisers for the many items brought to the Roadshow by guests.

Like the well-known PBS television program *Antiques Roadshow*, this Roadshow came complete with evaluations and a chance for local experts to share several particularly exciting finds with the crowd. The highlight of the evening came when one of the guests discovered his family heirloom, a Shakespeare book of poems from the 1700s, was estimated to be worth $20,000.

Upon entering the event, guests were encouraged to sign up to be a library Friend. Customized tote bags were handed out with information on rare book and manuscript conservation and research resources as well as a program detailing the goal of the Friends of Vanderbilt Libraries and information on how to join.

All advertising recognized the Friends as hosts of the event, and many Friends board members were able to attend. Posters advertising the event were distributed throughout the campus and in the community. More than 2,500 digital invitations were sent to Friends, donors, students, and university faculty and staff.

The evening also debuted the library’s “Adopt-a-Book” program which provides “adopters” with the chance to fund the conservation of books and manuscripts, and automatically enrolls them in the Friends group.

Before leaving the event guests were encouraged to attend the feedback booth, where they had the opportunity to be filmed as they told the story behind their object.

Topping off the evening was an appreciation dinner held in honor of the expert volunteers and Friends board members who contributed so much time to the Friends organization. The best measure of a successful event? Friends were asked multiple times whether they would be organizing the event again next year!
Citizens for Maryland Libraries announces Mary Lou Dewey Advocacy and Awareness Grants

Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML) is pleased to announce that six Mary Lou Dewey Advocacy and Awareness Grants will be awarded in 2019. Each recipient will receive a $500 grant to support projects through FY 2020. The recipients are:

**Dorchester County Public Library** to support All for One and Kindermusik for All. The library will use funds to establish a lending library of Kindermusik kits for individuals, families and small groups to use. The library will also provide demonstration classes to engage families in library programs. Fostering music skills at a young age improves the brain’s capacity for problem solving, vocabulary development and social skills. Geared for infants and toddlers, the kits will foster positive interaction between parents and children, open the door to enhanced brain development and increase school readiness.

**Friends and Foundation of Howard County Library System** to support a project to engage customers in history, literature and art, as part of a year-long Veteran’s Word partnership. Funds will support an event in November to engage middle school students in the history of the military’s first African American pilots. Author Carole Weatherford and illustrator Jeffery Weatherford will present their award-winning novel *You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen*. The event will feature an exhibit of original scratchboard illustrations created for the book. It will be held in the Elkridge Branch, which serves a middle school with a 35% African American student body. The A+ Partnership, a collaboration with Howard County Public Schools, will bus students to the library for the event. A challenge match from a fund held by the Friends is helping to raise funds to purchase a copy of the book for each middle school student.

**Friends of Calvert Library** to support the Healthy Beginnings outreach initiative in partnership with the Calvert County Health Department, which will assist pregnant women with substance abuse counseling, mental health services and assistance locating an obstetrician. Staff will invite women into the library to participate in storytimes and learn the important benefits of reading to children from birth. Each mother will receive a baby bag with information about child development, a board book and a onesie. The library has had a long history of providing baby bags to new mothers at Calvert Hospital. Healthy Beginnings will expand the initiative. The project will increase awareness of the library’s role in helping the community succeed.

**Friends of the Carroll County Public Library** to support Battle of the Books reading competition for fourth and fifth graders in elementary schools and sixth through eighth graders in middle school. Battle of the Books builds awareness of the importance of public and school libraries for students and families. Held in partnership with Carroll County Public Schools, the competition engages more than 1400 students, highlighting Maryland’s Black-Eyed Susan Award books. The Friends of CCPL supports Battle of the Books by raising funds to purchase a set of books for each of the nearly 200 participating teams. The Friends also sponsor a Battle of the Books Author Celebration, which provides the opportunity for students to meet two or more authors at an author talk and book signing event. At the nine Battle of the Books events held in high schools gymnasiums throughout the County, sponsors, area business owners and top government officials serve as event marshals, ring the bell to start the events and award medals.

**Friends of Queen Anne’s County Public Library** to support the expansion of the Adult Summer Reading Program. While the Children’s Summer Reading Program has long been a success, the Adult Summer Reading Program was first launched in 2017 with the goal of attracting new adult users to the library. In the summer of 2017, 449 adults participated. In 2018, participation nearly doubled to 797 adults. Increased awareness and participation was attributed to the grand prize of an electric guitar donated by PRS Guitars, a local guitar manufacturer located in the county. The Friends plan to expand the success and benefits of adult summer reading by offering a hot-air balloon ride around the Eastern Shore as the grand prize to support the program’s theme, A Universe of Stories. Friends and library leadership will work together to publicize the incentive via local media and social media networks. The goal is to increase Adult Summer Reading to 1200 participants and engage them in the many services the library offers.

**Wicomico Public Libraries** to support the creation of traveling displays to celebrate and promote the library’s impact in honor of its 150th Anniversary. The library staff, in partnership with local historians, is collecting images, stories, interesting facts and important milestones to create three traveling displays that will be taken to numerous community events throughout the year to increase awareness of library programs and services, and the benefit they bring to the community.

Mary Lou Dewey was a lifelong advocate for libraries. Ms. Dewey was a founding member and president of Citizens for Maryland Libraries. She was a member of the Maryland Library Association for nearly 50 years. She was the chief advocate for establishing the Carroll County Public Library in 1958, and served on the CCPL Board for many years. Ms. Dewey received the American Library Association Trustee Citation and was named to the ALA National Honor Roll. She died
Programs

St. Paul, Minn.
Metropolitan Library Services Agency (MELSA)’s Club Book program, a collaborative effort between eight library systems in the Twin Cities, pairs bestselling and award-winning authors with audiences. This year’s Club Book featured eight authors and ran from March 11 to May 7. Club Book is coordinated by Library Strategies and made possible through Minnesota’s Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

Maynard, Mass.
Friends of the Maynard Public Library held a screening of award-winning documentary The Land Between, an intimate insight into the hidden and desperate lives of sub-Saharan African migrants living in the mountains of northern Morocco. A discussion followed the screening on Thurs., March 28, at 6:30 p.m. Presented as part of the 8th Annual Maynard Book Festival.

Hollywood, Fla.
Friends of the Stirling Road Branch Library hosted Swapping Stories on May 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Friends and strangers were invited to gather to hear each other’s stories, meet and learn from others. Click on this link to sign up today: stirlinglibraryfriends@gmail.com. Presented as part of Broward County’s 10 Days of Connection.

Provincetown, Mass.
Provincetown Public Library held “Afternoon Coffee with the Town Manager” on Sat., March 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. Attendees gathered at the library for afternoon coffee, tea, and snacks with Town Manager David Panagore to say hello, ask a question, offer a comment, or share a concern.

Atlanta, Ga.
Friends of the Ponce Library held a “Sneak Peek” event Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. to prepare for the Library closing in June due to renovations. Residents were invited to the library for a “sneak peek” at design plans. The design/build team were also in attendance to answer questions and share plans for the renovation of the Ponce de Leon Library with guests.

June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month

New York, N.Y.
The New York Public Library commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, a staple of the LGBTQ civil rights movement, through a major exhibition, a series of programs, book recommendations, and more through their Love & Resistance: Stonewall 50 program. The exhibition runs through July 14.

Rochester, N.Y.
The Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library is presenting “Stonewall: 50 Years Out.” The exhibition will focus on Rochester’s significant role in the movement, most notably in passage of the New York State Marriage Equality Act in 2011. The free exhibition will be on view in Central Library’s Anthony Mascioli Gallery, 115 South Ave., through July 20 during regular library hours.

Ygnacio Valley, Calif.
Hosted by Northgate student Norman Feng, Walnut Creek Libraries presented a three-part seminar and panel discussion examining the everyday lives of queer high school youth. Attendees had the opportunity to listen to students talk about their experiences and learn about the importance of self-love, equality, and acceptance. Programs aimed at high school youth and presented free of charge.

Chapel Hill, N.C.
Friends of Chapel Hill Public Library hosted their Annual Membership Program with Aaron Keck, news anchor and host of The Aaron Keck Show on WCHL, and Library Director Susan Brown. The two guests co-hosted a special live presentation of the popular weekly radio program “Talkin’ Books.” During the program, the slate of Friends Board members and officers was revealed for voting. Event presented free for members.

Roslindale, Mass.
Friends of the Roslindale Branch Library offered “Spring Singing Lessons,” an 8-week series with Maire Clement, on Wednesdays in April and May from 3-4:30 p.m. Participants were taught Breathing, Projection, Lan-
guage, Expanding your range, Vocal Health, Resonance, How to Practice, Artistry and Performance Skills. Registration was required.

**Norfolk, Va.**

The Friends of Norfolk Public Library invited members and library patrons to enjoy “Tea With Mary P” during Women’s History Month in March. 48 guests were treated to a conversation with Peggy Haile McPhillips, Norfolk City Historian, who chronicled the life and contributions of Mary “Mary P” Denson Pretlow. Pretlow served 1917-1947 as Norfolk City Librarian, initiating the first public library in Virginia open to African American patrons, espoused support for neighborhood branch libraries, and much more.

**Hollywood, Fla.**

The Stirling Library Friends hosted the Stirling Circle Special Event on Sun., May 19. Wine Manager Michael Braun from Total Wines lectured on An Everyday Guide to Wines with a reception following. The event was free for Stirling Circle Members who support the library with a contribution of $50 or more.

**St. Paul, Minn.**

The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library hosted moderator Jeff Kamin’s unique take on a public book club show to Saint Paul with Books & Bars: *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah on May 7 at 6:30 p.m. No registration required.

**Maynard, Mass.**

The Friends of the Library offered library patrons a new museum pass for the Institute of Contemporary Art. The pass admits two people for $5 each for a discount of $20 total. Participants reserved passes online, and picked them up at the library.

**Toledo, Ohio**

Toledo Lucas County Public Library offers various “Countdown to Kindergarten” programs for children who will soon be enrolled in kindergarten. Countdown to Kindergarten is a kindergarten readiness storyline for kids and a program to inform parents of the skills that their children will need when beginning kindergarten. Participants who attend this event receive free safety scissors and a set of kindergarten skill cards.

**Marina, Calif.**

The Friends of the Marina Library hosted “Guitars Not Guns” Sunday April 14th from 1-3 p.m. Participants attended a free concert by the “Guitars Not Guns” group and enjoyed free refreshments and family fun.

**Book Sales**

**Chattanooga, Tenn.**

Friends of the Chattanooga Public Library hosted book sales from April 27-May 14. Saturday, May 11 was Half-Price Day; Sunday, May 12 was $5 Bag Day and Free to Teachers and Nonprofits Day; Monday, May 13 books were $1 a bag; and Tuesday, May 14 books were free to all patrons.

**Newbury Park, Calif.**

Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library held a Summer Reading Pop-Up Sale on Saturday, May 11th, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Newbury Park Library, with 9:30 early entry for Friends members. With the “Bag-O-Books” option, attendees could fill a bag of paperback books for just $5 to stock up on summer reading.

**Chapel Hill, N.C.**

Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library raised $23,405 for the Library during their Big Book Sale weekend. Proceeds gathered collectively from the sale of books and memberships, including memberships purchased to attend their Friday evening Sip & Shop event.

**Sudbury, Mass.**

The Friends of the Goodnow Library held their 2019 Book and Bake Sale on April 5 and 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Baked goods provided by volunteers.

**Columbus, Ohio**

The Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library held their semi-annual Big Book Sale, selling books and other library materials no longer suitable for the Library’s collection. Pre-sale offered for Friends members only. Proceeds support Columbus Metropolitan Library’s programs and services.

**Fundraisers**

**Walnut Creek, Calif.**

Walnut Creek Library Foundation held the 10th Annual Author’s Gala on Sat., April 27 at 6 p.m. The Gala featured a cocktail party with food and the opportunity to meet 22 Bay Area authors, as well as a dinner with the authors, including Paris Soiree. Proceeds benefit programs and collections for both the Walnut Creek Library and the Ygnacio Valley Library.

**Membership**

**San Francisco, Calif.**

In partnership with the Curran, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library were able to offer Friends members a 20% off discount to *The Jungle* showings at the Curran during through April 21. Bay Area critics called the show a “once-in-a-lifetime event not to be missed.”
Good Ideas from the Network: National Library Week activities

Many library Friends and Foundations across the country celebrated National Library Week (April 7-13, 2019) with special celebrations and events. Below is a selection. This year’s National Library Week theme was “Libraries = Strong Communities.” For more information about National Library Week, visit www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek.

**Tiverton, R.I.**
The Friends of Tiverton Libraries celebrated “Rhode Island Library Day” on April 13. Activities included fine forgiveness, a children’s bookmark craft, and Library Day t-shirt printing.

**Charleston, S.C.**
The Charleston Friends of the Library held “Books for Bier” on April 9 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Attendees were encouraged to bring a gently used book in exchange for a beer. Children who donated books received free root beer. The event also featured a silent auction and book sale.

**Philadelphia, Pa.**
On Sat., April 13, the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation held their annual Family Fest at the newly renovated Parkway Central Library from 4 to 6 p.m. Attendees were invited to enjoy crafts, storytelling, a kid-friendly buffet, and adult-friendly beverages. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the Free Library of Philadelphia.

**Aiken, S.C.**
Friends of the Aiken Library celebrated Staff Appreciation Day on April 9. Patrons were invited to give Library staff positive feedback on the hard work and effort that goes into creating programs for the Aiken Library.

**San Diego, Calif.**
The Friends of the San Diego Public Library celebrated 40 years of advocacy and library support in conjunction with National Library Week with a lecture and book signing led by bestselling author Cory Doctorow. Reservations acquired by pre-ordering a copy of Doctorow’s latest, *Radicalized*. Unreserved seating free and open to the public.

**Ashtabula, Ohio**
Harbor Topky and Kingsville Public Libraries have made the initiative to eliminate late fees for good in honor of National Library Week. Studies show a connection between eliminated fines and traffic increase in public libraries. Kingsville Public Library staff dressed as superheroes on Mon., April 8 to symbolize how removing late fees made them feel like heroes.

**Hennepin County, Minn.**
The Friends of Hennepin County invited local patrons to share their Library Story by emailing the library directly or sharing on social media with hashtag #MyHCL.

**New Ulm, Minn.**
On Wed., April 10 at 12 p.m. the New Ulm Public Library featured Dick Kimmel and Kelly Coyle as the musicians for Noon Tunes. Kimmel and Coyle play bluegrass music on guitar, mandolin, mountain dulcimer, and banjo.

**Boone, N.C.**
Watauga County Public Library placed a bookmark in books at the library. During National Library Week, patrons who found a bookmark had the option of either a Stick Boy Bread Co. free cookie coupon or $1 off of library fines. Sponsored by Western Watauga Friends and Stick Boy Bread Company.

**Athens, Ga.**
Friends of Athens-Clark County encouraged patrons to advocate for the library during National Library Week by contacting the local government representative in support of ACC Library’s 2020 SPLOST proposal to add a branch on the east side of Athens. The new facility would be a full-service library and a multigenerational community resource center, including meeting rooms, study rooms, children’s area, teen area, reading space, internet computers and a 21st-century creation space complete with digital and cutting-edge technology.

To submit an event or program to “Good Ideas From the Network” email united@ala.org.
Citizens for Maryland Libraries continued from page 16

In 2007, in honor of Ms. Dewey’s tireless efforts to enhance library service in Maryland for more than 50 years, CML established the Mary Lou Dewey Library Advocacy Fund to support projects that encourage citizens to use and support Maryland libraries.

CML members are eligible to apply for Mary Lou Dewey Advocacy and Awareness Grants. Individuals or groups not currently CML members may send their membership application and dues along with their entry. A proposal for a project must emphasize an increase in citizen awareness and involvement in Maryland libraries.

Chapter Advocacy Exchange webinar continued from page 3

into holistic statewide plans? 2018-2019 United for Libraries President Skip Dye discuss the enhanced role of the Friends of Delaware Libraries. Pat Hofmann, president of Citizens for Maryland Libraries, and Joseph Thompson, president of Maryland Library Association, discuss their partnership to advocate for the state’s libraries.

To view this webinar and additional Chapter Advocacy Exchange webinars, visit www.ala.org/advocacy/chapter-advocacy-exchange.
A new resource from ALA’s Public Programs Office is available for those whose book clubs need a little (or big) boost! *Book Club Reboot: 71 Creative Twists* by Stephanie Saba and Sarah Ostman, offers many creative and surprising ideas to help inspire book club organizers and leaders.

Saba is a community program supervisor at San Mateo County (Calif.) Libraries who has been working with book clubs of all types for many years now. As a committee member of ALA’s Public and Cultural Programs Advisory Committee, she developed the idea of a book for those who work with and coordinate book clubs. Ostman, communications manager of ALA’s Public Programs Office, was brought on board, as her experience as a journalist and freelance writer would make a good writing partner.

There are a lot of book clubs around, but the number is hard to pin down. In 2014, *The New York Times* estimated that 5 million people are part of a book club. I would guess that the number is even higher today, as celebrities and social media influencers have joined in the book club bandwagon. In a recent report on book clubs by BookBrowse, their survey responses revealed that 74% of book clubs were considered private while 26% were public with the majority of those meeting in public libraries.

After the green light was given to Saba and Ostman for this project, they then created a master timeline and set up a bi-weekly phone call schedule. Next up was to create a Survey Monkey with questions related to book clubs. This was sent out via their built-in communications channels and listservs. They received 250 submissions!

Ostman shared that “vetting through the submissions was a lot of work but very enjoyable. There were so many fun and creative ideas.” There were also some that were similar so the need to create sub-genres was necessary. In the end, they included 71 “twisty” ideas in their book, grouped in six categories.

Some of their favorites (you can read more about them in the book) are:

- **The Boneyard Bookworms** — They actually meet in a cemetery and — no surprise here — their book choices tend to feature death themes.
- **The Bushwick Book Club Seattle**, who perform original music inspired by the book club choice.
- **The Autism Society of Minnesota**, or AuSM (pronounced “awesome”) book club coordinated through the library and partners with a local special education teacher with expertise in autism.

I learned that not only has Saba had years of experience with different types of book clubs throughout her library career, but she and her mother have been reading and sharing books since her teens. She recalls some of her favorites have been *The One and Only Ivan* and Nicholas Sparks books. She said they still do this years later.

Ostman told me that she has attempted to get a girlfriend book club started, but has not had success. She said members would forget the meeting day and time and eventually would drop out. Or when they did meet, the conversation would go off track as no one took the role as the leader.

I know a good resource that I can highly recommend to you! *Book Club Reboot* is available to purchase from the ALA Store at [https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/book-club-reboot-71-creative-twists](https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/book-club-reboot-71-creative-twists).

Meet Stephanie Saba and Sarah Ostman at the Book Club Central panel “How to Book Club” at the ALA Annual Conference on Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
The Most Fun We Ever Had
by Claire Lombardo

Meet the Sorensen brothers of Oak Park, Ill. Marilyn owns the hardware store (a mid-life decision that turned out to be spot-on). David has recently retired from his family medicine practice. They are still madly in love after four decades. Their four daughters are grown but still an integral part of their hearts and their lives.

Wendy, the eldest, was widowed in her early 30s when her millionaire husband died of cancer. She lives in a high-rise on Chicago’s Gold Coast. Philanthropy occupies only some of her time. Being the bossy big sister has always been her role.

Violet, born 11 months later, is an attorney-turned-mom, married to another (very successful) attorney. They are raising their two sons in a leafy North Shore suburb.

Liza is the academic. Her PhD in psychology did not prepare her to deal with her partner, a deeply depressed underachiever who spends his days playing video games. They could split up, but now Liza is pregnant.

Grace is the youngest by nine years. She escaped her loving but smothering family by going to Oregon. She’s trying, not very successfully, to live independently. She’s barely getting by. Her defense is to squash her self-esteem.

The arrival of a new family member makes waves for all of the Sorensen sons. Fifteen-year-old Jonah turns up when his foster family can no longer take care of him. He is Violet’s son from a one-night stand. Wend helped Violet the pregnancy and put the baby up for adoption. Jonah is a good kid who is trying to do the best he can with his heretofore unknown grandparents and aunts. A near-fatal accident proves the strong Sorenson family ties.

Claire Lombardo perfectly captures the frequently messy, often contentious, and always-loving dynamic of a contemporary family. She deftly manages multiple points of view. Chapters that alternate between the present day and the past build the story to a hopeful conclusion.


-Nann Blaine Hilyard

Nann Blaine Hilyard retired in 2014 after a 39-year career administering small- and medium-sized public libraries in Texas, Kansas, Maine, North Dakota, and Illinois. She has served on many ALA and division committees, including the Executive Board and Council. She is currently president-elect of the Retired Members Round Table.

Daisy Jones & The Six

Taylor Jenkins Reid

In the early-to-mid-1970s, American pop music entered a drowsy period of prog/glambfolk/soft-rock and heavy metal, a spell only sporadically broken until the arrival of punk and disco. Into this specific historical moment of musical malaise Taylor Jenkins Reid has sent her winsome and supercharged rock diva Daisy Jones to make the guitar boys drool and the groupie girls jealous, and forever change the history of rock-n-roll in her new novel Daisy Jones & The Six.

Perfect for beach reading, Reid’s new page-turner will thrill her devoted fans. Beautiful, sexy, willful, and gifted Daisy Jones just wants to sing her own songs, but the world is conspiring to kill her soul and make her a big rock star on their own terms. Fate steers her into the fold of a middling okay blues-rock band calling itself The Six. A stormy hot-and-cold relationship with Billy Dunne, the leader of The Six, ultimately yields one of the Greatest Rock Albums of All Time. Adventures on and off the tour ensue and complicated relationships abound, but hey, it’s a rock band.

This story is told with such pains-taking realism that readers might sneak a peek at Wikipedia to see if we somehow missed the biggest band of the 1970s. We did not: they were called Fleetwood Mac and this is something similar to the Stevie Nicks/Lindsey Buckingham story. Reid knows her audience and it is a stroke of marketing genius to know that her readers are probably also Stevie fans. To the author’s credit, however, Daisy rises above a Stevie Nicks clone and becomes more like a collage of Hall of Fame Women Rockers, including Grace Slick, Chrisie Hynde, Deborah Harry, and even a dash of the free-spirited L.A. writer Eve Babitz thrown in for good measure.

The tropes crowd the stage like a Grammy finale: the good-hearted women and their good-timing men, the band on the run, the sisters doing it for themselves, the needle and the damage done, etc. But no one will mind and none of it detracts from the obvious research and meticulous attention to detail about the music industry that went into the novel. Reid is a thoughtful and earnest writer and, no surprise, Daisy Jones & The Six isn’t so much a book about music as it is a book about men and women and the balance of power between them. This is a good choice for readers looking for an engaging story with an edgy heroine and a setting that is familiar, fast-moving, and dangerous, even if not all that much is really at stake.

Ballantine Books/Penguin Random House: 9781524798628; $27.

-Mark Smith

Mark Smith has over 35 years of experience in the library field in three states and in a variety of library settings. Since November 2013, he has served as the home state of Texas as state librarian at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. He holds a bachelor of arts in English and a master’s in library science from the University of Texas at Austin.
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