TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS

HOSTED VIRTUALLY ON WHOVA
OCTOBER 12-15

www.arlib.org
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The Executive Board of Arkansas Library Association made the decision in early 2021 to continue with a virtual conference for October as predictions were the restrictions for gathering would just be beginning to be lifted around that time. The Conference Committee decided to work with the conference platform company Whova to host this 2021 ARLA Conference. This is an amazing platform with so many features that will help you network with your peers, attend sessions that are livestreamed or recorded, and network or join in games/contests plus our usual ARLA events like Trivia Night and the Basket Auction. There are breaks for yoga and other mindfulness moments daily and Hangouts, Photo contests, and skits. The Exhibition will feature different types of advertising and special deals.

When you log in as an attendee, you want to set up your profile and find your friends first then explore the possibilities. Say hi to friends, make comments or answer discussion questions and watch your name go up on the Leaderboard. Then set up your own schedule of sessions to participate in. Most sessions are livestreamed using Zoom embedded. You do have to login with the email that you registered with.

The first 200 to register will receive a conference tee shirt that is heather gray with the ARLA logo and the logo of our sponsor. These will be distributed through the public libraries around the state, and you will be notified where to go to pick up your shirt. Glancing at the schedule, you will notice that the Communities of Interest are meeting on Tuesday, October 12 and some ARLA committees. Our keynotes will speak each day the rest of the week. We are happy to announce the keynote speakers for ARLA 2021 are Kieran Hixon of Colorado State Library and past president of Small and Rural Libraries; Arkansas Authors ----John Hornor Jacobs, Talya Tate Boerner, Kat Robinson, & Joe David Rice plus Patty Wong, 2021 ALA President.
Welcome to #ArLA2021!

I hope that everyone is doing well and is as excited about this year’s ArLA conference as I am! The past year has undoubtedly presented a number of serious challenges, but you and your colleagues have navigated these past twelve months with dedication and persistence, proving, as we all know, just how essential libraries and library personnel are to our communities. Now, I urge you all to pause - take a moment to set aside all the struggles and all the chaos - and immerse yourself in a conference experience that will hopefully prove refreshing and valuable for you and your libraries.

You and your colleagues have gone above and beyond in volunteering to share your wisdom, experience, and expertise. We have a fantastic lineup of speakers and sessions, and although the decision was made to persevere with virtual delivery again this year, I am happy to report that this year’s event continues to promise the same value that we all appreciate with each and every conference.

The Conference Committee deserves the highest of praises. When it became clear earlier this spring that the persistent pressure of the pandemic would force another virtual event, each member of the committee took the transition in stride, made adjustments, and resolved to continue the planning effort like the professionals they are. Without all of your hard work we would not be offering a conference this year, and your dedication, creativity, and service is so very much appreciated. Give yourselves a round of applause!

Also – many thanks to those responsible for putting together this wonderful conference program and publication. In these pages you will find everything that you need to know about this year’s conference, from committee meetings to conference sessions to the plans for trivia night. I hope that you take full advantage of the opportunities and offerings identified here, and join me in thanking the Conference Committee, the session presenters, and everyone else who selflessly donated their time and energy into making this conference possible.

Towards New Horizons!

Philip C. Shackelford, President
CONFERENCE INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

The Arkansas Library Association's annual conference for 2021 will be held virtually on October 12-15, 2021. Preconference begins on October 12th and the cost is included in the registration fee. Register for the conference at arlib.org/conference.

- **ArLA Member - Individual Conference Registration** - $75
- **Non-Member - Individual Conference Registration** - $100
- **Institutional/Bulk Conference Rate** - $200

(Bulk rate is limited to 10 individuals, libraries can purchase multiple bulk registrations in order to send 10+ people to conference.)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Rachel Shankles, Chair & Pres-Elect  Tina Murdock  Jillana Heard
Phillip Shackelford, President  Tonya Ryals  Amanda Bashaw
Ron Russ  John McGraw  Darby Wallace
Crystal Gates, Past President  Jeff Whittingham
Susie Kirk  Jessica Riedmueller
Britt Anne Murphy  Becky Fischer

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Contact Rachel Shankles at 501.276.4949 and/or email at shankles08@gmail.com or Ron Russ rsrusse@asub.edu for technical difficulties with the app or help with Zoom.
The Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) 2021 annual conference is presented virtually via Whova. Attendees may access Whova through a website or an app. Whova is compatible with some, but not all, screen readers. In the interest of improving accessibility to the conference in a virtual environment, we have provided a tip sheet for attendees and a list of recommendations for presenters. It is our goal to ensure that virtual events include captions. If you have questions or concerns, please email jriedmueller@uca.edu.

LIVE BASKET AUCTION ON ZOOM @ 12PM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
PRESIDENT: Phillip Shackelford
VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT: Rachel Shankles
TREASURER: Lynn Valetutti
TREASURER-ELECT: Kathleen Ashmore
SECRETARY: Janice Weddle
SELA REPRESENTATIVE: Emily Rozario

ALA COUNCILOR: Lacy Wolfe
PAST PRESIDENT ELECT: Crystal Gates
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Amber Wilson
MEMBERS AT LARGE: Carol Coffey Nithin Lakshmana Ronald Russ Jennifer Wann

EXECUTIVE BOARD
• Do you need any type of accommodation? Please email jriedmuellereuca.edu.
• Get to know the platform in advance! Take some time before the conference begins to check out the event space, learn how to access sessions, check audio, and read the attendee guide.
• Access to JAWS is available at the University of Central Arkansas in their capacity as a regional hub location. Please email jriedmuellereuca.edu or call 501-450-5233 to arrange access.
• To minimize distractions, block off time in your schedule for events you plan to attend. If appropriate/necessary, shut your door or wear headphones.
• Prepare yourself technologically by having your devices and chargers nearby. Close unnecessary tabs/windows and turn off your notifications on your phone and computer.
• When you enter a live session, make sure that your mic is muted. You can double check this by hovering your cursor over the microphone icon on the bottom left of your screen. There should be a line through it to indicate that it is muted; click the icon to toggle the mic off and on. Unless you are speaking, please keep your microphone muted throughout the session.
• If it’s available and helpful to you, fidget! Many find it helpful to keep their eyes or hands occupied during virtual events so take notes, crochet/knit, use a fidget spinner, read the captions, anything that works for you.
• Make sure to leave time for snacks, meals, and breaks.
• Feel free to move around if that’s available to you! Stretch, stand, or even take a break to go outside for some healthy activity.
• Unless the presenter states otherwise, please leave your questions to the end of the presentation to help limit distractions. If the session is recorded, please direct your question to the contact information provided by the presenter.
• Anxious about virtual networking? Challenge yourself to attend at least one virtual networking activity. Prepare yourself beforehand by brushing off your elevator pitch, a session or keynote you’re excited to watch, or sharing something you have learned at the conference.
• Schedule time to review your notes. Make appointments to share what you learned with colleagues.

TIPS FOR ARLA 2021 ATTENDEES
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

KIERAN HIXON

Kieran Hixon is a former Association for Rural & Small Libraries President, Outstanding in Their Field Leadership Institute Project Lead, and Technology and Digital Initiatives Consultant for the Colorado State Library. Kieran has over 10 years of experience offering professional development, both in-person and online, for rural libraries throughout the United States. Kieran Hixon is passionate about rural libraries and is known for his high energy, humorous stories, and insightful examples when providing instruction.

JOHN HORNOR JACOBS

John Hornor Jacobs is the award-winning author of Southern Gods, This Dark Earth, the young adult Incarcerado series, The Incorruptibles trilogy, and A Lush and Seething Hell. His fiction and essays have appeared in Playboy Magazine, Huffington Post, and CBSWeekly. He’s been shortlisted for the Shirley Jackson Award, Bram Stoker Award, the Gemmell Award, the Morningstar, and World Fantasy Awards. Jacobs resides in the American South and spends his free time when not working on his next book thinking about working on his next book.

JOE DAVID RICE

Last but not least is AR author Joe David Rice, well-known and respected resource on all things Arkansas. An accomplished promoter of the state as a “must-see-and-experience” destination, Rice served as Arkansas’s tourism director for thirty years, working under five governors. He is the author of Arkansas Backstories, the two-volume series of the quirky facts about the state. Rice was born in Paragould and was raised in Jonesboro and now resides in An Undercurrent of Murder, a mystery thriller set in the Ozark Mountains. He enjoys exploring the Arkansas countryside by foot, canoe, or car, and unearthing those lesser-known tidbits that make the Natural State special. His session will be on Friday.
Kat Robinson is Arkansas’s food historian and most enthusiastic road warrior. The Little Rock-based author is the host of the Emmy-nominated documentary Make Room For Pie: A Delicious Slice of The Natural State and the Arkansas PBS show Home Cooking with Kat and Friends. She is a member of the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame committee, a co-chair of the Arkansas Pie Festival, and the Arkansas fellow to the National Food and Beverage Museum.

She has written nine books on food, most notably Arkansas Food: The A to Z of Eating in The Natural State, an alphabetic guide to the dishes, delights and food traditions that define her home state. Her two most recent travel guides, 101 Things to Eat in Arkansas Before You Die and 102 More Things to Eat in Arkansas Before You Die define the state’s most iconic and trusted eateries. Robinson’s Another Slice of Arkansas Pie: A Guide to the Best Restaurants, Bakeries, Truck Stops and Food Trucks for Delectable Bites in The Natural State outlines more than 400 places to find the dessert, an extraordinary accomplishment that took thousands of miles, hundreds of hours and so many bites to properly document and catalogue.

Her most recent work is A Bite of Arkansas: A Cookbook of Natural State Delights, which offers 140 recipes and stories from her own experiences, presented with the dishes she shares made by and photographed herself. She also recently edited and contributed to 43 Tables: An Internet Community Dines During Quarantine.

Her work has appeared in regional and national publications including Food Network, Forbes Travel Guide, Serious Eats, and AAA Magazines, among others. Her expertise in food research and Arkansas restaurants has been cited by Saveur, Eater, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Outline, and the Southern Foodways Alliance’s Gravy podcast, for her skills and talents related to food research and documentation.

Her efforts have been celebrated in articles by Arkansas Good Roads, Arkansas Business and the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. She has served as the keynote speaker for the South Arkansas Literary Festival and has spoken before the Arkansas Library Association and at the Six Bridges Literary Festival, Eureka Springs Books in Bloom and the Fayetteville True Lit Festival.

While she writes on food and travel subjects throughout the United States, she is best known for her ever-expanding knowledge of Arkansas food history and restaurant culture, all of which she explores on her 1200+ article website, TieDyeTravels.com. She is also the host of the podcast Kat Robinson’s Arkansas.

Robinson’s journeys across Arkansas have earned her the title "road warrior," "traveling pie lady," and probably some minor epithets. Few have spent as much time exploring The Natural State, or researching its cuisine."The Girl in the Hat" has been sighted in every one of Arkansas’s 75 counties, oftentimes sliding behind a menu or peeking into a kitchen.

Kat lives with daughter Hunter and partner Grav Weldon in Little Rock.
TALYA TATE BOERNER

As the daughter of an Arkansas farmer, Talya grew up playing in the cotton fields of Mississippi County while perfecting the art of making mudpies. After high school, she attended college at Baylor University, graduating with an economics degree primarily because her Daddy said, “If I’m paying for college, you’ll get a business degree.” So that’s what she did.

For nearly thirty years, Talya lived in Dallas, built a successful banking career, married, raised two incredible children and enjoyed life—all the while planning to someday return to Arkansas.

In 2011, after an “aha” moment, (the topic of her forthcoming memoir, Gene, Everywhere) she left banking to pursue her dream of writing. Now she lives in Fayetteville with her husband, John, and two miniature schnauzers, Lucy and Annabelle. Her family still farms in the Arkansas Delta.

Talya’s debut novel, The Accidental Salvation of Gracie Lee, was released in January 2016. Although the story is fiction, the characters and setting will be familiar and relatable, especially to those with southern roots, less-than-perfect families, and questions about life in general. The Second Edition of The Accidental Salvation of Gracie Lee is now available – complete with illustrations!

Talya is a contributor to Arkansas Farm Bureau’s Front Porch Magazine where she writes a regular column, Delta Child. Her short stories, essays, and micro-fiction have been published in Arkansas Review, Ponder Review, and other print and on-line journals. She shares stories of farm, food, garden, and life on her personal blog, Grace Grits and Gardening. Follow her on Goodreads too!

PATTY WONG

Patricia “Patty” Wong is President of the American Library (ALA) for the 2021-2022 term. Wong is the first Asian-American to serve as a president of ALA. Wong is the City Librarian for the Santa Monica Public Library, in service since March 2017. In her 34-year career she held positions throughout CA at Yolo County Library, Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library, Oakland Public Library and Berkeley Public Library, and Oakland Unified School District and has been a bookseller during her student life. Her work in managing change, equity and diversity, youth development, developing joint ventures and collaborations between public libraries and community agencies, and fundraising has been published in a number of journals, conference proceedings and edited collections.

Ms. Wong has worked as a school librarian, children’s librarian, cataloger, and special librarian as well as her leadership roles in public libraries. She provides continuing education for practitioners at national and regional conferences. Patty has been an active leader within the American Library Association for 35 years. She is a Library Journal Mover and Shaker, recipient of the ALA Equality Award (2012), Faculty of the Year, and Woman of the Year in her voting district. In addition to her role as board member for a number of nonprofit institutions, Ms. Wong is also adjunct faculty for the iSchool at San Jose State University where she has taught hundreds of students since 2004 to serve young people and write grants to benefit local and regional communities and make the world a better place.
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Colleges and University Librarians of AR(Cular) Meeting</td>
<td>Academic Library Community of Interest Meeting</td>
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<td>Public Libraries and Trustees Meeting</td>
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<td>AR Library Paraprofessionals Meeting</td>
<td>Public Libraries &amp; Trustees</td>
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<td>Eat, Read, and Be Cozy: Bookish Delights Fall and Winter</td>
<td>Public Libraries &amp; Trustees</td>
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<td>PR &amp; Marketing Meeting</td>
<td>Community of Interest Meeting</td>
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<td>Public Libraries and Trustees Meeting</td>
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<td>Reference and Instruction Services (RISCI) Meeting</td>
<td>Community of Interest Meeting</td>
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<td>Mental and Emotional Lives of Library Workers (MELW) Meeting</td>
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<td>Making AR Libraries Accessible (MARLA) Meeting</td>
<td>Emotional Wellness</td>
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<td>Membershiip Involvement Meeting</td>
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<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>MELW Break for Self Care</td>
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<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Virtual Hangout and Exhibition Time</td>
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<td>Opening Session: Presidential Address</td>
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<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Keynote: Variations on a Theme</td>
<td>AR Author Track</td>
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<td>Seeing Your Library Through Your Patron’s Eyes</td>
<td>Public Libraries &amp; Trustees</td>
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<td>Greg Peverill-Cont &amp; Adam Zand</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Keynote: Writing Inspiration and the Importance of Literary Citizenship</td>
<td>Author Track</td>
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<td>Talya Tate Boerner</td>
<td>School Libraries &amp; Youth Services</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Danger Zone: Burnout- Understanding Stress and Harnessing the Power of Mindset</td>
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<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Community of School Librarians and Library Educators (COSLE) Meeting</td>
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<td>ENCOURAGING CREATIVES</td>
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<td>THE COPYRIGHT CONUNDRUM: PRACTICAL ANSWERS FOR REAL LIFE QUESTIONS</td>
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<td>ONLINE TOOLS FOR THE REFERENCE DESK</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>HELPING FROM HOME: A NEW TWIST ON TEENS VOLUNTEERING AT THE LIBRARY</td>
<td>PUBLIC LIBRARIES &amp; TRUSTEES, SCHOOL LIBRARIES &amp; YOUTH SERV.</td>
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<td>APPLYING CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSING</td>
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<td>CHILDREN'S BOOK READING-CARTWHEELS: FINDING YOUR SPECIAL KIND OF SMART</td>
<td>AUTHOR TRACK, SCHOOL LIBRARIES &amp; YOUTH SERV.</td>
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<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>KEYNOTE: AUTHOR JOE DAVID RICE ON ARKANSAS BACKSTORIES</td>
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<td>UP NEXT: ENSURING A LEADERSHIP PIPELINE WITH SUCCESSION PLANNING</td>
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<td>THE MANY USES OF SMORE</td>
<td>SCHOOL LIBRARIES &amp; YOUTH SERV.</td>
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<td>INTERACTIVE TOOLS FOR ENGAGING LEARNERS IN A LIVE-STREAMING ENVIRONMENT: A COMMUNITY COLLEGE VIEW</td>
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<td>SHAWNA THORUP, NIHIN LAKSHMANA, LESLIE REWIS</td>
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<td>GETTING TO KNOW ASSISTIVE AND ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>HOW TO EFFECTIVELY MARKET YOUR LIBRARY WHEN YOUR BUDGET IS FREE</td>
<td>ACADEMIC LIBRARY/2 YR COLLEGE PUBLIC LIBRARIES &amp; TRUSTEES, SCHOOL LIBRARIES &amp; YOUTH SERV.</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>MAKER SPACE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>PUBLIC LIBRARIES &amp; TRUSTEES, SCHOOL LIBRARIES &amp; YOUTH SERV.</td>
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<td>PARTNERING TO OFFER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS FOR OLDER ADULTS</td>
<td>PUBLIC LIBRARIES &amp; TRUSTEES, SCHOOL LIBRARIES &amp; YOUTH SERV.</td>
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<td>NOAH LENSTRA, FRAN FISHER</td>
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# Schedule: Wednesday, October 13

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<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Emotional Wellness</td>
<td>Amanda More</td>
<td>5:25 PM</td>
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<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Trivia Night Live on Zoom</td>
<td>Amber Wilson</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
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# Schedule: Thursday, October 14

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Visit the Vendors and Sponsors</td>
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<td>8:45 AM</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Open Software for Researchers for All (Most) Ages</td>
<td>Academic / 2 Yr College</td>
<td>9:45 AM</td>
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<td>Getting the Word Out: Promoting Your Library</td>
<td>Academic / 2 Yr College</td>
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<td>Arkansas Diamond Primary Award</td>
<td>Public Libraries &amp; Trustees</td>
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<td>School Libraries &amp; Youth Services</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Harry Potter and Library Law</td>
<td>Academic / 2 Yr College</td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
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<td>Crystal Queer: Creating Clearly Supportive and Inclusive Libraries for All Communities</td>
<td>Academic / 2 Yr College</td>
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<td>School Libraries &amp; Youth Services</td>
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<td>The Charlie May Simon Award</td>
<td>Public Libraries &amp; Trustees</td>
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<td>School Library &amp; Youth Services</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Keynote: Traveling with Kat</td>
<td>Author Track Keynote</td>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
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<td>From One-Shot Classroom Instruction to OER Textbook Adoption</td>
<td>Academic / 2 Yr College</td>
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<td>I Conducted a Survey, Now What? Using an Affinity Diagram for Useful Results</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>ARLA AWARDS</td>
<td>ALLIE STEVENS</td>
<td>12:40 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:40 PM</td>
<td>MELLW BREAK FOR YOGA</td>
<td>LISA UNDERWOOD FULLER</td>
<td>12:55 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>THE BAKING COACH SHOWCASE</td>
<td>LISA BASINI, PAULA MAHLER</td>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PRESS RELEASES FOR THE LIBRARY: HOW TO GET COVERAGE IN THE STACKS</td>
<td>JORDAN REYNOLDS</td>
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<td>INSPIRATION TO PUBLICATION: TWENTY-ONE LIBRARIES, TWO ARTISTS, ONE BOOK</td>
<td>DON HOUSE, SABINE SCHMIDT, ALLIE STEVENS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>YOU ARE BETTER THAN YOU: OVERCOMING IMPOSTOR SYNDROME IN THE WORKPLACE</td>
<td>Gwyneth Jelinek</td>
<td>2:45 PM</td>
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<td>ONWARD AND UPWARD: REBUILDING MORALE IN A COVID-WEARY LIBRARY</td>
<td>TIFFANY HOUGH, PAUL KAGEBEIN, FAITH PARISH</td>
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<td>UNDER THE SEA: A VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB WITH BOOKS CONNECTED TO SEA LIFE</td>
<td>JEFF WHITTINGHAM, DR. ERIN SHAW, KEVIN POWELL, AMY EARLS THOMPSON</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>YOU CAN MAKE GREAT VIDEOS: RECORDING VIRTUAL PROGRAMS</td>
<td>SARA STUART, AMBER HEARD</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
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<td>THIS IS THE WAY: TIPS AND TRICKS TO NAVIGATE THE LIBRARY SOCIAL MEDIA</td>
<td>SUSIE KIRK, ROBIN CAMPBELL, JOY DUPONT, MANDY BASHAW, STEWART FEUILL</td>
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<td>TEEN SYNERGY SESSION</td>
<td>RUTH HYATT</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>RPL: LET US PICK YOUR NEXT READ</td>
<td>ACADEMIC / 2 YR COLLEGE, PUBLIC LIBRARY &amp; TRUSTEES</td>
<td>4:45 PM</td>
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<td>ACCESSIBILITY OF ALL: MITIGATE LEARNING LOSS WITH YOUTH LARGE PRINT</td>
<td>DIVERSITY &amp; INCLUSION, SCHOOL LIBRARY &amp; YOUTH SERVICES</td>
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<td>ART IN THE LIBRARY</td>
<td>JERICA HEATH, STEPHANIE SWEENEY</td>
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<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Last Chance to Visit the Vendors and Sponsors</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>ALA: Changes and Updates</td>
<td>Academic / 2 yr College</td>
<td>9:45 AM</td>
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<td>Stress Reduction: Purpose, Relaxation, and Joy</td>
<td>Emotional Wellness</td>
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<td>BITMOJI Library</td>
<td>Public Libraries &amp; Trustees</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Creating a Library Disaster Plan: Crucial Measures to Implement</td>
<td>School Libraries &amp; Youth Serv.</td>
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<td>An Adventure at Crystal Bridges</td>
<td>School Libraries &amp; Youth Serv.</td>
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<td>Museum of American Art</td>
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<td>Libraria’s Calling—Bringing Adventure to Student Peer Training</td>
<td>Academic / 2 yr College</td>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
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<td>Academic Libraries and Athletics: The Latest Research on Long-Term</td>
<td>A. Blake Denton</td>
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<td>Marketing and Development Partnerships</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Mastering Virtual Programming</td>
<td>Public Library &amp; Trustees</td>
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<td>School Library &amp; Youth Serv.</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>110 Years of the Arkansas Library Association</td>
<td>Academic / 2 yr College</td>
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<td>Public Library &amp; Trustees</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>ARLA Business Meeting</td>
<td>Patty Wong</td>
<td>1:50 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Bylaws Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Janice Weddle</td>
<td>2:45 PM</td>
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NOMINATING FOR 2022 OFFICERS

CRYSTAL GATES, NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR
RUNNING FOR ALA COUNSELOR

This year has flown by, and it is time to elect new officers to represent on ArLA’s Executive Board. Current elections include four members-at-large, ALA Councilor, and President-Elect. Our candidates this year are all involved in numerous professional associations. For ease of reading, the following are common acronyms: American Library Association (ALA); Advocates for All Arkansas Libraries (AAAL); Southeastern Library Association (SELA); Central Arkansas Library System (CALS); University of Central Arkansas (UCA); and Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).

The ALA Councilor serves a three year term representing ArLA and the ALA members in Arkansas in accordance with ALA guidelines. Crystal Gates, Executive Director for William F. Laman Public Library System, has been nominated for ALA Councilor. For over ten years, Crystal has served in various roles for professional associations including ArLA, SELA, AAAL, and, most recently, ALA. Crystal completes her term as ArLA Past President this year and is currently the SELA President-Elect and AAAL Treasurer. She was recently appointed to the ALA Membership Committee and ALA Chapter Relations Committee for 2021–2023, and continues to serve on the ArLA Strategic Planning Committee. Crystal earned an M.A. in History from Louisiana Tech University and an MLIS from Louisiana State University. She relocated from Louisiana to Arkansas in 2015 and lives in Austin with her husband, children, and Gamer and Honey, who can be found in ArLA’s 2021 Pets of ArLA calendar. Her passions include staff development, strategic planning, reading, spending time with family, and traveling.

CAROL COFFEY RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

The President-Elect serves a three-year term as President-Elect, President, and Past President. Carol Coffey has been nominated in accordance with our informal practice of rotating the presidency among the various library types. Carol is the Patron Experience & Library Analytics Coordinator at the Central Arkansas Library System. 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 Board. She writes a regular column on management issues for Arkansas Libraries and geeks out over all things library. When she’s not working, Carol loves to read history and British mysteries, garden, and travel.
Members at Large are elected to represent the entire Arkansas Library Association membership. In addition to attending Board meetings, members-at-large serve in liaison roles between the Board and Communities of Interest. This year, we have eleven candidates for four positions, each position serving a one-year term.

SARAH JEFFERSON, SCHOOL

Sarah Jefferson is a lifelong bibliophile and has known even from a young age that she wanted to be a librarian. She spent her first seven years in education teaching second grade, where her greatest joy was fostering a love of reading in her students. Since receiving her graduate degree from the University of Central Arkansas in 2016, she has been living the dream as the Library Media Specialist at Flippin High School.

SIMONE KIRK, PUBLIC/ALPS

Growing up to be a certified bookseller in Germany and acquiring a European Master’s Degree in Literature & Publishing/Marketing, Simone Kirk 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 in this very rural area of the States, she became the 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, is still active as an ALPS Regional Representative for Region 9, and also served as ALPS Chair in 2018.

SUSIE KIRK, ACADEMIC/ALPS

Susie Kirk is the Library Outreach and Instruction Assistant at Henderson State University’s Huie Library. Susie has worked in academic and public libraries since 2011. She has served as the chair of the ArLA Marketing Committee for several years. In addition to the Marketing Committee, Susie has served as a member on the Awards committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Conference Committee. She is a member of the Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals Community of Interest. This year she founded the Social Media and Marketing Community of Interest – that aims to bring together library social media and marketing workers to share ideas in order to better promote our state’s libraries. Susie also organized and designed the 2021 Pets of ArLA calendar to help raise money for the association.
AMY MCGOHAN, ACADEMIC

Amy McGohan has been the Electronic Resources Librarian at Harding University since 2015. Prior to her current position, Amy has worked in the libraries of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville, UCA, and the Tulsa Public Library System. She has previously been Chair of the Resources and Technical Services Division of ArLA, and has served on the Nomination Committee, Conference Committee, Scholarship Committee, OER Task Force, and Management Company Task Force. She is currently the Electronic Resources Committee Chair for ARKLink, handling consortial purchasing for almost 50 academic libraries in the state. (Academic)

JOHN MCGRAW, PUBLIC

A native of Conway, John McGraw received his first library card at the Faulkner County Library in Conway when he was about six years old and heavily into Beverly Cleary. He graduated from Hendrix College in 1992 with a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy, and received his MLIS degree from the University of Alabama in 2008.

John is proud to serve as the Regional Director of the Faulkner-Van Buren Regional Library System. He has previously been employed as a Student Supervisor in the University of New Mexico’s Zimmerman Library, as Branch Manager of the Sid McMath Library in Little Rock, and as Manager of Reference Services for CALS. John previously served as ArLA Chair of the Public Libraries Division and is currently the Vice President of AAAL. He lives in the woods with his wife, his beasts, and two children.

JANINE MILLER, SPECIAL

Janine Jamison-Miller has worked in public libraries for the past 13.5 years through 3 different library systems: Pine Bluff-Jefferson County Library System, Fort Smith Public Library, and Saline County Library. Janine has a working knowledge and has worked throughout the years in virtually every capacity and role a public library has to offer from being on the front lines, to working behind the scenes, to being a community advocate and outreach, to being a branch manager, to being a part of library administration. Janine loves meeting new people, helping them to reach their goals within their career, and inspires lifelong learning. Janine is always challenging herself to continue to learn and grow. Janine recently accepted the position of Library Coordinator for the Arkansas State Library.
NOMINATING FOR 2022 OFFICERS

JESSICA RIEDMUELLER, ACADEMIC

Jessica Riedmuller is the User Experience and Assessment Librarian at UCA in Conway, Arkansas. She is passionate about accessibility and 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 recent 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.

RON S. RUSS, ACADEMIC

Ron Russ is the longtime Electronic & Public Services Librarian at ASU-Beebe. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and is a second-generation librarian. Ron received his MLS from the University at Buffalo in 1993, and was a librarian in the Brooklyn Public Library system from 1993-1996. He has served in leadership positions in ArLA, ALA, ARKLink, and is currently a member of the Shared Governance Council at ASU-Beebe. His ArLA service includes (but is not limited to): Member-at-Large, 2021-present, Webmaster/Web Services Committee Chair, 1997-2011, 2015-present, ALA Councilor, 2009-2012, Two Year Colleges Round Table Chair, 2001-2002, 2019-2021, Reference Services Division Chair, 2008, and Publications Committee Chair, 2003-2004. He is also a recipient of the 2007 Suzanne Spurrier Outstanding Academic Librarian Award and the 2016 & 2020 President’s Award. His interests outside of libraries are jazz music, photography, and gardening.

KIRSTEN SEIDEL, PUBLIC

Kirsten Seidel began her career working in libraries at Cabot Public Library in 2016. In 2017, she moved to become the YA/Adult Services Librarian at Cabot Public Library, where she is responsible for teen and adult programming.
NOMINATING FOR 2022 OFFICERS

ALLIE STEVENS, PUBLIC

Allie Stevens is the Director of Calhoun County Library in Hampton, AR, and MLS of Record for Stuttgart Public Library in Stuttgart, AR. She received her MLIS from Louisiana State University in 2015, and was a 2018 ALA Emerging Leader. Allie currently serves as Coordinator for YALSA’s Best Fiction for Young Adults selected list, Co-Chair of the ARSL Continuing Education Committee, and Chair of the ArLA Awards Committee.

JENNIFER WANN

As Manager of Library Development at the Arkansas State Library, Jennifer Wann 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 serves at the project director for the Arkansas Library Leadership Institute (All-In) and recently served on the ARSL Outstanding in their Field Leadership Advisory Committee. Her professional memberships include ARSL, the Mississippi Library Association (MLA), and ArLA. She currently serves as a Member-at-Large on the ArLA Board and writes the “Face of AR Libraries” column for Arkansas Libraries.

Jennifer received her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2006. 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.

Additional nominees may be added to the slate by self-nomination or nomination by any current ArLA member. A nomination by an ArLA member must include a statement by the nominee agreeing to be a candidate. The names of additional candidates must be submitted to the Board no later than August 10, 2021.

All current ArLA members may vote in the election. The election will open for voting on September 10, 2021. Only ballots received by the designated deadline, September 27, 2021, will be counted. Election results will be announced to the winners prior to the Annual Business meeting and then formally presented at the Annual Business meeting.
AWARDS

ANN LIGHTSEY CHILDREN’S AWARD

The Ann Lightsey Children’s Librarian Award recognizes a current or recently retired children’s librarian who, like the award’s namesake, has provided dedicated and exceptional service to young people in Arkansas. As YA/Adult Services Librarian at Cabot Public Library, Kirsten Blake has welcomed an increasing number of teens to the library for a wide variety of programs, reached homebound teens who were previously unable to utilize library services, and implemented a thriving social media presence for the library. She is currently working toward her MLIS.

ARKANSIANA AWARD

The biennial Arkansiana Award is presented to the author(s) of a book published within the previous 2 calendar years that represents a significant contribution to Arkansas heritage and culture. This year, the committee has chosen a winner for all 3 categories of the award.

The Arkansiana Award for Adult Fiction has been given to Marla Cantrell for her book of Arkansas-based short stories, Early Morning in the Land of Dreams. A native of Alma, AR, Marla’s non-fiction work has been published in the Huffington Post and Woman’s World, as well as many regional and state publications. She earned an Arkansas Arts Council Fellowship Award in Fiction. Early Morning in the Land of Dreams collects stories set clearly in one of the four seasons in a real or imagined version of Arkansas.

The Vapors: A Southern Family, the New York Mob, and the Rise and Fall of Hot Springs, America’s Forgotten Capital of Vice by David Hill is the winner of the 2021 Arkansiana Award for Adult Nonfiction. The Vapors traces the extraordinary history of three people in the lavish world of gangsters and gamblers in Hot Springs between the 1930s and the 1960s in a riveting nonfiction narrative. David Hill, a Hot Springs native, currently lives in New York and is a regular contributor to The Ringer and the host of the Spofify Original podcast Gamblers. His work has been featured on This American Life, in Esquire, GO, The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, and in various other publications in print and across the internet.

Sisters Darcy Pattison and Eileen Hutcheson are the recipients of this year’s Arkansiana Award for Juvenile Literature for A Little Bit of Dinosaur. This environmentally conscious picture book traces a single calcium atom on its journey from the bones of a T-Rex all the way to the cheese sandwich on a child’s plate with humor, empathy, and scientific accuracy. Darcy Pattison’s works have received starred reviews in Publisher’s Weekly, Kirkus, and the Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, and her awards include the Irma Black Honor award, five NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books, Eureka! Nonfiction Honor book, two Junior Library Guild selections, two NCTE Notable Children’s Books in Language Arts, and a 2021 Notable Social Studies Trade Books. She’s the 2007 recipient of the Arkansas Governor’s Arts Award for Individual Artist for her work in children’s literature. Eileen Hutcheson was a Biology and Anatomy/Physiology instructor for thirty years. She has her National Board Certification in Science. Hutcheson has taught elementary science students for museum programs and Audubon camps. She has received many grants and was awarded the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship for Arkansas, and a Fulbright Memorial Fund Fellowship for a three-week program in Japan.
AWARDS

BESSIE B. MOORE TRUSTEE AWARD

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 state level. This year’s recipient is Dr. Jeff Whittingham, a long-time member of the Faulkner County Library Board of Trustees and professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at the University of Central Arkansas. Dr. Whittingham’s current research interests focus on the teaching habits and use of graphic novels by teachers and school librarians.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Ruth Hyatt is the recipient of this year’s Distinguished Service Award for the tireless enthusiasm, motivation, and encouragement she has provided to Arkansas’s youth-serving librarians during the COVID-19 pandemic from her position as Youth Services Coordinator at the Arkansas State Library. From transitioning the Youth Services Workshop to a virtual format to her weekly Programming Librarian Zoom sessions, Ruth has had a significant, positive effect on library services for young people as librarians pivoted to virtual and digital programming and services.

FRANCES P. NEAL AWARD

The annual Frances P. Neal Award recognizes a career of notable service in Arkansas librarianship by a library worker who is retired or no longer working in libraries. Rachel Shankles is the recipient of this year’s Frances P. Neal Award, recently retiring from the UCA Department of Leadership Studies where she has worked since she retired from her 1988 to 2013 school library career. Over her career, Rachel was a delegate to the Governor’s Conference on Libraries, was in the first cohort of Resource Arkansas, helped establish the Arkansas Teen Book Award, started the WeDewey group in Garland County, served as President of AAIM twice, was the school library division’s chair 3 times, and is currently serving as Vice President/President-Elect for the Arkansas Library Association. Rachel’s dedication to library services in Arkansas will leave a long-lasting impact.

LORRIE SHUFF PARAPROFESSIONAL AWARD

Katherine Blake, CALS Teen Programmer, is the recipient of the 2021 Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award, which is awarded for distinguished service by a paraprofessional library worker. Katherine’s early adoption of the TikTok platform has been instrumental in digital and virtual communications during the pandemic, and her outreach to young people who are incarcerated, in treatment programs and in the foster care system has created opportunities for many previously underserved young people to access library services.
AWARDS

RETТА PATRICK AWARD

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 is Sloan Powell of Simon Middle School in Conway, AR. Sloan’s contributions to a partnership between public and school libraries in Faulkner County have led to over 3900 students receiving library cards, and the program continues to expand to more school districts in Faulkner and Van Buren counties. Sloan also serves on the editorial board of the Arkansas Libraries Journal and is a past chair of the Arkansas Association of School Libraries division.

RISING STAR AWARD

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 is Amanda “Mandy” Bashaw, Graphic Designer for the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library. In her short two years in the library world, Mandy has expanded the scope of her position and taken on new responsibilities both within her library system and in ArLA, managing not just the graphic design for print and virtual library materials but also handling all eight Facebook pages for the library branches and serving on ArLA committees.

SUZANNE SPURRIER ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN

Lacy Wolfe, Interim Library Director and Information Literacy & Reference Services Librarian at Henderson State University, 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. Lacy has been an ALA Councillor for six years, received numerous grants including a Carnegie-Whitney Grant, and was an ALA Emerging Leader. Lacy’s tireless support of the Arkansas Library Association and its membership along with her dedication to her leadership role at the Henderson State Library during the transition to the Arkansas State University umbrella are evident to all who have worked with her in any capacity.

PRESIDENT’S AWARD

Given at the discretion of the sitting President of the association, the ArLA President’s Award recognizes someone who has provided significant assistance to the President or the Association over the past year. ArLA President Philip Shackleford has selected Janice Weddle, ArLA Secretary and Assistant Librarian for Instruction and Outreach at Hendrix College’s Bailey Library, to receive this award for her diligent work and considerable contributions to the organization during the unprecedented and unpredictable past year.
AWARDS

ARKANSAS INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD

This year’s Arkansas Intellectual Freedom Award has been awarded to children’s services librarian Mary Spears Polk and director John McGraw along with the entire Faulkner County Library staff. This award recognizes an individual or a group that have made significant contributions in support of intellectual freedom on behalf of a library in Arkansas, exemplified by the Faulkner County Library’s commitment to providing storytime programming for all parts of their community. Despite pushback from some lawmakers and community members, the library went forward with an LGBTQ-themed storytime program and provided a forum for community input at a public board meeting.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM VIA ZOOM
At the 2020 Conference, ARLA members voted on changes to the By Laws of the Constitution that restructured the organization’s executive board and discontinued divisions in favor of letting like-minded members form into Communities of Interest with chairs who report to the board monthly but have no voting rights. At this time there are 12 communities with at least 15 members each. They have been very active this year. The move has made the Executive Board smaller and more streamlined and membership has more ways to become active and create benefits to the membership itself. Here is a closer look at some of our most active CIs.

**ALPS (AR Library Paraprofessionals)** has held meetings this year to discuss virtual outreach and programming, options for working within the limitations of ARLA’s new bylaws to ensure meaningful paraprofessional representation on the Executive Board, and ways to encourage leadership in Arkansas’ libraries to make common sense decisions that prioritize the health, safety, and quality of life of library workers. Stewart Fuell of CALS is the Chair of ALPS.

**TYCci (Two Year Colleges’ Community of Interest)** is chaired by Tina Bradley of ASU Mt Home. This year they published an article in the Spg/Summer issue of Arkansas Libraries and met twice via Zoom. They have a mailing list and share information on what is happening at their respective libraries.

**CULAR (Community of University Libraries in AR)** is just getting started this spring with their first meeting and scheduled a round table discussion for July 21 on the topic of Academic Library Media Labs. Brent Etzel, Library Director at ATU is the chair.

**MARLA (Making AR Libraries Accessible)** chairman Jessica Riedmueller of the UCA library is chair of this community and they presented a Zoom session about how to handle and avoid an investigation from the Dept. of Education’s Office of Civil Rights. They hosted a discussion about animals in the library in July and plan a webinar about expanding access for patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder for fall. MARLA has a website at https://uca.libguides.com/marla.

**Youth Services Community of Interest** is chaired by Ruth Hyatt of the AR State Library. They have met by Zoom quarterly and discussed training opportunities. They will present several sessions for Youth Services librarians at the Conference and plan to offer sessions to the group in the fall. They are actively seeking members and welcome everyone to their meetings. Summer is their busy time for this group. Their meetings focus on information for the monthly board report from CIs.
RISci (Reference and Instruction Services Community of Interest) pronounced ‘risky’ actively builds community for providers of reference and instruction services in all types of libraries. In March they debuted their monthly ‘Lunch & Learn’ series of informal professional development and experience sharing. These have been very popular. Topics were crowdsourced from RISci participants and implemented throughout the spring. Sessions included exploring ‘What’s on your reference and instruction mind?’, trading tips for disengaging from overly long patron interactions, sharing recent readings or trainings, exploring the prickly art of weeding collections, gaming in instruction, and creating inclusion. Their annual Reference Exchange Day featured a presentation on ethics in libraries by Dr John T. F. Burgess from the University of Alabama. They host a discussion list and are free and open to membership. Chair Shawna Thorup of Northwest AR Community College says, “If you answer customer questions or have to teach them anything in an AR library-like setting, we are the community for you! Join us for some RISci business!”

LACI (Library Advocacy CI) is chaired by Gwen Dobbs of Northwest AR Community College. They worked on Appropriator letters to be sent to the AR Federal Legislators this past spring with Megan Murray Cusick, MLIS, Assistant Director, state Advocacy, Public Policy & Advocacy from the American Library Association in late July. Their focus is how ARLA and ALA can support each other in library advocacy activities.

COSLLE (Community of School Librarians and Library Educators) presented free Professional Development Zooms for credit each month of the spring. Their focus is reading, books, authors, book clubs and discussions for school librarians. Of the four Zoom sessions, one was an author visit by Kristen Gray; one presented opportunities through UCA to get free books into the hands of students through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program; one was a participant book talk your favorite new books session; and the last was a book discussion by Dr Jeff Whittingham and Dr Kevin Powell of UCA Leadership Studies Dept. on two very current books on diversity for the middle grades. Certificates were emailed to those attending for one hour of PD credit to school librarians. Quanta Wyatt is the chair and is LMS in a K-12 school library in Amorel.

MELLW (Mental and Emotional Lives of Library Workers) has been very active in presenting Mellw sessions and they have planned short Mellw Breaks for the conference program so you won’t get traumatized by sitting too long in front of your monitor. Kathleen Ashmore of Lonoke County Library is chair.

The Social Media and Marketing Community of Interest meets monthly to chat about issues facing library social media and marketing workers. The conversations usually started out being about a specific social media or marketing topic, but would often turn into troubleshooting or idea-sharing sessions. In between meetings, the group shared resources and ideas in a private Facebook group. Susie Kirk from Henderson State University was this year’s person of contact.”