



Maine Library
association

ADVOCACY



IN ACTION

**2023
MLA ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

MAY 22 -23

SUNDAY RIVER RESORT, NEWRY, MAINE



MONDAY MAY 22 Advocacy in Action: Day 1



8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
WITH WELCOME FROM WYNTER GIDDINGS

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

KEYNOTE: TRACIE D. HALL,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ALA

BALLROOM

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

SESSION 1

Policies to Protect
Libraries

RIVER ROOM

Programming for Older
Adults

KETCHUM

Part 1:
Becoming the Leader of
Your Life and Your
Career

WHITTIER

Part 1:
I'll see your BY and raise
you an SA: Understanding
& Using Creative Commons
Licenses and OER for ALL

SIMMONDS

Advocacy Through
Writing: Maine Authors
Share Their Stories

GRAFTON

11:20 AM - 11:45 AM

EXHIBITOR BREAK

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

AWARDS AND LUNCH

1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

SESSION 2

Don't Kick the Can Down
the Road: How to Have
Hard Conversations with
Staff

RIVER ROOM

Good Grief! Realistic
Mindfulness Tools to
Support Community
Wellness

KETCHUM

Part 2:
Self-Actualization and
Becoming the Leader
You Feel Called To Be

WHITTIER

Part 2:
I'll see your BY and raise
you an SA: Understanding
& Using Creative Commons
Licenses and OER for ALL

SIMMONDS

Phd: Is it for me?

GRAFTON

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

SESSION 3

Positive Perceptions:
Your Library Brand

RIVER ROOM

Community Advocacy:
Tools for Adults & Teens
to Create Change

KETCHUM

Library Fellows:
Challenging the Status
Quo in LIS from the
Inside Out

WHITTIER

Zines: How They
Inform and Enhance
Representation in
Collections

SIMMONDS

Let's Move in Libraries
Northeast Region

GRAFTON

3:30 PM - 4:20 PM

SESSION 4

All in the Library - and
Everywhere Else!

RIVER ROOM

Community Advocacy:
Tools for Adults & Teens
to Create Change

KETCHUM

Rearranging Religion
to Decolonize Dewey

WHITTIER

Black Out Poetry: A
Fun Literary Art Form or
Disrespectful Graffiti?

SIMMONDS

GRAFTON

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM

MLA INTEREST GROUPS

Intellectual Freedom/
Legislative

RIVER ROOM

Archives
&
Special Collections

KETCHUM

Small & Rural
Libraries

WHITTIER

Academic Libraries

SIMMONDS

Youth Services
Section (YSS)

GRAFTON

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

TRIVIA WITH HOST MEG GRAY

RIVER ROOM

TUESDAY MAY 23 Advocacy in Action: Day 2



7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

MORNING YOGA WITH MARIE HURRELL

FITNESS ROOM

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST
WITH WELCOME FROM JEN ALVINO

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

SESSION 1

Supporting LGBTQ
Youth through Library
Workshops

RIVER ROOM

Don't let a few bad
apples spoil the books :
Transforming difficult
patron interactions into
positive experiences

KETCHUM

Genealogy IS Reference
&
We CAN Help

WHITTIER

Starting Young: Launching
and Running Family
Making Experiences at the
Library

SIMMONDS

Patent Searching with
the Public

GRAFTON

10:00 AM - 10:30 PM

EXHIBITOR BREAK

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

KEYNOTE: MONICA WOOD, AUTHOR

BALLROOM

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

BOOK SIGNING WITH MONICA WOOD

KETCHUM

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH WITH WELCOME FROM
LORI FISHER, MAINE STATE LIBRARIAN

1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

SESSION 2

Unite Against Book
Bans: ALA's Policy Corp
Changing the Narrative

RIVER ROOM

Never Forget: Resources
about
the Holocaust

KETCHUM

Mysteries: Readers'
Advisory Beyond
Bowditch and Gamache

WHITTIER

Business, Science,
and Technology Tools
for Patrons

SIMMONDS

History of the Maine
Gazeteer

GRAFTON

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

SESSION 3

Building Capacity for
Intellectual Freedom
Advocacy in Our
Communities

RIVER ROOM

The Telling Room:
Recent Advocacy
Publications by Young
People

KETCHUM

Part 1:
Maine's Queer History
and How to Find it

WHITTIER

Broadband Roundtable

SIMMONDS

Mainely Mysteries

GRAFTON

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

SESSION 4

Smashing the Stigma,
Spreading Hope and
Building Community One
Yellow Tulip Bulb at a
Time

RIVER ROOM

MLA Annual Meeting

KETCHUM

Part 2:
Maine's Queer History
and How to Find it

WHITTIER

SIMMONDS

GRAFTON

Advocacy in Action: Annual MLA Conference

Monday, May 21, 2023

Session 1: 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Policies to Protect Libraries

Speakers: Harley Rogers, Lindsay Decker

Location: River Room

This program will provide an overview of best practices to consider when constructing and improving library policies that specifically relate to intellectual freedom. Policies can help protect our libraries and patrons alike. Participants are encouraged to bring their own library's policies, as they will have time to workshop with peers after the presentation.

Learning Outcomes

- Participants will apply policy best practices to their own library's policies based on their specific needs.
- Participants will apply best practices to their own library's policies based on their specific needs.
- Participants will evaluate library policies for effectiveness under scrutiny.

Programming for Older Adults

Speakers: Deborah Clark, Donna Wallace

Location: Ketchum

This program will provide an overview of best practices to consider when constructing and improving library policies that specifically relate to intellectual freedom. Policies can help protect our libraries and patrons alike. Participants are encouraged to bring their own library's policies, as they will have time to workshop with peers after the presentation.

Learning Outcomes

- Types of effective programs and services to meet the unique needs and competencies of older people.
- How to form partnerships with community orgs and subject experts to provide older adult programming outside the library.
- Resources useful to older people and their caregivers to support resilience in aging.

Becoming the Leader of Your Life and Your Career (Part 1)

Speaker: Steve Butzel

Location: Whittier

Becoming an effective leader as a librarian has less to do with librarianship and textbook leadership theory and more to do with personal growth and self-mastery. But what does the process of gaining self-mastery entail, and how does it translate into leadership effectiveness? In this session we'll begin unpacking these crucial questions. So, if you want to become a more authentic, healthy and effective leader at any level in your organization, please attend this program and join others interested in beginning a rewarding lifelong journey that will yield immediate and long-term results.

Learning Outcomes

- Attendees will have deepened their commitment to self-awareness and personal growth and enhanced their understanding of how personal wellness can be leveraged to improve leadership effectiveness
- Attendees will have begun crafting their own "personal constitution" outlining unique standards and requirements for their desired experiences and relationship dynamics at work and beyond
- Attendees will have an intentional community of like-minded colleagues to confer with after the conference.

I'll see your BY and raise you an SA; Understanding & Using Creative Commons Licenses and OER for ALL (Part 1)

Speakers: Megan MacGregor, Rebecca Bushby, Anna Faherty

Location: Simmonds

Have you, your students, or patrons ever wondered "Can I use this? Legally?" or "Can people use this thing I made without my permission?" The use of Creative Commons (CC) copyright licenses has increased with the rise of Open Educational Resources (OER) and online resources, but what are they and how do you use them? This session will provide understanding and tips to help you figure out how to navigate Creative Commons licenses.

In this two hour workshop we will walk participants through some hands-on activities to help them learn the basics of how to use CC Licenses, both as a creator who places them on their creations, AND as a user who wants to work with creations that have these licenses. Participants will also learn some good places to find CC licensed creations in a variety of mediums.

This workshop would be beneficial to all who want to use CC licenses, or who encounter them in their work with educators or creators, including, academic librarians, archivists, public librarians, and school librarians.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand how to use CC Licenses on their own creations and why.
- Understand how to legally use creations that have CC License.
- Know where to find creations with CC Licenses.

Advocacy Through Writing: Maine Authors Share Their Stories

Speakers: Molly Larson, Rae Chalmers, Mary Build, Samar Khuder

Location: Grafton

Timely stories about immigration, inclusivity, culture preservation, the environment, and overcoming adversity; how local writers are advocates for change.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn tips on how hosting an author can encourage meaningful community conversations and social advocacy.
- Meet local authors whose stories might not have been told if not for Maine Independent publishers and libraries working together to preserve them.
- Gain a resource for library programs that will enhance your community conversations.

Session 2: 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Don't Kick the Can Down the Road: How to Have Hard Conversations with Staff

Speaker: Courtney Sparks

Location: River Room

Have you shied away from confronting staff with performance issues? Do you wish you could talk to your supervisor about issues that are difficult? If you shy away from having confrontational, emotional, or hard conversations, this program is for you. We will review some strategies for approaching and framing conversations, and then workshop real-life situations both past and present.

Good Grief! Realistic Mindfulness Tools to Support Community Wellness

Speakers: Megan Schadlich, Tamara Ellis Smith, Samantha Cote

Location: Ketchum

It's safe to say that most of us could use some fresh tools in our wellness toolkits these days. And the same is true for the parents in your communities! In this panel discussion we'll discuss the creation of tender, high quality picture books that discuss tough topics with kids and learn how libraries can support community wellness through our collections, nontraditional lending, and our programming.

Participants will be invited to try out some mindfulness activities they can begin using immediately for themselves or through their libraries to impact the wellness of their own communities.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn about free mindfulness tools available to you to as reference tools, to lend, or to incorporate into library programming.
- Get a sneak peek at Tamara's newest book and learn about her inspiration for writing about tough topics for children (Plus we'll be giving away a copy of her previous books: Here & There and Another Kind of Hurricane.
- Hear about how Windham Public Library has been lending and utilizing Healing Library Kits to support community wellness.

Self-Actualization and Becoming the Leader You Feel Called To Be (Part 2)

Speaker: Steve Butzel

Location: Whittier

In this session we will take a deeper dive exploring the topics of self-actualization and leadership development in an experiential format. The session will include facilitated group discussions, journaling, meditation, and numerous exercises including composing a "Standards & Requirements" document or personal constitution. Participants will be encouraged to participate in a free Voxer space for 2 weeks following the conference to continue discussion, reflection and transformational goal setting all leading to greater effectiveness as a leader at your job and beyond.

It is highly suggested that those who attend this program also attend the first session, although it is not required.

Learning Outcomes

- Attendees will have deepened their commitment to self-awareness and personal growth and enhanced their understanding of how personal wellness can be leveraged to improve leadership effectiveness
- Attendees will have begun crafting their own "personal constitution" outlining unique standards and requirements for their desired experiences and relationship dynamics at work and beyond
- Attendees will have an intentional community of like-minded colleagues to confer with after the conference.

I'll see your BY and raise you an SA; Understanding & Using Creative Commons Licenses and OER for ALL (Part 2)

Speakers: Megan MacGregor, Rebecca Bushby, Anna Faherty

Location: Simmonds

Have you, your students, or patrons ever wondered "Can I use this? Legally?" or "Can people use this thing I made without my permission?" The use of Creative Commons (CC) copyright licenses has increased with the rise of Open Educational Resources (OER) and online resources, but what are they and how do you use them? This session will provide understanding and tips to help you figure out how to navigate Creative Commons licenses.

In this two hour workshop we will walk participants through some hands-on activities to help them learn the basics of how to use CC Licenses, both as a creator who places them on their creations, AND as a user who wants to work with creations that have these licenses. Participants will also learn some good places to find CC licensed creations in a variety of mediums.

This workshop would be beneficial to all who want to use CC licenses, or who encounter them in their work with educators or creators, including, academic librarians, archivists, public librarians, and school librarians.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand how to use CC Licenses on their own creations and why.
- Understand how to legally use creations that have CC License.
- Know where to find creations with CC Licenses.

PhD: Is it for me?

Speakers: Laura Saunders, Kate Wing, Jodi Kosakowski, Sonya Durney

Location: Grafton

This workshop aims to guide attendees through the decision-making process of pursuing a PhD degree and gives examples of doctoral research projects . Make an informed decision about whether a PhD suits your goals and interests.

By the end of this session, participants will:

- Discuss the general structure and purpose of PhD programs and explore some specific program options.
- Explore the potential outcomes and impacts of a PhD in their own career and personal context.
- Discuss the fine points of the application process (personal statements, interviews, letters of recommendation, etc.) and early stages of the program.

Session 3: 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

Positive Perceptions: Your Library Brand

Speakers: Sara Kelly Johns and Susan Ballard

Location: River Room

Libraries must be redefined for a yet-evolving era in which the members of our communities are actively involved in determining what the library brand represents. We all need to look at our individual library “brand” to determine what our constituents and communities think of it – because it is our identity, and it needs to be seen as relevant and meaningful to them if it is to continue.

How does a community create a vibrant, engaging, purposeful hands-on library environment that incentivizes innovation and promotes lifelong success for all? We must acknowledge some monsters under the bed, especially since the library brand is most often formed and added to by us over time. The library brand is further defined by and includes not only every patron transaction but also such topics as policies; intellectual freedom; websites; facilities; use of observation, data, and evidence; collections; equity; and finances.

The co-authors of the soon-to-be-released ALA Publications title Elevating the School Library: Positive Perceptions through Brand Behavior will discuss the importance of the implementation of crucial business concepts such as creating a service culture and employing user-centered design to promote a deeper understanding and commitment to the library brand by communities.

A focus will be on the understanding that brand is the expectations that others have about the library based on their experience at points of contact. Librarians can enhance that experience through consistent brand behavior that helps to demonstrate that libraries are essential and contribute to community achievement and lifelong learning. It is up to each of us to ensure our franchises flourish by understanding the "why" and "how to" further develop the brand. We'll consider how to examine the library relative to the concept of branding and how this ties into leadership and advocacy.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand how to utilize key business concepts to develop a positive perception of the library brand.
- Understand, prepare for, and make appropriate adjustments in practice to meet community needs and build brand loyalty.
- Recognize the need to identify local priorities through the use of observation, data, and evidence in order to develop a strategic plan of action.

Community Advocacy: Tools for Adults & Teens to Create Change

Speakers: Allyson Gardner, Lane Sturtevant

Location: Ketchum

Our goal is to make democracy work for everyone. We do this through advocacy, community education, youth programming, and more. Join us to see examples of student-designed programs that engage their peers, develop civic leadership skills, and build resources. Explore our new Guide to Local Government in Maine, which describes the types of local government that exist across Maine and gives community members pathways to action. Learn how to advocate for a better democracy and teach volunteers how to make an impact within our state and local government.

Learning Outcomes

- Identify how Maine Students Vote and LWVME's Youth Council can intersect with your work.

- Utilize our Guide to Local Government in Maine to identify decision-makers in your community and opportunities for community member involvement.
- Learn how to track bills, submit testimony, and connect with your local legislators to impact state government.

Library Fellows: Challenging the Status Quo in LIS from the Inside Out

Speakers: Laura Saunders, Vivienne Piroli, Aijaeh Hennessy, Jasmine Vandermark

Location: Whittier

At nearly 80% white, the library profession faces a serious lack of diversity. Research has uncovered several barriers to further diversification of the profession, including the length and cost of a master’s degree; lack of a sufficient number of paid internships; a need to gain relevant work experience prior to graduation as many “entry-level” jobs require experience; and lack of confrontation of systemic bias in the field and within Library Information Science curricula.

This session will offer an overview of a new program-in-development which aims to address several of these barriers. Entitled the Library Fellows Program, this initiative seeks to increase diversity in the field, starting "from the inside out." Unlike many other diversity initiatives that focus on residencies for students once they graduate from library school, this program recruits students from historically marginalized communities a diverse student body to an LIS degree program, providing each fellow with a significant scholarship to defray the costs of pursuing a master’s degree in Library Information Science; meaningful, paid work experiences; and a mindful mentoring program. The program was piloted in fall 2022, with a cohort of four fellows placed in two different libraries. Currently, the program administrator and partner libraries are assessing the launch, gathering input from the fellows themselves as well as faculty and practitioners. In this session the program administrator and academic library director who developed the initial program, along with one of the current Fellows, will offer an overview of the program. They will discuss the background and development including the three program components of paid work, financial support, and mentorship; review the responsibilities and expectations of each stakeholder; discuss the outcomes and lessons learned from the pilot; and look ahead to next steps. In an interactive portion, they will gather input from attendees on the model as they continue to revise and improve it.

Learning Outcomes

- Discuss the barriers to diversity in LIS programs and the field more generally.
- Explore the development of the Library Fellow Program diversity initiative.
- Share ideas for the further development and expansion of the Program.

Zines: How they inform and enhance representation in collections

Speakers: Catherine Preston-Schreck, Hannah Stevens

Location: Simmonds

College of the Atlantic’s (COA) Thorndike Library Archivist Hannah Stevens and Zine Curator Catherine Preston-Schreck will share how COA produced zines have added a complexity of voices and perspectives to documentation of the college.

A small liberal arts college on Mount Desert Island, COA was founded in 1972 on the educational philosophy of human ecology. With only 350 students, 105 faculty & staff, and human ecology as the only major, values of inclusivity, multiplicity of perspectives, relationship and community are core to the ethos of the college. The

library's mission speaks of stimulating intellectual curiosity and actively collaborating with the COA community. COA community-produced zines offer one approach to expanding representation of voices in the library.

Hannah and Catherine will talk about the college archives and the circulating zine collection and how they interact and inform one another.

PhD: Is it for me?

Speakers: Laura Saunders, Kate Wing, Jodi Kosakowski, Sonya Durney

Location: Grafton

[Let's Move in Libraries](#), an international initiative for libraries and health education, is starting to move towards including regional focus groups in order to help spread the information and resources connected with the organization and partners. In a session that is part presentation and part round-table discussion, the Let's Move in Libraries Advisory Board members spearheading the New England Regional Group will present the initiative and share resources for libraries and librarians in Maine while working to develop outcomes for the new focus group. The New England Group is being used as an example of successful regional focus and how libraries can partner and build a better foundation.

Session 4: 3:30 PM - 4:20 PM

AI in the Library - and Everywhere Else!

Speaker: Jim Campbell

Location: River Room

The popular press is all agog over recent advances in Artificial Intelligence in text generation (ChatGPT), graphics generation (DALLE-2), audio generation (JUKEBOX), even video generation (Elai) - all output created in seconds from an input of a few words of description by anybody who wants to give it a try. While these headline grabbing applications of AI are getting lots of attention, there are many others affecting our everyday lives that generally stay well under the radar and can have significant impacts on us, our patrons, and our libraries in our everyday lives. With the AI Genie out of the bottle, we might wish to reflect on how AI is already part of our lives and the lives of our patrons, including:

- the filters on our computers
- how we get information about which books to consider purchasing
- how intellectual freedom can be compromised by AI applications
- useful - and not so useful - applications of AI
- copyright and plagiarism.

If we want to be able to offer our patrons the best information about our - and their - new information world, understanding what AI is, and what it is already doing to processes we want to trust, can be a very useful first step.

Community Advocacy: Tools for Adults & Teens to Create Change

Speakers: Allyson Gardner, Lane Sturtevant

Location: Ketchum

Our goal is to make democracy work for everyone. We do this through advocacy, community education, youth programming, and more. Join us to see examples of student-designed programs that engage their peers, develop civic leadership skills, and build resources. Explore our new Guide to Local Government in Maine, which describes the types of local government that exist across Maine and gives community members pathways to action. Learn how to advocate for a better democracy and teach volunteers how to make an impact within our state and local government.

Learning Outcomes

- Identify how Maine Students Vote and LWVME’s Youth Council can intersect with your work.
- Utilize our Guide to Local Government in Maine to identify decision-makers in your community and opportunities for community member involvement.
- Learn how to track bills, submit testimony, and connect with your local legislators to impact state government.

Rearranging Religion to Decolonize Dewey

Speaker: Elizabeth McKinstry

Location: Whittier

In 2019, OCLC provided mapping for an alternate arrangement for the Dewey Decimal System’s religious subjects (200’s) which organizes them by chronology and geography, rather than centering on Western Christianity. After learning about another library using this alternate method, the Springfield City Library decided to adopt it as well, and reclassified materials in all nine of our locations. Attend this session to learn why we pursued this project, a little bit about our process (including helpful handouts and contacts), and most importantly, why we think your library should make the same change in support of your community.

This presentation describes three important parts of Springfield City Library's project to re-classify the 200's (Religious Subjects) according to the new alternate mapping provided by OCLC (which organizes them by chronology and geography, rather than centering on Western Christianity). 1) What the new mapping is, why we decided to take on this project, finding support, and the project planning team we put together 2) Detailed info about our steps and process from both the reference and tech services standpoints - this part includes links to and descriptions of cheat sheets and everything your library would need to take on this project 3) Real talk about ongoing work related to this project, as well as our vision for how OCLC might change this mapping to the default when enough libraries commit to the changeover, and why this project tells your community that you care about room in your collection for all religious traditions.

Black Out Poetry: A Fun Literary Art Form or Disrespectful Graffiti?

Speakers: Lynn Harlan

Location: Simmonds

What is blackout poetry? Why do some people love it and others hate it? Does it infringe on copyrights? These questions and more will be answered in this "edu-taining" conference session. Participants will see examples of amateur blackout poetry as well as published volumes and complete stories of blackout poetry. Emphasis will be giving on how to use blackout poetry for both active and passive programming. An opportunity will be provided for participants to make their own blackout poetry.

Advocacy in Action: Annual MLA Conference

Tuesday, May 22, 2023

Session 1: 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

Supporting LGBTQ Youth Through Library Workshops

Speakers: Jennifer Benham, Nick Whiston

Location: River Room

LGBTQ youth have felt the brunt of attacks on books geared towards them, and libraries can play an important role in both affirming the LGBTQ youth in their communities. Prince Memorial Library has run a successful youth group as well as a poetry workshop and community reading. In this interactive workshop, participants will dive into multiple ways to engage LGBTQ youth in their communities, and learn programming models that are effective for a variety of teens.

Learning Outcomes

- Programming models that have been effective for engaging LGBTQ youth.
- Frameworks that will make brainstorming their own library programming easier.
- What resources are available from The Telling Room to support library programming.

Don't let a few bad apples spoil the books : Transforming difficult patron interactions into positive experiences

Speakers: Joe McGraw, Christopher Clark, Mary-Lou Boucouvalas

Location: Ketchum

So-called 'problem' patrons come in many different forms: angry patrons, First Amendment Auditors, 'concerned' parents, the unhoused, 'time wasters', vandals and pranksters, and unattended children. Each of them presents different challenges to library staff that must each be addressed in unique ways in order to transform a difficult situation into a positive experience. An angry patron complaining to friends or a family being disturbed by rambunctious children both represent a potential lost library ally and damage done to the library advocacy mission.

In a roundtable discussion, presenters will share experiences with 'problem' patrons and strategies for taking these difficult interactions and transforming them into opportunities to build positive relationships. Techniques that will be discussed include : de-escalation, time management, policy and boundary setting, self advocacy, and general tips and tricks for patron interactions. Attendee participation will be encouraged and, as these experiences are seemingly universal, they will have much to contribute to the conversation. Presenters come from a variety of library settings and positions including academic libraries, small town libraries, and large public libraries.

Learning Outcomes

- Strategies for dealing with 'problem' patrons from a diverse panel.
- How different library settings affect these strategies.
- How these interactions can be turned toward possibilities for advocacy.

Genealogy IS Reference & We CAN Help

Speaker: Dawn Thistle

Location: Whittier

They're out there, and they keep coming here. Genealogists are vibrantly active researchers with incessant and complicated questions - and they keep coming to us for answers. But do we feel prepared to help them? We should. Genealogy is rarely covered in our formal (or even informal) education, but deserves as much attention as

any information need we might face AND we actually do have the tools and skills to assist them, whether we know it or not. Let's face our fears of dealing with what seems cumbersome and recognize that we use ready resources to find real answers to complex questions that might feel outside our comfort zone. We can help genealogists; let's better understand how.

Learning Outcomes

- Become familiar with the record collections that answer genealogy questions.
- Recognize how key record collections inter-connect to provide clues and answers.
- Leave with an awareness of how to access, navigate, and connect these resources with patrons.

Starting Young: Launching and Running Family Making Experiences at the Library

Speaker: Gail Zachariah

Location: Simmonds

Keene Public Library has just completed an IMLS-funded Little Makers program measuring learning outcomes for children ages 2-6 in making and tinkering programs at the library. We will present results from the initial stages of our project, how programming shifted due to the COVID-19 pandemic with a renewed focus on parents' and caregivers' exploration of making and tinkering through everyday experiences. We will also explain how we incorporate the Little Makers framework in our young children's programs. Participants will get a taste of the kinds of activities, prompts, and messaging we found effective in reaching our littlest makers and those who care for them.

Learning Outcomes

- Leave the session with the ability to explain why early STEM and making programs are a valuable service to the community.
- Learn two or three learning prompts to guide parents and children in early maker programs at the library.
- List ways to evaluate the success of a library STEM and making programs for young children and their caregivers.

Patent Searching with the Public

Speaker: John Hutchinson

Location: Grafton

*No description.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn how to do a basic search using Patent Public Search from the USPTO.
- Learn how to find information about the process on the USPTO website.
- Navigate patent information in a patent document.

Session 2: 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Unite Against Book Bans: ALA's Policy Corp Changing the Narrative

Speakers: Kent Oliver, Lori Fisher, Sonya Durney

Location: River Room

Through this national campaign, Unite Against Book Bans, ALA's Policy Corps is actively spreading a unified message supporting librarians in their efforts to oppose book bans. Find out what that impactful messaging entails and hear actionable intelligence to assist you in your community before and after the censor is at the door. Kent Oliver, Senior Fellow for ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office, will facilitate a discussion with Lori Fisher and Sonya Durney, Policy Corp members working to change the narrative around book banning as part of the UABB campaign.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn practical lessons with tools from the field addressing book censorship and challenges.
- Understand findings and insights from this national campaign in opposition to censorship; actionable intelligence for librarians in the field.
- Explore the impact on DEI work; many of the targeted themes in book banning are central to equity, diversity, and inclusion with LGBTQIA+ and antiracism themes.

Never Forget: Resources about the Holocaust

Speakers: Karen Gavigan, Erica Nadelhaft

Location: Ketchum

Throughout history, the cry of Holocaust survivors has been “Never forget”. The resources shared in this session shed light on tragic Holocaust experiences. Graphic novels and digital resources will be shared with the participants, followed by a discussion of effective ways to share information about the Holocaust with students and patrons.

Learning Outcomes

- An introduction to graphic novels about the Holocaust that can be used with students and patrons to teach this tragic historical event.
- Resources from the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine that can be used to teach.
- There will be time for participants to share their ideas about effective Holocaust resources for libraries.

Mysteries: Readers' Advisory Beyond Bowditch and Gamache

Speaker: Pamela Bobker

Location: Whittier

You know your patrons love the Game Warden Mike Bowditch series by Paul Doiron and Louise Penny's Chief Inspector Armand Gamache mysteries, but what can you recommend to the reader who has read them all and is eager for something else? This presentation will help non-mystery readers guide their mystery-loving patrons to their next great book. And if you are a mystery reader, you will come away with some books to add to your to-be-read list. Presented by Curtis Memorial Library's Adult Service Librarian Pamela Bobker who enjoys reading a wide range of mysteries and leads the library's Just Desserts Mystery Discussion book group.

Participants will be invited to participate in a free Voxer space for two weeks following the conference in order to continue discussion, reflection and transformational goal setting.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand why readers love mysteries.
- Appreciate the variety of subgenres within the mystery genre.
- Improve Readers' Advisory skills.

Business, Science, and Technology Tools for Patrons

Speakers: Heather Perrone, John Hutchinson

Location: Simmonds

Maine Business Science and Technology Library (MBSTL) serves as a resource that meets the business, science, and technology needs of the citizens of Maine. It is a series of LibGuides developed by librarians at UMaine that feature resources that are free for people in Maine and can be found at this link [Maine Business, Science, and Technology Library](#). We use Digital Maine Library databases and other free resources.

We'd like to talk about ways your patrons can use MBSTL, some use cases, ways MBSTL can collaborate with your library, and answer any questions you have.

Learning Outcomes

- Available resources.
- Collaboration possibilities.
- Patron Interactions with MBSTL.

The Maine Atlas & Gazetteer: The iconic Maine map and its history

Speakers: Zip Kellogg, University of Southern Maine Libraries (Retired)

Location: Grafton

Zip Kellogg has had more than fifty years of canoeing experience, most of it in Maine. One of his major reference sources for this avocation has been the *Maine Atlas and Gazetteer*, a tool useful for both geography and helping him wonder. In this session Zip will share many details of the Atlas including its background story, publication history, and countless other details from the first edition (1976) to the current 36th edition (2022). Come learn a few things about this now iconic book of maps...and bring your own *Maine Atlas* stories!

Session 3: 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

Building Capacity for Intellectual Freedom Advocacy in Our Communities

Speaker: Cathleen Miller

Location: River Room

Attacks on intellectual freedom are hitting school and public libraries hard, from the constant distraction from library missions that comes with book challenges to staff burnout and resignations. Librarians are being villainized, and in some cases are being threatened in person and online. Yet we know that the majority of Americans are against book bans. How can we learn from the tactics of organized national groups like Moms for Liberty to build easily digestible community resources that support intellectual freedom? Educating our local communities about intellectual freedom is imperative so that they can show up with clear talking points at book challenge hearings or talk with their friends over dinner. Likewise, our communities can offer care and support for librarians who are being targeted so that they are not carrying the burden of this work alone. What issues are facing your community? What resources do you need to meet the challenges ahead? In this session, we will share resources advocating for intellectual freedom and discuss together how to meet local needs and build capacity throughout the state.

Learning Outcomes

- Develop strategies to educate their communities about intellectual freedom issues.
- Learn about the strategies of groups who oppose intellectual freedom.
- Build connections with others in their regions to strengthen their networks of support

The Telling Room: Recent Advocacy Publications by Young People

Speaker: Nick Whiston

Location: Ketchum

The Telling Room partnered with an elementary school and have produced numerous publications with them; including fiction, poetry, and personal narrative in the past. This year, at the request of the principal, they used "advocacy writing" as a genre. The speakers will share information about curriculum and process. The project takes a community-minded approach, but of course from a young person's perspective.

Maine's Queer History and How to Find it (Part 1)

Speakers: Megan MacGregor, Jill Piekut Roy

Location: Whittier

Despite being a rural state Maine has an incredibly strong LGBTQIA+ history, which spans the entire state, not just Portland or Ogunquit. In recent years University of Southern Maine's Special Collections has digitized many of the LGBTQ+ newspapers, oral histories, and objects from the Sampson Centers LGBTQ+ Collection, which can be accessed from anywhere online.

In this workshop we will talk about the queer historical record. You will engage with primary sources from this collection to unearth Maine's queer past, and be guided through piecing together Maine's rich queer history. We will discuss how it directly affects us today.

By engaging with our queer history librarians will learn about many of the myths about LGBTQIA+ Mainers and be empowered to stand up for these patrons in the face of outside pressure..

Learning Outcomes

- Find and engage with primary sources.
- Understand some of the major events and players in Maine's queer history, and have more confidence in talking about queer belonging.
- Learn about University of Southern Maine's Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine's LGBTQ+ Collection and how to share it with patrons.

Broadband Roundtable

Speakers:

Amy Stone

Maggie Drummond-Bahl, Strategic Partnership Director, Maine Connectivity Authority

Jessica Perez, Digital Equity Manager, Maine Connectivity Authority

Jon Knepp, Director of Library Services, Thompson Free Library

Michelle Conners, Library Director, Kennebunk Free Library

Location: Simmonds

Digital inclusion is important because the internet and the skills to navigate the digital world are the links that tie your community together and connect it to the world for education, health, employment, and business. Right now there is historic investment at the federal level in digital inclusion initiatives but Maine has to have a Digital Inclusion Plan to get a piece of the pie. Having a reliable connection that you can use is what the “Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Act” and the “Digital Equity Act” are all about. As funding comes into the state and we get affordable broadband connections and affordable devices out to rural and underserved areas, libraries are natural hubs for people looking for help and information. So that your library is ready, we would like to know more about what your experiences supporting patrons who need extra help using the internet are and what your needs might be.

Learning Outcomes

- What access and deployment could look like for public libraries.
- Available resources to support your existing work

Mainly Mysteries

Speakers: Dick Cass, Barbara Ross, Jule Selbo

Location: Grafton

An overview of programs sponsored by Sisters in Crime/New England, a nonprofit organization to support and promote mystery writers and readers.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn about additional programming for local libraries.
- Bring more patrons, both readers and writers, into the libraries.
- Learn about local authors writing about Maine.

Session 4: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**Smashing the Stigma, Spreading Hope and Building Community One Yellow Tulip Bulb at a Time**

Speaker: Suzanne Fox

Location: River Room

The Yellow Tulip Project was born from a vision to create a space for youth and adult allies to eradicate stigma, build community, and inspire productive conversations about how to combat the rising rates of suicide. We focus on bringing people together by planting yellow tulip hope gardens, building community, smashing the stigma and bringing hope. In this session we will share our stories of how getting our hands dirty, planting gardens and talking about mental health helps normalize the conversation and helps people feel less alone. We've seen the impact that public art, storytelling and photography can have on how people perceive mental health topics and we'll share our out of the box community focused programming in this session. We know that talking about mental illness needs to be as comfortable as talking about any physical illness and we will be sharing our story of how communities across the US are becoming part of our momentum.

Learning Outcomes

- Identify and discuss the stigma surrounding mental health.
- Identify how strength based community approaches to addressing mental illness can make an impact.
- Engage in discussion and examples using public spaces to de-stigmatize mental illness.

MLA Annual Meeting

Speakers:

Location: Ketchum

Maine's Queer History and How to Find it (Part 2)

Speaker: Megan MacGregor

Location: Whittier

Despite being a rural state Maine has an incredibly strong LGBTQIA+ history, which spans the entire state, not just Portland or Ogunquit. In recent years University of Southern Maine's Special Collections has digitized many of the LGBTQ+ newspapers, oral histories, and objects from the Sampson Centers LGBTQ+ Collection, which can be accessed from anywhere online.

In this workshop we will talk about the queer historical record. You will engage with primary sources from this collection to unearth Maine's queer past, and be guided through piecing together Maine's rich queer history. We will discuss how it directly affects us today.

By engaging with our queer history librarians will learn about many of the myths about LGBTQIA+ Mainers and be empowered to stand up for these patrons in the face of outside pressure..

Learning Outcomes

- Find and engage with primary sources.
- Understand some of the major events and players in Maine's queer history, and have more confidence in talking about queer belonging.
- Learn about University of Southern Maine's Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine's LGBTQ+ Collection and how to share it with patrons.

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