



MLA to Z

The Newsletter of the Maine Library Association

In This Issue

Letter from the President
page 2

**Outstanding Librarian
of the Year**
page 3

**Outstanding Library
Advocate Award**
page 5

**Technology Kits from Maine
Contemporary Archives**
page 7

**Takeaways from the
2022 ALA Conference**
page 9

**Contemplating
Freedom to Read**
page 11

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Congratulations, Angie Herrick 2022 Outstanding Librarian of the Year

The Maine Library Association names an Outstanding Librarian of the Year at the Annual Conference, and this year the award went to Angie Herrick, Director of the Skowhegan Free Public Library. She answered a few questions for our Librarian in the Spotlight section.

When did you decide to pursue a career in libraries?

On a complete whim, I applied for the Children's Librarian job at the Skowhegan Library back in 2011. I loved the library and had been taking my kids there for a few years and felt like it might be a fun place to work. Initially, I did not get the job, but a few months later I got a call asking me to come in for an interview because the person they hired had not worked out. I was hired and hit the ground running.

continued, page 3



Angie Herrick with Josie Pease and Bree Bussell-Fitzgerald from the Skowhegan Free Public Library and Jeff Eastman.



This is a bit different from the usual "Letter from the President", but it might provide some insight into what kinds of things we are talking about on the MLA board. I attended the ALA Annual Conference in June, and I came home with some ideas to discuss with the MLA board in July and August. I would like to share them here with the membership.

I attended the Chapter Leaders Forum with Jen Alvino (who also gave a great presentation at the forum about the Library Ecosystem Initiative). This was an all-day session for chapter leaders (this could be President, VP, Past President, or Councilor) to meet and discuss things like challenges (not book challenges, but challenges we face as orgs), successes, the library ecosystem and how that can help unify our efforts and prevent redundant efforts; and also to hear from the Chapter Relations Committee on issues we all face, such as problematic legislation, book banning, recruiting and engaging volunteers for our chapters, and onboarding new members and volunteers. It was a very nice time, and we had some great conversations. A few takeaways/ideas:

- Mobilizing library board members/trustees we identify in our communities who are especially effective advocates on the local level, when we could use their talents on the state-wide level.
- Outreach - send an annual volunteer recruitment message and sign-up.
- On committees/interest groups - if the chair does not have the bandwidth to do recruitment and onboarding for the committee/IG, assign a willing member of the group to that role.
- Also on committees/IGs, when meeting, ask members to come to meetings with one name of a

person they can recruit to the committee. Increased committee members = more sustainable committees and spreading the work among more people so that volunteering is fun and easier for people who are already really busy.

- Find ways to be more inclusive for paraprofessionals - Coffee Chat topics, maybe? Encourage directors and dept. heads to bring them to conferences and offer a special discount for doing this.
- The Georgia Library Association gifts free memberships to 10 newer library workers or paraprofessionals each year - reach out to established/active members to nominate people for this free 1-year membership.

News

ALA is looking at options to replace Engage, which is the advocacy software our Legislative Committee uses to mobilize membership on legislative issues and contacting legislators. They will roll out the replacement product this fall.

Idea: What if we put together something like the League of Women Voters' Voters Guide, but focused specifically on where candidates in Maine stand on intellectual freedom/book banning/digital equity, etc?

I also attended some very good panels and discussions around intellectual freedom, misinformation in the media/media literacy, where things stand in terms of advocacy for library ebooks, and a very informative poster session on library advocacy by none other than our own VP, Sonya Durney!

Finally, MLA should discuss whether we want to sign on as a partner to Unite Against Book Bans. This national campaign aims to unify the messaging and efforts to fight censorship around the country. This is an ALA initiative and as we are a chapter of ALA, I am recommending the board look at this and take a vote on whether to sign on as a partner organization at the July 15th board meeting.

Have a great summer.



2022 Outstanding Librarian of the Year: Angie Herrick

You have an interesting educational background, one that seems fitting for a library director: a business degree as well as a library degree. Tell me a little about that. What skills and knowledge that you learned in business school do you feel apply most to your work as a librarian? Would you recommend that aspiring library directors take a few courses in business management?

I graduated in 2000 from Thomas College in Waterville with an associate degree in Business Administration. I took a course load that included subjects like economics, accounting, management, project planning, and human resources. In 2018, I graduated from UMA with my bachelor's degree in Information and Library Science. I find the marriage of these two degrees to be a wonderful fit for someone in a director's position. That being said, I am always looking for ways to get more professional development and continuing education and am hoping to start a graduate program soon.

I think my most important advice to aspiring library directors would be to just keep learning. Formal classes

are great, degrees are amazing, but the MSL has some fantastic opportunities as well.

What's your favorite part of being a librarian? What do you find rewarding? What motivates you every day?

The short answer is, I enjoy helping people and being able to serve my community. The longer answer is that there is such a wide breadth to what our role is that the job never gets "boring." I like that in the course of a day, I have an opportunity to chat with teens about what books they're reading, check in with seniors, help people find the specific information they're seeking, read stories and sing songs with toddlers, select new and exciting materials, and create a safe and inclusive place for the Skowhegan area. My to-do list never seems to get shorter, but I find it so rewarding to see what our team can accomplish.

My motivation comes from a quote my father always said to us while growing up: "You don't get what you wish for, you get what you work for." Strong and healthy

*See **Outstanding Librarian**, next page*



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The Maine Library Association is grateful to the support of Thorndike Press, who will donate a selection of large-print books to Skowhegan Free Public Library in honor of Angie's spotlight.

Located in Waterville, Thorndike Press has been publishing large print for more than 30 years.

THANK YOU
MLA TO Z | ISSUE 32

Outstanding Librarian

continued from previous page

My motivation comes from a quote my father always said to us while growing up: "You don't get what you wish for, you get what you work for." Strong and healthy libraries that are used and valued by their communities are worth working for. So that's what I do. I show up everyday to try and make a library that people want to use and be a part of.

libraries that are used and valued by their communities are worth working for. So that's what I do. I show up everyday to try and make a library that people want to use and be a part of.

If you hadn't been a librarian, what would you be doing instead?

In my teens, I really wanted to be a marine biologist. Then I realized that I would have to do things other than swimming with dolphins and saving sea turtles, so I quickly changed my mind. My dream job is to work for Bruce Wayne as his Director of Philanthropy. It would be an amazing thing to be able to hand out oodles of donations to different causes and organizations. Realistically, I have a passion for working with kids, so I imagine if I wasn't a librarian I would probably be working in the schools in some way.

Have you read/watched/heard any books/TV shows/etc. lately that you would recommend? What's the hot item at SFPL this summer?

I am always elbow deep in 4-5 books at once. Currently, I am reading *The Believer: Encounters with the Beginning, the End, and Our Place in the Middle* by Sarah Kransnostein. It follows six different people and their varied outlook on what happens after we die and how those beliefs affect our lives. I am watching Season 8 of *Alone*. It's a guilty-pleasure reality show about being left alone and surviving in an unforgiving environment. Hot items in Skowhegan this summer have without a doubt been Paul Doiron's newest release, *Hatchet Island* and anything by Colleen Hoover. The first season of *Yellowstone* is also really popular. All these items have several holds on them, so if you are waiting on us to send any of these through ILL, it may be a while.



Congratulations to Angie and to our other award winners this year: Evelyn Adelson of York, recipient of our first ever Outstanding Library Advocate of the Year [next page], and Wendy West, library student at San Jose State University and recipient of the Phyllis E. Ainsworth Scholarship.

Librarian in the Spotlight is a semi-regular feature of MLA to Z and is sponsored by Thorndike Press, which publishes bestsellers, popular titles, genre fiction, and non-fiction subgenres in large print.

MLA gives its first Outstanding Library Advocate Award to York Middle School Student Evelyn Adelson

by Michelle Sampson, Library Director, York Public Library

In November 2021, local York grandmother Patsy Huntsman submitted a formal challenge to remove Robie Harris and Michael Emberley's book, *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health* from the York Middle School (YMS) Library. As per the school's procedure for book challenges, Superintendent Lou Goscinski appointed a committee of school staff and administration to review the challenge and make a recommendation. As I became aware of the issue, I rallied the troops to attend the December School Committee meeting.

The troops included Shea Adelson, Vice-President of the York Public Library's Board of Trustees. She brought along daughter Evelyn, a student at YMS, to see democracy in action on an issue that directly affected not just her, but her fellow classmates.

Eleven-year-old Evelyn decided to stand bravely on the high school stage before the School Committee, local

reporters, and other adults from town to provide testimony on why *It's Perfectly Normal* should not be banned from her school library.

As recounted in the December 3, 2021 issue of the York Weekly, Evelyn stated, "I'm in fifth grade, and I feel that I should have the right to read a book if I want to read a book, of course if it's approved by my parents first. I definitely do not want a person I don't know telling me what I can't read. I also think kids should learn from these kinds of books, so that they're prepared for the world." Superintendent Goscinski accepted the review committee's recommendation to retain the book, and Ms. Huntsman appealed. The issue was forwarded to the School Committee.

The School Committee next met on January 19, 2022 and once again, Evelyn and her mother attended and listened while the Committee asked questions of Ms. Huntsman,

See Advocate, next page



Evelyn Adelson with (left to right) Jeff Eastman, MLA; Michele Bertolini and Michelle Sampson, York Public Library; Kerrie Lattari, York Middle School; and Evelyn's mother, Shea.

Advocate

continued from previous page

YMS Principal Dr. Barbara Maling and YMS Librarian Kerrie Lattari. At one point, Ms. Huntsman stated, "There's some very good information here in the hands of a parent. I don't agree with it all. It's not what I want to teach my child. My morals and my ethics are different than what this book teaches – and I think that there are many parents that feel the same way." Ms. Huntsman has no children in the York school system; when asked how she knew *It's Perfectly Normal* was in the school library, she said it was on Facebook.

During public comments, Evelyn again stood up at the podium in front of room full of adults and defended the freedom to read. If she was unsure if a book was something she should read, she said, she asked one of her parents and they had a discussion about it.

On February 2, 2022, the School Committee voted unanimously to retain the book in the YMS library.

As librarians, book banning is a hill most of us would die on. At a time when bans are sweeping the country in frighteningly unprecedented numbers, now more than ever, it is imperative we support each other if and when a challenge lands on one of our doorsteps. Support can take the form of Letters to the Editor, Opinion pieces, and/or

providing testimony at school board meetings in our communities. The American Library Association also has a new initiative called Unite Against Book Bans, which is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. The initiative's toolkit offers great advice on how to fight back: uniteagainstbookbans.org/toolkit/

For ordinary citizens, it takes courage to willingly swing the spotlight in your direction. It's fair to say the average 11-year-old would run fast and far before standing on a literal stage, in front of school officials, members of the press, and chairs filled with parents and concerned citizens, to speak her mind. I know my 11-year-old self would have, but Evelyn Adelson bravely did just that.

It's my personal belief her testimony sealed the deal on the School Committee's decision. As Evelyn stated, "I... think kids should learn from these kinds of books, so that they're prepared for the world." In part, thanks to eloquent Evelyn, she and her classmates can do just that.

During MLA's Annual Conference in May, Evelyn Adelson was awarded MLA's inaugural Outstanding Library Advocate Award and received a standing ovation.



The Maine Library Association is grateful for the support of OPALS, gold sponsor of the 2022 Maine Library Association Conference.

OPen-source
Automated Library System

Technology Kits from the Maine Contemporary Archives

Maine Contemporary Archives (MCA) is piloting a program to lend technology kits to Maine libraries. These kits can be used to collect stories and materials from your community members, or for other community-based digital humanities projects. If you were able to make it to our presentation at the MLA conference in May, this may already be familiar to you!

- The Audio Recording Kit includes a Tascam D-40X Audio Recorder and accessories. This kit can be used to record interviews, soundscapes, and other audio materials.
- The Digitization Kit includes a ScanJig, Samsung Galaxy Tablet and accessories. This kit can be used to digitize photos and documents, or to create new audio-visual media.
- The kits are free to use, and the lending period is two months. To request a kit, visit <https://ourmainearchives.omeka.net/exhibits/show/techkits>. Each kit comes with equipment guides, Creative Commons release forms, metadata templates, and additional suggested resources. Each kit also provides ideas for programming that libraries and other cultural heritage organizations can use to engage community members in documenting history. Sample activities include:
 - Soundscapes: Capture the sounds of your surroundings (nature, home, town)

- Audio tours: Narrate a walk through a special place, neighborhood, or community
- Interviews: Ask a family member, friend, or neighbor about their experiences
- Family history: Digitize family materials like photos, scrapbooks, and recipes
- Primary sources: Collect and digitize items that show what life is like in your community today

Here's what our kit testers say:

"I think the digitization kit is a great choice for any organization interested in exploring a variety of projects, since you can record audio and video as well as digitize images and documents. It's a great tool for discovering the possibilities of technology in organizations connected in any way, large or small, to cultural heritage."

— Renee Burkett, McArthur Library, Biddeford

"The audio kit is fun! I wandered around for a bit capturing everyday sounds ... I started listening to the world around me in a whole different way."

— Gabrielle Daniello, Portland Public Library

"What an opportunity for small institutions to try before they buy! This initiative makes equipment available for special community projects for those who cannot afford to purchase them. It is a way to reach out to community organizations in order to offer the equipment to them for their use." — Candis Joyce, Bangor Public Library

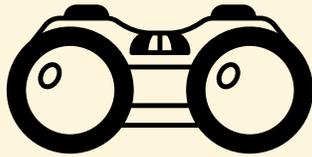


More about the MCA

Are you interested in building community-based collections to document local experiences, learning more about digital archives, and connecting with a supportive group of cultural heritage professionals from across the state?

Consider participating in Maine Contemporary Archives! No institution is too small to participate in MCA. Our mission is to foster collaboration to collect, preserve, and provide access to

See Archives, next page



A LOOK AHEAD

Start of Book Bike Week

August 1

Genealogy Interest Group monthly Zoom chat

register at mainelibraries.org

August 5 and 29

September is

Library Card Signup Month

to coincide with back to school.

International Literacy Day

September 8

National Online Learning Day

September 15

Constitution Day

September 17

Start of Banned Books Week

September 18

Start of National Coding Week

September 19

National Voter Registration Day

September 20

Genealogy Interest Group monthly Zoom chat

register at mainelibraries.org

September 26

October is

**National Book Month,
Health Literacy Month, and
Medical Librarians Month**

Archives

continued from previous page

materials related to Maine community members' experiences of current events. The Maine State Library provides MCA public library members with access to the Omeka.net platform for building digital collections.

Along with sharing technology, we offer professional development opportunities relevant to contemporary collecting and digital archives management. Most recently, we have hosted Anna Perrici for a conversation about web archiving and Megan MacGregor for a talk about Creative Commons licensing. To find out about upcoming professional events, visit <https://ourmainearchives.omeka.net/professional-development>.

MCA members also work cooperatively to develop outreach materials including educational resources and exhibits. This summer we are launching a drive to collect materials for a "Then and Now" exhibit, which will be shared on our hub site. "Then and Now" aims to record changes in Maine communities over time. Libraries interested in participating can prompt contributions by pairing an item from their collections with a contemporary, related item that may or may not already be in their collections. (This is an opportunity to borrow and use the technology kits.) Your institution can provide images, or community members can discuss the differences between past and present in an audio recording. We want a low barrier for entry – for example, participants don't need to have a "then" to compare to a "now." Stay tuned at <https://ourmainearchives.omeka.net/> to learn more or email us at maine-contemporary-archives@googlegroups.com.

The Maine Contemporary Archives is a DigitalMaine initiative made possible with Maine State Library's Cares Act-LSTA funds received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).



Takeaways from an informative ALA Conference

Sonya Durney, *MLA Vice President*

Greetings, I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying Maine summer. It goes fast. Enjoy the moments.

The American Library Association Conference in DC in June was both energizing and exhausting. There was so much to learn. I left with so many ideas. I focused on topics that impact my role at the University of New England and my research interests — publishing, advocacy, policy, government information, and copyright. If you also attended, I would love to hear your top takeaways. Here are mine:

Updates from the Policy Corps

The Copyright Claims Board is open. This is the mechanism established by the CASE Act to field copyright infringement claims without having to go to federal court. The purpose of the Act is to lower the bar for copyright owners to bring claims of infringement upon other entities, including libraries, archives, colleges, universities, and students. It could make legal use of copyrighted material (fair use) thornier; at least it may make claims easier to bring and, therefore, make them more common. [EJ1] Libraries may preemptively opt out of the process (i.e. they may choose to go to court instead) when claims are brought against them. Opt-outs include library/archive employees' activities during the course of their work, anyone who is found guilty through the CCB tribunal could face fines up to \$30,000 per infringement. In consultation with our university lawyer, UNE opted out. I recommend checking with your library's legal representative to see if this is the right move for your library. For more information, see ARL's CASE Act Toolkit.

United Against Book Bans

Seventy-one percent of voters oppose efforts to remove books from public libraries, yet attempts to ban books from libraries are rising at an unprecedented level across the country. The ALA reported more than 729 attempted

bans of 1,597 individual books in 2021 alone. United Against Book Bans brings together the voices of readers against censorship. The webpage is worth checking out – it includes data on book challenges and an action toolkit. (Also, have you seen this awesome interactive Book Ban Buster map compiled research done by writer/teacher Dr. Tasslyn Magnusson?)

Ebook updates

A federal court in Baltimore has ruled that a Maryland law requiring book publishers to offer public libraries reasonable licenses to ebooks and digital audiobooks is unconstitutional. It could be read as a victory for the Association of American Publishers and a loss for libraries. This particular ruling does not apply beyond the boundaries of MD, but similar legislation is in the works in other states, including MA, RI, and NY. Courts' future decisions could hinge on their opinion of language that requires that publishers "shall offer" ebooks to libraries on "reasonable terms." [EJ2] ALA's position on ebooks centers on libraries' right to lend digital content to patrons the same as they have always lent physical content. For more background on this issue, read the policy paper written by think tank Library Futures.

Other notable resources:

Privacy Field Guides

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, in partnership with the American Library Association, has sponsored the creation of these Privacy Field Guides. The guides contain practical, hands-on exercises for you to create a more privacy-focused library. They are designed for academic, public, and school libraries of all types. Visit this interactive website to work through the guides online and view additional resources.

See Takeaways, next page

ALA Takeaways

continued from previous page

The **Libraries Build Business Playbook** showcases emerging models for small business programming in public libraries. Created by library professionals, the Playbook aims to support libraries in starting or growing small business and entrepreneurship programs, especially focusing on those in underserved communities. The Playbook was developed by a 13-member cohort of libraries across the country; Topsham Public Library was one of them.

In response to the alarming increase in acts of aggression toward library workers and patrons as reported by press across the country, the ALA Executive Board released the following statement: **ALA Condemns Threats of Violence in Libraries**. This 2014 Public Library Association webinar is worth a watch: [Violence Prevention in the Public Library](#).

I was super-jazzed about a session from the Colorado Association of Libraries and their **Mentorship Interest Group**, particularly because they offer a creative menu of options for ways that mentors and mentees can meet, not just one-on-one but also group mentoring, peer mentoring, speed mentoring, and others. I could really see a model like this working in Maine.

I have many more takeaways, but I hope that you find something useful in the few updates and resources I have shared. I know I will take the next few weeks to reflect on what I have learned and what action steps we can take here in Maine. If you have ideas, please reach out vicepresident@mainelibraries.org. 

ALA Councilor Report

Kara Reiman, ALA Councilor

ALA Council attempted its first ever hybrid meetings this year. In a complete reversal from the meeting last year, the Council voted to retain its policy making powers instead of becoming an advisory body as recommended by the task force. This means that we will make small changes to the structure of the Council instead of a complete overhaul. Discussion will move to changing the makeup of both Council and the Executive Board. It will still be a little while before anything is ready to be sent to membership to vote on.

The second major step taken by the Council concerns the Bylaws Committee, which has been working with legal counsel to make recommendations for changes in the bylaws. As it stands now, ALA has both bylaws and a constitution. Most non-profit organizations have only one set of governing documents. The committee asked to move forward with the work for this. In order to make such a large change, it requires three votes from the Council followed by a membership vote to rescind the current bylaws and then another to accept the new ones. A recommendation will be made to Council at the January 2023 meeting.

MLA Academic Interest Group offers its first hybrid event

MLA's Academic Interest Group held its first hybrid Maine Academic Libraries Day (MALD) at UMaine Augusta. Prior to 2020, MALD had been fully in person, and in 2020 and 2021 it was fully virtual. There was a strong preference from our members to have a hybrid event this year.

Eighty-four people attended, $\frac{2}{3}$ attending in person and $\frac{1}{3}$ virtually. The day featured updates from the Maine State Library, two blocks of concurrent sessions, lightning talks, and a closing session featuring words of wisdom from two of the UMaine System's retiring library directors, David Nutty (Director of Libraries and Learning at University of Southern Maine) and Joyce Rumery (Dean of University Libraries at University of Maine).

We look forward to applying lessons learned from this pilot hybrid symposium to next year's hybrid MALD event. 



Book bans weighed heavily on my mind during the MLA conference. Not only was it my pleasure to award a book defender our first ever Outstanding Library Advocate, but it was a topic of several of the sessions I attended. Perhaps the highlight of the conference for me was the keynote address by ALA Director of Intellectual Freedom Deborah Caldwell-Stone.

When citizens who object to certain materials being in libraries do not succeed in having those materials removed, they might employ another strategy: donating the types of books they would prefer to see on the shelves. Libraries are, of course, free to accept or reject donations according to their own collection development policies.

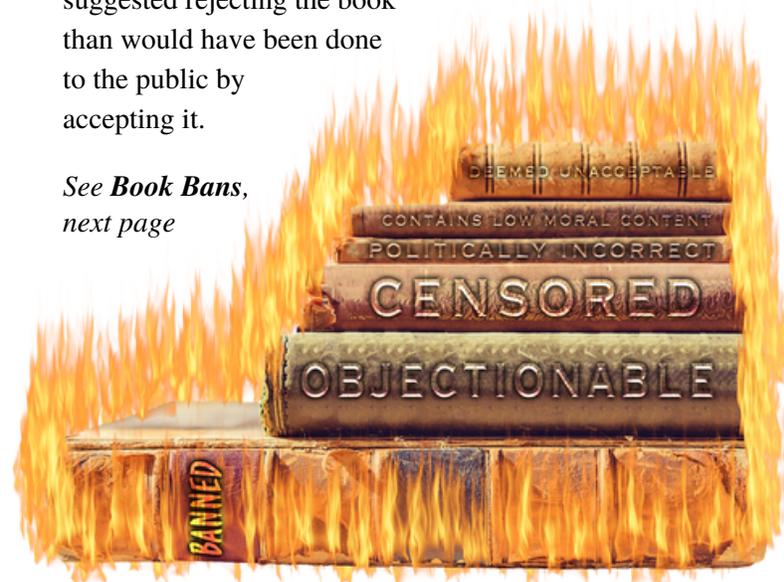
Shortly before I left my last job for my current one, my then-director asked me for my opinion on a book about COVID-19 that was donated in such a fashion. I recognized the name of the author – a journalist, writer of fiction, and noted denier of the dangers of the virus. I searched for other libraries that held the book, and I found none. I searched for reviews and found only one. It was negative. I suggested we turn down the donation.

I don't know whether the library ultimately accepted the book, but the thought that I gave the wrong advice stops me in my tracks whenever I think about it. I re-read collection development texts and ALA's Freedom to Read Statement looking to clear up my doubts, but I end up on both sides of the question. The Freedom to Read Statement is couched in furthering the public interest, in the public's own ability to evaluate contrasting ideas. Between public health and Freedom to Read, which is the greater public interest? In normal times, when public health is relatively under control and the contrasting ideas are merely political, I could stand behind the public's right to borrow a potentially bogus book from the library. (I'm not sure about the validity

of the content of the COVID-19 book that was donated. I read the first chapter, but not being an expert, I would not be able to poke holes in the data.) These are not normal times: besides the pandemic, which continues to kill hundreds of Americans per day, we are living through an epistemological crisis, which was summed up best by Rudy Giuliani on Meet the Press when he said, "Truth isn't truth." A liberal democracy such as ours works when its participants agree on the rules and norms of the political process, and no matter what the troubling number of people who would prefer to live under authoritarianism would like to read, we as librarians are obligated to trust that the books we put on the shelves were written in good faith with regard to facts and truth. Trust in faith and facts is on shaky ground. I don't think I could have accepted the book and felt like I was making the best pandemic-related information available to our patrons.

On the other hand, how many patrons would have gone looking for it? How many would have noticed it while browsing the shelves? How many would have checked it out? How many people would the book have convinced that the public health strategies in place were wrong? Anyone interested in the book was probably already flouting masks, social distancing, and vaccine requirements, right? Really, how much extra harm would have been done by one book in one little library in Maine that wasn't being done already? In this case, it is possible that more damage was done to my principles when I suggested rejecting the book than would have been done to the public by accepting it.

See **Book Bans**, next page



Book Bans

continued from previous page

So did I make a mistake by recommending the library reject the book, or would I have made a mistake to recommend we accept it? I am very afraid of making mistakes. Why? Because of another phenomenon that makes the social/intellectual time-space we live in unlike normal. The most familiar name for this phenomenon is not one I like, but most people call it “cancel culture.” It is a whole ball of wax that I would rather just mention than get into, but it is something that strikes fear in the hearts of even good, well-intentioned people. It makes it impossible to forgive or be forgiven for even honest mistakes, even after the perpetrator owns up to the mistake and apologizes. One can only do one’s best when confronted with a quandary, but then one has to hope that one’s reputation isn’t forever blemished if it is the wrong choice.

I got the impression from Deborah Caldwell-Stone’s keynote address that she has already thought through questions like mine regarding the COVID-19 book and come up with a definite answer: accept the book, and move on. The greater wisdom Caldwell-Stone imparted was that every library should have clear and up-to-date policies that will guide library staff when patrons take issue with collections. Sadly, I am afraid that ALA Freedom to Read statement is out of date. It was written in 1953 and most recently revised in 2004. The latest edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual is from 2021;

my copy is from 2015. It’s easy to forget that the social-political-media landscape of 2022 is pretty fresh. The right answers to our questions may not lie in principles we have long held or policies that we have long relied on. Our institutions may not be strong enough to withstand new means and methods of testing them.

This just in: While putting together this newsletter, I learned of another book challenge in Maine. RSU56 (Dixfield) is fighting to keep *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe on the shelves. Stay tuned for more news about this.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for libraries to have support from their communities. Community support allows librarians to do their jobs. York must be very proud to have its residents, even very young residents, engaged in intellectual freedom disputes. Whether or not to carry a book is an issue that reasonable people can disagree on in a civil manner, and they can duke it out in public if they are brave enough. Unfortunately, we have seen a lot of uncivil disagreement lately, and libraries are often the targets. We should all be lucky enough to have a family like the Adelsons in our towns. We should also review and renew our policies if necessary, and brace ourselves for what could come our way.



**INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE TRUSTED TO MAKE THEIR OWN
DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT TO READ.**



Write to us.

MLAtoZeditor@gmail.com

Tell us what's happening at your library. New programs.
Innovative ideas. Letters to the editor. Photos.
Long articles. Short shoutouts.
We want to hear from you.



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