WELCOME TO WLA WEDNESDAY

May 22, 2024

Washington Library Association 2024 Spring Fundraiser
Online Silent Auction | May 8-31

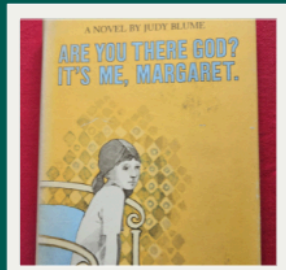**WLA 2024 Spring Fundraiser**
Online Silent Auction | May 8-31

Our silent auction is LIVE & ends NEXT FRIDAY!

Visit our auction site to view and bid on our items. Check out our BEAUTIFUL signed, vintage children's books collections, AMAZING author sessions, and SO MUCH MORE!
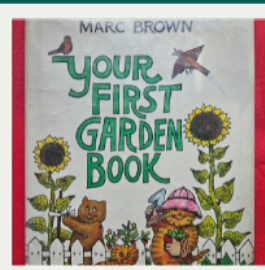
This initiative aims to raise funds for WLA, and we're thrilled to reintroduce this eagerly awaited event for this year! Learn more about our spring fundraiser here.

Questions? Contact info@wla.org.

Application open May 1-June 28

2024-2025 WLA Scholarships

Visit **wla.org/wla-scholarships** for more information.

WLA Scholarships Open May 1-June 28!

The application for 2024-2025 WLA Scholarships is now open at wla.org/wla-scholarships. A preview of the application form is also available on the scholarships page.

WLA scholarships are professional development and/or memorial scholarships, created and funded by families and friends in memory of their loved ones to honor each person's service to libraries.

This year's scholarships include:

Maryan E. Reynolds Scholarship: $1000 - $3000 to one or more WLA members who is enrolled in an ALA-accredited Masters degree program and has completed at least one semester or quarter.

Hahn-Ahlers Continuing Education Scholarship: $1000 to a WLA member toward a degree, certificate, or graduate-level study in the Library or Education fields.

John Stanford Continuing Education Scholarship: $1000 to a current WLA member of color toward a degree, certificate, or graduate level study in the Library or Education fields.

Denny Bond Library Paraprofessional Scholarship: $500 or $1000 to a current school library paraprofessional and WLA member toward participation at a local

or national library-related conference, workshop, or educational event. Eligible for the WLA 2024 Conference! Sponsored by the WLA School Library Division.

[Sharon Bates Professional Growth Scholarship](#): $500 or $1000 to a current school library employee and WLA member toward participation at a local or national library-related conference, workshop or educational event. Eligible for the WLA 2025 Conference! Sponsored by the WLA School Library Division.

To learn more about the scholarship requirements, preview the form, and more, visit the [WLA Scholarships page](#).

Questions? Email info@wla.org or call/text (206) 823-1138

PBS Visions of America- Free Info Session

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and PBS Books have partnered together to produce "Visions of America: All Stories, All People, All Places," a digital-first series of videos and virtual conversations that explore the places, people, and stories that have contributed to the America we live in today. These episodes feature author Ada Ferrer, Wing Luke Museum director Joel Tan, Negro Baseball Leagues Museum President Bob Kendrick, attorney and author Walter Echo-Hawk, and many more! Visit www.visionsofamerica.org to learn about each episode.

Join PBS Books National Director Heather-Marie Montilla and Museum and Library Engagement Coordinator Mandi Harris at **12:30pm Pacific TOMORROW, Thursday, May 23rd** to learn how libraries can use these episodes and free digital resources such as music playlists, book lists, and discussion guides to host episode showings, have book clubs, and more!

This is a FREE info session and will be recorded! Register today for your spot and if you can't attend, register to receive access to the recording.

Register Here!

Take action to #FundLibraries in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)!

With the release of the President's proposed FY25 budget and the launch of Dear Appropriator letters in Congress, the annual funding process has begun. Learn more about the campaign and spread the word with our tools and resources below:

Did Your Members of Congress Sign On?   Fact Sheets & Resources   Share the Campaign

Take Action!

Each year, as the kick-off of #FundLibraries, ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office works with congressional staff to produce and circulate "Dear Appropriator" letters in Congress, addressed to members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, requesting funding amounts for federal programs that support libraries. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding supports libraries of all kinds through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and its grant programs, including direct-to-state grants. The Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) funding supports school libraries through the Department of Education. The circulation of these letters marks the first and most influential nationwide advocacy action on the federal budget in any given year. This year, the letters are being led by Senator Jack Reed (RI), Rep. Don Bacon (NE-2), Rep. Raul Grijalva (AZ-7), and Rep. Jim McGovern (MA-2).

We need your support: Take action and urge your members of Congress to sign on in support of library funding requests. In every community, in every state, in every part of this country, patrons rely on library services supported by this critical funding. **Take action** and help preserve and expand this funding and the services it supports!

SCLD Presents: Olympic Library Leadership Incubator (OLLI)

The Washington Library Association School Library Division is excited to announce its first Olympic Library Leadership Incubator (OLLI) for current and pre-service teacher-librarians. Whether you are studying to begin your library career or have been working in libraries for a while, you are invited to join this group designed to supercharge your leadership skills. Recharge your practice, share your passions, and elevate your impact with librarian leaders from across the state.

Participants will:

- Earn up to 14 clock hours;
- Learn practical leadership skills to use in your building, district, and state;
- Network with other like-minded teacher-librarian leaders;
- Form partnerships and collaborate on WLA presentation proposals;
- Discover how to advocate for teacher-librarians within your capacity;
- Elevate the profile of school libraries by being at the forefront of legislative support;
- Tour the State Library and learn how it can support you, your staff, and your teachers.

OLLI's first session will take place Friday, July 26, 2024 in Tumwater, WA from 8:00-4:00. Subsequent sessions will be held virtually and at the 2025 WLA annual conference in Tacoma, April 10-12, 2025.

OLLI is made possible due to the [AASL ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant](#).

Please complete this [form](#) by **Wednesday, May 29** to apply. A limited number of travel stipends are available. Accepted applicants will be notified no later than Monday, June 3.

Questions? Email sarah.logan.wla@gmail.com.

Alki **wants to hear from YOU!**

Call for Papers: *We All Belong*

Alki's **Summer issue submission window is open!**

Alki Summer issues are dedicated to the WLA community goings-on. The Spring conference is the biggest WLA event of the year but it's not the only event of the year. Here is your chance to showcase your involvement in the Washington library community.

Some topic examples:

- WLA 2024 theme, "We All Belong": What does it mean to belong within a library? What does it look like? How can libraries best support a culture of belonging? Where do they fail in this mission? What are the major obstacles or threats? What is your library currently doing to better foster a sense of belonging?
- WLA 2024 presentations and talks
- WLA 2024 happenings: events, ideas, discussions, connections, etc.
- **WLA 2024 Photos**: we are looking for our next cover image and more for this issue!
- Division, section, or committee activities
- Statements from scholarship, award, and grant winners past and present
- Unofficial member gatherings or events
- Whatever you have to say about WLA!

Creative pieces, art, and photos are <u>always</u> encouraged.

Sign up for your spot today or work through a potential article conceptby emailing your name and a working title of your proposed piece to alkieditor@wla.org.

Do you have an article ready? View our submission guidelines here and email your submissions as a .doc, .docx, or Google Doc to alkieditor@wla.org **by Tuesday, June 11th**.

WLA Mentoring Program Interest Form

WLA will launch its 2024-2025 mentoring program this fall! Please fill out this form to receive updates on the program later this year. Let us know your interest by **June 30**!

The goal of the WLA Mentoring program is to create a valuable experience for members, build professional relationships, and strengthen the profession within Washington. We invite Librarians, Paraprofessionals, Program Managers, Supervisors, Consultants, Retired, other library staff to participate! **You must be a WLA member to participate.**
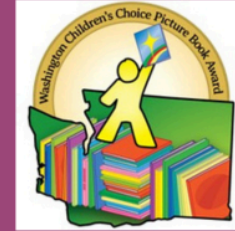
Benefits of Participating:

- Mentees: Develop your skills, learn from the best, and build professional relationships.
- Mentors: Develop future leaders, grow your leadership skills, and contribute to the profession.

Learn more at wla.org/mentoring. If you have additional questions, please reach out to the WLA Office at info@wla.org.

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WLA Mentoring Program Interest Form

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Voting Open for the 2024 Washington Children's Choice Picture Book (WCCPBA) Award

Votes are due **THIS FRIDAY, May 24, 2024!** Thank you for your vote!
How to Vote for the 2024 Award:

- Use the nominee list: WCCPBA Press Release and WCCPBA Summaries
- Tell students about the award.
- Record votes.

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR VOTES ONLINE BY CLICKING HERE.
HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIANS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR VOTES ONLINE BY CLICKING HERE.

Votes must include all titles in alphabetical order (even if no student voted for a title) and the name of their school and the city or town of their school or library.

If you have any questions about voting or are unable to use the Google Form, please contact Jolyn Danielson.

Voting Open for the 2024 Towner Award

Each spring, students in grade 2 through 6 in Washington State are invited to vote for their favorite Towner nominee if they have read or listened to a minimum of two titles. Student votes can be submitted by librarians only. Educators, make sure to vote for the Educators' Choice! This is your chance to share with others which book you found most useful with your students.

Votes for the 2024 award are due **THIS FRIDAY, May 24, 2024!** Thank you for your vote!

How to Vote for the 2024 Award:

- [Use the 2024 nominee list](#)
- Tell students about the award
- Record votes online by clicking [here](#)

If you have any questions about voting or are unable to use Google Docs, please contact [Lisa Steudel](#) or [Mary-Catherine McElroy](#).

How to Vote for the 2024 Award:

- [Use the 2024 nominee list](#)
- Tell students about the award
- Record votes in the [Otter Award Voting form.](#)

The OTTER Award is for ALL students in grades K-5. We recognize that elementary children transition into chapter books at different ages and, as such, do not limit our voting to a specific age or grade level.

Voting is open now until **THIS FRIDAY, May 24th.**

The 2024 OTTER winner will be announced Monday, June 3rd!

Voting Open for the 2024 Sasquatch Award

Central Washington University Libraries is seeking an [Affordable Course Materials Librarian, Full-Time Lecturer.](#)

NCW Libraries is seeking multiple [Bilingual Branch Librarians](#) and an [Area Manager](#).

Students choose their favorite book from a list of 12 nominees, selected by a committee comprised of Washington State school and public librarians. Students should read at least 3 of the books in order to vote. Each year the Sasquatch Award is presented to the author of the book that receives the most student

Olympic College is seeking a [Library Adjunct Faculty](#).

Oregon Tech is seeking a [University Librarian](#).

Sno-Isle Libraries is seeking a [Library Associate](#) and a [Librarian, Adult Services](#).

ees [here](#), then vote online [here](#). Voting ends **THIS FRIDAY, May 24, 2024.**

Tigard Public Library is seeking [On Call Librarians](#).

2025 Sasquatch nominees have also been announced! You may view the books [here.](#)

UW Bothell/Cascadia College Campus Library is seeking a [Computer and Natural Sciences Research and Instruction Librarian](#) and a [Business and Data Research and Instruction Librarian](#).

Washington State Library is seeking a [Branch Librarian (Prison Libraries)](#).

If your institution has a posting for libraries in the WLA community you would like to submit, please email newsletter@wla.org and indicate "Look Who's Hiring" in the subject line.

News & Notes

AME created survey regarding AI and education

Action for Media Education (AME), a Washington-based nonprofit with a 30+ history of promoting media literacy education, in collaboration with the Northwest Center for Media Literacy, UW, needs your help.

AME is conducting a survey regarding AI and education. They would like to learn more about teacher experience with AI this year so they can develop resources that would be useful for educators next year. This will help inform them about what types of engagement they can offer for the 2024-2025 school year.

Please take 5 minutes or less to tell them about your experience with AI in the classroom, as well as encourage your network to also fill out this survey. The more responses received, the better. Thank you!

Washington Digital Heritage Grants is open for applications

Washington Digital Heritage Grants provide up to $15,000 to libraries for digital projects that promote the creation and sharing of digital content documenting Washington's history. Grants are open to public, academic, tribal, and special libraries for projects running through August 2025. **The 2024-2025 grants will be open for applications May 15, 2024 through July 1, 2024.** Anyone interested can submit a letter of interest for feedback before applying beginning May 1, 2024.

Learn more about this grant opportunity at https://washstatelib.libguides.com/wdh/2024grants.

Washington Digital Heritage Grants are funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Humanities Washington 2024-2025 Public Humanities Fellowship Open

The application for the 2024-2025 Public Humanities Fellowship has opened. This is a good fit for grad students as well as professors, culture-bearers, curators, non-profit professionals, and other folks with expertise in the humanities and in the early years of their careers.

Applicants propose a public-facing project, which they will plan and execute, if selected. **Full details are attached**, but the opportunity includes:

- A stipend of $5000
- Up to $3500 of funding for their project

- Publicity for their projects, guidance from experienced public humanities practitioners, and participation in a learning cohort focused on concrete skills in the public humanities.

Projects must serve a public audience in Washington, be free to access or attend, and be firmly rooted in the humanities. Applicants from communities historically underserved by the humanities are encouraged to apply.

The deadline to apply is **June 4, 2024**.

More details are available on the Humanities Washington website, including an FAQ. Humanities Washington will also be holding an information session on April 25 at 1:30 pm (register here). For questions, reach out to Director of Programs at stone@humanities.org.

Tribal Leadership Academy at Dartmouth Now Accepting Applications

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Hanover, New Hampshire
August 4-10, 2024

The Tribal Leadership Academy (TLA) at Dartmouth College will provide a place for newly elected or appointed tribal governmental leaders to engage with each other and with experienced faculty presenters on governance matters of vital importance to tribal nations.

The Academy will convene during the week of August 4-10, 2024 and will allow up to 25 tribal government leaders to gather in Hanover, New Hampshire to consider best governance practices that are appropriate for their unique tribal nations, including:

- Strategies for enhancing intergovernmental relations with state and federal government
- Stimulating their local reservation economies
- Managing reservation natural resources
- Improving the delivery and outcomes of health care systems
- Developing more effective systems of criminal justice within their tribal communities

The costs of travel and attendance will be covered by Dartmouth College. The review of applications will begin on May 1, 2024 and applicants will be notified of the status of their application by June 1, 2024.

Learn more and apply here.

SRRT Meeting- Let's talk about Vocational ~~Awe~~ Nah!
May 28th 4-5pm

Join the Social Responsibilities Round Table on Tuesday, May 28th from 4-5pm in discussing the podcast, "The Limits of Vocational Awe," starring undergraduate success librarian, Fobazi Ettarh.

Ettarh coined "Vocational Awe" in her article, "Vocational Awe and the Lies we Tell Ourselves". Ettarh defines "Vocational Awe" as the "...set of ideas, values, and assumptions librarians have about themselves and the profession that result in notions that libraries as institutions are inherently good and sacred—and therefore beyond critique." Vocational Awe can lead to accepting poor work conditions, low pay, job creep, and lack of recognition. Listen in on the podcast, then let's get together to discuss how we can say nah to Vocational Awe. Let's consider:

- What's your experience with Vocational Awe?
- Have you heard of Vocational Awe before?
- Ettarh mentions how siloing bolsters Vocational Awe; are you siloed at work? How do you break it up?
- What's one thing you can start doing today to combat Vocational Awe?

...or anything else you'd like to share with the group!

Podcast: https://ideasonfire.net/98-fobazi-ettarh/

SRRT Agenda/Minutes: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-u7Drv64RkfjaGDh1geVrgBmYtOyG-BjqjbhdkbENH8/edit#heading=h.mazi8tqsuzoj

Special Libraries Division Quarterly Meeting
May 22nd 3-4pm

Please join us for the next Special Libraries Division quarterly meeting to learn about our upcoming in-person meetups, activities, and special guest speakers!

*You may find all Zoom meeting links on the WLA member's calendar**

Conference Bulletin

Registration is open for the 2024 Annual Northwest Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Conference!

The NWILL conference will be held September 18-20, 2024 in a unique hybrid format; attendees can join **in person** at [University of Oregon](#) in [Eugene](#), Oregon or **virtually** through the [Whova](#) conference platform. Regardless of how you attend, you will have access to amazing presentations and networking opportunities!

Programming for 2024 includes presentations on topics such as E-Book ILL, Succession Planning, International Resource Sharing, Copyright, ISO 18626, Policy Harmonization, Training, Visualizing ILL Data, and more. Most presentations will be in-person and live-streamed to our virtual audience. The full program will be posted on the [NWILL website](#) and on the [Whova](#) conference platform.

Have questions? Get in touch with the planning committee by email to nwillconf@gmail.com.

Apply now for the [2024 WAML Diversity and Early Career Librarian Scholarships!](#)

The Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML) is an independent association of map and geospatial librarians and other people with an interest in maps and geospatial librarianship. WAML is committed to actively encouraging diverse voices and new perspectives in the field of map and geospatial librarianship and within our organization.

WAML offers three scholarship opportunities in conjunction with the [2024 WAML Annual Meeting in University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM September 25-28, 2024](#). Each scholarship includes an award of **$750**, a one-year membership in WAML, free conference registration and the opportunity to present at the conference.

The application deadline is **May 31, 2024.** Please **apply via the [online application form](#)**.

Scholarship applicants will be notified of the results by **June 28, 2024.**

For more information on eligibility and the application process, visit **https://waml.org/scholarships/**.

Contact Jo-Ann Wong (Scholarship Committee Chair) at joannwong@nypl.org with questions about the program or application process.

Registration Open: Generative AI in Libraries (GAIL) Conference

Registration is now open for the inaugural Generative AI in Libraries (GAIL) Conference. This year's theme is *Prompt or Perish: Navigating Generative AI in Libraries*. GAIL is a free virtual conference aimed specifically at librarians that seeks to explore the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in libraries. It is also an opportunity for librarians to share their experiences with generative AI technologies and their applications in the library setting.

Scheduled to take place June 11, 12, and 13, 2024, from 1:00-4:00 pm EDT each day, GAIL aims to promote a deeper understanding of how generative AI can revolutionize library services like instruction, research support, collection management, access services, outreach, and collaboration. The conference will also address the challenges and ethical considerations this new technology brings to libraries.

View more details and register on the conference website here.

Registration for the AkLA + PNLA 2024 Conference is open!

Early bird prices end May 31st!
Secure early bird pricing now and pay later!
Invoices not paid by July 5, 2024 will be charged the regular rate(s).

AkLA Members, Non-Members, Friends/Trustees/Students please register here.
PNLA Members, Non-Members, Friends/Trustees/Students please register here.
(Registration Types & Rates)

Exhibit and Sponsor Registrations can be made online here or with the mail-in option.
(Exhibits & Sponsors)

More information can be found on the conference website.

The Alaska Library Association (AkLA) and the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) are hosting a joint conference to be held August 1-3, 2024 in Juneau, AK.

The Alaska Library Association and the Pacific Northwest Library Association have chosen "**Stronger Together: Amplifying Voices, Strengthening Communities**" as our 2024 conference theme. Libraries are at their strongest when they endeavor to provide collections, forums, and programs that actively uplift the diverse voices, stories, and experiences within our communities. The partnership between a library and its community is crucial in ensuring that our services are actively enriching the lives of every resident.

NEW The conference schedule has been posted! Check out the website for more information. Full session details will be available June 1st.

Use the hashtag **#AKLAPNLA2024** on social media. (AkLA Facebook / PNLA Facebook)

The AkLA + PNLA 2024 Conference is thrilled to offer a one-of-a-kind **whale watching experience** to attendees! Allen Marine Tours will be hosting a 2-hour whale watching tour on Saturday, August 3rd! Leaving at 7:00 PM from Auke Bay, delve into Alaska's renowned whale and wildlife habitats.

The cost is $125 per person and includes the cruise, boxed meal, and transportation to the harbor. There is limited availability - so first come, first served!

Statewide Database Training Opportunities!

In May, Gale Cengage is offering training that focuses on library resources available in the Statewide Database Licensing package for public, K-12, and academic libraries. Please use the links below to register:

For WSL: Gale Resources Overview: Supporting Academic Librarians in Washington State
Date and Time: May 22nd at 10:00 AM -10:45 AM PT
Join us for a comprehensive training session designed for academic librarians, providing an overview of the extensive Gale resources available through the Washington State Library. Explore the wide range of content, including discipline-specific resources, and gain insights into the functionality of Gale resources. Learn how to effectively browse, search, and utilize these resources to support research, enhance instruction, and empower academic success. Don't miss this opportunity to optimize your library's offerings with Gale resources. This session will be recorded.
Registration Link: https://cengage-gale.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A13tLN8WTU2Yd1UQ2Q56Hw

For WSL: Gale Resources Overview: Unleashing the Potential for K-12 Students
Date and Time: May 23rd at 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM PT
Unlock the power of Gale resources available from the Washington State Library in this comprehensive training session designed for school librarians. Explore the wealth of content, tools to support accessibility, and the functionality of Gale resources. Learn how to effectively utilize these resources to support research, foster literacy, and enhance learning outcomes. Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your library services and provide valuable resources to support student success. This session will be recorded.

Registration Link: https://cengage-gale.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DOuZ4Yw4SEmHdf6b9GsbsA

ChatGPT + AI 2024 Bootcamp for Libraries and Librarians: Understanding and Harnessing the Power of Generative AI with Library 2.0's Steve Hargadon

This online bootcamp series is designed to equip librarians with a core understanding of generative AI and with the knowledge and skills that are needed to integrate ChatGPT and other tools into library programming and their personal and professional learning.

The three one-hour sessions will include Q&A time which may go beyond the hour. All sessions can be attended live, will be recorded, and will be available to participants with non-expiring access. Visit the webpage for more information.

Registration will include the three live sessions and access to the session recordings.

To Register:
DO NOT USE THE REGISTRATION FORM ON THE LIBRARY 2.0 SITE. YOU WILL BE BILLED FOR THE COST OF REGISTRATION

1. For free registration, go to this form**: https://forms.gle/UiY39idi6H2JziEE6** and register. **This form is only for library staff in Washington State**. Please do not share it with other out of state libraries or folks not associated with a library.
2. You will receive a confirmation from that you are registered. Please check your spam folder if you don't receive your confirmation email right away. Emails come from library20email@gmail.com or admin@library20.com and the phrase "ChatGPT" seems to be triggering spam filtering in many cases. Please make sure the sender is marked as 'safe' so future emails do not end

up in your spam folder For any registration difficulties or questions, email admin@library20.com.

3. You will receive a link to each session individually as well as a link to the recordings after each session.
4. After the third session you may be randomly chosen by WSL to receive a link to a survey about the training. This survey is very short but is important information that we use to decide on future trainings and for our annual report for our funder.

This training is brought to you by Washington State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, and funded by IMLS through the LSTA Grants to States Program.

Camp Read-a-Rama Training, Saturday, June 15

WLA,

Read-a-Rama, a non-profit that uses children's literature as the springboard for all programming activities, is offering a training on **June 15, 2024 in Seattle (10-4:30 at Ballard First Lutheran Church)**. Join us for this fun-filled, interactive, bookish day of programming designed to help adults get kids *excited* about books and reading. Since 2009, Read-a-Rama has been offering 100% engagement programming in summer and during school breaks. If you want innovative ideas for library programming you can use daily in your work, or if you'd like to offer Camp Read-a-Rama at your library or school in the future, this training is for you. [Visit the website for more information](#), and see the list below for the topics covered in the workshop. We hope to see you on June 15! For questions, email campreadarama@gmail.com.

Dr. Michelle H. Martin, Read-a-Rama Executive Director &
Beverly Cleary Professor for Children & Youth Services, UW iSchool

Topics Covered in the Workshop

Centering Books
- Critical analysis of picture book art
- Interactive read-aloud techniques
- Connecting books with interdisciplinary activities
- Creating rich book discussions that foster critical thinking
- Using diverse books to counter stereotypes
- Increasing cultural competence for "out of your comfort zone" programming
- Fostering relationships around books
- Encouraging agency in readers

Programming for 100% engagement

- Taking "100% Engagement" programming seriously
- Using songs & music for programming and transitions
- Managing mixed-age groups
- "Zipper" songs—creating new songs from familiar tunes
- Good chants and repeat songs for camp transitions
- Avoiding racist songs and songs with racist histories
- Building Camp Read-a-Rama programming around community engagement
- Online Read-a-Rama programming
- Planning field trips that continue 100% engagement
- Family literacy event programming

Providing a Safe and Welcoming Camp Environment

- Trauma-informed, Healing Centered Care Training
- The importance of equity in Camp Read-a-Rama programming
- Camper documents (paperwork, fliers, scheduling, etc,)
- Camp staff & Counselor-in-Training documents (training, safety, paperwork and learning resources, etc.)
- Site-Directors' Manual
- Curriculum access

Our second Library 2.024 mini-conference: "**The Supportive Library: Helping Patrons Experiencing Homelessness**," will be held online (and for free) on **Thursday, June 20th, 2024, from 12:00 - 3:00 pm** US-Pacific Time.

This is a free event, being held live online and also recorded.
REGISTER HERE
to attend live and/or to receive the recording links afterward.

From a librarian's perspective, when we think of patrons experiencing homelessness, we automatically know and understand that they are an especially vulnerable population. We also know that to work in libraries is to be on the forefront of homelessness. However, while we are working directly with vulnerable patrons, many of us may not know how to help someone who is

unhoused or who is experiencing food or other insecurities. We may not understand why they don't trust us, or why they are striking out angrily toward us. We may not know the mental challenges or trauma they are experiencing or the loneliness and isolation they are feeling. In turn, this can expose our own vulnerabilities.

What we do know is that there are many challenges for our vulnerable patrons. What can we do to help strengthen these patrons, knowing that this requires being emotionally vulnerable ourselves? How do we find the emotional strength and courage to be open and authentic? What can librarians provide? We can try to build strength with our homeless community members by recognizing and having compassion for their vulnerabilities as well as our own. From this we may foster empathy, and cultivate a greater sense of belonging within our libraries.

For this conference, we invite you to embrace vulnerability, share stories of helping vulnerable patrons, express how you have been vulnerable and needed support, and what it means to take risks and step outside of your comfort zone.

Have news to share? Please send information to the WLA office at newsletter@wla.org *by Monday to be included in that week's digest. Please include any relevant graphics, as well as the blurb you would like posted in our newsletter.*

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