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March 19, 2025



Congratulations to the Primary Source Scholarship Winner

On behalf of the WLA 2025 Conference Committee and WLA 2025 Professional Development Committee, we're excited to announce our conference scholarship winner!

- Primary Source Scholarship for Small & Rural Libraries: **Hollyanna Hahn**
(Whitman County Library)

Thank you to all who applied, and thank you to our scholarship sponsor, [Primary Source](#).

These scholarships were made possible by our conference sponsorship opportunities. If you know of an organization that would like to make a direct impact in the WA library community, please [find more information](#) on our sponsor and exhibitor site.

WLA Merit Awards

Congratulations to the 2025 WLA Merit Award Winners!

The WLA Merit Awards offer the opportunity to recognize and highlight the outstanding work ongoing in Washington libraries. On behalf of the 2025 WLA Awards Committee, we're honored to recognize this year's Merit Awards recipients:

President's Award:

- **2024 Olympic Library Leadership Incubator (OLLI) Project Team:**

Eryn Duffee, Gavin Downing, Sam Harris, Mahlon Landis, Jamie Moffett, & Elizabeth Roberts

Awarded by 2024 WLA President Sarah Logan

Candace Morgan Intellectual Freedom Award:

- Mary Kinser, Emma Radosevich, Hana Boxberger, & Jonathan Jakobitz

Nominated by Maggie Mae Nase

CAYAS Award for Visionary Library Services to Youth:

- Mason Neil; *Nominated by Denise Neujahr*

Outstanding Service Awards:

- Samantha Carterby; *Nominated by Michelle Sams*
- Kathleen Collins & Emilie Vrbancic; *Nominated by Reed Garber-Pearson*
- Buffy Jackson; *Nominated by Jas Templet*
- Jackie Little; *Nominated by Jamie Bair*
- Nathan Sun-Kleinberger; *Nominated by Vaudery Frelix Brown*
- Jessica Varang; *Nominated by Amanda Six*

Volunteer Leadership Award:

- Friends of Woodland Library;
Nominated by Jennifer Hauan, Judy Musa, Sherry Braga, Jennifer Giltrop

Elementary Teacher-Librarian of the Year:

- Candace Ranney; *Nominated by Mary Boone*

Secondary Teacher-Librarian of the Year:

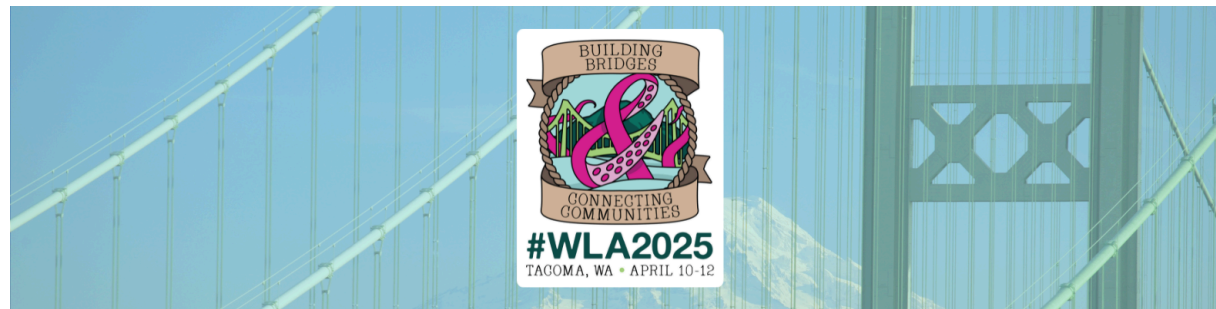
- Heidi Bush; *Nominated by JJ Higgins, Catherine Schaeffer*

School Library Paraprofessional of the Year:

- Kim Knorr; *Nominated by Alicia Wilson*

Congratulations to this year's recipients, and thank you to all who participated in the nomination process! Winners will be celebrated on Saturday, April 12 at the WLA Conference Awards Lunch in Tacoma.

If you have any questions, please contact the WLA Office at info@wla.org or (206) 823-1138.



Register for #WLA2025!

Registration for the WLA 2025 Conference in Tacoma is still open. Please visit our [conference homepage](#) for registration rates and more information!

This graphic announcement features a dark green background with a white banner at the bottom. On the left is the WLA 2025 logo. In the center, a photo of Peggy Janicki is shown next to the book cover for "The Secret Pocket" by Peggy Janicki, illustrated by Caroleeana Yone. On the right, a photo of Shamichael Hallman is shown next to the book cover for "Meet Me at the Library" by Shamichael Hallman. The white banner at the bottom contains the text: "Author Breakfast with Peggy Janicki" and "Closing Session with Shamichael Hallman".

Author Breakfast with Peggy Janicki

Saturday, April 12 | 8:00 am- 9:45 am

Join WLA's School Library Division and Children and Young Adult Services (CAYAS) Section for our annual Author Breakfast with special guest Peggy Janicki!

Peggy Janicki is an award-winning Dakelh teacher from the Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation. She holds a master of education in Indigenous knowledges/Indigenous pedagogies from the University of British Columbia.

Peggy is the author of the 2025 [WLA Towner Award](#) Nominee, *The Secret Pocket*, which tells the true story of how Indigenous girls at a Canadian residential school sewed secret pockets into their dresses to hide food and survive.

Closing Session with Shamichael Hallman

Saturday, April 12 | 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

For our closing session, we will all come back together to celebrate the transformative role of libraries as connectors and bridge-builders in their communities. Shamichael Hallman, Director of Civic Health and Economic Opportunity at the Urban Libraries Council and author of *Meet Me at the Library*, will highlight the vital work librarians do in shaping public life and offer actionable insights to inspire continued impact. Attendees can expect to leave with a renewed appreciation for the powerful bridges they build every day—bridges that connect people, ideas, and possibilities—and with the motivation to carry that spirit forward into their communities.

Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor at #WLA2025!

Vendor registration is open for the 2025 Washington Library Association Conference! Don't miss your chance to engage with WLA attendees as they gather this spring in Tacoma. The conference will bring together library professionals from academic, public, school, and special libraries!

When: April 11-12

Where: Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, WA.

Why sponsor/exhibit at the 2025 WLA Conference?

- **Meet many new prospects** from all around Washington's academic, public, school, and special libraries.
- **Talk to buyers.** Many attendees control buying or influence purchasing decisions.
- **Find new customers** who do not attend national conferences.
- **Enjoy an active show schedule** with at least 15 hours of exhibit time – with refreshments, receptions, and raffles.
- **Connect with virtual attendees** and generate leads through our conference app.

You can [download our prospectus here](#) and visit the conference site for information on pricing and opportunities for engagement.

[Register here](#) to join us in Tacoma as an exhibitor, sponsor, or advertiser.



Vote for Your Favorite 2025 Book Award Nominees!

Please click on the following book award to view the 2025 nominees and to vote!
Votes from students are due Friday, May 23.

- [OTTER Award](#)
 - [Sasquatch Award](#)
 - [Towner Award](#)
 - [WCCPBA](#) (Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award)
-



WLA Announces New Executive Director

The Washington Library Association is excited to welcome Ainsley Nobara as its new executive director, beginning Feb. 10! Prior to this role, Nobara worked for Washington's Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries and for Oregon's Ledding Library. She received her Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State University, with a concentration in outreach.



"As the new executive director of the Washington Library Association, I am honored to be part of a community that supports librarianship throughout the state, and recognizes the value libraries bring to every Washingtonian," Nobara said.

The WLA executive director position was previously held by Brianna Hoffman from 2020-2024 and Kate Laughlin from 2016-2020. Lesley Bourne has been serving as WLA's interim executive director since July 2024.

Public Library Division

Help us welcome Ainsley by connecting at info@wla.org!

Please join the Public Library Division for their quarterly meeting on Wednesday, April 2 from 12:30-1:30pm. Connect with fellow members, share ideas, and find solidarity with the Public Library community.

Academic Library Division

Calling all new, current, long-standing, and members interested in joining WLA's Academic Division. We want to hear from you! Please complete this brief [member engagement survey](#) to help in planning directions for the division and CLAWS section by **Sunday, April 6.**

Consider joining WLA in the new year! We're happy to announce the rollout of updated member rates just in time for **#WLA2025**.
If the hyperlink above didn't copy/paste correctly please use this link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1pInYC1mp4fVdCDUQKVrsxZTGI-Afxz5APApNrA64yWVD-g/viewform?usp=header>

WLA members gain access to our [Questions and interest-based Sections](#), are eligible for leadership opportunities and involvement, **receive members-only discounts for Annual Conference** and events, and much more!

All WLA Meeting Zoom links are available on the [WLA Member calendar](#).

If you have any questions about determining your individual member rate, please reach out to info@wla.org.

Look Who's Hiring

Washington State

Highline College Library (Des Moines, WA) is seeking a [Reference and Instruction Librarian](#).

NCW Libraries is seeking a [Bilingual Branch Librarian](#) (Mattawa, WA).

Seattle Central College (Seattle, WA) is seeking a [Library Associate](#).

Seattle University is seeking a [Metadata Strategist Librarian](#).

Sno-Isle Libraries is seeking a [Facilities Specialist](#) (Marysville, WA) and a [Library Manager III](#) (Mill Creek, WA).

The Washington State Library (Clallam Bay, WA) is seeking a [Branch Librarian \(Prison Libraries\)](#).

Outside of Washington State

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

Portland-Metro Library at Oregon Tech (Klamath Falls, OR) is seeking a [Director](#).

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



Camp Read-a-Rama Training

March 22 | 10:00am - 3:00pm

Hands-on, interactive training that prepares educators and librarians to get kids excited about reading!

Training costs \$85 for professionals and \$25 for students.

Please visit Read-a-Rama.org for more information and to register!

Clock Hours Available: Researching Current Trends in Media Literacy and AI Education

Independent Work Time | March - June

Develop a research plan on current trends in media literacy education, conduct research using a time log, create a bibliography, and write a reflective summary.

Hosted By: [Action 4 Media Education](#)

Total Clock Hours Available: 3-10

[Register at this link.](#)



Registration Open for nErDcamp Bellingham

March 22 | Whatcom Middle School

Registration is open for [nErDcamp Bellingham](#).

nErDcamp is an “unconference,” based on the [EDcamp](#) model, but with a focus on literacy in learning. It is dubbed “nErDcamp” in a nod to the online movement known as [#nerdybookclub](#) and to appeal to the book nerds we are all proud to be. An unconference differs from a traditional conference because the topics and sessions are determined and led by the participants. It is an opportunity for attendees to share their expertise and learn from each other. There are no exhibitors or commercial components.

Our attendees include teachers, librarians (public and school), higher ed, published and aspiring authors and illustrators, and more. We’d love to have our event enriched by your voice and experience.

nErDcamp is a free event — [register here!](#)



[The 10th Annual Washington State Zine Contest is now open!](#)

You can find downloadable posters and double-sided entry forms and submission guidelines to share with your community at the [Washington Center for the Book website](#).

If you have questions or want to share zine programming you are doing in your library, please email Sara Peté at sara.pete@sos.wa.gov.

Thank you to Tien Triggs, WLA's Special Library Division Vice Chair and Advocacy Committee Chair, for this year's beautiful poster design!

Evergreen Teen Book Award Voting Open

Teens at your library can now vote for their favorite 2025 Evergreen Nominee! Voting will be open for high school students and middle school students until **March 31**. The 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Award Winners and upcoming 2026 nominees will be announced at the [2025 WLA Conference](#).

- [High School 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Awards Voting Link](#)
- [Middle School 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Awards Voting Link](#)

If you would like to collect votes from students and input the votes all at once, use the following links:

- [High School 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Award Library Tally Link](#)
 - [Middle School 2025 Evergreen Teen Book Award Library Tally Link](#)
-

Literacy Lecture from Tracie D Hall, Warrior Librarian

Friday, April 4 | 12:30pm

"Information Islands: How Disinformation and the Decline in Human Literacy are Dividing Us and What Can we Do About It"

Tracie D Hall, Time 100 List of Influential People 2023. Warrior Librarian! Past Executive Director of the American Library Association. Distinguished Practitioner in Residence at the UW iSchool. Firm believer in "free people read freely" and that libraries and books can free us from hatred and lies. Join us for lunch with Tracie and hear her vision for the future. Tickets are \$51.80 (\$56.40 with service fee).

This event is presented in collaboration with Page Ahead, a local Children's Literacy nonprofit. You can donate to Page Ahead by purchasing new children's books at the event.

Please visit <https://brownpapertickets.com/event/6582485> for more information and to purchase tickets.



Native American Read-In

Join online for a fun-filled event that highlights Indigenous voices through storytelling, dance, and community connection. All ages welcome!

Featuring authors Laurel Goodluck and Violet Duncan, Hoop Dancer Tony Duncan & family, and Emcee Mandi Harris.

Please [visit the website](#) for more information and to register!

An advertisement for a workshop. On the left, a photograph of two women, Mia Henry and JoLyn Reisdorf, smiling. Mia is on the left, wearing a black top and a gold necklace. JoLyn is on the right, wearing glasses and a black top. Below the photo, their names and affiliations are listed: "Mia Henry & JoLyn Reisdorf", "Freedom Lifted", and "Tacoma Public Library". On the right, the text reads: "Freedom Lifted" with a logo, "Shared Power in Supervision" in large green letters, "A 4-hour training for managers who want to share power with their teams", and "Upcoming Workshop Dates" with two buttons: "March 26" and "April 17".

Freedom Lifted: Shared Power in Supervision Workshop

[Freedom Lifted](#) is now offering a new workshop: [Shared Power in Supervision](#) specific for libraries and non-profits. This live, virtual 4-hour training is for managers who want to share power with their teams. It addresses the constant question:

"With limited time and so much to do, how can I be a better supervisor for a diverse team?"

[Mia Henry](#) and [JoLyn Reisdorf](#) will facilitate the training which will include on.strategies, resources, and small group discussion. Supervisors will learn:

- how to understand power in the management role
- how managers can build relationships with employees by helping them identify their expertise, problem solve, and build leadership skills
- how to share decision making and authority with employees while concurrently providing clear expectations and support.

Are you ready to invest in your ability to lead?

[Sign up](#) to attend on one of the upcoming dates: March 26 or April 17.

If you're a Washington Library Association member, you can receive \$100 off! Simply note you are a Washington Library Association member in the registration form - your membership will be verified.

The Humanities Washington Award

The Humanities Washington Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the public humanities—people and organizations who bring new stories to light, connect their communities, and encourage us all to think, reflect, and learn.

Anyone can nominate, and nominations are due April 18. Those chosen for this honor will receive \$1,000 and the opportunity for public recognition at one of our 50th anniversary regional events.

Ten awards will be given in five geographic regions across Washington State (Central, Central Puget Sound, Eastern, Northwestern/Islands, and Southwestern/Coast).

Please [visit here](#) for more details and to submit a nomination.



Registration Education from Election Experts

April 21 | 5:00pm

Monday, April 21 is your opportunity to join a virtual event with Washington State Elections to learn how you can help get out the vote!

The education and outreach team at the office of the Secretary of State will offer elections resources, teach you how to register voters, and speak about any exciting updates that make our state voting process easier. Join in to learn how to help your community even more!

This meeting is free to the public, since anyone can help others register to vote in our state. Please email ElectionsOutreach@sos.wa.gov for an Outlook meeting invite.

Clock Hours Available: Enhancing Media Literacy Through Picture Books

April 21, May 19 | 6pm - 7:15pm

Identify and select a variety of picture books related to a guiding question, unit of study, literary theme, or book award you'd like to pursue. Consider giving titles from current and previous WCCPBA titles, Towner Award books, nationally recognized titles, or SLJ starred review picture books extra consideration, since they will be more accessible to school libraries.

Hosted By: [Action 4 Media Education](#)

Total Clock Hours Available: 4 hours for attending paired with independent work for a total of 12 clock hours maximum.

[Register at this link.](#)

Applying Strategic Foresight toward Future-Ready Libraries, Archives, and Museums in Washington State

In this time of rapid change, we must explore and chart new pathways toward future success, and foster mindsets and skills to help us discover untapped possibilities. Strategic foresight is a framework to help us create multiple future scenarios, envision outcomes and evaluate current and pending strategies to support decision making and action in the present against a suite of possible futures.

Building on four years of the IMLS-supported [Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School](#), the Connecticut State Library and partner TFSX (formerly Kedge: The Futures School) are now training organizational cohorts--including library

systems, archives, museums, associations, and partner networks—across the United States. The initiative is taking a systems perspective, to integrate strategic foresight into operations and infuse futures thinking into institutional capacity, cultural shifts, technological innovation, model processes, and succession planning. Each cohort member works with a team of their colleagues to apply foresight tools to lead their organization to the future.

[Apply Now!](#)

The June 3-5 cohort is eligible only to individuals working in a library, archive, museum or LAM-related organization within Washington State. When completing the application form, be sure to select the **Washington State cohort**.

Applications are due **April 29**.

Present at the PLA 2026 Conference!

The Public Library Association (PLA) invites passionate library professionals, advocates, and thought leaders like you to participate in our renowned conference programming! The [PLA 2026 Conference](#) will be held April 1–3, 2026, in Minneapolis, MN, and offers more than 100 educational sessions. We are looking for program submissions that address timely, relevant topics impacting the evolving landscape of public libraries, focused on new ideas, diverse perspectives, and actionable, scalable solutions for libraries of all shapes and sizes.

Program Categories

- In-person programs can be 60-minute Panel, Peer Sharing, or Case Study educational sessions; or (new to PLA 2026) 120-minute Deep Dive educational sessions.
- Virtual programs will be delivered from your home or office, available exclusively to the PLA 2026 Virtual Conference audience, and can be 60-minute Panel or Case Study educational sessions.

The deadline for submitting a program proposal is **May 5, 2025**, at 11:59 PM Eastern. Please visit the [conference proposal homepage](#) for more information.



America's Field Trip Contest

America's Field Trip is back, as a program of America250! Students in grades 3-12 are invited to participate in this year's contest by sharing their perspective about what America means to them.

Winners will receive an unforgettable field trip experience to one of our nation's most iconic historic or cultural sites. Written or original artwork answering the question "**What does America mean to you**" are now being accepted; the deadline for submissions is 2 p.m. PT on **April 16**.

For more information, please visit [America's Field Trip - America250](#)

ALA: Support IMLS by Sharing Your Library Story with Congress

Since ALA announced the Show Up For Our Libraries campaign after the Inauguration, we've seen a barrage of attacks on a wide array of federal agencies, programs, and policies. Unfortunately, in the year ahead, we expect continued efforts to slash the federal budget. ALA, like many of you, is concerned about the broad-reaching effects of these efforts and other newly implemented policies and decisions.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, the only source of federal funding dedicated to libraries, has not been targeted yet. We know that will change in the blink of an eye. Every member of Congress needs to know why libraries are not just a "nice to have," but a necessity – before IMLS is attacked. Tell Congress your library story: bit.ly/4iqzFqk



Registration Open: ACL Annual Conference

June 1-4 | Nampa, ID

The librarians at Northwest Nazarene University (Nampa, ID) and [The Association of Christian Librarians](#) cordially invite you to participate in the 2025 ACL Annual Conference, **June 1-4, 2025** for a week of learning, encouragement, and connections as we explore this year's theme: **Libraries: Gems of the Community**. This conference is ACL's annual keystone event, and YOUR opportunity to engage in professional development, network with colleagues, and explore a variety of topics relevant to librarianship.

[Registration is now open!](#) Review the conference registration site for information related to the presentation/conference schedule and more!



Reach Further

Connecting Libraries
Beyond the Screen

PNLA
Virtual Conference

August 7-9, 2025

Registration Open: 2025 PNLA Virtual Conference

August 7-9 | Virtual

The Pacific Northwest Library Association is excited to invite you to the PNLA Virtual Conference.

This year's theme, *Reach Further: Connecting Libraries Beyond the Screen*, celebrates the power of libraries across the Pacific Northwest coming together online in meaningful and transformative ways.

PNLA represents library professionals from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and beyond. What better way to connect than through virtual spaces? This conference is an opportunity to forge connections beyond physical borders, expand access to knowledge, and collaborate in ways that transcend distance.

Early Bird Pricing is open until July 3, 2025.

Register at this link: <https://pnla.org/event-5940839>



Teacher Librarian of the Year

Award Sponsored by:



Rachel Peters

Library Information Specialist
Hutton Elementary School
Spokane Public Schools



Congratulations to WLA member Rachel Peters for receiving NCCE's (Northwest Council for Computer Education) first ever Teacher Librarian of the year award!

Our members consistently go above and beyond—a true testament to their dedication and passion!



Authors Against Book Bans is Here for Washington

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.

A new state law prohibits schools from banning books used in curriculums solely because they were written by or about members of marginalized groups. Even so, book challenges continue to be a reality and dealing with one can be stressful.

Authors Against Book Bans (AABB) in Washington State is dedicated to protecting the intellectual freedom to read and the availability of diverse voices on library shelves.



Contact Info:

Washington Library Association
Illustrators, anthology editors and
PO Box 33808 Seattle, WA 98133
librarians, teachers, and others involved in
(206) 823-1138
members can help include:
info@wla.org

Connect with Us!

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- Writing emails and letters, sending recorded videos, and/or making phone calls to curriculum, school board, or other decision makers
- Sharing personal experiences demonstrating the importance of diverse books
- Appearing before public meetings in support of diverse books
- Sending personal messages of support (e.g., email or postcards) to individuals embroiled in challenges

For support or more information find AABB at authorsagainstbookbans.com. Be sure to look for the AABB exhibitors booth at the WLA Conference in April!



Save the Date: America's 250th Anniversary in 2026

July 4, 2026

Plans are already underway for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Washington State has established an official state committee to plan events and activities, and recently launched the official America250 WA website.

Libraries are encouraged to partner with America250 WA to help educate and promote semiquincentennial activities. Join the list of partners to help promote activities in your community at this [link](#).

Lorraine Ralston, the state America 250 coordinator, will be working with partners to help ensure this commemoration is a statewide observance. Please feel free to contact her with questions at info@america250wa.org.

For more information about Washington State plans, visit America250WA.org.