

# Newsletter

Volume 52, Issue 1



Photo by Maddy Baker on Unsplash



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS: 1923-2023

## January/February 2023

### Letter from the ALA-APA Councilor

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself, and make myself available to you as your ALA-APA Councilor. My name is Nadia Orozco-Sahi, my pronouns are they/she, I am a staff librarian at the University of New Mexico, and co-editor of this newsletter!

I attended LibLearnX in New Orleans in January as the NMLA Chapter Councilor, during which we spent 3 days in governance and council sessions, hearing reports from various bodies of ALA, adopting several resolutions, engaging in spirited debate over membership models and roundtable dues, and generally getting nerdy with parliamentary rules. It was a first for me – and I am eager to continue participating as I gain experience and hear what your priorities are for New Mexico Libraries and how NMLA and ALA can support the work that you're doing.

I recently completed a course on Library Futures, during which I was introduced to VUCA, which is the notion that the future is volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous. We see this every day, but libraries and librarians aren't afraid of any of these terms – we embrace them, we champion them, and we're ready for them! Going into our Centennial year as an organization, We Are Ready.

Nadia Orozco-Sahi, ALA - APA Councilor, [alacouncilor@nmla.org](mailto:alacouncilor@nmla.org)

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# New Library Branch in Enchanted Hills



The City of Rio Rancho is opening a new library branch, the HUB @ Enchanted Hills. Opening in Spring 2023, the HUB @ Enchanted Hills is a partnership between the Library and Information Services Department and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department to provide a quality of life center to increase access to City services in northern Rio Rancho. This new model for the City will be a community space for learning, activities, sports and more. Half of the building is a library branch, with the rest having pickleball courts and meeting rooms for community use. Leading an enthusiastic team to open a third library branch in the City of Rio Rancho, Director of Library and Information Services Jason Shoup states: “We are excited to bring new and expanded opportunities to the community in a convenient and fast-growing location.”

Stay informed about the opening date and more at: [www.rrnm.gov/library](http://www.rrnm.gov/library)

# Libraries Seek Major Funding in 2023 Legislature

By Joe Sabatini

The Legislature is going into the third week of its 2023 session, and several library issues are moving through the process. The proposed budget from the Governor includes \$15 million for the Rural Libraries Endowment, and \$20 million for tribally administered education programs including support for tribal libraries. The extraordinary improvement in state government revenues gives legislators much flexibility to address the many of the state's future needs.

Thirty librarians and library supporters attended the Legislative Briefing at the Capitol on Library Legislative Day on January 27th. Lynette Schurdevin, State Librarian Eli Guinnee, Ruben Aragon, Teresa Ortiz, Teresa Naranjo, Lillian Chavez, Larry Horan and Shel Neymark made presentations. The New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries provided "I believe in the Power of Libraries" buttons.

In opening ceremonies in the House, Representative Gail Armstrong made a statement and then introduced the library delegation in the House Gallery, Julia Kelso, Vista Grande Public Library, Teresa Ortiz, Deming High School Library, Lillian Chavez, Mescalero Community Library and Samantha Villa, Southeast New Mexico College in Carlsbad. In her remarks, Representative Armstrong praised the role of rural libraries and noted the important services provided by her hometown library in Magdalena.

The single largest library funding issue in this Legislature is the amount to be added to the Rural Libraries Endowment Fund. The Governor's budget includes an additional \$15 million appropriation to the endowment fund, which would bring it to \$28 million. The Legislative Finance Committee's budget also supports the \$15 million appropriation. Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino has introduced Senate Bill 214, appropriating \$37 million, which would bring the fund to the \$50 million originally envisioned to provide sufficient revenue to qualifying libraries to insure ongoing financial stability. The proceeds from the Endowment are distributed by the New Mexico State Library to public, tribal and non-profit libraries serving communities with fewer than 3,000 people. The first hearing for SB 214 is likely to be on February 7th.

As in the past four years, there are several bills from the Tribal Education Alliance introduced by Representative Derrick Lente to address requirements in the Yazzie Martinez educational funding equity case. The House Education Committee heard two of Rep. Derrick Lente's Tribal Education Initiative (TEA) bills on January 27th. HB 140 creates a Tribal Education Trust Fund, appropriating \$50 million to establish the fund. Proceeds from the fund would be allocated directly to tribal education departments, bypassing the current method of having the Public Education Department reimburse tribes for educational expenditures they make under the Indian Education Act. HB 147 creates a tribal education fund in the State Treasury to handle Tribal Education Trust Fund money. The objective is to ensure that tribes receive stable and consistent funding to carry out tribally based education programs. Such funding would not revert to the state.

Funds from the endowment proceeds could be used for tribal library construction, staffing and services. HB 140 and HB 147 were heard in the House Education Committee on January 27th, and several tribal librarians testified supporting them. The Committee gave the two bills a do-pass recommendation and sent them to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee.

Senate Bill 147 by Senator Benny Shendo Jr. is a comprehensive tax bill. It includes a provision amending the Tax Code to exempt from gross receipts taxation "selling licenses to use digital goods for the purpose of loaning those digital goods to the public." This would apply to libraries purchasing e-books, databases and other digital resources. SB 147 awaits its first hearing in the Senate Tax, Business & Transportation Committee.

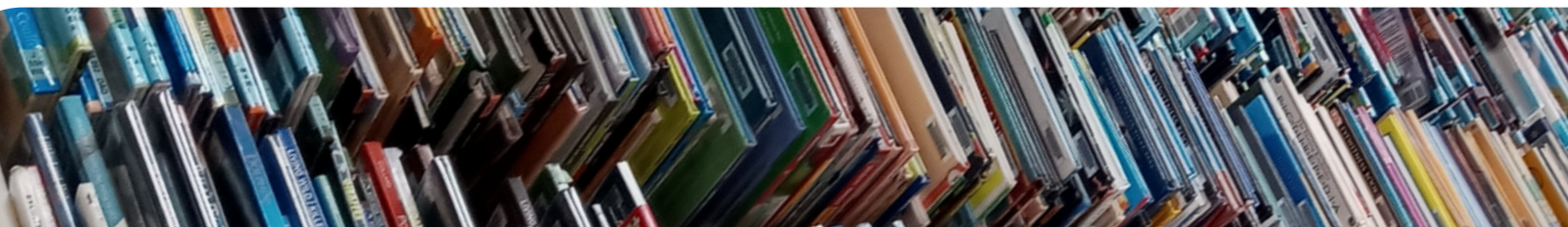
This session of the New Mexico Legislature ends at noon on Saturday, March 18, 2023. NMLA Members and others in the library community are provided with periodic Legislative Bulletins to monitor the progress of legislation.

# Bloomfield Public Library



During the Christmas / New Year weeks, Bloomfield Public Library closed, removed its 30 year old carpeting, and replaced it with wood flooring. Quality Construction of Farmington installed the new floor. Staff, Cristi Kropf, Jacinda McDaniel, Jennifer Spencer, Corey Bard and a number of volunteers helped with moving all the books and then reshelving, reorganizing the collection.

It really made us see what is in our library and gave us a chance to weed, and get rid of items that never circulate. It made us see what we lack or should try to order in the future. With no malice to James Patterson, Clive Cussler, and other popular authors, we are considering that there are fifty one-time authors or very good stories that could replace fifty James Pattersons. We also took a trip to Albuquerque's Barnes and Noble and were amazed by their Anime, Graphic Novels and Manga. Bloomfield plans to add these to its collection.





# NALSIG Update



The Native American Libraries Special Interest Group met on December 16th at the Martha Liebert Public Library in Bernalillo, along with its annual Christmas Potluck luncheon. NMLA Honorary Life Member Martha Liebert attended the meeting and presented copies of her 2021 history, "Bernalillo, Between the River and a Hard Place." to each attendee. There was a special presentation to celebrate Cynthia Aguilar on the occasion of her retirement after twenty years as public librarian at Santo Domingo/Kewa Pueblo. She received a commemorative pottery plaque made by Sherry Aragon, Acoma potter and Director of the Española Public Library.

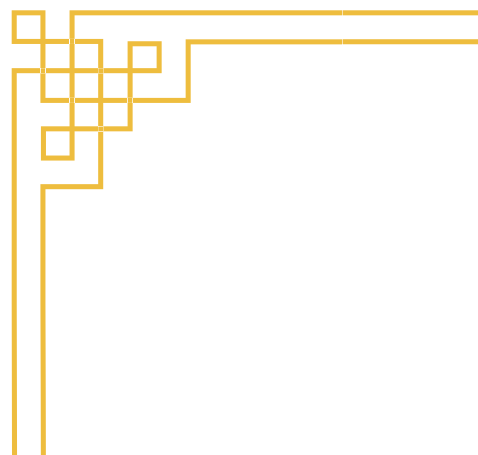
## NMLA Spring Symposium

**APRIL 14, 2023**

**9 AM-4:15 PM**

Free , Online, Open to All

Listen to and discuss various intellectual freedom issues. Come for one session or all!





**SILVER CITY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

<https://silvercitypubliclibrary.org/>

## January Events



Come play board games with us. Friday,  
March 17th at 3:30 pm



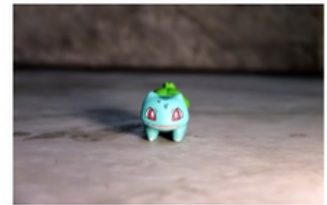
Future engineers. Come play with LEGOs  
and more. Friday, March 3rd, 3:30-4:30pm.



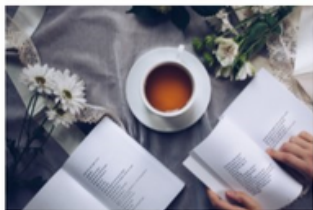
Come watch Onward, Tuesday, March 21st, at  
3:30-5:30pm.



Come watch Big Hero 6 on March 7th  
from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.



Come create a March craft. Friday March  
24th, at 3:30-4:30 pm



To Rhyme or not to Rhyme– Kids write their  
own Poetry. Friday, March 10th at 4pm



Join us for Minecraft. Tuesday,  
March 28th, 4-6 pm



Come build robots. Tuesday, March  
14th at 4-6 pm.



Create some Candy Sushi. Friday,  
March 31st, at 3:30-4:30pm.



# Leadership Development from ARSL

My name is Angela Watkins, and I am the library director for the Aztec Public Library. I wrapped up an amazing conference for the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) in Chattanooga, TN, where I presented for the “Engagement Scholarship Consortium.” The Engagement Scholarship Consortium allows for institutions to identify ways that their faculty, staff, students, and community partners can connect with and collaborate on community engagement efforts.

My journey with ARSL started in February 2021. I had only been in my role as Library Director for 3 years when I applied for a new ARSL program called “Outstanding in their Field Leadership Institute”. I was in the early stage of my journey of rebuilding my self-confidence, and was competing with librarians across the country for one of only 30 spots available. My acceptance email into the program took me by surprise! Somehow this program saw something in me that I didn’t, yet.

The group met by zoom each month beginning last spring, followed by in-person training in Salt Lake City, UT in August 2021, and the ARSL conference in Reno, Nevada October 2021. We continued to meet by zoom throughout 2022 to prepare for our own conference presentations at this latest conference in Chattanooga Tennessee. Our presentations were a culmination of the growth and development of the past 1.5 years of leadership training as librarians. This program helped me more than I realized. It was a catalyst to removing that shell of doubt that I once had when it came to my ability to succeed. It was also my first time presenting at a conference!

ARSL helped me redevelop those areas that were dormant and transformed skills that were weaker, and gave me the chance to meet and bond with some amazing librarians from all over the United States. I can’t wait to share the amazing tools and ideas that I picked up from this amazing opportunity with the community of Aztec, NM!

While traveling to Chattanooga, I received a letter that I had been nominated for, and was to receive, a New Mexico Library Association award: the Community Achievement Award for 2022. This award is given to librarians for outstanding library service or achievement at the local level. It may also be given as NMLA’s recognition of an award from another source that has enhanced the library, and to the entire library community; thus, to a local, school, or academic librarian who has received a community, regional, or national honor. My efforts to provide a range of information services for your library patrons during the COVID-19 pandemic had been noted and were very much appreciated. I accepted this award at the 2022 NM Awards Ceremony that took place during our NMLA Annual Conference.

During this past year, I was also a student recipient of the Rural Libraries And Social Wellbeing Grant. I did some mentor training under the guidance of Hope Decker, building facilitation skills so I could potentially be a “Hope” for other libraries going through the Tools in Action program. This mentor training gave me the first of many tools I now have to better understand my own deep values to my community and the areas I may want to focus on in the future.

Thanks to Librarians across the nation!

# UNM Celebrates Open Education Week

The UNM Open Educational Resources (OER) Initiative has organized a slate of exciting and informative events for Open Education Week, March 6 – 10, to raise awareness of current initiatives and inspire visions of how OER could develop across the UNM system and across New Mexico.

Open Education Week is an annual celebration of actively sharing and learning about the latest achievements in Open Education Resources (OER). Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under a license that permits their free use, reuse, modification, and sharing with others. OERs have the ability to significantly reduce student fees on textbooks thus making academic success more accessible to all.

As an added bonus, anyone who attends an event virtually or in person will be eligible to enter a random drawing for a door prizes. One attendee will win an Amazon gift card at each event. Limit one gift card per winner.

Pre-registration for events is encouraged but not required. More information about each event can be found at [oer.unm.edu](http://oer.unm.edu).



Open Education  
Week Events

**March 6 - 10**

schedule and registration  
[goto.unm.edu/oeweek](http://goto.unm.edu/oeweek)



## NMLA Executive Board

**President – Kate Alderete**  
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**Treasurer – Kelli Murphy**  
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**Nominations & Elections - Dean Smith**  
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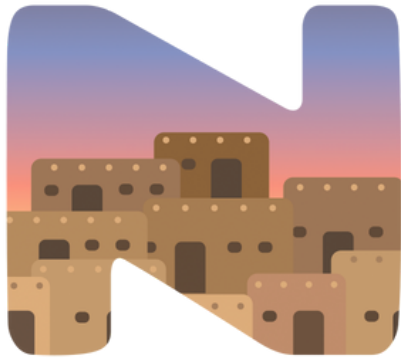
## Representatives & Delegates

**ASL - Unfilled**

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**NMLF Chair - Kat Gullahorn**  
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**State Librarian - Eli Guinnee**  
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**CELEBRATING  
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