

Newsletter

Volume 53, Issue 1



January/February 2024

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the January/February issue of the NMLA Newsletter!

February is "Love Your Library". NMLA members do a great job demonstrating how much we love our libraries every day. This issue showcases news from the Archives & Archivists Special Interest Group, highlights and pictures from the Albuquerque Public Library's participation in the Twinkle Light Parade, shares information about the Rural Library Endowment, as well as work being done in the legislative session to promote the need for library funding.

Join us in celebrating the heart of our community—our libraries!

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Archives & Archivists Special Interest Group

The Archives & Archivists SIG provides a home for those who identify as archivists or who are assigned archival and records management tasks in their work. By archivists, we include anyone who self-identifies as an archivist, librarian, records manager, curator, clerk, etc.

The Archives & Archivists SIG works to collectively organize archivists; create networking opportunities; inspire collaborative projects; and create more archival-specific training. We meet on Zoom every other month and offer professional development activities, such as webcasting courses on general archival knowledge and best practices.

Our next professional development activity will be a webcast of the Society of American Archivists course Metadata Overview for Archivists on February 23, 2024, 10am-12pm.

The next regular meeting will be on March 20, 2024, 3pm-4pm. Please visit our website at <https://nmlasigs.org/archives/> or contact either Abbie Weiser (AbWeiser@salud.unm.edu) or Ada Negraru (ada.negraru@dca.nm.gov) for more information and to join our listserv.



ABQ Public Library Book Van Shines Brightly in 2023 Twinkle Light Parade

Submitted by Anne Lefkofsky, alefkofsky@cabq.gov

Representing the 19-branch Public Library Albuquerque and Bernalillo County (PLABC) system, our Book Van outreach service made its debut appearance in the City of Albuquerque's annual Twinkle Light Parade on December 2, 2023.

Bringing a seasonal sparkle to the evening's procession through Nob Hill (along Central Avenue, a.k.a. Historic Route 66), and proclaiming that Libraries Light Up Your Mind, the entry aimed to spark interest and curiosity about the myriad ways our libraries illuminate people's lives.

Book Van Driver, Lisette Loring, transformed the white 2014 Chevrolet Express 3500 panel van into a bright and festive display – generously outfitting its exterior with strands of holiday-hued lights. She then helmed the van on the parade course with Jessica Robertson (Erna Fergusson) on navigation.

Generous support from the PLABC Friends of the Public Library group funded the van's decorations, plus magnetic decals identifying the van.



Staff from a number of branches escorted the float on foot – with the team of walkers including: Natasha Czapszys (Erna Fergusson), Alysa DeMella and son (International District), Estevan Montaña and charming pups (San Pedro), Joshua Fox (Main Library) and Craig Pino (Main Library), Sirena Reyes (Central Unser) and Sandy Morris (Lomas Tramway).

Passing out books donated by the Friends, staff made spirits high along the parade route. Spectators cheered the van while excitedly receiving these event “souvenirs” – avidly engaging in celebration with the team.



ABQ Public Library Book Van Shines Brightly in 2023 Twinkle Light Parade

By day, Book Van shines in providing library service to residents in retirement and senior living communities within the Albuquerque-metro area. On behalf of the library system's staff, volunteers and customers, Book Van's participation in the parade provided a valuable opportunity to expand its reach as a community presence.

As a client-focused mobile outreach service, Book Van brings "high-touch" library service to its customers. Although its designated materials collection is limited, Book Van serves as a conduit for accessing desired materials and content otherwise available throughout the library system. Central to the service are the relationships Book Van staff build with clients.

The service originated in 1988. Based at Main Library, Downtown, it's kept on the road by Main Library public services staff. Services include:

- Browsing materials
- Placing holds
- Issuing library cards
- Updating customer library accounts
- Resolving account issues
- Answering reference questions
- Providing reader's advisory
- Offering help with digital downloads and mobile devices



Rural Library Endowment

Submitted by Julia Kelso,
librarydirector@vglibrary.org

Vista Grande Public Library (Eldorado at Santa Fe) was pleased to share the front page of the Santa Fe New Mexican with Shel Nymark in an article featuring both some of the many things this library does to serve the community and the overall importance of the Rural Library Endowment to the more than 50 rural and 501(C)(3) libraries in New Mexico. The article featured Shel's eloquent words on the topic, noted the hard work Senator Ortiz y Pino and discussed the value of libraries everywhere.

It also featured VGPL patrons and a volunteer hanging art for our February artist. VGPL has local artists featured every month, including a "meet-the-artists" reception and a percentage of any sales going to benefit the library.

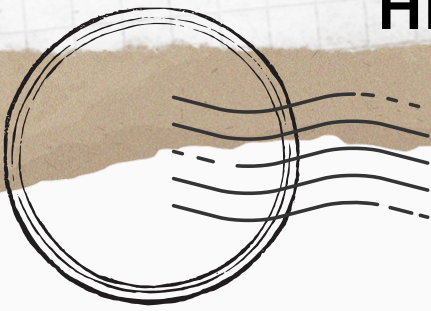


Highlights from ALA Council Meetings

January 20-21, 2024

Baltimore, MD

Submitted by Cassandra E. Osterloh, ALA Councilor



ALA Personal Dues will change beginning FY25 (September 1, 2024).

On the recommendation of the ALA Membership Committee, the ALA Council approved the following prices for ALA personal dues effective Fiscal Year 2025:

Individual Type I \$125

Individual Type II \$55

Supporter: \$70

Student: \$40

Individual Type I: \$125 Includes librarians and other employees in library and information services or related positions that: (a) require a master's degree; (b) require a state level certification; or (c) are managerial.

Individual Type II: \$55 Includes librarians and other employees in library and information services or related positions that are: (a) earning < \$45K annually; or (b) working outside the U.S.; (c) retired; or (d) not listed in Type I

Supporter: \$70 Includes those not employed in library and information services or related activities who, through their personal commitment and support, promote library and information services.

Student: \$40 Includes individuals enrolled in a program for a certificate or a degree in library and information studies. Student membership is limited to five total years.

The International Relations Committee (IRC) put forth a **resolution condemning the damage and destruction of libraries and other cultural institutions in Gaza**. The motion passed 143–2, with three voters abstaining.

Core Values Task Force (CVTF), after almost 2 years of work, proposed to replace **ALA's Core Values of Librarianship** with the following core values:

- Access
- Equity
- Intellectual Freedom and Privacy
- Public Good
- Sustainability

CVTF's action item also included a recommendation that ALA's Executive Board assign groups to write interpretations for each value. Council approved both actions.

LIBRARIANS WORKING HARD FOR FUNDING FROM 2024 LEGISLATURE

At the halfway point in the 30-day Legislative session, it is highly likely that the 2024 Library General Obligation Bond issue will be on the November general election ballot at the \$19 million level which voters approved in 2022. House Bill 308 by Representative Derrick Lente would provide \$ 6 million each for public, academic and school libraries and \$1 million for tribal libraries. It is also likely that there will be another appropriation for the Rural Libraries Endowment Fund. There is a line item in the General Appropriations Act, House Bill 2, providing \$2.5 million for the fund. Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino introduced Senate Bill 170, appropriating \$30 million for the fund. SB 170 was heard by the Senate Indian, Rural and Cultural Affairs Committee and given a unanimous "do pass" recommendation. It will next be heard by the Senate Finance Committee. Members of the Rural Library Initiative have been publicizing the need for bringing the fund from its current \$28 million to over \$50 million, or \$1 million for each of the state's rural libraries. The returns from such a fund could yield around \$45,000 annually for public and tribal libraries serving populations under 3,000 people. It is possible that the Senate Finance Committee will increase the fund appropriation when it works on HB 2. The House passed its version of the bill on January 31st by a vote of 53 to 16.

Another bill of interest is House Bill 123 by Representative Kathleen Cates, which prohibits public library book banning by withholding state funding to libraries whose collection development policies do not include principles and procedures like those in the A.L.A. Library Bill of Rights. HB 123 was heard by the House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee on February 1st, and was given a "do pass" recommendation on a 4-2 vote. Ten individuals spoke in favor of the bill.

Representatives Stephanie Lord and John Block raised many questions about the implementation of the provisions of the bill. They expressed concerns about children being able to access pornographic or other materials inappropriate for their age. Rep. Cates noted that she had been involved in the Rio Rancho censorship attempt last summer and appreciated the support of the Rio Rancho City Council for their library's existing collection development policy and practices. State Librarian Eli Guinee expressed the support of the Department of Cultural Affairs for the bill and noted that the State Library administers state funding for public libraries through an Administrative Code. Julia Kelso of the Vista Grande Public Library stated that the bill reinforces the ability of librarians and their governing bodies to resist outside forces making organized efforts to censor whole categories of materials. HB 123 will be heard next in the House Education Committee.



LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Joe Sabatini,
jsabatini423@gmail.com

Library advocates from around the state turned out on Friday, January 26th for a successful Library Legislative Day, visiting with their legislators and attending the introduction ceremonies in both the House and Senate. Forty library supporters attended the orientation session. We were welcomed by Department of Cultural Affairs Secretary Debra Garcia y Griego. NMLA had a table in the Rotunda which attracted a significant number of visitors.

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Kathleen Cates announced Library Legislative Day and spoke about her childhood library use. Speaker Javier Martinez introduced our delegation: Ruben Aragon, New Mexico Highlands University, NMLA President; Natasha Carty, Albuquerque Public Schools; Janice Kowemy, U.N.M Indigenous Nations Library Program; Dr. Barbara Lovato, U.N.M. Valencia Library; Janet Phillips, Jemez Springs Public Library.

In the Senate, Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino announced Library Legislative Day, and spoke about 21st century libraries and their impact on their communities. He then spoke about the importance of fully funding the Rural Libraries Endowment Fund. He mentioned the "Libraries on the Backroad" documentary. He introduces our delegation: Teresa Ortiz, Deming High School; Victoria Vigil, Nambe Pueblo and Samanthi Hewakapuge, San Juan College.



NMLA History Highlight



Julia Brown
Asplund
1875-1958

1901 – Graduates from Drexel Institute of Library Sciences in Philadelphia.

1903 – First professional librarian directing the University of New Mexico's Library. She was also a teacher of history and coached the girls' basketball team.

She serves on the Board of the Albuquerque Public Library.

1905 - Marries fellow faculty member Rupert Asplund and resigns her position as University Librarian.

1906-07 – Member of the Tuesday Literary Club

1909 – Rupert Asplund appointed to a position at the NM Department of Education. They move to Santa Fe.

1911 - Julia joins the NM Federation of Women's Clubs.

She serves as its president during 1914-16.

Through the Federation, she begins to advocate for free traveling library collections.

1920 - An active proponent of women suffrage, she lobbies the New Mexico Legislature to ratify the 19th Amendment.

1920 - Appointed to the Republican State Central Committee.

1921-23 – Appointed to the University of New Mexico Board of Regents. (first woman)

1929-32 – Director of the new State Library Extension Service

1941-54 – Chairman of the New Mexico State Library Commission

She was a member of numerous civic organizations and social clubs, including the New Mexico Commission on Welfare of Women and Children, Commissioner of Management Santa Fe Public Library (Women's Board of Trade), the Santa Fe Woman's Club, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

NMLA Executive Board

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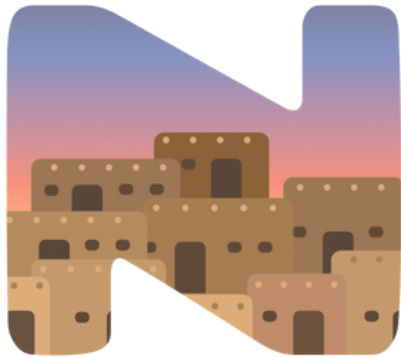
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**CELEBRATING
100 YEARS:
1923-2023**

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