



# MILA to Z

*The Newsletter of the Maine Library Association*

## *In This Issue*

**Letter from the President,  
page 2**

**Letter from the  
Communications Chair,  
page 4**

**Letter from the  
Legislative Advocacy  
Chair, page 6**

**Librarian in the Spotlight:  
Maria Richardson, page 7**

**News from Around the  
State, page 11**

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## Save the date: Feb. 20, Maine Library Legislative Day

Join us in Augusta on February 20, 2020 for Maine Library Legislative Day! Network with fellow librarians and interact with legislators, receive a briefing on the legislative agendas from the Maine State Library and more, and attend an advocacy workshop led by Bob Howe.

Registration is FREE this year thank to the sponsorship of the Maine State Library, Maine Library Association, and the Maine Association of School Libraries.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/librarylegislativeday> to register.

FMI, contact Sonya Durney: [sdurney@une.edu](mailto:sdurney@une.edu)



# Letter from the President

## Ebook Embargo

### Macmillan limits library access; the library world responds

The ebook marketplace for libraries has been difficult from the start—pricing and availability has always been an issue. Our ability to provide ebooks to our patrons has been affected by prices and restrictions the publishers place on ebooks. For example, a consumer might pay fifteen dollars for an ebook, while a library could pay five times that much for a limited amount of time or a limited number of checkouts. Every publisher is different, but the bottom line is that libraries are constrained by their budgets and the restrictions publishers place on titles.

In the fall, Macmillan, one of “The Big 5” publishers, made a decision to further restrict libraries with an eight-week embargo for Macmillan and all of its imprints. That means libraries can only purchase one copy of the ebook in the first eight weeks. Many libraries and library systems purchase multiple copies of ebooks

in order to meet the needs of patrons. This embargo creates long hold lists and drastically reduces patron access.

For many years, libraries and publishers have worked together to get book consumers what they need. However, Macmillan believes this is what is best for their bottom line. They feel the library model for serving communities is hurting ebook sales.

In early September, the Maine Library Association (MLA) board joined with other state associations and the American Library Association (ALA) to send a letter to Macmillan CEO John Sargent. The letter called for the publishing company to reverse its decision to place an embargo on ebooks. The letters, along with many conversations amongst national library leaders with Macmillan’s CEO, did not change their course.

## *Letter from the President, cont'd from previous page*

We encourage all MLA members and library staff around the state to think critically about where you spend your collection dollars.

This has led libraries and library systems throughout the country to take further action, with some boycotting purchasing Macmillan titles with the hope of effecting change.

We encourage all MLA members and library staff around the state to think critically about where you spend your collection dollars. Our purchasing decisions have an effect on our communities, and we have an obligation to ensure our patrons have barrier-free access to a variety of materials. Our patrons may ask why we are not purchasing particular titles; you can find answers to frequently asked questions

on ALA's website for their petition and hashtag campaign, [ebooksforall.org](https://ebooksforall.org). The message from the library community needs to be strong and swift in order to reverse this damaging decision by Macmillan.

MLA supports and encourages whatever decision you make to help in the larger effort. While we understand these decisions may make it difficult for your patrons, we believe this decision by Macmillan is harmful to readers everywhere.

Best regards,

*Jen Alvino*

Learn more at  
[ebooksforall.org](https://ebooksforall.org)



## Jeff Eastman: Updates from the last Council meeting

Bylaws, Maine Library Standards, Bicentennial, and more

Happy New Year, everyone, and happy new decade. Here are some topics we discussed at the December 2019 executive council meeting that did not get a full write-up in this quarter's newsletter.

### Bylaws

Members of the board have been revising some of the MLA's official documents. The By-Laws are looked at every two years and revised as necessary. Past president Alisia Revitt is leading the charge and has invited other board members to help. Other members are writing a board handbook, comprising descriptions of all of the board members' roles and expectations.

### Maine Library Standards

The Maine Library Association has picked up the ball that is the Maine Library Standards. Drafts of the standards were sent out to membership throughout 2019, presented at the MLA conference in the fall, voted on, and finally approved in October. Many thanks for MLA past president Bryce Cundick, Maine State Librarian Jamie Ritter, and the Maine Library Commission for the sustained work on this project. You can view the standards at <https://tinyurl.com/mainelibrarystandards>

### Bicentennial

The year 2020 is, of course, Maine's bicentennial. Go to [maine200.org](http://maine200.org) to read about events, programs, and community grants.

## *Updates from the Council meeting, cont'd from previous page*

### ALA- Organizational Effectiveness Committee

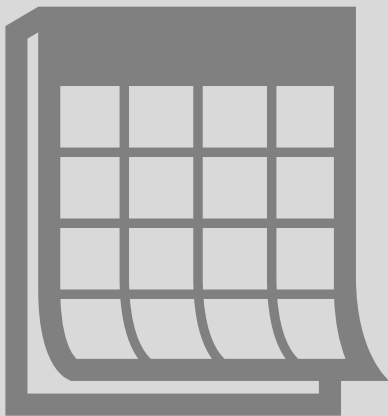
The ALA put together a Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness to propose revisions to governance structure. Essentially, they are planning to form a bureaucratic layer of four “leadership assemblies,” each representing different interests within the organization, that will have direct influence on the board of directors. We discussed the benefits of restructuring, namely how it would allow ALA an easier time making decisions.

Overall, we support the changes and do not expect them to greatly affect what MLA does as an organization.

MLA’s representative to ALA is Kara Reiman, and she is attending the ALA Council Forum at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia around the time that this newsletter comes out.



# Upcoming Events



Feb. 14 - MLA Executive Council Meeting at the  
Maine State Library

Feb. 20 - Maine Library Legislative Day at the  
State House and State Library

May 08 - MLA Annual Meeting at Curtis  
Memorial Library

Sept. 28 - MLA Annual Conference at Sunday  
River, Newry



# From Legislative Advocacy

Sonya Durney

Join us for Maine Library  
Legislative Day on Feb. 20

Maine Library Legislative Day will be taking place in Augusta on February 20, 2020.

On behalf of the Maine Library Association, we hope to see you there! This will be a great opportunity to network with fellow librarians and interact with legislators.

This full-day event will include a briefing on the legislative agendas from the Maine State Library, the Maine Library Association, and the Maine Association of School Libraries, an advocacy training workshop led by Bob Howe of Howe, Cahill, and Company, and opportunities for librarians to interact with legislators.

Registration is FREE this year as the event will be sponsored by the Maine State Library, the Maine Library Association, and the Maine Association of School Libraries.

To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/librarylegislateday>

For more information, contact Sonya at [sdurney@une.edu](mailto:sdurney@une.edu)

The mission of MLA's Legislative Committee is to advocate for legislation that is favorable to libraries and to empower MLA members to be strong voices for Maine libraries. Whether it's public libraries, K-12 libraries, college/university libraries, or special libraries, MLA endeavors to advocate for critical funding, access to information, local control, broadband access, net-neutrality, the importance of teacher librarians in every school, and to defend challenges to intellectual freedom and the Freedom to Read.



# Librarian in the Spotlight

## Maria Richardson

### Children's Librarian/Head of Youth Services at Kennebunk Free Library

When did you know you wanted to be a librarian?

When I was four years old, my brother and I created a library in our basement. We organized all our picture books and put an index card in the back of each one, which we stamped with a datedue stamp. I had just as much fun organizing the books as I did reading them! Growing up, I always had a book in my hand, and I frequently helped in my classroom and school libraries. I think I was born a librarian!

Tell me a little about your background. Where did you grow up? Did you go to library school?

I grew up in Berwick, ME, and went to Noble High School. After graduating, I attended Fordham University in the Bronx, and graduated with a B.A. in English and a minor in Creative Writing. I got my MLIS from University of Rhode Island. I chose to take



## *Maria Richardson, cont'd from previous page*

many hybrid classes, which combined several face-to-face meetings with online coursework. I then spent several years in Florida, and worked at the Hobe Sound Public Library. HSPL is part of the Martin County Library System. During my time there, I was a Library Assistant, and mainly worked with adults. I decided I wanted to come back to Maine, and returned in 2017. I've been at KFL for almost 4 years now.

**You went through the Maine Librarians Engage and Lead (MLEL) and New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) programs. What did you get out of them? What does leadership mean to you and how have you grown as a leader? What are your long term goals?**

I've learned so much from the leadership programs I've been fortunate enough to participate in. In MLEL, I had the opportunity to work on a specific project from brainstorming to evaluation. I had not undertaken anything like this before, and was brand new to my position. MLEL taught me how to approach other community organizations, and I am an active member of York County Early Childhood Coalition as a result of the program. It was an extended program, lasting a full year. NELLS was more intensive, a week long program at Rolling Ridge Retreat in North Andover, MA. I feel that I emerged from NELLS a different, more confident person. It was like a lightbulb turned on, and I found that I am capable of so much more than I believed. I learned a lot

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about myself and who I am as a leader. Most importantly, I learned that leadership is an ever-evolving process. There is no one "right way" to be a leader. I had been looking outside myself for the qualities I believed a leader needed to have; NELLS taught me that I can lead from where I am while growing and learning. I think the greatest takeaway was the friends I made. My advice would be that if you have the opportunity to attend a program like MLEL or NELLS, go for it! It really and truly changed my life, and I am so grateful for the programs everyday.

**Tell me about what you do at Kennebunk Free Library? What is your typical day like?**

I'm not sure there's such a thing as a typical day at KFL! Everyday brings new challenges and excitement, which is one of my favorite things about the library. At KFL, I do storytimes and programming, collection



## *Maria Richardson, cont'd from previous page*

development, long range planning, and outreach, among other things. I recently used the Diverse BookFinder's CAT tool to analyze our picture book collection. I was able to see a breakdown of how our collection represents others, and where we needed to improve. It was one of the most rewarding things I've done, and I'd highly recommend it to others.

**What can you tell me about your diverse storytimes? Is there something you've learned about storytime that you can impart upon other librarians?**

I am working on a program called Windows and Mirrors Book Club, which invites children in grades K-5 to come to the library with their grown-up to read and talk about diverse picture books. This program came about in response to incidents that occurred in RSU 21 surrounding race. It is my hope that sharing

books and activities that feature all children will help our community heal and grow. I've had help from the Maine Humanities Council in planning it, and it is a work in progress. I've also been more mindful about the books I share in storytime, making sure to include diverse authors and characters. My advice would be to think about what our global community looks like and try to make your storytimes represent that community, whether you do that through song, activity, game, or story.

**What is your favorite part of working at KFL or about working in libraries in general? What aspects of the profession are important to you?**

My favorite part about working in libraries is that it affords an opportunity to create the unexpected. For example, we had a beach

# Windows and Mirrors

My advice would be to think about what our global community looks like and try to make your storytimes represent that community.

## *Maria Richardson, cont'd from previous page*

party at the library on January 16, just to get us out of winter for a little while. My favorite thing to hear is a patron say, “wow, I didn’t know the library did that!” I love helping to change the image of libraries from silent book repositories to a place to play, laugh, and meet others. The most important aspect of librarianship to me is the tenet that libraries belong to everyone. No matter who you are or where you come from, the library will open its doors to you. I love being a part of such a loving, inclusive community.

**Have you read/heard/watched anything lately that you can recommend?**

I’ve been reading a lot of the Maine Student Book Award nominees, and there are some great titles there! My favorite has been *The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle* by Christina Uss. It’s about a young girl who bikes across the country and the fantastic experiences she has along the way, including ghosts, cookies, and the Kentucky Derby. It is a cross between Roald Dahl and Wendy Mass, and flies at light speed! 📖



# THANKYOU

For the Spotlight on a Librarian, Thorndike Press will generously donate a selection of large print books to the Kennebunk Public Library. Located in Waterville, Thorndike Press has been publishing large print for over thirty years.





# ***Americans and the Holocaust* exhibition coming to Bangor Public Library**

by Hannah Young, Director of Development & Marketing, Bangor Public Library

Bangor Public Library is one of 50 U.S. libraries - and the only New England library - selected to host *Americans and the Holocaust*, a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that examines the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s.

The touring library exhibition — based on the special exhibition of the same name at the Museum in Washington, D.C. — will travel to U.S. libraries from 2020 to 2022.

“We are honored to have been selected from a pool of more than 250 applicants to host this exhibition,” said Ben Treat, director of the Bangor Public Library. “This exhibit will enable the people of our region to consider the ethics of action -- and inaction -- and the uses to which we can put our outrage. Hindsight reveals how the U.S. could have made a difference in the lives of millions of Jews in Europe. Reflecting upon the exhibit, visitors will discover how to make a difference in their own time.”

*Americans and the Holocaust* will be on display at the Bangor Public Library, along with a series of related special events, from December 1, 2021 – January 14, 2022.

Based on extensive new research of that period, *Americans and the Holocaust* addresses important themes in American history, exploring the many factors — including the Great Depression, isolationism, xenophobia, racism and antisemitism — that influenced decisions made by the U.S. government, the news media, organizations and individuals as

## *News from Libraries around the State, cont'd from previous page*

they responded to Nazism. This exhibition will challenge the commonly held assumptions that Americans knew little and did nothing about the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews as the Holocaust unfolded.

Drawing on a remarkable collection of primary sources from the 1930s and '40s, the exhibition focuses on the stories of individuals and groups of Americans who took action in response to Nazism. It will challenge visitors to consider the responsibilities and obstacles faced by individuals — from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to ordinary Americans — who made difficult choices, sought to effect change, and, in a few cases, took significant risks to help victims of Nazism even as rescue never became a government priority.

In addition to the traveling exhibition on loan, the Bangor Public Library will receive a cash grant to support public programs. One library staff member will also have expenses paid to attend an orientation workshop at the Museum.

To learn more about the exhibition, visit  
[ushmm.org/americans-ala](http://ushmm.org/americans-ala)



## **One Beach One Book**

by Lee M. Koenigs, Library Director, Libby Memorial Library

To mark the occasion of Maine's Bicentennial in 2020, Libby Memorial Library, Brownrigg Library at Old Orchard Beach High School, the Community Friendly Connection, the Friends & Trustees of Libby Library and additional community groups and local businesses will be facilitating a Community Read in March: One Beach One Book.

Our mission is to create an event which facilitates community collaboration, promotes literacy (both in the sense of a literacy of Maine's history and in the traditional sense of reading literacy), and develops relationships among various citizen demographics in our small town.

The project's chosen title is *Wildfire Loose: The Week Maine Burned*, by Joyce Butler. This is a fantastic book that highlights the devastation wrought by Maine's 1947 wildfire as well as the determination of Maine's fire fighters, property owners and inhabitants. This catastrophe burned out nine Maine communities and involved almost one million acres; a substantial portion of the lower half of the State, making it both local AND extensive. Our choice of material was influenced by the feeling that this particular Maine story is fading as time goes on and we continue to lose witnesses to the devastation. As a bonus, the book was written by a Maine author who lives in the Kennebunk area.

The Old Orchard Beach Fire Department kicks off the project with a program at Libby Library on March 3. Over the succeeding five weeks, additional programs will include book club-style discussions and film footage, culminating with a wrap-up event at the high school the first week of April. Books will be located at various sites throughout town and will be FREE of charge, with the only requirement being that a participant either


## *News from Libraries around the State, cont'd from previous page*

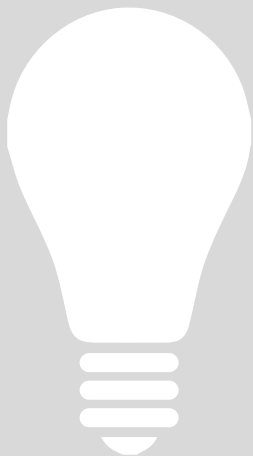
passes it on to a neighbor, co-worker, family member, or returns it to the site where it was picked up when they're finished reading.

Libby Memorial Library received a substantial grant from the Maine Public Library Fund, administered by the Maine State Library, in order to make this project possible. The One Beach One Book committee is immensely grateful to the Maine State Library as well as the Friends and Trustees of Libby Library, who also donated generously to what we hope will be an enjoyable and engaging experience for all who participate!

Expected Outcomes— The project's Statement of Purpose is three-pronged regarding desired outcomes:

- 1) to raise awareness of Maine's Bicentennial, specifically through facilitating Maine historical literacy
- 2) to facilitate community collaboration for year-round stakeholders, community groups, non-profits and businesses, by working together at an organizational level to create a successful project
- 3) to facilitate the opportunity for interaction and shared experience with the widely varied demographics of townspeople in our community

Lastly, through the bi-centennial project, the committee hopes to build a financially sustainable project model in order to make this an annual event. 



Has your library hosted a great program, received a grant, or hired a great new staffer? We want to hear about it!

Send your announcements and photos to [MLAtoZeditor@gmail.com](mailto:MLAtoZeditor@gmail.com) to be included in the next issue.





# What's on your mind?

Your library colleagues want to know!  
Send your submissions (photos, full-  
length articles, or short shoutouts) to

[MLAtoZeditor@gmail.com](mailto:MLAtoZeditor@gmail.com)

