



# MLA to Z

*The Newsletter of the Maine Library Association*

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## Introducing our new State Librarian

### An interview with Lori Fisher

We have a new state librarian! Lori Fisher's first day at the Maine State Library was right after Christmas, and she wasted no time getting started, traveling around the state, and meeting with important people. She offered to introduce herself to us through the pages of *MLA to Z*. (Edited for brevity.)

**Jeff Eastman:** *Let's start with that photo of you with Susan Collins and Julie Buhler, director of the Veterans' Memorial Library in Patten. What was the occasion?*

**Lori Fisher:** It was exciting. There was a congressional directed spending allocation -- basically an earmark -- through the federal omnibus bill that will go to the Veteran's Memorial Library for a new building. It's not going to pay for the whole new building -- there is a match involved, so their work has just begun.

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*Maine State Librarian Lori Fisher with Senator Susan Collins and Veterans' Memorial Library Director Julie Buhler*

## State Librarian

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My understanding is that they had been in an old church with structural problems and mold that had spread from walls to collections. They are temporarily operating with the salvageable collections out of the Lumberman's Museum. Senator Collins wanted to celebrate the ability to get that money for the community, which was pretty remarkable. It's not usual for our senators to be home and doing these kinds of visits this time of year.

There are all these people – librarians – in all these different places who really care about the access to quality information and how it improves people's lives. That's what we do. That's what we fight for. That's what I'm hopeful for.

There was great representation from the town -- the select board and budget committee, the friends group, and the Lumberman Museum board and the library board. It was really amazing to see this very small community get this kind of money to create more of a community center.

Senator Collins has a very strong deep

history with libraries from her childhood. She talked about how she first volunteered reading at children's story hour when she was younger and then was able to get a paid position shelving. She had a variety of roles in the public library in Caribou, where she grew up. She has an affinity for what a library does for a community and is interested not just in the literacy aspect, but how libraries can be a community center. I wish we could have taped her remarks, because they were so on point. I was very glad to meet her. She has been the Republican sponsor on the Dear Appropriator letters for the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) for many, many years, and now that she is the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, she can't do that role. But she is still very supportive of

libraries and wants to hear what the American Library Association and the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) need on the federal level.

***New year, new job, new state. What are you excited and hopeful for? What are you anxious or concerned about?***

**LF:** I'm so appreciative of the warm welcome I've received here, not just from the MSL staff, but from the library community and the other stakeholders we partner with in general. Everybody has been so wonderful.

What I'm hopeful for is the future of libraries. We hear all this stuff about libraries going the way of the dinosaur and the end of print, but libraries are so much more than that. There are all these people – librarians – in all these different places who really care about the access to quality information and how it improves people's lives. That's what we do. That's what we fight for. That's what I'm hopeful for.

I'm excited about this job because Maine has a strong history of really great, deep partnerships among a lot of different stakeholders. Coming into something like this, where those partnerships are established and can be grown and where there's a culture of that, where new partnerships are not looked on as scary, that is exciting to me.

The censorship issue is one that I am keeping close tabs on. The state library will work with MLA in providing support to our librarians across the state, both public and schools.

Anxious-wise? I still have to move. I have a daughter who's a senior in high school and will finish the year in New Hampshire. Hoping to be moved up here by June. It's not much anxiety, more anticipation, because I can't wait to move up here and not drive back and forth.

Really, I'm enjoying what I'm doing and who I'm working with. It's lovely.

***Your background includes working in museums, public libraries, and just prior to just coming here, you were at***

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## State Librarian

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**the state library of New Hampshire. Was there a moment, an experience, or an accomplishment that you are particularly proud of or inspired by?**

As the Assistant State Librarian in New Hampshire, I was responsible for the LSTA monies for the state from IMLS. It's about the same as what the LSTA money is here: about \$1.3 million a year. With the ARPA (American Rescue Plan) monies, we received \$2.239 million, and that's huge. That's huge money.

So I created a sub-grant program from scratch and ran it. We did a formulaic round with our 230 public libraries and had 176 of them participate and submit the application. Then we did a competitive round for larger amounts, and we ended up spending about \$1.6 million of our ARPA monies on these sub-grants.

Why am I so proud of it? Because these are all small libraries, rural and under-resourced, but really important in their communities. Every library who participated had to submit photos in their final report and also submit one story about an impact that this project had on someone in their community, and reading those stories and seeing those pictures -- which by the way, probably about 70 percent of those pictures, not usable, man -- but 25 to 30 percent of them that are, they are going to be fabulous for New Hampshire State Library to use to illustrate -- to the congressional delegation, to other funders -- the importance of libraries in their communities.

One of the biggest things that libraries in the sub-grant program did with the formulaic round was try to figure out how to hold programming during COVID and get people back to together, face to face but in a safe way: a lot of outdoor space stuff, tents, picnic tables, deck chairs, owls for hybrid meetings, outdoor movie screens. It was based on what their community wanted to see and who else the library could partner with in that community. That was the purpose of that money: it was to really help those small libraries address what their community needed emerging from COVID and get people back communicating together and sharing information and figuring out how they're going to move forward as a collective.

I'm proud of that, because that sub-grant process was hard. I ran info sessions. I ran drop-in office hours. I created so many handouts, because a lot of these libraries had never submitted for a grant before. They had no idea what a grant process was. And I had certain criteria that I had to meet and show for each application to IMLS, because they have standards and they want to make sure that the money's being spent correctly. So balancing all that and not burning myself out, and getting it all done, and spending that much money in that short a period of time -- we got that notification of the ARPA money in April of 2021 and were issuing checks in the middle of June -- that was an accomplishment.

That was a shining moment. It speaks to why I do this: because I do think our libraries in our smaller communities are

so needed. And there are still so many people who buy into the stereotype that libraries are just books, but they're so much more than that, they serve so many more needs. Showing those people that, fighting that stereotype, that's the challenge.

I do think our libraries in our smaller communities are so needed. And there are still so many people who buy into the stereotype that libraries are just books, but they're so much more than that, they serve so many more needs. Showing those people that, fighting that stereotype, that's the challenge.

***Is there anything about yourself outside of work that you'd like to share with MLA members?***

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## State Librarian

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Well, I'm not all work. I do like to read. I usually have at least two or three books going at one time. Usually one on a device and at least one in print. I still like to hold a book, but I also like digital materials.

I'm very active with my kids, I have two kids. I have a dog and a parrot: a Weimaraner and a green cheek conure.

I am a yoga teacher: I teach yoga, and I teach yoga teachers how to teach. I've run a yoga teacher training for a couple years.

I'm getting back into running. I did half marathons for a number of years. I'm a second degree black belt tae kwon do. Once you hit your 40s, you sort of ask yourself, shouldn't I think of something that's more sustainable? And that's one of the reasons I transitioned from martial arts and running to yoga.

I like kayaking. I'm very excited to be up here, where there's a lot of water. I'm excited about getting out and exploring all of Maine and really getting to know a lot of the different areas.

I'm very close with my sister, who still lives in New York with her family. And my mom is still out there. They're going to come visit in July, we've already got that scheduled.

***I can't let you go without asking you about the "Rodent Queen" nickname that you mentioned once.***

Yes. When I worked in historic house museums, there's often vermin problems. Usually it's bats.

The funniest time was when I worked at the Chapman Historical Museum in Glens Falls, NY. I get a call at one in the morning because the alarms have gone off in the museum. My director was away, and I was next on the list. I come and the police are standing outside. We walk around the building, don't see any broken windows or doors or anything.

So we do a walk through. We go in, and I'm like, "I bet it's a bat in the dining room." One of the cops looks to me and says, "You're kidding me." I said, "No, that's usually what

these alarms are." He walked right out of that place. He did not stay. I look at his partner and he's like, "He doesn't like bats. What are you gonna do?" I said, "I'm gonna catch it and we're gonna release it outside so it doesn't set off the alarms again tonight." He's like, "You expect me to catch it?" I said, "No, I will catch it," and I did, like I had done before. I brought it out in a covered bucket, but this cop had gotten in the car and was freaking out. It was hysterical. I was young, in my 20s, and this older cop was flipping out.

Anyway, I started working at Historic Cherry Hill in Albany. That was an older home, from the 1770s. It's part of the Albany area and so, you know, lots and lots of rodents. One day I came in and my boss was running out of the building. I'm like, "What's going on?" She's like, "There's a squirrel in my office. You have to deal with that. I'm going home to work." The squirrel had gotten down the chimney because the cap blew off. It had destroyed her office, this squirrel, shredded the UV protective shades on the windows, there's stuff everywhere. It took me three hours to catch that sucker in a have-a-heart trap, but I did and I moved it 20 miles away across the river. After that, they set up a board with check marks. So I had everything: I have trapped skunk, possum, rabbit, squirrels, raccoons, mice, voles, rats. Yeah. They called me the Rodent Queen, and every rodent that you could possibly encounter, I trapped and got a check mark. Yep. I just want to say I never want to do that again. So no one should expect me to catch rodents anymore. I've done it, but I am done being the queen.

***We are all happy you are here. We will get to know you well soon. But, for now, is there anything else you'd like to say to introduce yourself to MLA to Z readers?***

Just that I am an MLA member. I made sure to get my membership in December before I started my first day here. I think it's important to support the state organization and to be active in it. I'm getting all the notices, and I plan to attend the conference in May.

My door is open. People should reach out to me if they have questions or they want to talk about any kind of issue.







## Happy 2023, Maine Library Land!

Much was accomplished by our amazing board, committee, and interest group members in 2022, and if you have not seen it already, please take a look at our **2021-22 Impact Report**. 2023 will be an even better year for MLA, and here are a couple of reasons why:

**Wage Study:** I am thrilled to announce that MLA has contracted with Municipal Resources, Inc., of Portsmouth, NH, to conduct a Maine public library wage study. Many of you will be happy to hear that this is finally happening, and I'm sure some of you are asking, "Why do we need a wage study, if Maine State Library already collects salary data?" The salary data is a valuable tool provided by MSL, but as an advocacy organization, MLA needs more to work with to advocate for better pay in our public libraries. The MSL salary data will be used in the process of this wage study, which will include a survey of key benchmark library positions across the state, research of library wages across New England, and development of a wage and job classification system, which will be based on library size, job functions, qualifications, etc. Many libraries have been included in wage studies conducted by their towns, which has delivered very mixed results to library workers in those towns. We feel that this targeted study will be a strong advocacy tool to use when talking with our towns and boards and will empower library directors. In the interest of transparency, the fee for this study is \$25k. The MLA board had approved a \$13k expenditure for this in the fall of 2021, before we had a clear idea of the scope and cost of our study. The board recently approved an additional \$7k. The remaining \$5k has been designated by the board for this expense and came in the form of a grant from the John T. Gorman Foundation. This grant

was a "board member's discretionary grant" from a JTGF board member who selected MLA to receive it; we are very grateful to them for choosing us.

**Strategic Plan:** Another major project in the works right now is our first strategic plan in recent years. Our goal is to develop a plan that we can update/refresh every other year, in the second year of the Presidential term. We have surveyed membership. The next steps will be to discuss the survey and to conduct a SOAR (a more positive alternative to a SWOT) analysis with the help of Deb Clark from MSL (thank you, Deb!) We will present a plan to the board in March or April for a vote, and then we will present it to membership at the Annual Meeting, which is now held during our conference in May.

**We can't do it without you:** One theme that struck me in reading survey responses was that our members want us to do more of what we already do well: advocacy, professional development, and networking opportunities. While I was glad to read a lot of good feedback around these efforts, capacity has been a perennial issue the whole time I have served on the MLA board (six years). In order for us to do more and do it well, we need you. MLA is run by its members and as such, there is continual turnover in our leadership, which can make sustainability a challenge. If you feel like you have not been asked or invited to join an interest group or committee, then please consider this your invitation! We realize that it can be very hard to find the time to do more, but if you talk to anyone who participates in interest groups and committees, they will say that what they get out of participating is worth more than the time they put in. Our groups thrive when members are active, and joining a group requires only as much time as you can spare. If serving on the MLA board might interest you, joining one of these groups is the best way to get on that path. Our Board Member Directory is at <https://www.mainelibraries.org/board>; please reach out and let us know how (and how much) you would like to get involved. You can also email me directly at [president@mainelibraries.org](mailto:president@mainelibraries.org), and I can connect you with the right people.



## Broadband Summit

The Maine Broadband Coalition held a two-day summit at Thomas College in Waterville in December, online the first day and hybrid the second. In attendance were internet service Providers, broadband advocates, municipalities, utility districts, financial institutions, politicians, and representatives from the Maine Connectivity Authority. The summit's sessions illustrated how broadband will reach more places in Maine as grants for implementation become available and explained the literal nuts and bolts we will need for universal broadband access across the state.

Broadband enables access to many government services and benefits, health and medicine, education, workforce development, and job opportunities, and thus not only benefits Mainers but is necessary for them to participate in the world. An estimated 15-20% of Maine households have no cable or fiber internet service in their area, mostly in rural areas. To bridge the gap, we will need to train technicians to lay the fiber, install the connections, and provide customer service to households. Libraries can help by continuing to have resources for patrons learning how to use new technologies, applying for **subsidized internet connection**, and finding discounted devices.

We can also help our communities to find alternative ways of offering public broadband services, like forming partnerships with nearby towns. We should help our communities find funding and business models that make that work for them. Each town and group of towns will have their own challenges and resources, and the more you know about this, the better a library advocate you are for rural digital equity AND economic development



## Tell Your Story

Maine Library Association would like to gather stories from members, as well as other libraries and community partners, on the impact that we have on our communities. We are doing some amazing work, and we have successes to share and challenges to ask for help in tackling. We have power in our localities, but we also have power as a sector that touches the lives of all of our residents whether they use their local libraries or not.

So we are asking you to share your stories through MLA. We want to make this easy for you.

Start on the MLA website, [www.mainelibraries.org](http://www.mainelibraries.org). Click Log In at the very upper left of your browser window (if you are already logged in, you will see your name there; click on it). Click Edit Profile. Scroll and fill answers to fields next to the questions that ask what you like about your library, what you are proud of, etc.

Each person who submits a story or image decides with whom we share them. We also ask for anyone whose likenesses are included in the images to sign a release. We take privacy very seriously.

**What can we do with our stories?** We can share our experiences serving Maine residents. We all choose to live and work here, and we have great reasons to do so. We want to show our elected officials the places we live and what we do to make these places better. It is not always easy, and sometimes we need help, like additional funding, to meet the needs of our communities. Gathering our stories and presenting them all together has power beyond numbers.

## Library Legislative Day 2023

After a few pandemic years celebrating virtually, we will be back in Augusta to celebrate Library Legislative Day again in 2023. Details are still being finalized, but expect the day to be a half a day of professional development opportunities and a half a day tabling in the Hall of Flags at the State House. **Do you know of a legislator we should invite?** If so, please send along their name. We will send targeted invitations to legislators from around the state.

Library Legislative Day is an opportunity to connect and advocate with our legislators about all things related to libraries. Please be on the lookout for more information and reach out to [advocacy@mainelibraries.org](mailto:advocacy@mainelibraries.org) if you have any questions.



## Maine's 131st Legislature

The 131st Legislature of Maine is in session! Maine's legislature operates on a 2-year cycle of regular sessions. The first year of the cycle is a longer session which convenes on the first Wednesday in December and adjourns on the 3rd Wednesday in June. The second session is shorter and spans from early January through the 3rd Wednesday in April. We are currently at near the beginning of the first, longer session where legislation is typically introduced. You can read more about Maine's Legislature here: <https://legislature.maine.gov/general>.

Curious who your elected officials are? You can find out here:

[https://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocrac y/voter\\_lookup.php](https://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocrac y/voter_lookup.php)

Curious about bills for the 131st legislative session? You can search here:

[https://legislature.maine.gov/bills/default\\_ps.asp](https://legislature.maine.gov/bills/default_ps.asp)



## Save the date for this year's MLA Conference in May

*by Sonya Durney*

The MLA Annual Conference will take place Monday, May 22, and Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at Sunday River Resort in Newry, Maine. This year's conference theme is **Advocacy in Action**. Early-bird registration starts March 6 for MLA members.

### Our two keynote speakers have been confirmed:

TRACIE D. HALL is a librarian, author, and advocate for the arts, and is Executive Director of the American Library Association. Her [articles in American Libraries journal](#) are well worth a read.

MONICA WOOD is a Maine novelist, memoirist, and playwright. Her new novel, *How to Read a Book*, comes out in May. She is also the author of *When We Were the Kennedys*, a New England bestseller.

**Grants to attend the conference** are available to those in need. Go to [our grants page](#) for details and scholarship application.

### MLA is accepting donations to our scholarship fund.

100% of your donation makes a direct positive impact on the Maine library profession through scholarships and conference grants. [CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

There will also be opportunities to donate at the conference. Yes! We will be doing the wine toss again – a great way to donate to MLA and potentially win a bottle of wine!

**Speaking of fun at the conference:** We will be doing trivia again. This time hosted by a librarian! Don't forget your hiking shoes and bathing suit. The outdoor hot tub and heated pool comes with a magnificent view of the mountain.

# New England Library Leadership Symposium & NELA Conference connects librarians and builds leaders

by Catherine Preston-Schreck, *College of the Atlantic*

Like libraries, leadership is a practice of collective organizing for a common goal. Leadership can be complex, nebulous, and for those new to taking on and working towards leadership roles, disorienting. As someone who is interested in library leadership, I was grateful for gaining direction as part of the New England Library Association's New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) Emerging Leaders program. More than 30 library staff from across New England met weekly for three months through Zoom, culminating in a one-and-a-half day in-person meeting in Manchester, New Hampshire, coinciding with the New England Library Association conference. The 2022 NELLS Emerging Leaders cohort had a strong Maine contingent, with Jeff Eastman of Maine State Library, Meghan Fogg of Freeport Community Library, Sara Turner of Lewiston Public Library, and myself.

NELLS provided helpful information, from logistics of management to the consideration of leadership philosophy – such as conducting evaluations, how to create well-structured documentation systems, and the benefits of vulnerability, transparency, and introspection as a leader, with structure to help participants develop and articulate individual leadership philosophies.

Reflecting on the experience, Megan Fogg shared, "I found this course very beneficial as a young professional. Simply put, the NELLS Emerging Leaders program helped me bridge the gap between theory and practice. At the end of the day there's only so much managerial theory you can glean from papers and books, and it was helpful meeting over several weeks with librarians from different libraries throughout the duration of the program. I got so much value from reviewing anonymized, real-life managerial conundrums and building crowd-sourced

solutions. It also assuaged a lot of fears I had as a new manager eager to do right by her staff."

My work and outlook has benefited from the program in a myriad of ways, but my favorite part was connecting with and learning from librarians across New England. Particularly enriching was the opportunity to build a professional network of talented, fun, and supportive Maine colleagues. What a great reminder that even though we may not share an office, building, or even state, we are all colleagues, together working for the greater good. 🌱





## Franco-American books are circulating at USM

by Elizabeth Bull, USM

The University of Southern Maine Libraries and Franco-American Collection are thrilled to share that we have placed the first batch of Franco-American Circulating books onto our library shelves!

In a project spanning over a year, we have combed through books in the Franco-American Collection to identify currently cataloged titles that are eligible for borrowing. This will increase access to books in the collection that are unique but not necessarily best suited to remain within the archive as “in library use only.”

These titles from the USM Franco-American Collection can be found on the shelves at the USM Lewiston-Auburn Campus Library and online through URSUS and MaineCat. Many of the items in this circulating collection are in the French language, discuss the Franco-American experience, cover Franco-American or French Canadian regional history and genealogy, or are locally published Franco-American authors.

This circulating collection will continue to grow as we catalog and add more books as well as journals and other genealogy resources. To date, we have sifted through only about one-quarter of the books in the collection. The goal is to get these titles off the shelves, blow off the dust, and put them in the hands of readers statewide!

Questions about this circulating collection? Please email

Elizabeth Bull: [elizabeth.bull@maine.edu](mailto:elizabeth.bull@maine.edu) 



*Liz Bull and  
Anna Faherty  
at the USM  
Lewiston-  
Auburn  
Campus  
Library*


## Five libraries collaborate for Camden Conference offerings

by Kelly Greenlee, Prince Memorial Library

Five Southern Maine libraries – York Public Library, Scarborough Public Library, Prince Memorial Library (Cumberland), Patten Free Library (Bath), and Kennebunk Free Library – joined forces this winter to offer a collaborative series of virtual programs, featuring experts in global trade and politics, all sponsored by the Camden Conference.

**The Camden Conference** is a world-affairs conference that has been held annually in Camden since 1988. Typically, the Camden Conference offers libraries a list of speakers who are willing to present on particular topics related to the annual conference theme. Libraries are welcome to supplement the list with program offerings of their own, and they are asked to offer their programs in advance of the Camden Conference, which is held in February each year.

The five-library collaboration, proposed by York Public Library’s Assistant Director Sophie Smith, is the first time Maine libraries have pooled their resources to broaden the scope of Camden Conference programming available to their communities. The collaboration allows for a more thorough exploration of the topic, while also reducing occurrences of duplicative programming. It also provides added opportunity for people from communities that span Southern Maine to come together to discuss global issues that affect us all.

The Camden Collaborative, as the group has come to call themselves, is hoping to use this year’s model as a pilot trial with the goal of offering more collaborative programming among libraries. Virtual programs know no geographical boundaries, the group reasons, so why not open each library’s events calendar to a wider audience by intentionally cross-publicizing and sharing ownership. 

## Escape Rooms integrate math in the school library media center

*Leanne Oren, MSAD 61 District Library Coordinator*

While English and Social Studies are natural collaborators for the school library media center, math can sometimes be trickier to integrate. Maker spaces have helped libraries to incorporate math and problem solving into curricula. Escape rooms, which have been a growing form of entertainment over the last decade, can be another fun way for students to exercise problem solving skills in the library, but they have been used less than maker spaces. My success in implementing escape room games in the library has inspired me to encourage others to consider using them in their own libraries and classrooms.

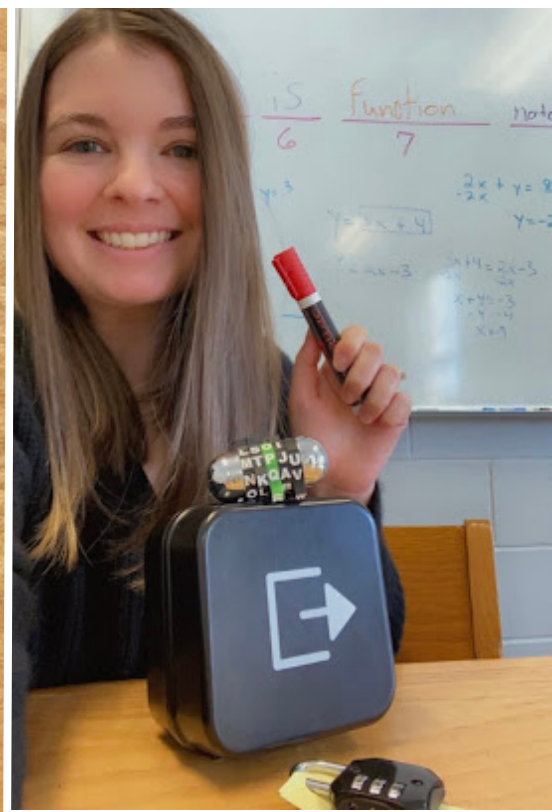
Escape rooms (or puzzle rooms or riddle rooms) can be worked into a curriculum that stresses problem solving and teamwork through gameplay, and the materials required for them range from simple to elaborate. At a minimum, all the library would need to buy are some locks and a box, and you could come up with clues yourself. For a readymade off-the-shelf option, you can purchase a Breakout EDU box, which includes equipment and access to their database of lessons for \$199.

One of my predecessors purchased a Breakout EDU box for MSAD 61 (Lake Region School District in Bridgton).

When math students were learning about functions, the teacher and I created a series of clues that led them to a code that opened a lock. Some clues involved relatively simple equations; others asked them to use a cipher to determine the answer.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Students worked together and were engaged for the entire period. It was exciting to see them descend upon the library looking for clues and solving equations. And the students enjoyed the challenge: their only feedback was to make it even harder next time!

We have been successful with our escape rooms so far. As a school librarian, I feel it is part of my job to find ways for students to apply what they are learning in more fun and less didactic ways, and we feel we have found in escape room games something that hits the mark. We look forward to experimenting with invisible ink pens and more complicated locks in the future. We would be interested in finding out whether other librarians are using these games and how students and teachers have responded.



## Peabody Memorial Library is proud of award received by trustee

The Camden National Bank gave one of its 2022 Leaders and Luminaries Awards to Kylie Hinkley, a trustee at the Peabody Memorial Library in Jonesport. The awards shine a light on outstanding nonprofit board members making a difference in our communities.

Kylie began as a volunteer at Peabody Memorial Library in 2003 as a Girl Scout at the age of six. Starting off on Saturdays, then on summer breaks and school vacations, her role as a volunteer grew substantially. At the age of nine, she began assisting the librarian with planning and implementing children's programs along with daily duties. In 2012, at the age of 15, Kylie was asked by the Board of Trustees to join them as a Trustee. She was elected Treasurer of the Board in 2019.

In her first year as a Trustee, public funding for the library was cut by 50%. Kylie immediately began a fundraising campaign known as SOUL (Save Our Underfunded Library) to assist the library in obtaining the much needed funds in order to continue operations and provide the community with the library services the patrons relied on. Over the years, the library has been able to obtain more public funding, but it relies heavily on donations, fundraising, and grants. Kylie has helped in

every aspect of development. She holds many fundraisers throughout the year, solicits donations, and is a major grant writer.

Kylie has assisted other Trustees with writing grants to obtain enough funds to begin an endowment for the library. As of today, the endowment has doubled in size and accounts for a quarter of the library's operating expenses.

Kylie has been a vital volunteer for the Peabody Memorial Library over the past 19 years, and she hopes to be able to continue her role for many years to come. She has always been an advocate for the library and its services. She continues to work with the Trustees and the library staff to ensure that the library will be here for future generations. She is always thinking of new ideas and strategies to assist with funding the library, getting more public support for the library and its programs, and she began a Teen Advisory Group (TAG) to help with getting younger patrons involved in the library to better serve them.

Congratulations to Kylie! Keep up the good work!



*The Board of Trustees at the Peabody Memorial Library in Jonesport. Kylie Hinkley is third from the left.*



## Prince Memorial Library celebrates its centennial

Prince Memorial Library, which serves the towns of Cumberland and North Yarmouth, is celebrating its 100th year in 2023. A celebration was held on Saturday, January 7, exactly 100 years after the library opened its doors to the public. More than 500 people came to the celebration, which featured live music by the bluegrass band, Jerks of Grass; an art exhibit with paintings by local artists; great food, and showstopping desserts.

The deaths of Carroll D. and Annie Lincoln Prince in the fall of 1920 resulted in a bequest of \$35,000 for the construction of a public library in Carroll's birthplace of Cumberland. Prince Memorial Library was incorporated on November 7, 1921, and opened on January 7, 1923. The library's predecessors included the Second Social Library in North Yarmouth, founded in December 1793, which became the First Social Library of Cumberland when that town seceded from North Yarmouth in 1821, and the Cumberland Library, founded in 1897 and housed in the homes of volunteer librarians. The 600-plus books

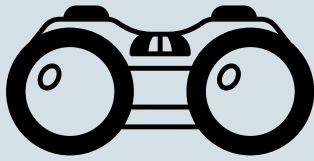
a in the Cumberland Library were transferred to Prince Memorial Library upon its opening.

PML has undergone three expansions: the Merrill Addition in 1959, a 40-by-20-foot addition, was a gift of Paul E. Merrill in memory of his parents, Wallace L. and Harriet C. Merrill. The Cumberland Wing, an 8,100-square-foot, was completed in 1987. The 728-square-foot Young Adult Room was added in 1996 after an anonymous donation of \$35,000 resulted in a \$35,000 municipal appropriation and private contributions of \$45,745. Plans were drawn up in 2019 to move the Cumberland Historical Society (CHS) to the library campus and connect it to the library with an L-shaped addition that would add ~8,500 sq. ft. of space. The CHS building was moved in May 2019, but the expansion project was put on hold due to the pandemic.



*Library staff put together a list and visual display of 100 notable books from 1923 – 2022.*





# A LOOK AHEAD

February is:

**Black History Month,, National Haiku Writing Month, National Library Lovers Month**

- 12-18 Random Acts of Kindness Week
- 14 International Book Giving Day
- 20 President's Day
- 27 MLA GENEALOGY DISCUSSION: Navigation Ancestry's Library Edition (5pm, Zoom)

March is

**National Craft Month, National Deaf History Month, National Reading Month**

- 2 National Read Across America Day
- 3 National Day of Unplugging
- 4 National Grammar Day
- 6 EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION for MLA Annual Conference opens for members
- 8 National Proofreading Day
- 12 Daylight Savings starts
- 13-14 NELA Legal Seminar: Copyright Basics, Fair Use, Advanced & Beyond (Zoom)
- 14 National Pi Day, International Day of Mathematics
- 19 International Read to Me Day
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 20 World Storytelling Day
- 20-26 National Introverts Week
- 21 World Poetry Day
- 27 World Theatre Day

April is

**National Poetry Month, School Library Month**

- 2 International Children's Book Day
- 2 National DIY Day
- 4 National School Librarian Day
- 6 National Library Day
- 10 National Encourage a Young Writer Day
- 13 Celebrate Teen Literature Day
- 13 National Scrabble Day
- 14 National Donate a Book Day
- 21 World Creativity and Innovation Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 23-29 National Library Week
- 23 Shakespeare Day
- 29 Indie Bookstore Day

May is

**Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, National Clean Air Month, and No Mow May**

- 22-23 MLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Sunday River, Newry, ME)



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