**NJLA Children Services Section**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Friday, September 27, 2024**

**PRESENT:**

**Jenise Sileo**, President/Parsippany-Troy Hills PL; **Rachael Trotter**, Vice President/Verona PL; **Teresa Carlton,** Secretary/Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro PL; **Sara Figueroa**, Member-at-Large/Margaret E. Heggan Free PL; **Nicole Zimmerman**, Social Media/Jersey City Free PL; **Katy White**, NJLA Associate Director; **Cassie Collucci**, Somerset County Library; **Kris Churchill**, Caldwell PL; **Michele Bond**, Warren County Library; **Ellen Ryan**, Bernards Township PL; **Katelyn Anderson**, GCLS Logan Library; **Darby Malvey,** LibraryLink NJ, **Lynnette Fucci,** Monroe Township PL; and **Jen Fitzgerald**, Somerset County Library

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Introductions were made. We welcomed Nicole Zimmermann as our new Social Media Manager and guests, Katy White, Associate Director of NJLA and Cassie Collucci from Somerset County Library.

**VOTE ON THE BY-LAWS AND NEW SOCIAL MEDIA POSITION:**

Major change was adding a social media manager position and changing from two Vice President positions to one. With all members in favor, the new by-laws and position were accepted.

**GUEST SPEAKER: CASSIE COLLUCCI/NJLA EMERGING LEADERS:**

Nicole shared the importance of new librarians joining Emerging Leaders: It’s a tool to connect librarians around the state, it celebrates what we do, it allows for the sharing of ideas throughout the year, it provides a way to help librarians invest in NJLA, gives support, advocates, allows the meeting of librarians with different backgrounds and experiences, and provides different topics to learn about such as NJLA, leadership, and time management.

Criteria to participate: be a librarian for 5 years or less in New Jersey. Applications due October 1. Applicants will need a resume and cover letter, must have an MSL degree, need a statement of support from their supervisor, and must complete an application. Upon completion of the sessions, participants must volunteer for an NJLA committee or section for 2 years, 2025-2027. Attending the NJLA Conference is highly recommended. With NJLA’s support, the cost was cut to $200.00 for all 5 sessions and lunches are provided.

There will be 5 sessions which applicants must commit to attending, beginning November 14 at Plainfield Library, 2nd session at Pennsauken PL, 3rd at the Talking Book and Braille Center, 4th at Montgomery PL, and last at the Parsippany PL. They run from 10 am to 3:30 pm. Go to <https://www.njla.org/emergingleaders> to learn more.

**STATE REPORT: FROM SHARON RAWLINS, YOUTH SERVICES SPECIALIST & STATEWIDE SR COORDINATOR, NJ STATE LIBRARY:**

Sharon was not in attendance, but sent in her report: Contact: srawlins@njstatelib.org

 **NJ State Library Projects**

**Building Equity-Based Summers (BEBS) Initiative**

Has the lasting impact of the pandemic had you reevaluating traditional services and programs? Does “equity” feel too big to tackle by yourself? Consider being a part of Building Equity-Based Summers (BEBS). BEBS is an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) [**grant-funded national initiative**](https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded/re-252358-ols-22) focused on assisting public library staff in gaining the skills necessary to work with systematically marginalized communities.

The NJ State Library is seeking public libraries to participate in the third year of this three-year initiative. Each participating library should be represented by a team of least two or more staff members. Team members should have roles in summer services work and may be frontline staff, staff from other departments, supervisors, directors, or community partners outside the library. Each participating library will receive a $500 stipend.

Through training and co-design, participants will work to address the following questions:

* Do summer services demonstrate attention to equity?
* How are libraries determining how and if summer services are achieving equity goals?
* What impact are summer services having on those that need them most?

Participation in the BEBS initiative will require of all team members to:

· Attend eight virtual learning sessions every other week with other NJ participants. The sessions will run from late Fall 2024 – Winter 2025.

· Attend a virtual orientation session on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024 from 10 – 11 am.

· Virtual learning session dates and times are:

o Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, 10 am – 11:30 am

o Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, 10 am – 11:00 am

o Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, 10 am – 11:30 am \*\*\*\* Note, it’s a Thursday

o Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, 10 am – 11 am

o Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, 10 am – 11:30 am

o Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, 10 am – 11 am

o Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, 10 am – 11:30 am

o Wednesday, Mar. 12, 2025, 10 am – 11 am

* · Participants should plan to commit approximately 2-5 hours a month to BEBS work outside of the learning sessions.
* · Participate in a monthly Community of Practice (CoP) with other states in 2025 after the learning sessions conclude.

Libraries who would like to participate in this project are asked to contact Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJ State Library, **srawlins@njstatelib.org**, 609-278-2640 x116, by **September 30, 2024.**

**Register Now to Adapt and Fortify Your Library against Extreme Weather**

In honor of National Preparedness Month, you're invited to register for and attend *Adapt and Fortify Your Library against Extreme Weather* on **Tuesday, September 24, from 2:30 to 4:00pm**. This virtual event is brought to you by the Northeast Summit on Climate Adaptation, a group of state library agencies and library entities from Maine to Maryland that includes the New Jersey State Library.

In this first webinar of a three-party series, hear from a panel of East Coast librarians for practical tips about increasing the resilience of your library facilities, and learn more about the challenging weather we are all experiencing from Sean Birkel, the Maine State Climatologist.

[**Click here to register**](https://4iclcdfab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001s-ezYbkMxrUkFMhz78nPBs6FP9mhZBwdiHSng5zNhQNKztpBFZ6dalfxXDwTwxMhKB6kvR9vMSXdxryabP-CfLK6HRDLG6Y_xQoA2Fs1n91aSlEkG6c3VcR0zDzK4dDbQtf8cTxtBbUZBYJV8aTIdA==&c=4VgUhuCOmzgIt0-kEoa5xECbCD3Sc-WVF-GyOB5_9dHKk0YT2kziGw==&ch=kxKxAqd1PjnhC9ifYbrvRffo3DOI0mgH8NWVgC72q9i-SBvI1eDBRQ==).

Questions? Contact Michele Stricker, Deputy State Librarian for Library Development, mstricker@njstatelib.org

**Apply Now for the Digital Navigator Corps!**

The New Jersey State Library is now accepting applications from libraries to participate in the Digital Navigator Corps. This partnership between NJSL and Literacy Minnesota will bring six full-time AmeriCorps members to six NJ public libraries to expand or improve digital literacy programs and services in high-need communities. [**Click here**](https://4iclcdfab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001s-ezYbkMxrUkFMhz78nPBs6FP9mhZBwdiHSng5zNhQNKztpBFZ6dauVkAMd-p3MmrgnccnHRBJ4vf5u1J0NM3q37NTeurfM3NeR55KK1VstgI_iGrIbo_p857ZK4_ZQD1Dlg1aqlILfvIqTNpCPO1xlDrnnMFHtbNqWaDIJx8Zn5b2TuWCDNE8FZ4Emki14u2ZxcUQowqVliXKrETsqb5BeusPlWjAw2w87WBx4N0TQqLuiTe_bm-hJwOAhL-45r&c=4VgUhuCOmzgIt0-kEoa5xECbCD3Sc-WVF-GyOB5_9dHKk0YT2kziGw==&ch=kxKxAqd1PjnhC9ifYbrvRffo3DOI0mgH8NWVgC72q9i-SBvI1eDBRQ==) to find additional details and view a recording of the informational webinar. The deadline for libraries to apply is **September 15, 2024.** Questions? Contact Andrea Levandowski: alevandowski@njstatelib.org

**New Jersey Small Business Manual Now Available!**

The [**NJ Business Action Center**](https://4iclcdfab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Zp1v1PQey9Rs_ndDDDMtR8IAC6JgGSwWKa7fcGqYiGm17hxqRauHuAVd2MTnwPKK-RepcDJlus6HJNnogCRIP3rwuALxtYLpSx1BjjNMLodcwBn-NftRGd-9-rFvFDoN191L5REcntrDD12OgFeKcWWqquctGZrL&c=nOmNxaHkfAXBh536tuSHYREFotJRVdGGj3i47FxeB3AGd8Bsa220wA==&ch=ymBq-gdytQOvl5dWTZd6XkVUAGWEZR4oBVocj2nmuorwXq_bYwyedQ==)recently published a Small Business Manual, a valuable and easy-to-navigate resource for business owners and entrepreneurs. This publication covers topics such as establishing a business, filing taxes and annual reports, applying for licenses, exporting, and creating business plans. It can serve as a resource for patrons as well as librarians answering business reference questions.

Both librarians and their patrons can [**click here**](https://4iclcdfab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Zp1v1PQey9Rs_ndDDDMtR8IAC6JgGSwWKa7fcGqYiGm17hxqRauHuAVd2MTnwPKKq7cXmDjY7MKIfagRYgzahs55jOAPNCtu1KmmCEmzQ0VNtyLPHLbk-WQ0P29Obm5J1QI9jTDiB9n0xL6PcDSTzlNItmnTrHWBA6pQyhfinrVyVmUZWnMx183lmeCX4S-9&c=nOmNxaHkfAXBh536tuSHYREFotJRVdGGj3i47FxeB3AGd8Bsa220wA==&ch=ymBq-gdytQOvl5dWTZd6XkVUAGWEZR4oBVocj2nmuorwXq_bYwyedQ==) to order a copy or download the file. At this time, only a single hard copy can be ordered online, please contact Andrea Levandowski if you need more information.

**CSLP Updates**

* · The slogan for 2027 is “*Mysteries Await at Your Library*”
* · The theme for 2028 is “Mythical Creatures”
* · Sneak peek at artwork for 2025’s Art theme, “Color Our World”:

 [CSLP\_2025\_Color\_Our\_World\_Sneak\_Peek.pdf](https://njstateliborg-my.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/g/personal/srawlins_njstatelib_org/EcHxvloG2KtEreaHid-LdTsB-W9r_hyBS3AIk_D62m5yDw?e=nzODNP)

* · If you missed completing the CSLP national survey by Sept. 13, 2024, you can submit your statistics to me at:<https://forms.office.com/r/pZNXmjJXkS>
* · CSLP Online Store with products for 2025 Summer Program will open October 2, 2024.

**SAVE THE DATE: CSLP 2024 Virtual Summer Symposium**

[**https://www.cslpreads.org/summer-symposium/**](https://www.cslpreads.org/summer-symposium/) **(December 5, 2024, 11 am - 4:30 pm)**

**Consider joining a CSLP committee!**

Our committees are the engine that keeps CSLP moving forward, and vibrant committees lead to a vibrant CSLP. That is why we invite all member library staff members to join a committee annually. Only through your input can we continue to improve.

Sign-ups for 2025 CSLP Committees are open until October 15. While the duties vary, committee obligations generally run for one calendar year. All committee work is done virtually, either through email, or through phone or online meetings. Attending the CSLP Annual Meeting is not required. You are welcome to sign up for more than 1 committee if your time allows, however each committee has different size and participation criteria.

To help you decide which committee to volunteer for, please visit:<https://www.cslpreads.org/committees/> to review the responsibilities of each committee. Most CSLP committees are open to all, however some have limited seats or require previous CSLP experience.

**Apply now!** - [CSLP Committee Application form](https://forms.gle/sccpNhiZzaRNjJWJ8)

Deadline to sign up is October 15, 2024. If you are currently serving on a committee that you enjoy, let your Committee Chair know you want to sign up again or feel free to try a new committee.

 **National Opportunities/Events/Grants**

[***SLJ* Day of Dialog**](https://d2p-vm04.na1.hubspotlinks.com/Ctc/RJ%2B113/d2p-vM04/VW-P0v2q8gPvW8TTcC34BPpLxW5BVC1m5jY4GKN4bXfKz3qn9gW8wLKSR6lZ3pkW7GKr7Q50hr3YW6sjgf_2sVMFfW7CSDLt5bsMy4W8QcWzn33mg9YN6Xd3r3SWKKCW7WCD4210vpmRW4RT-dv6bmR1NW5F_J6s2NRpm1W3Wmbgg8LrP0tMdgdGNWhP2DW8GD8-S2hZCkRVM_PrC1X-G2FW8fSdBl3rbGfxW6Dy8F76QCvJ8W2b88Kq4yg74cVfvgjm22VNYxW2_VNP91CthCKW6FjHMz83yC41W1_cxk-5_fmtdW1BdZZb5f9xj6W2N27q43-dSdgW2jnDf4345dqFW7zPd8_8kGKY-W8sMszD83wbRzN5RCtRLkKvYvW3Q4hP045g8k9W6tVSsW79Cg5rW6FWC8Y1qq6Rcf8cTQ5K04)
 **October 10, 2024**

Come hear about the hottest forthcoming titles for children, tweens, and teens, from nonfiction and romance to picture books and graphic novels. **(K – 12)**

[**LibraryCon Live!**](https://d2p-vm04.na1.hubspotlinks.com/Ctc/RJ%2B113/d2p-vM04/VW-P0v2q8gPvW8TTcC34BPpLxW5BVC1m5jY4GKN4bXfKg3qn9gW7Y8-PT6lZ3ncW5Kk-Bx333_y9W5RWKLM15995BW370tjS21b4p2W3ghN8g6GNyPFW5hTMxM24fq8sW6zgd464KJxFJVlDNs17NFy_9W3nCgll8_ptcNW8jbt-F53yK2lW4SQpCR5fmLbSW6X-JGW3sb-MfVXGSDh5QBjw_W6-8L168gzlz4N4gMWRcg0fYYN7cP6C11p4pNW1x_b7D1Gc30JV7c1V72WVHWfW2ZGqH444m4FKW2j6yxF8jSYlRW2LRk0C6hW3-6W8VG_L850n-gxW2sZmn94KY-jjW51DzsR4pZjNnV1_LX72Hfw-9N5kqKWzf2CBRW9j15kW42qkmhf65Hk6M04) **November 14**

A day-long celebration of fandom, spotlighting genre fiction for adults and teens with panels devoted to comics and graphic novels, horror, sf/fantasy, and more. **(MG – 18+)**

**Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship Application Open – Deadline to Apply 10-15-24**

Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship provides a grant up to $7,500 to a qualified children's librarian to spend up to four weeks reading and studying at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, Gainesville. The Baldwin Library contains a special collection of 130,000 volumes of children's literature published mostly before 1950. The fellowship is endowed in memory of Louise Seaman Bechtel and Ruth M. Baldwin. The application and more information can be found at <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/profawards/bechtel>

Questions? Contact ALSC Professional Recognition and Scholarships Committee Co-Chairs, Mary Schreiber (schreiberalsc@gmail.com) and Gwen Vanderhage (gvanderhage.ala@gmail.com)

**NJ Fall Book Festivals**

* · Princeton Children’s Book Festival,<https://princetonlibrary.org/childrens-book-festival/>, Oct. 5, 2024
* · Collingswood,<https://www.collingswoodbookfestival.com/>, Oct, 5, 2024 (NJLA Store will be there!)
* · Morristown,<https://morristownbooks.org/>, Oct. 18-19, 2024
* · Maplewood South-Orange Book Festival,<https://mapsobookfest.org/>, Oct. 20, 2024

**School Meal Application Outreach Campaign**

Hunger Free New Jersey (HFNJ), in partnership with the Office of the Food Security Advocate, has launched a statewide school meal application outreach campaign to encourage parents to complete and submit the new “School Meal and Summer EBT Application”.

To that end, HFNJ has developed a School Meal Application outreach tool kit which contains:

* social media graphics and sample posts
* school meal explainer
* sample texts, emails, and newsletter messaging
* Flyers
* and more!

Click here for the outreach tool kit [https://hungerfreenj.org/schoolmealstoolkit](https://hungerfreenj.org/schoolmealstoolkit/)

**Leap into Science Online Training Modules**

The State Library of North Carolina has generously offered to share their Leap Into Science online interactive learning modules to all library staff in any state through [Niche Academy](https://my.nicheacademy.com/slnc/course/58762). There are 3 curriculum training modules available in the online modules: [Balance](https://my.nicheacademy.com/slnc/course/58762), [Light & Shadow](https://my.nicheacademy.com/slnc/course/58763), and [Wind](https://my.nicheacademy.com/slnc/course/58755).

Developed by The Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia, PA, Leap into Science is a national program designed to build interest and skills in science and literacy for children ages 3 – 10 and their families, in community settings like libraries, museums, and out-of-school time programs. I, along with other NJ state leadership trainers, offered this in-person and virtual training to a number of libraries and afterschool organizations in New Jersey in the past.

The State Library of North Carolina’s Niche Academy is completely open. If a library staff member does not already have access to Niche, you will need to create a free account.

**Invention Education Learning Resources for Children**

The Center for Digital Literacy, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University, has provided free and engaging resources for school and public librarians who are interested in creating/sponsoring invention education resources for their young patrons.

The Curious Kids’ Story-Game Adventure: The Mystery of the Burping Fish” is a digital story-game (a story with game elements) and set of supporting resources, partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS). The story-game is designed to capture the imaginations of young, would-be inventors in grades 2-4 and motivate them to participate in its six fun-filled adventures while learning the invention process and gaining some teamwork and inquiry skills along the way. This is the link to a flyer for the game: [Digital Story-Game Flyer](https://njstateliborg-my.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/g/personal/srawlins_njstatelib_org/EW_4hMl6w75FqtQhs7iHvfEBMzNu4yI7ZATFMxvQxZvIOQ?e=4TZBlr)

Reviewed and tested by two design teams, one made up of 15 school and public librarians and 10 young inventors nationwide, educators involved in invention-related programs and activities will delight their young students with this new and unique set of learning resources. It features a story-game, set in the fictional rural community of Curiosity Creek, where the player joins the members of the Curious Kids Club as they solve a problem in their community through invention.

Support materials include a companion journal and a digital glossary, plus a best-practices guide and set of unit or program plans for teachers and librarians. In addition to these resources, we also include “Get SET!”, a digital evaluation tool for young children (partially funded by a previous grant to the PIs from the Lemelson Foundation). This tool helps children evaluate the quality of the resources they use as they proceed through the steps in the invention process.

More learning resources, all designed for anyone wishing to engage K-8 children in invention-related programs and activities, can be found on the “Click Here to Learn More” button on the project site, “The Innovation Destination,” [https://theinnovationdestination.net](https://theinnovationdestination.net/).

**Get Ready for Digital Inclusion Week!**

This year’s [**Digital Inclusion Week**](https://4iclcdfab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001s-ezYbkMxrUkFMhz78nPBs6FP9mhZBwdiHSng5zNhQNKztpBFZ6daqIkT57qOn5dBZjVCqw0l6uyog1qJXRv9mzbLeLmzIfR7mCG9z_txW95VHYATCecb_dQf2ZOy59LhpAbVuSLIm8p7KGESz972ttVSnU344TuROuIm5DRUvztq2N_9vikthSZIhMOcBgQCEx9TM6AGHI=&c=4VgUhuCOmzgIt0-kEoa5xECbCD3Sc-WVF-GyOB5_9dHKk0YT2kziGw==&ch=kxKxAqd1PjnhC9ifYbrvRffo3DOI0mgH8NWVgC72q9i-SBvI1eDBRQ==) is scheduled for **October 7-11, 2024**. The National Digital Inclusion Alliance organizes this annual week of awareness, recognition, and celebration to spotlight digital equity work in communities and organizations across the country. Libraries can participate by hosting local events, such as digital skills workshops or technology classes, and [**registering them**](https://4iclcdfab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001s-ezYbkMxrUkFMhz78nPBs6FP9mhZBwdiHSng5zNhQNKztpBFZ6daqIkT57qOn5d8-5VCJirhz9ZR2znd147SxVPS71VoOI0oHraLd0Z1YyY3t760RrRKB0xFFBCq2NNL9HxJxMLBvos_WzJMVy2fdn--IhYYH_Ogv9qaGVxYd4=&c=4VgUhuCOmzgIt0-kEoa5xECbCD3Sc-WVF-GyOB5_9dHKk0YT2kziGw==&ch=kxKxAqd1PjnhC9ifYbrvRffo3DOI0mgH8NWVgC72q9i-SBvI1eDBRQ==) on the Digital Inclusion Week website. Library staff can also take part in scheduled webinars, events, and professional development hosted by other organizations.

**Reviewers needed for online professional development program: Libraries Count**

Libraries Count is a project to develop an online professional development program that aims to help library staff support young children and their families in math. For the past 2 years, educators, researchers, librarians, and parents have worked together to create a set of modules that will eventually be available on the WebJunction site.

Prior to that happening, we need librarians to pilot the program and provide feedback. Please visit this site for more information: [https://www.ecstemlab.com/library-staff.html](http://lists.njstatelib.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi/r/njyac/901295841191/srawlins/njstatelib.org/).

If you are interested in participating, please fill out the [form at this link](https://etsuclemmer.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6zmXBtwbRH1mntA):

 Karen Stuppi, Children's Librarian, New Brunswick Free Public Library

kstuppi@nbfpl.org

**TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE CENTER/JEN APGAR:**

Report submitted by Jen Apgar. Contact: 800-792-8322 ext. 823 or japgar@njstatelib.org

The New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center has had a busy few months. We had another very successful summer reading program this year. We provided large print and braille activity packets to each participant as well as incentives for everyone provided by our Friends of the Library. Additionally, each participant was eligible to receive an Amazon Echo Dot thanks to a generous grant from the Bordentown Elks Lodge 2085 Elks National Foundation Committee.

We also have a very busy fall season ahead of us full of presentations to staff, patrons, and other community groups and attending a variety of community events and festivals.

**NJLA UPDATES: KATY WHITE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR NJLA:**

NJLA’s Executive Board met on Tuesday, September 17. Here are some of the highlights:

* The Executive Board approved an agreement with Amazon, providing Enhanced Institutional Members with free access to Amazon Prime for Business, a $1299 annual value. We will discuss more details in the near future.
* The Executive Board approved task forces for the Store and for Conference 2026, to guide our transition to a new iteration of the store, and a combined conference with the New Jersey Association of School Librarians at the Hard Rock.
* Brett is collaborating with Tiffany McClary (NJ State Library) to develop a resource to help library staff feel confident knowing what to do when journalists ask for interviews or comments. We expect to have this ready at least a week before [ALA’s United Against Book Bans Community Day of Action on October 19, 2024](https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/october-19-save-the-date-to-protect-the-freedom-to-read-at-the-polls/).
* Eileen Palmer, Vice Chair of NJLA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee, is coordinating New Jersey libraries’ participation in the United Against Book Bans Community Day of Action on October 19. Five NJ libraries have signed on, and we encourage libraries throughout the state to participate. Visit the[Community Day of Action website](https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/day-of-action/#kit) for information kits and the participant list. Please let us know if you want to sign up!
* The Executive Board passed a [Statement in Support of Pay Transparency for All New Jersey Library Workers](https://www.njla.org/statement-in-support-of-pay-transparency-for-all-new-jersey-library-workers). The accompanying NJLA Job Hotline Policy will go into effect on January 1, 2025.
* NJLA President, Jeff Cupo, is visiting Unsung Libraries. This month, he visited the Somerset County Library System’s Bound Brook Memorial Library’s Digital Van and Bayonne Public Library.
* LibraryLinkNJ is leading a coalition with NJLA to create an IMLS grant to fund EDI work in New Jersey libraries. Ozy Aloziem, the consultant the coalition hired, previously helped Denver Public Library receive a similar grant. This grant would continue that work, which is one of IMLS’s priorities.
* NJLA is reviewing new website and Association Management Software options (MemberClicks replacements). The list of semi-finalists started with 28 potential vendors. NJLA should select its next partners before the end of the month.
* The Executive Board approved agreements with four credit unions last month. The [Credit Union of New Jersey](https://www.cunj.com/bank/business-banking/a-free-employee-benefit/) is offering membership at no charge to NJLA members. We will update you on the others as their NJLA partnership is approved:

**YOUTH SERVICES FORUM: LYNNETTE FUCCI, MONROE TOWNSHIP PL:**

* The Forum will be on November 20, 2024, at the Monroe PL, from 8:45 to 3:30
* It will be in an unconference format
* We will gather to discuss ideas, projects, and concerns
* Lynnette asked people to submit discussion ideas and asked for volunteers to moderate sessions - [**Please click the link to last year's schedule**](https://www.njla.org/youth-services-forum) **to see examples of sessions offered. Deadline to submit is 10/15. We will let you know by 10/25 if your session has been selected.** [**Please submit this form if you are interested in presenting**](https://forms.gle/RATExMYPdJmMJLrx7)**.**
* Registration will open Friday, October 25. Only 85 slots are available
* Cost will be $37.50 which includes breakfast and lunch
* Theme is *Seasons Readings* because librarians work through all seasons in our library
* Having an NJLA coordinator helps a lot with the planning. The first planning meeting went well.
* Melissa Johnson has been hired by NJLA to be the event planner to help with all NJLA events. She works for PLA, too.

**GSBA: JEN FITZGERALD, SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY:**

Please let people know that there is still space for one more committee member. Any questions, contact Jenny Galley at jgalley@sclibnj.org

**NJLA CONFERENCE 2025:**

Proposals open October 1 through December 16. Notifications go out January 17, 2025. The theme is *Breaking Barriers: Simple Kindness*. Some ideas for proposals: Serving After School Kids, Service to homeless children, intergenerational programs, etc. If you have a proposal, contact Rachael at trotter@veronalibrary.org

**BOOK BANNING:**

<https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/day-of-action/#events>

**PHOTOS AT EVENTS:**

Be sure to take photos at events you attend and send to nzimmermann@jclibrary.org She is our new social media Coordinator

**LIBRARYLINK NJ/DARBY MALVEY:**

Darby reported on a Making History event on October 22, 2024, at the Piscataway PL., from 10 am to 3 pm. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWIws0exyxQsDrTFC5iq0kK4OF_zdnTttVMME0rLFwXX89bw/viewform> Historical organizations work with NJ Makers Day to attract young people. If you have something you made at a NJ Maker Day or other event and would like to share it on the 22nd - briefly share what you made, materials needed, approximate cost, etc. If you can’t attend, Darby still would like your craft/idea and information and she may be able to share.

**250th US CELEBRATION:**

Teresa asked if any libraries or NJLA is planning anything for the 250th celebration. She shared what some of the historical organizations are doing. John Beekman is on the history section. He may be a good contact. Darby mentioned that Hunterdon is planning a podcast with role playing of historic characters.

**NEXT CSS MEETING:**

**October 25, 2024, 10:00 am, virtually.** This will be a joint meeting with YASS and a guest speaker.

CSS Recurring Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85215938454?pwd=vWsVxSFmBd0oonKj6jGk6ai5EcHDFN.1>

Meeting ID: 852 1593 8454

Passcode: 428994

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85215938454?pwd=vWsVxSFmBd0oonKj6jGk6ai5EcHDFN.1

**OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

* November 15, 2024 - YASS Teen Librarian Toolbox in-person meeting at Parsippany
* November 22, 2024 - CSS NJLA Proposal (Zoom)
* December - No CSS meeting
* December 20, 2024 - YASS Meeting at Union Public Library

Respectfully submitted, Teresa Carlton