'Great Stories' find their way to youth patrons of Homewood Public Library

The Homewood Public Library was recently selected as one of 70 libraries nationwide to take part in the Great Stories Club, a reading and discussion program for underserved teens. The competitive grant for this program is offered by the American Library Association (ALA) with additional support provided by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

As part of the Great Stories Club series on truth, racial healing and transformation, Judith Wright, assistant director and teen librarian, worked with teen girls at Homewood High School to read and discuss stories that explore questions of race, equity, identity, history, institutional change and social justice. Wright partnered with Tonya Mills, one of the Guidance Counselors, and the new School Media Specialist, Summer Upton, at Homewood High School to raise awareness for the project.

The books — curated for the theme “Finding Your Voice: Speaking Truth to Power” — will include *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo; *Gabi, a Girl in Pieces* by Isabel Quintero; *Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson; and *American Street* by Ibi Zoboi.

The titles were selected to inspire young people — especially those facing difficult circumstances or challenges — to consider “big questions” about the world around them and their place in it. Participating teens and staff also took part in racial healing sessions, where they will discuss questions of race and identity.

The Homewood Public Library received an additional $1,200 to assist with the grant. Wright also received resources and training, including travel and accommodations to Chicago to attend an orientation workshop last March. Great Stories Club meetings began at Homewood High School in August and will conclude this month. We originally anticipated eight to ten girls to participate in the group, but that figure swelled to 36 thanks to strong word of mouth. Grant funds were used to purchase each girl a
Wright reached out to local community members to help facilitate discussions and donate food. Buffalo Wild Wings in Hoover generously donated food for one of the sessions. Local poet, Ashley M. Jones, helped lead the October discussion of Elizabeth Acevedo’s The Poet X. T. Marie King, a local activist, trainer, and speaker, helped close the grant initiative, by leading a racial healing circle at the final meeting in December.

Since 2006, ALA’s Great Stories Club has helped libraries engage young adults with accessible, thought-provoking literature. The current series is part of the Kellogg Foundation’s Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation efforts, a comprehensive, national and community-based process to plan for and bring about transformational and sustainable change, and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism.

### Important information about the 2020 SLP Kickoff

Due to ongoing construction at APLS, our upcoming Summer Library Program Kickoff has officially been moved off site. The 2020 SLP Kickoff will be held at the main branch of the Montgomery City-County Public Library on Jan. 8 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Like last year’s program, the second day will serve as a repeat of the first day’s contents.

The address for the event is:
Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library  
245 High Street  
Montgomery, AL  36104

Parking lot link:  
https://goo.gl/maps/dxUYXHyhBbPN9ee89

A sign-up form for the event will be sent out in early November. Please be thinking about which day you wish to attend. If you typically attend with someone else, make sure to both sign up for the same day. Note, parking will be limited, so please carpool if at all possible. I’ll also include a parking map in the email with the sign-up form.

Other changes to this year’s program:
1. We will only have water available (no coffee)  
2. We will not bring in outside food  
3. We will only have chairs available (no tables)

We apologize for any inconveniences the venue change may create.
Lifestyles of Gods & Monsters
written by Emily Roberson
Release: Oct. 22, 2019

Ariadne is a princess, the youngest daughter of King Minos, and the Keeper of the Maze. This has been her god’s given duty for over ten years, as only she can calm the Minotaur who lives there. What few know, and no one talks about, is that the Minotaur is Ariadne’s little brother Asterion. With her, he is sweet and loving though he cannot talk. But to everyone else, his bloodlust causes him to destroy and eat anyone entering his maze.

All Ariadne ever asks from the gods is for her brother to be freed of his curse. Years ago, the Athenians were responsible for the death of Ariadne’s eldest brother, and the birth of the Minotaur allowed the king to seek revenge by creating an Athenian contest to the death. Every year they send 14 of their strongest teenagers to face the Minotaur.

In the eleventh iteration of ‘The Labyrinth Contest,’ Ariadne is convinced nothing will be change. That is, until she realizes Theseus, the prince of Athens, is interested in her and wants to end the contest. Ariadne’s loyalty is torn between her desire for Theseus and her little brother she loves. Whichever path she chooses, someone she loves will die.

I was hesitant to get excited about this book. I was afraid this title would be a Hunger Games knock-off with a side of teen romance. It also didn’t help that I’m not a fan of the Hunger Games series. Despite this, I’ve found a new favorite with too much love to possibly fit in this short and sweet review.

The book keeps the spirit of a Greek story without ending in utter tragedy. It’s also an epic commentary on today’s reality TV/YouTube personalities without taking a holier-than-thou stance. Roberson’s prose features wonderful characters that aren’t caricatures. She includes Icarus, and makes him Ariadne’s best friend. While I was concerned he would be the stereotypical gay best friend of other tales, he’s a far cry from the two-dimensional character readers come to expect.

Roberson stays within Ariadne’s first-person perspective while also including subtle hints for the reader the protagonist neglects. Ariadne’s character growth throughout the story is wonderful. Likewise, Theseus’s character is also well-handled, as was their whirlwind romance. Later in the story, they’re both believed to have been touched by Eros, and I really appreciated this being the explanation for their immediate attraction rather than the generic love-at-first-sight trope. I also like how Roberson leaves their relationship and Ariadne in the story’s conclusion. It was a bit unexpected, having read the original tale that was the basis of this story.

Lifestyles of Gods & Monsters was an impressive read. I could keep listing reasons why I love it and why I plan to revisit it (after I also reread the original myth). The book’s only weakness is that it’s written in first person and the world-building isn’t as strong as I like. Though vivid, the world finds me wanting more, particularly on how a modern world might function with gods and mythical beasts alongside today’s technology. This is a minor gripe, but it’s still something I hope the author more, particularly on how a modern world might function with gods and mythical beasts alongside today’s technology. This is a minor gripe, but it’s still something I hope the author explores if Roberson — fingers crossed — decides to write a sequel. Overall, I absolutely recommend this title as an addition to any YA collection.

Recommended for: Fans of fantasy, Greek mythology, well-characterized female protagonists, and all-around good stories. It’s also a great YA addition to support next year’s SLP theme.

Things to watch out for: Fantasy violence, bestiality (not spelled out, but it occurs), rape, prostitution, suicide, drinking, drug references, animal sacrifice, and minor swearing.
"Man, the library will keep you outta jail!" was the exclamation of one young man at Aaron Cohn Regional Youth Detention Center in Columbus, Ga., upon hearing all the services and programs Chattahoochee Valley Libraries has to offer teens. After hearing this at one of the initial visits to establish an outreach partnership, we knew just how important this new venture would be. By presenting our contacts at the facility with the offering of partnership on ALA’s Great Stories Club grant, we were quickly able to establish outreach at this facility.

In Spring 2018, we were a pilot library for the Great Stories Club Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation grant awarded by ALA in partnership with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. This specific grant provided facilitator training, books, supply funds, and connected us with a racial healer who would help facilitate the required racial healing session. In addition to the required racial healing session, we also held at least one discussion group for each of the three books, needed a consistent cohort of eight to ten teens, and needed to reach an underserved population. This is how Aaron Cohn Regional Youth Detention Center fit in to our story. We had been wanting to establish outreach to the teens at this facility and the call for application to this grant came at the perfect time. We contacted the facility and were able to make the connections we needed to create a new outreach partnership with them.

Over the next few months, we applied and received the grant, attended facilitator trainings, and designed the nine meetings we planned to facilitate at the detention center.

That May, we held our first Great Stories Club meeting at the facility. Nine teens attended, and we introduced them to the theme “Growing Up Brave on the Margins” and the books that they’d be reading over the next few months: March: Book One by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell, Ms. Marvel Volume 1: No Normal by G. Willow Wilson and Adrian Alphona, and The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. For the sake of consistency, we implemented our book club the same way for each meeting: a check-in with each teen, a journal prompt with time to share, book discussion, a related activity, a closing journal prompt, and a snack. This format worked well as the teens knew what to expect and easily transitioned from one activity to the next.

As we learned more about the environment, we quickly realized some of our activities wouldn’t work well. We weren’t allowed to bring in outside technology, so we found low-tech equivalents. For instance, we originally planned for the teens to create a video game with Bloxels and iPads and base their creations on their favorite scene from the books. With this unfeasible, we created a paper pixel art project for them to do instead.

While we had a lot to learn about outreach in this kind of setting, the challenges were worth every minute. In the year since completing the first grant, we’ve received two more Great Stories Club grants and also completed those in partnership with Aaron Cohn Regional. The experience has been memorable, and we’ve worked with wonderful teens. They read the books and had thought-provoking discussions while we witnessed the impact this program has had on them.

Working with the youth at Aaron Cohn has provided us with opportunities to encourage and praise their talents and show them their worth to encourage engagement in self-reflection through the use of literature.

Going into this outreach, we...
Wonderbooks grant enriches Homewood Public Library

In October, The Homewood Rotary Club gave a $3,000 grant to the Homewood Public Library to purchase 77 Wonderbooks. Wonderbooks are print books with audio books built inside.

Wonderbooks provide an experience to foster success for children in reading and comprehension skills. The books allow kids to read and follow along with their favorite characters and also use a learning mode to test reading comprehension in a unique and exciting way. Wonderbooks also engage children with phonics and vocabulary development in addition to comprehension.

“The new Wonderbooks have been flying off the shelves,” said Laura Tucker, HPL children’s librarian.

underestimated the raw power a compliment or word of encouragement have on the teens. One young man, “A,” created some beautiful hand-letting on a craft project before showing it to us. We complimented his work, and his face lit up in an expression of pride and disbelief. It’s an expression we’ll never forget.

During the racial healing session of our most recent grant, the youth were asked to fill in a template to create a poem about the traditions and memories that contribute to who they are today. After completing their poems, the youth shared their work with the group. A young man, “T”, shared his poem which was rich with detail and truly spoke to the heart of the activity. After reading his work, he looked it over, nodded his head with approval, and said, “Yeah, I really like that.” He was able to see his own value and potential through this activity.

Many of our conversations sparked discussions on choices. The characters in each of the books face difficult situations that require them to make important choices, and our teens were able to connect their own realities to those the book characters face. A young man, “Q”, was detained at the facility on an alleged murder charge. He also happens to be someone Megan got to know over several years while she worked at a library branch location. During “Q’s” participation in Great Stories Club, he came to terms with some of the choices he made and expressed regret in his choice of new friends. He realized that he was better off with his old friends. We’re pleased to say that he was released this May after 17 months in the facility, and the teens and teachers still talk about what a wonderful young man he is.

Great Stories Club gave us a groundwork to establish outreach at our local regional youth detention center. While we aren’t currently participating in the program, we still use what we learned from the grant training to continue literacy-based programs there and to make meaningful connections with the youth. One of the teachers at Aaron Cohn Regional told us that she wants everyone to know that these kids aren’t throwaways. It’s our goal to make our work there reflect this absolute truth. Our intention is to show these youth that the library is a place for them in their community. At the library, caring adults want to help them succeed in their lives.

To continue our work beyond that of the grant, we’ve also implemented a Serious Readers Club and a Storytelling with a Twist program. The teens at Aaron Cohn Regional have enjoyed these programs and many teens have asked to participate. We hope to continue offering these and other programs and as we continue our outreach and partnership at Aaron Cohn Regional Youth Detention Center. It’s our hope that other libraries will take an interest in these types of partnerships. In the words of one of our participants: "Go. Take a chance. Just do it, like Nike."

Megan Aarant is the teen services coordinator for the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries in Georgia. She has worked in various positions for the system for over nine years, but always focuses on services to youth. Lindsay Sheppard is the library associate in the Teen Department at the Columbus Public Library in Georgia and has worked in libraries for six years. Together, they’ve spent nearly two years building a new partnership with their local regional youth detention center. Please contact them at maarant@cvlga.org or lsheppard@cvlga.org for more information.
Gingerbread Slime

courtesy of naturalbeachliving.com

What would the holidays be without some slime?

**Ingredients**
- Clear school glue, ½ cup
- Borax, ¼ tsp
- Hot water (divided), 1 cup
- Ground cinnamon, 1 tsp.
- Ground ginger, 1 tsp.
- Gold glitter, 1 Tbsp.

**Directions**
1. In a large mixing bowl, combine ½ cup school glue with ½ cup hot water and mix well. After, mix in the cinnamon, ginger, and glitter.
2. In a separate bowl, stir in ¼ tsp. borax into the other ½ cup of hot water, allowing borax to dissolve.
3. Mix the borax water in with the glue mixture. Ingredients should begin forming slime. Remove the slime from the bowl and knead the slime until ingredients fully combine and are not sticky. Afterwards, pour out any excess water and store the slime in a jar or other container with a lid.

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Magazine Trees

courtesy of raisingdragons.com

Here’s a simple activity that’s been around for years. All you’ll need are some old magazines a little tape, and you can re-purpose those mags!

**Directions**
1. Starting with the magazine cover, fold the top right corner down and to the edge of the binding to make a triangle. Fold the same triangle in half again to the edge of the binding.
2. Take the bottom flap and fold it even with the bottom edge of the printed magazine. Turn the page and repeat steps one and two for every page of the magazine.
3. After finishing folding all pages, tape or staple the front and back covers of the magazine.

**Pro Tip:** For more fun, try spray painting your tree or adding glitter, garland, or tree trimmings!
Orange Pomanders
courtesy of homemade-gifts-made-easy.com

The orange is a symbol of the return of the sun, and orange pomanders celebrate the solstice with a fragrant scent. Because the winter solstice is the shortest day of the year, it also represents the return of longer days.

Materials
- Oranges
- Colored ribbon
- Whole cloves

Directions
1. Wrap an orange with ribbon and twist at the base to divide into quarters, and tie in a bow at the top.
2. Press whole cloves into the orange, decorating the orange any way you choose. You can try making patterns like stars or hearts and more.
3. When finished, hang the orange on the Christmas tree and enjoy the spicy holiday aroma.

Paper Luminaries
courtesy of littlebinsforlittlehands.com

Making luminaries is a traditional activity for the solstice because it is the longest night of the year.

Materials
- Paper/plastic cups or scrapbook paper with glue sticks
- Hole punches
- Battery operated tea lights

Directions
- Use a hole punch to make desired designs on the cups or scrapbook paper. Cut paper to desired size and glue together in a lantern shape. Insert tea light and enjoy. If more light is desired, cut more holes in the cups or scrapbook paper.

Books on the Winter Solstice

- *The Return of the Light: Twelve Tales from Around the World for the Winter Solstice*
  Edwards, Carolyn McVikar; 978-1569243602

- *The Shortest Day: Celebrating Winter Solstice*
  Pfeffer, Wendy; 978-0147512840

- *The Winter Solstice*
  Jackson, Ellen; 978-0761302971
CSLP Orders Revisited

If you haven’t already heard, there were some cultural and racial sensitivity issues surrounding the 2020 Collaborative Summer Library Program artwork. CSLP Director Luke Krailik and the staff at CSLP have handled this issue with great thought and care by talking with various organizations to determine the validity of the issues; and with an eye to the fact that all the printing and development costs associated with the items had already been completed at great expense. It was determined that some of the images could/would be deemed offensive, and all of the offensive material was removed from their website and store. All of the posters (all age groups) were involved, as well as reading logs, online artwork/images, and incentives. Because all of these had already been produced, CSLP was forced to offer only one poster and reading log for all age groups (see below). I’ll contact everyone within the next week or two to amend your orders, so please be thinking about the changes you wish to make with the orders you submitted. We will have your previous order available when we contact you. It’s imperative that we get this done as quickly as possible, so please be watching for our email!
COOL DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER IS:
- BINGO MONTH
- WRITE TO A FRIEND MONTH
- UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH
- LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE MONTH
- NATIONAL DRUNK & DRAGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

JANUARY IS:
- NATIONAL HOBBY MONTH
- NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH
- NATIONAL WALK YOUR DOG MONTH
- NATIONAL OATMEAL MONTH
- NATIONAL SOUP MONTH

Start New Year with January & Find Your Way

Cool Dates to Remember

December is:
- Dec. 1-7 — National Handwashing Awareness Week
- Dec. 1 — World AIDS Day / National Christmas Lights Day
- Dec. 2 — Cyber Monday / National Mutt Day
- Dec. 3 — Giving Tuesday / National Disability Day
- Dec. 4 — National Dice Day / National Cookie Day
- Dec. 5 — International Ninja Day / World Soil Day
- Dec. 6 — Faux Fur Friday / National Gazpacho Day
- Dec. 7 — Pearl Harbor Day / International Aviation Day
- Dec. 8 — National Brownie Day
- Dec. 9-15 — Computer Science Education Week
- Dec. 9 — National Llama Day
- Dec. 11 — National App Day / International Mountain Day
- Dec. 12 — National Gingerbread House Day / National Poinsettia Day
- Dec. 13 — National Horse Day / National Ice Cream Day
- Dec. 15 — National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- Dec. 17 — National Maple Syrup Day
- Dec. 18 — International Migrants Day
- Dec. 20 — National Ugly Sweater Day
- Dec. 21 — Winter Solstice / National Crossword Puzzle Day
- Dec. 22 — Hanukkah Begins / National Cookie Exchange Day
- Dec. 23 — National Roots Day
- Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 — Christmas Day
- Dec. 26 — Kwanza Begins / National Candy Cane Day / National Thank You Note Day
- Dec. 27 — Make Cut-Out Snowflake Day / National Fruitcake Day
- Dec. 30 — National Bicarbonate of Soda Day
- Dec. 31 — New Year’s Eve

January is:
- Jan. 1 — New Year’s Day
- Jan. 2 — National Science Fiction Day
- Jan. 3 — J. R. R. Tolkien Day
- Jan. 4 — National Spaghetti Day / National Trivia Day
- Jan. 5 — National Bird Day / National Whipped Cream Day
- Jan. 6 — National Bean Day
- Jan. 7 — National Bobblehead Day
- Jan. 8 — National Bubble Bath Day
- Jan. 9 — National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- Jan. 11 — National Milk Day
- Jan. 12 — National Youth Day
- Jan. 13 — National Rubber Ducky Day / National Sticker Day
- Jan. 14 — National Clean Your Desk Day /
  National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- Jan. 15 — National Bagel Day / National Hat Day
- Jan. 16 — National Fig Newton Day
- Jan. 18 — National Thesaurus Day /
  National Winnie The Pooh Day
- Jan. 19 — National Popcorn Day
- Jan. 20 — National Cheese Lover’s Day / National DJ Day /
  National Penguin Day
- Jan. 21 — Martin Luther King Day / National Hugging Day /
  National Squirrel Appreciation Day
- Jan. 22 — Celebration of Life Day /
  National Blonde Brownie Day
- Jan. 23 — National Pie Day
- Jan. 24 — National Peanut Butter Day /
  National Compliment Day
- Jan. 25 — National Fun at Work Day
- Jan. 27 — International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Jan. 28 — National Lego Day / National Daisy Day
- Jan. 29 — National Puzzle Day
- Jan. 31 — National Hot Chocolate Day
Dec. 5
Astronaut Health: Health Information Resources to Support Science Education
The overall goal of this course is to help participants find science resources, lesson plans, and programs through a unique and fun subject. Public and school librarians can support science educators and students by fostering science literacy and health literacy programs. Organizations that assist libraries with integrating science into their programs will be discussed. These efforts are creating value to the science education community. Such support can open the door to professional partnerships with educators. (National Network of Libraries of Medicine) [https://nnlm.gov/training/classes-by-availability]

Fostering Creative Community Connections
In this webinar, participants will hear how pilot libraries are leveraging the dispensers to strengthen and develop new local programming and connections with library and/or community partner programs and services, as well as creating new interest in literacy and literature through innovative access to a growing collection of more than 100,000 short stories. (Public Library Association) [http://www.al.org/pla/education/onlinelearning/webinar]

Writing Boxes: Library programming that will inspire writing and support literacy and family engagement
Library staff that serve children understand one of their core missions is to support reading. But what about writing? In this how-to webinar, presenter Lisa Von Drasek will describe Writing Boxes, an "instant" program template that requires very little prep, is easily replicable, inexpensive, works across age groupings, and supports increased literacy and community engagement. ([infopeople) [https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar]

Celebrate the Best Books of 2019!
Follett's very own librarians share their ALA predictions, trending topics and not-to-miss lists as well as sneak peeks on books they're excited about for 2020 and more. (Follett) [https://www.follettcommunity.com/s/webinars]

Dec. 9
Twenty-four Ways to Teach and Learn
The more we know about the preferences of the people we are trying to influence, the better our success, inside and outside of classrooms. (Pattern Research, Inc.) [https://registergotowebinar.com/register/1848341020229255691]

Dec. 10
Getting the Balance Right: Social Media
Not sure how to balance being professional and being fun on social media? Looking to grow your platforms, interactivity and audience? Jordan Harzon, Marketing & PR Assistant for the J. Willard Marriott Library, has some tips, tricks, and advice on how to go about that. (Utah State Library) [https://www.eventbrite.com/o/ust-training-208844751]

Brain-Based Presenting: Getting the Brain to Pay Attention
Join Sharon Bowman and explore “Brain-Based Presenting: Getting the Brain to Pay Attention” – an unforgettable webinar that will transform your training and presentation skills. A popular speaker and an expert on brain-based instruction, Sharon knows the secrets to making any content memorable – even when the topic is dry, technical, or very complex. Not only will you leave with tools you can put to immediate use, you’ll also receive dozens of free, web-based resources you can use to maximize the effectiveness of your next presentation, class, or training event. (InSync Training) [https://www.insynctraining.com/virtually-there-series/]

Brain-Based Presenting: Getting the Brain to Pay Attention
Join Sharon Bowman and explore “Brain-Based Presenting: Getting the Brain to Pay Attention” – an unforgettable webinar that will transform your training and presentation skills. A popular speaker and an expert on brain-based instruction, Sharon knows the secrets to making any content memorable – even when the topic is dry, technical, or very complex. Not only will you leave with tools you can put to immediate use, you’ll also receive dozens of free, web-based resources you can use to maximize the effectiveness of your next presentation, class, or training event. (InSync Training) [https://www.insynctraining.com/virtually-there-series/]

Dec. 8
More Than a Bandage: Health Information Resources for K-12 Professionals
This course is an introduction to free health information and educational resources for K-12 professionals provided by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and other trusted organizations. Participants will learn about consumer health sites with an emphasis on MedlinePlus covering general health resources, drug information, multi-cultural and multi-language resources, career/professional resources, and youth health issues. (National Network of Libraries of Medicine) [https://nnlm.gov/training/classes-by-availability-scheduled]

Dec. 11
Librarian in Training - For Kids!
In this session we will describe our Librarian in Training program. LIT is a 14 week program that invites kids between the ages of 9-12 to discover how libraries work, culminating in a celebration of the children's dedication and service. LIT participants spend two weeks in every department of the library from circulation to maintenance, first meeting staff and discovering how each department operates, then completing a related project or assisting with specific tasks. LIT takes children beyond traditional job shadowing and allows them to contribute in a meaningful way to our library's work. (Colorado State Library) [https://cslisession.cvsites.org/]

Moving Beyond Multicultural Education: Promoting Equity in Early Childhood Education
Join this webinar to participate in an overview of the current inequities that exist in early childhood programs and learn strategies to balance the scales of justice before young children enter kindergarten. This session will help you learn about implicit racial bias and its role in inequitable disciplinary practices, learning experiences, and how teachers form relationships with young children. (Early Childhood Investigations) [https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/webinars/]

Enjoy That Vacation And Find A New Hobby: Government Resources On Travel, Recreation And Safe And Interesting Hobbies
In this era of podcasting, libraries should be considering podcasts not just as potential outreach projects but as an essential and unavoidable piece of the information world. Our patrons are podcasting consumers and producers; we can support critical listening, quality self-publishing, and effective discovery of produced audio. One librarian podcaster shares recommendations and strategies for libraries to engage podcasting as a part of information literacy, our collections, and our connections to patrons. (Georgia Library Association) [https://gla.georgialibraries.org/carterette-series-webinars/]

Friends with Benefits
No, not those kind of benefits! Join us as we walk you through programming designed to help your teens develop their social and emotional skill set. These skills are important for future success, plus the programs that develop them have a variety of helpful side effects! We’ll talk about programming for all budgets and sizes of libraries, everything from Dungeons & Dragons to a Yo-Yo club! We’ll also show you how your summer reading program can address this issue, plus discuss how to take on reluctant admins who are hesitant to greenlight ‘just for fun’ programs. (Colorado State Library) [https://cslisession.cvsites.org/]

Sonic Literacy: A Manifesto for Libraries in the Age of Podcasts
This webinar will help you not be a dull person by providing information on government resources on leisure time, vacation planning and hobbies. Topics covered will include hobbies which can help the disabled and avoid the dementia often associated with aging. (Federal Depository Library Program) [https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/fdlp-events-calendar]
The Future Ready Librarian® Fireside Chat: Let’s talk innovation, literacy, equitable digital access and more!

In the last Future Ready Librarian webinar of the year, Shannon McClintock Miller has invited a few special guests to share favorite books, authors, technology, trends, ideas, advocacy tips, and other top things that have been happening in the library and within education in 2019. When we examine our framework as Future Ready Librarians, we tie this essential work into the wedges of curation, empowering our students as creators, literacy, equitable digital access and more. (Future Ready Librarians/Alliance for Excellent Education) https://all4ed.org/webinars-events/

Dec. 13

Libraries in Laundromats

The Wash and Learn Initiative, or WALI, brings technology and library programming to people where they are—in laundromats! In this presentation, you will learn about the mission of the Wash & Learn Initiative; what makes literacy programs in laundromats unique; and how librarians are engaging laundromat patrons during programming. Participants will walk away with a newfound understanding of learning spaces in ordinary places. (Texas State Library and Archives Commission) https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/workshops/webinars/index.html

Six Essentials for Teams that Work

Learn what it takes to build your high performance team. The strongest and most effective teams tap into and activate the strengths of every team member and build an environment rich with trust and respect. This allows for open communication and cohesiveness, which enables a team to rise to its full potential and overcome any obstacle to achieve desired results. (Effectiveness Institute) https://effectivenessinstitute.com/upcoming-events/

Dec. 16

Check It Out! New Books for Ages 0-18

Join us each month for a review of brand new titles published for ages 0-18. You’ll hear short booktalks of new titles (and new entries in ongoing series) from major and indie publishers and get ideas on how to keep up with the endless tide of what’s new in kidlit and young adult literature. (State Library of Iowa) https://zoom.us/j/400963259

Dec. 17

Community Health Challenges: Training, Language and Programming for Libraries

This webinar will highlight approaches, resources, and programs that can help reduce stigma and fear surrounding the opioid crisis, and promote healthier communities. (WebJunction) https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction.html

Dec. 18

Advocates of All Ages: Recruiting and Retaining Younger Generations as Trustees and Friends

Millennials are more likely than other adults to have recently visited the library. However, many friends and trustees boards do not have even a single millennial member (Pew 2016, ALA 2018). What accounts for this discrepancy between the demographics of our library users and library civic leaders, and how do we rectify it? The presenters will argue for the importance of developing generationally representative boards and explore common barriers to service for those under 40. Participants will leave with practical strategies for identifying and recruiting from the Millennial and Gen-Z generations, and for adapting board cultures to engage and retain them. (Nebraska Library Commission) http://www.nlcl.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL

The Ten Behavioral Questions to Ask to Prevent a Bad Hire

In this interactive and thought provoking program, we will discuss ten behavioral questions to add to your interview process to help you determine their reactions to situations, explain their successes and failures, their ability to adapt to change and most importantly their ability to fit and not hurt or destroy your culture. (State Library of North Carolina) https://statelibrary.ncdcr.libnc.gov/event/6120727

Dec. 19

Is There A Grant For That?

Nonprofit organizations are often faced with the challenge of fundraising to achieve their mission and keep the doors open. Many consider looking for foundation and government grants as a source of revenue. But what can grants do for your organization? And how do you even get started? (Bloomerang) https://bloomerang.co/resources/webinars/

Dec. 24

Pretty Sweet Tech

New special monthly episodes of NCompass Live! Join the NLC’s Technology Innovation Librarian, Amanda Sweet, as she guides us through the worlds of library-related Pretty Sweet Tech. (Nebraska Library Commission) http://www.nlcl.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL

Dec. 31

Summer Reading Program 2020: Imagine Your Story

Get ready for next summer by learning about quality books to consider for your library’s collection and start planning for Imagine Your Story. Kids will be clamoring for both fiction and nonfiction titles as they explore the worlds of fairytales, myths, legends, and even their families’ own stories of their history. (Nebraska Library Commission) http://www.nlcl.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL