Services to Homeschool Families

By Gail Sheldon
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One of our most overlooked underserved populations are homeschooled children and their families. You think, "UNDERSERVED?? They can't be underserved, they are in our library all the time!" That may be true. They may be in your library all the time, but, are you offering them as much as you can to meet their needs?

Sure, you have books. Maybe you have some educational DVDs and perhaps even access to downloadable e-books and audio books. And don’t forget the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) with all those great databases. Do they - or even you - know how to use them? AVL now includes a foreign language learning program, Pronunciator (yes, we heard you!)

Have you ASKED those homeschool families what they need? It may surprise you. Several years ago, as a library director, I did just that. The previous director had purchased some out of print books that were historical novels which were accurate regarding historical facts on the recommendation of a homeschool family. I was surprised to learn that it was important to these homeschool families to know where to find things that might be more "unique" to their situation. We dedicated a small area of shelves to materials homeschoolers regularly checked out. By doing that, we showed them that they and their needs were important to us. I regularly asked parents and their children to create lists of things that they needed or wanted. I made it clear that I couldn’t afford to purchase curriculum and that I couldn’t afford everything. But I was willing to purchase some required reading materials (just like I would if they were required by the school system.) You might even consider extended checkout times for those who homeschool.

I did not have the time before I left that position to get into specific programming for them as many requested, but my successor is going 'gang-busters in that department. (You will find Ricky’s article later in the issue.) Don’t forget to ask what days and times would be most convenient for them. Using several websites, Pinterest, etc. there are many things out there for every budget range. Don’t feel like you

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have to do it all by yourself, either. There are lots of people and organizations in your community who have ideas and hobbies to share. Ask a local bank to do a program on saving money and balancing checking accounts. Have a business leader come in for your homeschool teens to talk about filling out applications, building a resume (for college or work), and interviewing. What about that person you know who collects something or is a local historian. Do you have a nearby community or four year college? Ask a professor to talk about their specialty. There is so much available out there to you that you truly don’t have to do it all. You don’t have to be an expert at everything!

Here are some homeschool ideas:

1. Talk to your homeschool families and ask them if their group(s) would be interested in hosting a program such as "Getting Started in Homeschooling."
2. Visit your local homeschool co-ops to find out what is going on with them.
3. Offer “Get to Know Your Library” programs.
4. Learn how to use the AVL so you can help them use the AVL for their projects.
5. Think about hosting a Science Fair that the public can attend. Find knowledgeable people in your area to help judge.
6. Offer volunteer hours to homeschool teens. I know of one library that couldn’t have their Summer Library Program without them.
7. If you have a Teen Advisory Group, don’t forget to ask homeschool teens to be involved.
8. Offer some display space for special projects, artwork, etc. This allows them to have exposure that kids in public and private schools have.
9. Offer space for clubs to meet. Think about “American Girl” clubs or the like.
10. Offer space for a curriculum swap. Many people may purchase a book and get one use out of it. This gives them the opportunity to sell it to or swap it with another family.

There are so many things you can do to help out this growing population. Now is the perfect time to get started!

The Summer Library Program is over – Now what???

Start planning for next year! The theme for next year is Fairy Tales, Myths, and Fantasy. The slogan is "Imagine Your Story." I’ve heard that a lot of you across the state are very excited about this coming year.

In preparation, the link to the 2020 Materials Order Form will be sent out in early September via the Youth Services and PLD Listservs. This year I was able to include the poster artwork in the order so you could decide which posters you want with more accuracy. My only request is to make sure that there is only ONE response from each library.

One thing to note: The CSLP manual will only be available in online format this year and in the years to come. Every year, I throw away hard-copy paper manuals. Therefore we have decided to go online only. The manual will be available online in mid-September and has undergone some changes in layout. It is arranged by activity themes and all age group information is included under each theme. It’s a great way to incorporate family activities (something for each member of the family) into your Summer Library Program.

Also, SAVE THE DATES! The 2020 SLP Kickoff will be held on Jan. 8 and 9 (same program for each day). I will be sending out a link in early November to schedule the day you want to attend. Like last year, we’re trying to keep attendance relatively equal for each day so we are not crowded and it is easier to hear, ask questions, etc. We are also listening to the requests from the evaluations from last year. During the kickoff we will offer 30 minutes of networking: you can pick the “age group” you want to network about or float between age groups. We will also offer 30 minutes to look over and try some various crafts and ideas for different age groups. The Summer Library Program Committee is working hard to make this an exceptional kickoff event!

Another SAVE THE DATE is for the Performers’ Showcase. For the Southern end of the state the showcase will be held Oct. 23 at the Clarion Inn & Suites Ballroom in Dothan. The Northern Showcase will be held Oct. 24 at the Gardendale Civic Center. Both events open at 8 a.m. for registration with the showcase held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Looking forward to Imagining Your Story!
The Star Shepherd
written by Dan Haring & MarcyKate Connolly
Release date: Sept. 10, 2019

Long ago, the world was plagued by creatures of darkness. Seeking to drive the dark away, the Elders sacrificed themselves to become the first stars to light the night sky. Many more brave souls followed their path, and for centuries their light has shone forth, protecting the now peaceful world from above.

Eventually, however, the burlap sacks holding them up wear out and the stars fall to the earth.

That is where Star Shepherds come in! They have dedicated their lives to finding those fallen stars before their light goes out, securing them in a new, more modern casing, and catapulting them back up to the sky to shine anew!

Kyro’s father is a Star Shepherd. Ever since his mother died, his father has dedicated his life to the stars and Kyro has made himself his father’s assistant...when his father allows him to help. Kyro feels isolated - his father is more devoted to his work than to him. And, the nearby village resents the Star Shepherds for withholding the luck and money that comes from finding a fallen star. After all, those old legends are just myths, right?

Unfortunately, Kyro is quickly discovering that those myths are all too true. Stars start falling faster and faster. Often, by the time they make it to a star someone’s already extinguished their light. Kyro’s father has gone missing on his quest for answers, so now it’s up to Kyro. He must find out what’s happening, save the stars, and, hopefully, find his father on the way.

The Star Shepherd is a cute fantasy adventure story. It is not an in-depth book – Kyro’s character is the only one whose character is fleshed out, the other characters serving more as a backdrop for his tale. The world itself is a fantastical one, and if you need any sort of logic, this is definitely not the book for you. Some fantasy authors try to create some level of realism, such as “Ok, if a certain type of magic existed, how would it work realistically?” These authors are more like, “This is how my world works, and you’re going to like it.”

By now you might be wondering if I liked this book or not. I think it holds strong for the type of book it is. It is a fairy tale style adventure set in a very unique world. If this is the kind of read you are looking for, go for it! I do like more depth to stories, but the premise of the book was interesting enough I enjoyed the read. Honestly, this probably isn’t the type of story you would want that kind of depth with anyways. As a bonus, it has a lot of ink sketches in it, which makes it even more fun! I believe it would be a solid addition to your library’s collection. Enjoy!

**Recommended for:** Fans of fantasy and adventure.

**Things to watch out for:** Mild fantasy fighting, not graphic. There is a major battle at the end, mostly with robots but a human character does die, and main character comes near to death. Story starts off after main character’s mother’s died, and father becomes neglectful after though it does get patched up.
Have you ever had a sunburn? If so, you know how powerful the Sun’s heat can be! Did you know that this heat can also be turned into electrical energy? You may have heard about solar cells, but what about a solar updraft tower? This very simple structure uses the sun to heat up air, which then powers a turbine within a large tower. In this activity, you will build one of these towers yourself. Do you think you can make a propeller spin with just hot air?

01 Gather Supplies
- Black construction paper (about 20” x 20”)
- Smaller piece of construction paper (any color)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Tape
- Modeling clay
- Wooden skewer
- Needle
- Thermometer
- Lamp with incandescent bulb (or heat lamp)
- Paper
- (Optional) Timer, white construction paper

02 Build a tower
Start by rolling the black construction paper into a cone with a smaller (approximately 2 inches in diameter) opening at the top and a larger (approximately 4 inches in diameter) at the bottom. Use tape to hold the cone in place. Next, trim the top and bottom ends of the cone to make them straight. The cone should be about 10 to 15 inches tall and able to stand up on its own. Next, cut and remove three equally distanced two inch by one-half inch arches out of the bottom of the cone. These arches will be your air inlets. Check to make sure the cone can still stand on the remaining rim. Then, cut a three-inch propeller (template above) out of construction paper, and bend the blade at about a 45-degree angle. With tape, attach a needle to the tip of the wooden skewer with the sharp tip pointing upwards, and make a ball of modeling clay and place it on your workspace.

03 Make the propeller spin ...
Look for a wind-protected indoor space to set up your solar updraft tower. It’s important there is no external airflow to sabotage the experiment. Place the construction paper cone over the clay so that it is located in the center of the cone. Stick the wooden skewer into the clay. The needle on the skewer tip should stick out about 1 ½ to 2 inches above the top of the cone. Next, take the propeller and place it on top of the needle, making sure to keep it balanced and able to spin freely. It might take some practice to ensure the propeller is resting on the needle correctly. Measure and record the air temperature inside and outside of the tower. Place the heat source (lamp) next to the tower and direct it towards the base of the tower. Make sure to not leave unattended! Switch the lamp on and observe the updraft tower for the next five minutes. Measure the temperatures, and repeat the experiment for another five to ten minutes.

What’s happening?
Did the propeller spin? In the beginning, the propeller shouldn’t have moved. If it did, an external airflow from a door or wind was moving the propeller. The air temperatures inside and outside the tower should have been pretty similar. However, this changes after switching on the lamp. Incandescent bulbs emit light and heat energy like our Sun. When the light shines on the black paper, it absorbs most of the light energy and starts to heat up, trapping this energy inside the cone. Because warm air is less dense than cold air, it rises and this updraft will make the propeller spin. Because rising air reduces the air pressure inside the cone, fresh air is pulled into the paper cone through the bottom air inlets. This air is also warmed inside the cone creating a continuous updraft to keep the propeller spinning until you switch off the lamp. With no heat source, the air inside the cone slowly cools to the same ambient temperature as the outside air. The propeller stops spinning as there is no longer an updraft created by the heat lamp. If you also build a cone with white paper, you will notice it takes longer for the propeller to spin, and when it does, it doesn’t spin as fast. This is because white paper cannot absorb heat as well as black paper can.
STEAMing along

Sun Clocks
courtesy of raisingarizonakids.com & exploratorium.edu

These projects are for a sunny day ...

For younger children

01 Gather Supplies
· Heavy duty round paper plate · Pencil
· Paint & brushes · Gluesticks · Colored pencils
· Compass · Clock face template

02 Find the time
Start by painting the back of the paper plate. Cut out the clock face and decorate with colored pencils. Glue the face on the back of the paper plate, and punch a hole in the middle of the clock face and insert pencil into hole to make a sundial clock. Take the sundial outdoors, and using the compass, place the sundial on the ground with 12 o’clock aligned with magnetic north. Your sundial should be close to the actual time.

For older kids & teens

01 Gather Supplies
· Pencil · Compass · Sun Clock Diagram

02 Find the time
On a sunny day, go outside with a compass, pencil, and a print-out of the sun clock diagram. Place your compass on the ground and turn it so that the arrow and the “N” line up. Following the directions on the sun clock diagram to align the sun clock with your compass, you can accurately tell the time.

What’s happening?

Why does it matter what city I’m in?
Time is dependant upon where you are on the planet. That’s why you use a compass to orient yourself for this activity.

A compass needle (which is attracted to the Earth’s magnetic field) points in a direction called magnetic north. Magnetic north and true north (geographic north) differ slightly. The Sun Clock is set to use geographic north as a reference point. If you don’t align the diagram with geographic north, the Sun Clock won’t read correctly.
The difference between magnetic north and geographic north is called magnetic declination, and it’s different depending on your location. When you position the Sun Clock according to the directions on the diagram, you are compensating for the magnetic declination of where you live. After you do this, the “Geographic North” arrow at the top of the diagram will be pointing to geographic north and your Sun clock will work just fine.

What if my city is not on the list? Can I still use my Sun Clock?
If you aren’t near any of the cities listed, you can still use the Sun Clock. Go out at night and look for the North Star. (You may need a book of constellations to help you find it.) Mark an arrow on the ground that points toward the North Star. That’s geographic north. The next day, position your print-out of the Sun Clock diagram with the Geographic North arrow (in the top right-hand corner of the diagram) pointing in the same direction that you marked on the ground (toward geographic north). Now follow the rest of the instructions on the diagram.

How does a shadow tell time?
Shadows change direction, depending upon the time of day. A Sun Clock uses a shadow’s position to tell the time.

Why doesn’t the time on my Sun Clock exactly match the time on my watch?
The time you get from your Sun Clock is solar time, not standard time. The two aren’t exactly the same.

According to solar time, it’s noon when the sun reaches its highest point in the sky. Because the sun is always moving across the sky, noon where you are is at a slightly different time than noon is just a few miles to the east or west of you.

Before 1883, people used solar time, and each community kept its own time basing on the sun’s position in the sky. Then, noon in one town would be four minutes later than noon in a town 50 miles to the east.

To regulate time for the sake of railroad schedules, the United States adopted what is called standard time in 1883, and designated time zones and required all communities within a specific time zone to keep the same time.

Why do I have to put the pencil on different spots for different times of the year?
The position and length of a shadow depends on the time of day—but it also depends on the season of the year. That’s because the sun’s position at a certain time of day is different in different seasons.
All You Need in October Trick or Treat

COOL DATES TO REMEMBER

**SEPTEMBER IS:**
- Library Card Sign-Up Month
- Classical Music Month
- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- Piano Month

**SEPTEMBER IS:**
- Labor Day
- Sept. 4 — National Wildlife Day
- Sept. 5 — International Day of Charity / National Cheese Pizza Day
- Sept. 7 — National Salami Day
- Sept. 8 — National Grandparents Day
- Sept. 9 — National Teddy Bear Day
- Sept. 10 — World Suicide Prevention Day / National Swap Ideas Day
- Sept. 11 — Patriot Day / National Day of Service & Remembrance
- Sept. 12 — National Day of Encouragement / National Chocolate Milkshake Day
- Sept. 13 — Positive Thinking Day
- Sept. 16 — National Stepfamily Day / National Play-Doh Day
- Sept. 17 — Constitution Day
- Sept. 18 — School Backpack Awareness Day / National Cheeseburger Day
- Sept. 19 — International Talk Like a Pirate Day
- Sept. 20 — National Queso Day / National Pepperoni Pizza Day / National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Sept. 21 — National Dance Day / World Gratitude Day
- Sept. 22-28 — Banned Book Week / Tolkien Week
- Sept. 22 — Hobbit Day / Ice Cream Cone Day / Elephant Appreciation Day
- Sept. 23 — First Day of Autumn
- Sept. 24 — National Punctuation Day
- Sept. 25 — National Comic Book Day / Women's Health & Fitness Day
- Sept. 26 — National Pancake Day
- Sept. 27 — National Crush a Can Day / World Tourism Day
- Sept. 28 — National Public Lands Day / National Good Neighbor Day / Ask a Stupid Question Day / Family Health & Fitness Day
- Sept. 29 — National Coffee Day
- Sept. 30 — International Podcast Day / Safety Pin Day / National Hot Mulled Cider Day

**OCTOBER IS:**
- Health Literacy Month
- Vegetarian Awareness Month
- National Roller Skating Month
- National Dyslexia Awareness Month
- National Bullying Prevention Month
- National Drop Out Prevention Month
- National Stamp Collecting Month
- National Pizza Month
- National Family Month

**OCTOBER IS:**
- Oct. 1 — National Homemade Cookies Day
- Oct. 2 — International Walk to School Day / National Custodial Worker Day / National Name Your Car Day
- Oct. 4 — World Animal Day / World Smile Day / National Golf Lover's Day
- Oct. 6-12 — Fire Prevention Week
- Oct. 6 — National Noodle Day / National Mad Hatter Day
- Oct. 9 — National Moldy Cheese Day
- Oct. 10 — Powers of Ten Day / World Mental Health Day / Cake Decorating Day
- Oct. 11 — National Coming Out Day
- Oct. 12 — National Farmer's Day
- Oct. 15 — Earth Observation Day
- Oct. 16 — National Fossil Day
- Oct. 17 — National Pasta Day
- Oct. 18 — National Chocolate Cupcake Day
- Oct. 19 — Sweetest Day
- Oct. 20 — National Youth Confidence Day
- Oct. 22 — National Color Day
- Oct. 23 — World Ballet Day / National Canning Day
- Oct. 25 — International Artist Day
- Oct. 26 — National Pumpkin Day
- Oct. 28 — International Animation Day
- Oct. 29 — National Cat Day
- Oct. 31 — Halloween

**COOL DATES TO REMEMBER**

**September is:**
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- Classical Music Month
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**October is:**
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- National Dyslexia Awareness Month
- National Bullying Prevention Month
- National Stamp Collecting Month
- National Pizza Month
- National Family Month
Sept. 6

Relationship Building = Repeat Business

Learn how to create stronger relationships with your customers and create a win-win for everyone! (Utah State Library) https://www.eventbrite.com/o/usl-training-208844751

Quick Bites: Right Size Your Early Literacy Programming

So many great ideas and only so much time—how do you choose? Join Gail Yerbic from our new Growing Readers Together (GRT) Early Literacy Support Team for some “Quick Bites” tools to align your library’s goals and resources for maximum impact while keeping your schedule manageable. GRT Quick Bites are 20-minute micro-learning opportunities designed for busy children’s librarians across Colorado who are interested in accessing a bit of fresh early learning information and inspiration. No registration is needed for these Quick Bites. This session will be offered via Adobe Connect, and you can access the classroom via the URL listed below. (Colorado State Library) https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/calendar/2019-09/3

Sept. 5

YA/Teen Book Buzz Fall 2019

The 2020 Census is coming! Join us for an overview of the Census and discover how it will be different from prior censuses. Learn how to identify and reach undercounted populations in your community, and get tips for how libraries can leverage or establish programs and partnerships to help support a complete and accurate count. (Washington State Library) https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/libraries/firsttuesdays/default.aspx

Sept. 6

People - Difficult or Different?

Why are some clients or co-workers so frustrating to work with? In this interactive and engaging Webinar, you will discover why “different” does not have to mean “difficult.” Then you will learn the magic of making slight adjustments in your awareness and behavior that will have a significant impact on your ability to “click” with customers and co-workers. (Effectiveness Institute) https://effectivenessinstitute.com/upcoming-events/

Sept. 10

Fall Graphic Novels for All Levels

From gritty crime and murder stories to heart-warming tales of magic, fantasy and friendship, this season’s graphic novels releases will not disappoint! Be sure to tune in to learn about unforgettable new graphic novels for middle grade, teens and beyond. (Library Journal) https://www.libraryjournal.com/?subpage=Events

Quick Bites: Brilliant Baby Brains: Early Learning & 0-5 Brain Development

Babies are born with over 100 billion neurons and trillions of synapses. From this abundance of raw material, an incredible sculpting process takes place in a young child’s brain over their first years of life. Join Kate Brunner from our new Growing Readers Together (GRT) Early Literacy Support Team for a “Quick Bites” look at the incredible impact that a robust array of early learning experiences and caregiving relationships can have on 0-5 brain development. (Colorado State Library) https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/calendar/2019-09/

Sept. 11

Just the Facts: New Nonfiction for Fall

Back to school means it’s time to revamp your nonfiction collection! Join publishing insiders to find out which must-have titles are hitting the shelves this fall. From classic series that educate and entertain to STEM companions — and everything in between — these fun and informational series and titles are sure to inspire your young and middle grade readers. (School Library Journal) https://www.slj.com/?subpage=Events
Sept. 24
Five Ways to Build Buzz with Young Members on Instagram
In this free webinar, researcher author Amanda Myers will share the hacks, tips and tricks of making your organization Insta-worthy and show you how to attract more young members by creating posts that get noticed. (Wild Apricot) https://bit.ly/2UcYrAw

Supporting Developing Readers at the Library: Collection Development for K-3rd Graders
Part 3 of a 4 part series about services designed for kids K – 3. Learn how the Children's Librarians at Denver Public Library are expanding their services to developing readers and the grown-ups in their lives using the five Grade Level Reading Skills. Selecting, cataloging, and shelving books for developing readers presents a number of unique challenges. We’ll talk about ways DPL has evaluated and enhanced their collection to make developing reader titles more accessible. Information on DPL’s recent diversity audit will be shared. (Colorado State Library) https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/calendar/2019-09/

Cooking Classes without a Kitchen
Librarians know that food programs are always a great program to bring in patrons. However not every library is fortunate enough to have a kitchen programming space. We’ll go over some ideas for how libraries without a kitchen can work around this and still provide great food programs for their patrons. (National Network of Libraries of Medicine) https://nnlm.gov/training/classes-by-availability-scheduled?page=1

Sept. 25
Pretty Sweet Tech - Can Librarians Teach Robotics?
Robots have been relatively popular in library makerspaces and after school programs. But do we really know what a robot is and why we need robots in the world? Can librarians tackle robotics? If we’re going to teach robotics, this information can be helpful. (Programming Librarian) http://programminglibrarian.org/learn

Promote the circulation of an audiobook collection, as well as suggestions for funding audio. The webinar will conclude with an “I’m listening...now ask me anything about audiobooks: Q and A.” (School Library Connection) https://schoollibraryconnection.com/

Sept. 13
Library Marketing Basics: Promoting on a Shoestring Budget
In this free, one-hour webinar, Mark will talk “true” marketing and how to apply it to your library. You’ll hear about tools to plan and implement marketing campaigns, examples of marketing plans, social media marketing guidelines, brand audits, and how to get buy-in from your colleagues and your stakeholders. (Booklist) https://www.booklistonline.com/webinars?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

Sept. 16
Bringing Humor and Storytelling to STEM Projects
In this edWebinar, you’ll learn creative strategies to help you connect robotics to relatable real-world scenarios so that your students can carry the learning with them beyond the project and classroom. (edWeb) https://home.edweb.net/webinars/2019-09/

Sept. 18
Coretta Scott King Book Awards: 50 Years Strong
In 2019, the American Library Association (ALA) is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Book Award. Join us to learn about the award’s illustrious history and practical and effective ways to use Coretta Scott King Award-winning books at your library. (Nebraska Library Commission) http://www.nlcl.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL

It's Never Too Early: Media Literacy in Children's Programming
Join us for this free one-hour webinar to learn ways you can incorporate media literacy skills development into your library's children's programming. (Programming Librarian) http://programminglibrarian.org/learn

Exploring Census Data Webinar Series: Hidden Gems – Discovering Unique Hidden Gems Data
During this webinar, Census Bureau experts will help you: Understand practical ways to use our hidden gems data through illustrations and use cases; Learn about available resources and data tools, which can assist you in saving time looking for data; and learn how to compare and contrast the different types of available data. (U.S. Census Bureau) https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars/upcoming.html

Back to School. In Context Middle School and High School
This edWebinar will highlight 50 special tools that offer inventive, rich learning experiences the Common Sense editors and reviewers just flat-out love. This isn’t your typical “best apps” list. Instead, this presentation focuses on tools that have been extensively vetted, and that represent truly transformative learning opportunities for classrooms. In addition, to hearing about these tools and why they’re special, attendees will get a behind-the-scenes peek at the Common Sense review process, and the editorial team’s unique perspective on the past, present, and future of edtech. (Wyoming State Library) https://home.edweb.net/webinars/2019-09/