

U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™

Librarian

the "how I run my library good"sm letter

Last Issue!

The	Consecutive Issue Number 114 (2000)	US ISSN 0049-514X
U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™		
Librarian		
the "how I run my library good" letter sm		

New Publisher...



S*A*M*E

P*H*I*L*O*S*O*P*H*Y

Please Note New Address:

The U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™ Librarian
P.O. Box 325
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
www.unabashedlibrarian.com
Fax: (914) 244-0941

Maurice J. (Mitch) Freedman, MLS, PhD
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

The torch was passed in 2000, with issue #114.

This was our first issue cover, featuring Mitch Freedman, Last Publisher and Marvin Scilken, First Publisher of U*L.

#201 will be the last issue!

Thank you for being part of our library family.

This is the very last issue of *The U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™ Librarian*, the "how I run my library good" letter.

After 22 years and 87 issues, it is time to cease publication. We are especially grateful to our subscribers for sustaining this unique library periodical. The following has been updated from when it first appeared in issue 114 when we became publisher of U*L. It's a short statement of what we endeavored to do and it gives credit to those who contributed to the success of U*L.

From Mitch Freedman,
 Publisher and Editor-in-Chief:

In late 1999, Polly Scilken, Marvin Scilken's widow and U*L partner, asked my advice about some offers she had for the purchase of U*L. After hearing her out, I decided that I would like to acquire the U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™ Librarian. I wanted to take on the responsibility for keeping the unique and wonderful philosophy of Marvin Scilken, U*L's creator, alive and well, while adding perhaps a little of my own experience and personality. Scilken served as the director of the Orange (NJ) Public Library for 30 years when he retired in 1993.

Although my 35 years of experience (as of 2000) as a librarian have been very different from Marvin's, my service philosophy was very much the same. In fact, I was strongly influenced by Marvin's overriding commitment to "serve the user." My positions at all of the following institutions were technical services and technology related, except for the last one listed below: Library of Congress, Information Dynamics Corp., Hennepin County (Minneapolis MN) Library, New York

Public Library Branch Libraries, Columbia University School of Library Service, and Westchester Library System – never having been the director of a public library.

The only changes in U*L were somewhat subtle. We added contributing editors – noted experts – whose columns have appeared beginning with issue 114: Sanford Berman, Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, Carole Leita, Mark Hasskarl, Pam Berger, Susan Polos, Dan Stanton, Ben Ostrowsky, and Jenna Freedman. The columns from Berman and Abbott Hoduski appeared in almost every issue – 114 through 201. These contributors notwithstanding, the bulk of the content was derived from library newsletters, websites, press releases, flyers, etc., that consistently made U*L a practical and valuable publication, and also fun to read.



Mitch and Paula Freedman, Providence, RI, Nov. 27, 2021. Photo: Danna Freedman-Shara

There were two major changes over the years in administration and editing. Paula Freedman became managing editor and Karen Vetrano became editor. U*L ran smoothly and maintained its commitment to making

Table of Contents

Last Issue Statement from Mitch Freedman /3	When You Worry Too Much: Books to Help Kids Overcome Anxiety, Worry, and Fear /16
A Memory of Marvin Scilken: How We Met in Minnesota Thirty-Plus Years Ago by Mitch Freedman, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief /4	Victoria Public Library Board Votes to Keep All 21 Contested Books /19
Polly Scilken on Marvin Scilken's Triumph over Book Industry Price Fixing /6	Library Assists Public in Applying for 'Housing Is Key' Rental Assistance Program /21
Rejoice: We Librarians Convinced Congress to Fund Broadband for Libraries by Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, U*L Contributing Editor /6	Why Some Local Libraries Are Hiring Social Workers /21
Berman's Bag: Library Activism; Something's Rotten at HCL; LCSH Proposals; LC and the Black Experience; Jews and Indians; Bella, Ciao by Sanford Berman, U*L Contributing Editor /8	Resolve to Use Omaha Public Library (OPL) More in 2022 /22
Persistence of Vision: In Summation by Mark Hasskarl, Former U*L Contributing Editor /11	First Ever Lenape-Curated Exhibition in New York Features Masterworks by Lenape Artists, Created Through Partnership Between Brooklyn Public Library and The Lenape Center /24
Message from Susan Polos, U*L Contributing Editor /12	SLPL Offering Free WiFi Until Next Summer /27
Crossword Puzzle by Ben Ostrowsky /13	National Zoological Park Library /27
Commissioners in Pa.'s Trumpiest County Branded LGBTQ Meeting a 'Hate Group' /14	Acknowledging Harm. Rethinking Collections /28
	2022: Healthy You /29
	School Libraries as Technology Hubs /31

Maurice J. Freedman, MLS, PhD, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief. Marvin H. Scilken M.L.S., Creator, Paula S. Freedman, Managing Editor; Karen Vetrano, Associate Editor. The U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™ LIBRARIAN. 91 Main Street, Suite 322, Warren RI 02885. Printed in the USA. Copyright 2015. Web site: www.unabashedlibrarian.info e-mail: editor@unabashedlibrarian.com

Contributing Editors: Sanford Berman, Jenna Freedman, Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, Susan Polos, Mark Hasskarl, Ben Ostrowsky

Contributions: We welcome contributions. U*L especially likes to receive articles of a practical nature. Very few things in book librarianship are really new in libraries. If they are not in general use, U*L would like to hear about them. Articles may be very short or fairly long, but they should contain sufficient detail to enable a reader to "do it" with no (or minimal) research.

We read everything we receive but usually cannot acknowledge or return contributions. (Be sure to keep copies.) All items sent to U*L are assumed to be sent with the idea of possible publication unless marked "not for publication." Submissions may be edited. Opinions expressed by contributors are their own. U*L cannot pay for contributions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Published four times a year. US \$71.50, All back issues in print -- US \$18.00 each (First issue -- Fall 1971). Canadian and foreign postage and handling -- US \$2.00 per issue (US \$8.00 per year, total: \$79.50).

CLAIMS: Subscribers should receive every issue paid for. It is not possible, however, to replace without charge, issues that once received are now missing, lost, stolen or chewed by a dog. Since U*L's schedule is somewhat irregular, the following claim procedure is used: Issues lost in the mails must be claimed within eight weeks of the receipt of the following issue. For instance, if issue #200 was subscribed to and actually not received, write within eight weeks of receipt of issue #201.

REPRINTING: Nonprofit subscribers may reprint one article not separately copyrighted from any one issue provided the following credit is used: "Copyright 2018, THE U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™ Librarian, the "How I Run My Library Good" lettersm, 91 Main Street, Suite 322, Warren RI 02885. Reprinted with permission from issue (for example) #200" Please use the entire credit line. The permission of the author is required.

INDEXING: U*L is partially indexed in Library Literature.

PHILOSOPHY: "Books are for use." "Every reader, his [her] book." "Every book its reader." "Save the time of the reader." "A library is a growing organism." -- Ranganathan, 1931. "Library efficiency frequently consists of doing very well what need not be done at all." -- attributed to Jesse Shera. "The Library is more than information." -- Marvin Scilken. Books are basic.

THE U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™ LIBRARIAN and U*L™ are trade marks of THE U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™ LIBRARIAN. "How I Run My Library Good"sm is a service mark of THE U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D™ LIBRARIAN.

**Polly Scilken on Marvin Scilken's
Triumph over Book Industry Price Fixing**

When I first went to work at the Hennepin County (MN) Library, I met with the bookkeeper to discuss a purchase order. I asked her what she was doing. She said she was going through older invoices to identify the titles for which HCL should receive reimbursement. Multiply the HCL experience by U.S. public and school libraries, and it will explain just how important Marvin's success was at getting the U.S. Senate to take up the issue of how publishers and distributors were fixing prices on single binding children's books. Following is an excerpt of what Mary P. (Polly) Scilken wrote about Marvin's successful fight against book industry price fixing and how much (\$10,000,000) it saved libraries.

– Mitch

In 1966 Marvin testified before the U.S. Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee, pointing out publishers' practices of price fixing books sold to libraries. In his formal statement before the subcommittee on March 22, 1966, he said, "Entering the library profession from the business world some six years ago, I was astounded by the fact that my library and other libraries were charged 'net prices' on some of the books purchased." Outraged by his observation of pricing practices in the book industry, he successfully brought action on this issue by concertedly writing letters to a wide variety of persons. As a result of these hearings, schools and libraries filed over a thousand suits. They recovered some \$10 million in overcharges.

Getting Libraries the Credit They Deserve: A Festschrift in Honor of Marvin H. Scilken, edited by Lorie Roy and Antony Cherian Scarecrow, 2002, p. 98

**Rejoice: We Librarians Convinced
Congress to Fund Broadband for Libraries**

by Bernadine Abbott Hoduski,
U*L Contributing Editor

We librarians convinced the U. S. Congress to fund broadband for libraries. Many of us have lobbied Congress as part of state delegations on National Library Legislative Day. As members of library associations, we have voted to direct our lobbyists to meet with members of Congress to explain to them why bringing broadband to all parts of the country will enable libraries to provide information in electronic formats to everyone.

We Montana librarians met with our senators and representative and pointed out that many of their constituents do not have internet in their homes or businesses. They depend upon libraries for access to such databases as the census, laws, court opinions, medical and agricultural information. We were pleased that Senator John Tester promised that he would make broadband for libraries a priority. He kept his promise by making sure that broadband is in the "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" enacted in November of 2021.

The act includes \$2.8 billion for the "Digital Equity Act" and \$43.5 billion for broadband development. Now it is time for us to thank the members of Congress who voted for the bill and President Biden who made broadband a priority. We also need to look at the whole bill to see what other programs will help libraries. For example is the drinking water available through your pipes free of lead and toxic chemicals? Does the section on environmental re-mediation in the act pay for metal roofs and burying of electrical wires to protect libraries from fires? Do any of the programs pay for libraries retrofitting buildings to prevent damage from

earthquakes and flooding? Is there money for libraries installing solar power and back up generators?

Now is the time to urge city, county, and state officials to appoint a librarian to the committees which will decide what projects to fund to make sure that libraries are included. Do not wait to be asked because most officials will not think of libraries. The ALA Public Policy Office has published *How to Conduct an In-Person Library Tour* to be used when you invite elected officials to visit your library.

It is also important to inform the public about the law and involve them in the planning for broadband and digital learning. Librarians have done a good job in sponsoring voter registration at their libraries by participating in programs suggested in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Librarians have created voter information data bases such as the ALA, Government Documents Round Table's "Voting and Election Toolkits" which has a reference guide for every state. (godort.libguides.com/votingtoolkit/) It is not enough to encourage people to vote. Librarians should provide information on how government is structured and how it works.

Most governments on the local, state, and national level are organized into three equal branches. We need all three of them to insure democracy. The U.S. Constitution created the legislative branch to write laws for the executive branch to implement. It also charges Congress to provide oversight to make sure the laws are carried out by the executive branch according to the wishes of elected lawmakers. The judicial branch is charged with assuring that laws and their implementation are carried out according to the constitution. Children in grade and high school

need to know how government works so they are prepared to vote.

The Government Documents Round Table's Government Information for Children Committee hosts a web site that provides information about government for children, including sponsoring a Constitution Day poster contest for children, where they can win a United States bond. The Government Publishing Office created the site "Ben's Guide to the U. S. Government" designed to inform students, teachers, parents, and librarians about the federal government and the government publications at federal depository libraries. Every library user needs to know what government information is available at your library or on the internet. It does not matter whether your library is a federal depository or not, you need to publicize what the government does and where to get the information. I suggest the following actions:

- 1) Create an exhibit of publications by and about the three branches of government.
Legislative branch: bills, hearings, debates, laws, and directories of government officials.
Executive branch: regulations, executive orders, public papers of elected and appointed officials, reports of departments and agencies.
Judicial branch: Supreme court, state, and county court opinions and reports.
- 2) Include government web sites, like GPO's GOVINFO on your library web site.
- 3) Create an exhibit explaining how the U. S. Census affects the daily lives of citizens. Every 10 years the census data determines how many representative districts will be allotted to your state. Census data is used to draw voting district lines. Some states gerrymander the size and geographic location of districts in order to

assure that members of their political party are elected as Congressional representatives. Some tax dollars will be given to your state according to the number of people in your state.

4) Offer a course on how to search the internet for government information. Take library users on a tour of your government publications section. Open up publications like the Congressional Serial Set and show them the treasures within such as the Lewis and Clark exploration of the Missouri River.

5) Introduce your users to biographies of elected officials. Create a book club featuring novels written by elected officials.

6) Invite government officials, including judges to explain what their agency does. Invite federal librarians to talk about their collections and how they can be accessed by citizens. During this dangerous time of misinformation and distrust of elected officials, librarians can help our citizens understand government and government officials.

Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, Retired Professional Staff Member on the Congressional Joint Committee on Printing, former EPA librarian, and author of *Lobbying for Libraries and the Public's Access to Government Publications* available from Roman and Littlefield.

Berman's Bag: Library Activism:
Something's Rotten at HCL; LCSH
Proposals: LC and the Black Experience:
Jews and Indians; Bella, Ciao

by Sanford Berman, U*L Contributing Editor

A slightly edited version of this 10/10/21 letter to *The Progressive* appeared in the Dec. 2021/Jan. 2022 issue (page 11):

Eleanor J. Bader's "Librarians to the Defense" (Oct./Nov.) inspiringly cites many examples of current library activism. Here are two more: A widespread campaign to limit police presence in libraries and, more broadly, to abolish cops altogether; and a roaring, nationwide Fine-Free Movement to totally eliminate overdue charges for library materials. These charges have been fraudulently touted as a means to instill responsibility among borrowers and get items back on time while their actual purpose was to increase revenue – to the proven detriment of poor people and communities of color, who have been massively excluded from borrowing books, films and CDs for failing to pay the punitive, money-raising fees.

/s/ Sanford Berman

On 9/22/21, I sent this missive to my Hennepin County Commissioner, Chris LaTondresse:

Dear Commissioner,

Something's not right in the library. In fact, more than just "something."

The most obvious (and astounding) thing is a director who chooses – and is allowed to – supervise a large and diverse library system from thousands of miles away. The present incumbent hasn't even been on the job a year. While here, he failed to visit the more than 40 branches and specialized services. From his Los Angeles hideaway he can't possibly come to know either staff or library users in an in-depth way. I understand that library workers are seriously disturbed by his literal distance from the worksite and his lack of accessibility. Further, systemwide communication during his tenure seems to be abysmal. For instance, basic details related

to the rollout of the splendid new policy to abolish overdue fines were **not** conveyed in advance to frontline staff, causing some embarrassment and confusion. It also appears that the new policy, effectively liberating about 72,000 former users who have been blocked from enjoying basic library services, was never publicly and widely announced. (It should have been gleefully trumpeted to the whole county by means of press releases and media appearances, but wasn't. The only substantial report on fine abolition appeared in the *Star Tribune* – and that is because *I* suggested it to a reporter.)

Forgive the excessively long paragraph. This will be shorter. Anomalous in an institution ostensibly dedicated to free speech and expression, staff opinions on policy issues – like deskilling, understaffing, and police presence – have been squelched, if not explicitly forbidden. My "insider" sources report many workers deciding to leave and increasingly low morale. I'm confident the two relevant union local presidents can verify how dire the situation has become.

Please encourage the Board to end remote supervision. And direct appropriate county agencies to investigate what-the-hell's happening **inside** the library itself (which was once nationally acclaimed, but not anymore).

With best wishes,
/s/ Sanford Berman
HCL Head Cataloger, 1973-1999

As of 12/11/21 there has been no response.

These suggestions have lately been made to LC's Policy & Standards Division:

8/9/21

Dear Colleagues,

Based on the attached Wikipedia entry, usage examples, and assignment-candidate citations, I suggest establishing a subject heading for

AFRO-PESSIMISM

SN Here are entered materials on a philosophy of despair about the history and present conditions of African-Americans

UF African-American pessimism
Black pessimism

BT Despair
Pessimism
Philosophy, African-American

With warmest regards,
/s/ Sanford Berman

8/10/21

Dear Colleagues,

Based on the attached Wikipedia entry, usage examples, and assignment-candidate citations, I recommend creating a subject heading for

RACIAL CAPITALISM

SN Here are entered materials on the extraction of social and economic value from people of color

UF Capitalism, Racial
Capitalism and race
Race and capitalism

BT Capitalism
Labor exploitation

With best wishes,
/s/ Sanford Berman

8/10/21

Dear Colleagues,

Based on the attached definitions and multiple online assignment-candidates, I recommend creating a subject heading for

LAND BACK MOVEMENT

SN Here are entered materials on an international movement to return land to the stewardship of indigenous peoples

UF Indigenous land back movement Landback movement

BT Indigenous peoples – Land claims

With late-summer greetings,
/s/ Sanford Berman

On 6/19/21 I wrote the Library of Congress Policy and Standards Division:

Dear Colleagues,

The enclosed AP article "Teachers Wary of New Laws Limiting Instruction on Race" pointedly reports that there is a need for teachers (and others) to discuss topics like 'privilege,' 'systematic racism,' and 'mass incarceration.' The context here is schools, but the need also applies to libraries. And the reality is that American libraries effectively restrict access to these subjects by not employing specific topical headings in their catalogs. Subject searches for 'White Privilege,' 'Mass Incarceration' or 'Institutional Racism' will prove fruitless because the Library of Congress has not yet condescended to recognize these topics. And that failure does *not* stem from Trump administration edicts or restrictive laws passed in Republican-controlled states. It's internal. LC itself

determined to impose these limitations on access to such facts and ideas. The effect, whether intended or not, is censorious ... and racist.

Please celebrate the first national Juneteenth holiday by enhancing and promoting knowledge about the Black Experience, understanding that what *you* do resonates throughout the land.

With best wishes (and continuing embarrassment),
/s/ Sanford Berman

Also on 6/19/21 I made this plea to PSD:

Dear Colleagues,

INDIANS, TREATMENT OF

is the closest that LCSH seems to come in representing the Native American-Holocaust that extended from 1492 to at least 1900. A corollary treatment for the Jewish Holocaust would be-

JEWS, TREATMENT OF.

But *that* experience is distinctly and unmistakably named.

This is not a matter of being 'politically correct' or 'woke.' It is a matter of being honest and fair.

Hoping for a prompt remedy to this pathetic situation,
/s/ Sanford Berman

Well, this is the last "Berman's Bag." The trip began with U*L 116 (2000). And I think I only missed one issue along the way. At the risk of sounding unduly maudlin or melodramatic, writing the column has been a joy and tonic for me, an opportunity to still be active and perhaps provocative during my

retirement years. A chance to highlight issues and innovations within librarianship that too often elude the mainstream library press. Also, a vehicle for reminding us that many of our troubles are self-inflicted, ranging from autocratic, hierarchical governance to hypocritical self-censorship. Has the "Bag" made any difference? Be damned if I know. But I hope so. It's always seemed worth doing.

Profound thanks to "Mitch" Freedman, who offered me a generous platform for all these years. And thanks, too, to Steve Fesenmaier, Tina Gross, Bob Hauptman, Jim Danky, and Fred Whitehead for readily sharing much valuable material. Bella, Ciao!

Sanford Berman, U*L Contributing Editor, Author of *Not in My Library, "Berman's Bag Columns from The U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D Librarian 2000-2013,"* (McFarland, 2013). en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanford_Berman

Persistence of Vision: In Summation

by Mark Hasskarl,
Former U*L Contributing Editor

Way back in the spring of 2000, I wrote my first "Persistence of Vision" article for Mitch Freedman's second issue of *The U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D Librarian*. I chose that title because it worked literally and figuratively (and I still think it was an appropriate and inspired choice).

The literal meaning follows: Persistence of vision is the optical phenomenon where the illusion of motion is created because the brain interprets multiple still images as one. When multiple images appear in fast enough succession, the brain blends them into a single, persistent,

moving image.

Figuratively speaking, persistence of vision was meant to convey the idea that the movies I would write about had persisted throughout the history of the cinema and would continue to do so as long as people watched movies. As the introduction to the first article stated, and as it would for 59 further articles through the autumn of 2015, "Each Persistence of Vision column offers an annotated list of video titles that no decent, self-respecting library collection should be without. Available formats, i.e. VHS and DVD, are given as of the date the column was written."

During its 15 years of existence, the standard column introduction, each column's subject introduction, and the annotations themselves would experience changes. By the end of 2008, VHS listings would be replaced by Blu-ray availability, acknowledging the change in formats that had occurred for home viewing of movies. The first article filled only three columns; but before too long, the articles normally were six columns in length. I found that annotating the movies I chose to include in each article simply needed to be longer to do them justice.

The first column, about classic American comedies, started a trend of writing about film genres. I eventually wrote about science fiction, musical, animation, war, epic, film noir and neo-noir, Western, romance, documentary, and horror movies, to name several. Other columns were a bit more focused, such as *Forgotten Films of the 70s*, *Oscar Also-Rans*, the *British Film Institute's "Favourite" Movies*, *American and European Silent Films*, *Films the American Film Institute Forgot*, *Children and Teens in Film*, *Hollywood on Hollywood*, *Forgotten Films of the 80s*, *1939: Hollywood's Golden*

Year, and movies about the circus, trains, U.S. presidents, high school, and college. A few articles focused on directors and actors, such as Alfred Hitchcock, Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn, and Paul Newman. One was an index for the first four years of columns, and one was an attempt to update the availability of some classic movies that hadn't been released in a home format at the time when earlier columns were written, which was Mitch's suggestion and called Lacunae.

According to my count, I wrote 59 articles that included annotations for 580 different movies. That number eliminates, to the best of my ability, duplicate titles that appeared in more than one article. The movie I wrote about the most? Probably Buster Keaton's Civil War epic comedy and his masterpiece, *The General* – which if it still isn't in your library's collection SHOULD DEFINITELY BE!

In preparing to write this article for the final issue of *The U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D Librarian*, I had a great deal of fun in reviewing the articles I'd written

over the course of 15 years. I was also surprised that I'd written so many and for that long! Despite the occasional pressure of deadlines when I still needed to think of a topic for the next article, writing "Persistence of Vision" was a positive and fun experience. I hope that at least some of the movie collections in your libraries are better as a result of my recommendations. I want to thank Mitch Freedman for giving me the opportunity to contribute these columns after he became the publisher and editor of U*L when we were both directors in Westchester County, NY., and I want to congratulate Mitch on his 21 years with U*L.

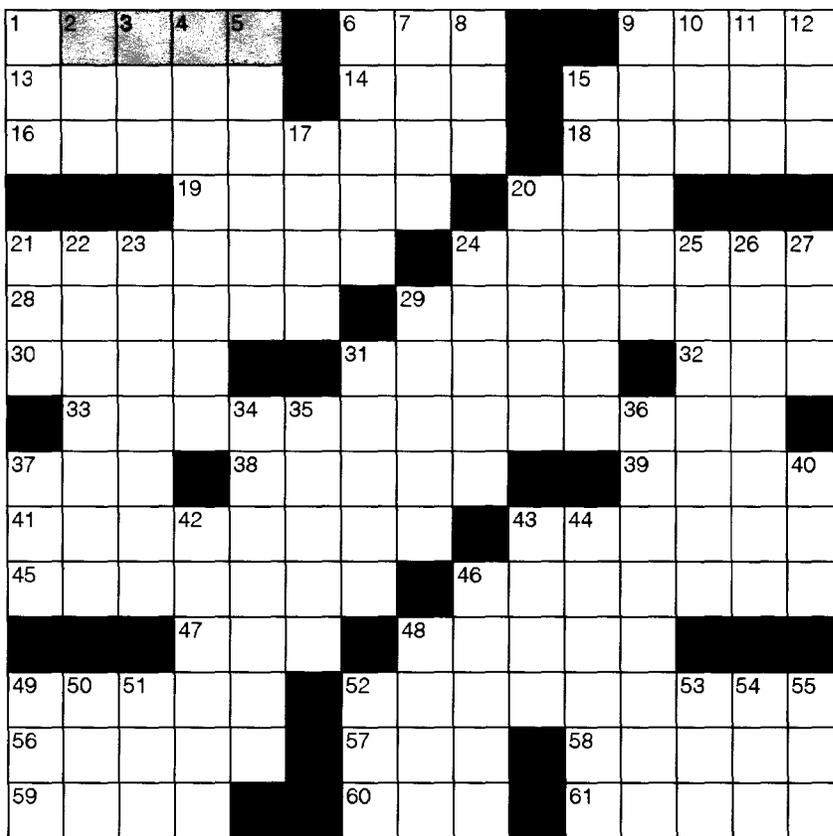
Now happily retired, Mark Hasskarl, former U*L Contributing Editor, served as the director of the Chappaqua, NY, Danbury, CT, and New Milford, CT public libraries during the 15 years that he wrote his "Persistence of Vision" articles. A life-long movie buff, he was also a movie critic for several weekly Connecticut newspapers and greatly misses presenting film programs.

Many thanks to Mitch and Paula Freedman for their dedication and commitment to publishing *The U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D Librarian*™, the "how I run my library good letter." They took this publication over in 2000 and have nurtured it for over 20 years. Wow. All those years of nudging writers to produce, curating material, and putting together compelling commentary.

I'm grateful to have had the chance to share both highlights and challenges of running a school library over the course of my career (which was new when U*L started and is about ready to be retired now, too!).

A highlight for me was when someone I knew from my studies in the Syracuse MLS program read an article I'd written for U*L and contacted me. I hadn't heard from her in years! The publication has been a way to share, to advocate, and also to connect. The "unabashed" support and extraordinary service to the field of librarianship is deeply appreciated. Thanks for the memories!

Susan Polos, U*L Contributing Editor
School librarian and library advocate



Software © 2015 crossword-compiler.com

ACROSS

- 1. Dish without beans, in Texas
- 6. Utmost
- 9. *The Death of Mrs. Westaway* author Ware
- 13. City with a Gutenberg Bible in its oldest public library
- 14. Agreeing with one's birth gender
- 15. Filter with an old vibe
- 16. Courageous and honest
- 18. YouTube ancestor
- 19. Age
- 20. Life story
- 21. Overdue fees?
- 24. Literary symbol of depression
- 28. Like a wide grin
- 29. Storytime fodder
- 30. Can't not
- 31. American Eagle brand (or its HQ?)
- 32. New Yorkers can get them at the Bronx Library regardless of immigration status
- 33. A ripe old age
- 37. Speed
- 38. Fourth wall-breaker
- 39. Place for some skaters
- 41. Homely
- 43. Abstaining
- 45. "Look for the ____" (advice from Fred Rogers after 9/11)
- 46. Gondoliers
- 47. Friends in high places
- 48. City in Illinois, Georgia, or Egypt
- 49. Batshit
- 52. Any person who runs their library good
- 56. It's a plus
- 57. Noshed
- 58. 2007 documentary about 50-Down's health care industry
- 59. Athletes at Yakima Valley College
- 60. Come together nicely
- 61. Edamame, before rebranding

Puzzle by Ben Ostrowsky
(Solution on page 30)

DOWN

- 1. Computer chip
- 2. Darth Vader's outlaw in-law
- 3. *Rosemary's Baby* author Levin
- 4. Lyrics for a 36-Down
- 5. *Four Essays on Liberty* author Berlin
- 6. Is sore
- 7. Bank note
- 8. Acid
- 9. Seize control
- 10. Battery backup
- 11. Draw
- 12. It may be tipped
- 15. Shushed
- 17. Like someone half their age
- 20. Contradict
- 21. rn, iow
- 22. Quotidian
- 23. Show based on a YA sci-fi series
- 24. Danseur's exercise equipment
- 25. Pacific faith
- 26. Not quite soft
- 27. Legal thing
- 29. Stuart Woods antihero Fay
- 31. Indigo-yielding shrubs
- 34. 99%-er
- 35. Consumers
- 36. Paul McCartney's is set in Liverpool
- 37. Blank expression?
- 40. Knowledge
- 42. Offers their view
- 43. Coconut fiber
- 44. Leer at, say
- 46. Location of an infinite library, according to Borges
- 48. Name, as a source
- 49. Like many characters in the stories of Dr. Chuck Tingle
- 50. See 58-Across
- 51. What one does at the reference desk
- 52. Bane of e-sports
- 53. Unwelcoming
- 54. Nora Roberts ____ J.D. Robb
- 55. Discouraging words

Commissioners in Pa.'s Trumpiest County
Branded LGBTQ Meeting a 'Hate Group.'
Then Came the Blowback

by Will Bunch, National Columnist

Randy Bunch, a Fulton County commissioner, branded the LGBTQ community as a hate group earlier this month before voting to block extra funding for the county library.

Most people only see Fulton County as a 75-mile-per-hour blur of hills on the Pennsylvania Turnpike while driving west from Philadelphia toward Pittsburgh. To the not even 15,000 souls who actually live in the state's fourth least-populous county, the Fulton County Library on North First Street, in the county seat of McConnellsburg, is kind of a metaphorical turnpike to a wider world, offering computer terminals for locals lacking internet access and meeting rooms for an array of community groups, while trying to acquire the latest books on its shoestring budget.

Last week, library leaders – who'd seen a small county subsidy (just under 4 percent of its budget) slashed in half during the Great Recession – sent the Fulton County commissioners a request for an additional \$3,000 in the new year, which would bring its total stipend back up to \$15,000, or what it had been in the 2000s.

But the two Republicans who wield majority power on the three-member panel said absolutely not, and – according to the account of the meeting in the local weekly, the *Fulton County News* – they were blunt in explaining why: The library had over the summer given an okay for a proposed new support group for Fulton County's small, largely invisible LGBTQ-plus community to hold biweekly

meetings in its public space.

According to the article by local journalist Cassidy Pittman, GOP commissioner Randy Bunch (no relation, as far as I know), who's gotten widespread publicity in the *Washington Post* and elsewhere for the massive 8-foot-high portrait of Donald Trump on the wall of his construction company on McConnellsburg's main drag, said he believes the LGBTQ community is a hate group.

"If we support them, we have to support Proud Boys and Black Lives Matter," said Bunch, one of the 85.3 percent of Fulton County residents who voted for Trump in 2020, the highest percentage in Pennsylvania. The other Republican commissioner, Stuart Ulsh, agreed with Bunch and offered a seeming non-sequitur in defense of his position.

"Do we want Muslims moving into our county?" Ulsh asked, before citing an internet conspiracy theory – thoroughly debunked by Snopes.com – that a Muslim man had been arrested on U.S. soil with a 30-year blueprint for taking over America. After the vote to deny the library the extra \$3,000, his colleague Bunch elaborated to Pittman: "I don't hate anybody. I'm just saying that LGBTQ and any of those organizations make people upset. I personally think none of them need any part in Fulton County. I don't dislike anybody; I just don't want something that's going to create friction between people."

With that, the latest outrageous salvo in an increasingly bitter American culture war – with the right wing on the offensive against books, teachings, or discussions around race relations or LGBTQ subjects – had been fired in south-central Pennsylvania.

The county commissioners' attack on

the LGBTQ community may have sounded like an echo from the 1950s, but it's also very much of a piece with a nationwide crusade from Texas to Virginia of conservative activists looking to ban certain books from schools or libraries. This happened just two weeks after Republican Glenn Youngkin rode rural and suburban discontent over anti-racism education in schools to victory in Virginia's governor's race, and just days after school board members in Spotsylvania County, Va., suggested that a couple of LGBTQ-friendly books not only be banned but burned.

But in and around Fulton County, a handful of progressive-minded folks are writing a very different ending to this story – one that should show Democrats who seem on their back heels these days how to fight a culture war and win, and that can offer a ray of hope to anyone alarmed at a growing climate of intolerance in 2020s America.

The blowback started with a local activist Emily Best, who ran in 2018 as a Democrat for state senate when she led an organic farmers' co-op in McConnellsburg, but recently moved to a neighboring county with her nearly-5-year-old son. Best told me she'd been appalled when she heard late last week about the political flap over the library, which had almost been a second home during the years she'd lived just a few doors away. She'd loved the collection of toys and puzzles that her son – who'd even held his 2nd-birthday party at the library – could play with, the quirky collection of books that included Mennonite romance novels. She said that it seemed a welcoming space in a community that can be distrustful of outsiders. Said Best: "I personally felt very safe in the library."

That same open-to-all vibe was

apparently on the mind of a library patron who approached library director Jamie Brambley earlier this year and requested space for biweekly meetings of an adult LGBTQ-plus Fulton County support group that was being launched in conjunction with TrueNorth Wellness Services.

"There's really no other place for that community to meet in the county ... to have a safe comfortable meeting place," Brambley told me on Monday. But apparently flyers promoting the support group over the summer riled some locals, including the two commissioners.

But Best had an idea for how to push back on the culture-war battlefield. She launched a GoFundMe page that hoped to raise \$12,000 – or four times the denied request – for the Friends of the Fulton County Library, pleading, "Don't let the hateful ideas coming from leadership be the only voices heard in Fulton County!"

Over the weekend, Best's plea for support on Twitter circulated among a community of progressive activists, and it gained steam when a social-media heavyweight – Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, a 2022 Democratic candidate for the open U.S. Senate seat – adopted the cause. She also learned of a similar campaign that had been launched on Facebook as a response to the commissioners' comments about the LGBTQ community. By Tuesday morning, Best's GoFundMe page had raised \$14,495 from 382 donors, while the Facebook drive has raised more than \$9,000, or more than eight times the additional dollars sought from the county commission. That total is sure to rise as the controversy gets more publicity.

There's no immediate plan for how that new money will get spent, but Brambley told me the library would love to add to its current collection of 25 almost-

always-out internet "hot spots," expand its on-site community resources such as 3-D printers and sewing machines, and add to its growing collection of expensive but increasingly popular e-books.

Those upgrades will be fantastic, and one of these days I'd love to get off the turnpike and see it. But the real value of the Fulton County library fund drive is both intangible and worth far more than \$24,000 – the notion that political hate and ignorant intolerance can be beaten back, even in Pennsylvania's Trumpiest county.

The Philadelphia Inquirer,
Nov. 16, 2021, www.inquirer.com



@VandyLibraries, Twitter
Jean & Alexander Heard Libraries,
Vanderbilt University
Nashville TN
twitter.com/vandylibraries

When You Worry Too Much: Books to Help Kids Overcome Anxiety, Worry, and Fear

With everything going on in the world, it's no wonder that many kids and teens are struggling with worry and anxiety – plenty of adults are too! But while anxiety may be a normal response to many day-to-day stressors, it's important for all of us, including kids, to learn how to manage our worries so that we can feel in control, think clearly, and make healthy choices that suit what we really need, both now and in the future.

Whether or not anxiety is a regular part of your Mighty Girl's life, the books we recommend here will help her understand her feelings and give her strategies to help her stay calm, keep focused, and feel empowered to take on the challenges ahead. Worry will always be with us, but with these resources, kids and parents will feel ready to meet them head-on.

The Don't Worry Book by Todd Parr
Recommended Age: 3 – 5

We all worry sometimes: maybe it's because of the dark, or someone who seems mean, or even the news on TV. This new book is here to reassure preschoolers that they can take control of their worries! Parr offers helpful, kid-friendly strategies they can try, from imagining themselves as a superhero to talking to the people they love. With colorful illustrations that will make kids giggle, this book reminds kids that worries will come and go, but you can find ways to comfort yourself – or ask for the help you need.

Too Many Bubbles: A Story About Mindfulness by Christine Peck
Recommended Age: 3 – 7

It's been a tough day for Izzy the mouse, and she knows why: a bubble is casting a shadow over everything. And then another one pops up... and

another... and another. Before long, there are so many bubbles they're pushing Izzy clean off the page! Izzy goes to her "secret spot," a calm beach, and starts taking some slow, deep breaths. And as readers help her blow the bubbles away, they'll realize that these mindful breaths can be a great way to deal with their own worries, too! With additional exercises at the back, this is an appealing and empowering book about taking control of your emotions when they threaten to overwhelm you.

Ruby Finds A Worry by Tom Percival
Recommended Age: 4 – 7

When Ruby first meets the Worry, a yellow scribble with a furrowed brow, it's so small that she barely notices it. But over time, it gets bigger and bigger – and it starts draining all the other colors from the page. Before long, it's so big that the Worry keeps Ruby from doing the things she loves. Then one day, she sees a boy at the playground with a Worry of his own and when she talks to him about it, she discovers that talking about your Worries can help keep them manageable and small. This kid-friendly story is an excellent way to talk to kids about anxiety and worry while highlighting that there are ways to seek support when you need it.

The Whatifs by Emily Kilgore
Recommended Age: 4 – 8

Cora is constantly plagued with nervous questions – the Whatifs! These sneaky little creatures like to make her worry about everything, from little things to big ones. Before her piano recital, Cora is particularly plagued with Whatif worries. Fortunately, her friend Stella reminds her that not all Whatifs are negative, and by turning her Whatifs around, Cora is able to get out on stage and even recover when she hits a wrong note. Cognitive behavioral therapy techniques are used in a playful way, perfect to reassure kids that they

can thrive even when the Whatifs loom!

Ten Beautiful Things by Molly Griffin
Recommended Age: 4 – 8

Lily has to move to Gran's farm in the middle of nowhere – without her parents – and she's anxious and sad, feeling "complaints starting in her belly again, coming up her throat, and nearly out her mouth." Fortunately, her wise Gran suggests an idea: find ten beautiful things along the way. Lily doesn't think she'll see anything beautiful until she spots the glorious sunrise which takes her breath away. The reason for Lily's move, and the absence of her parents, isn't specified, helping children facing many different challenges see themselves in Lily's shoes – and reminding them that the people who love us will always be there.

Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes
Recommended Age: 4 – 8

Wemberly is one of those kids who worries about everything and school brings its own host of worries – including whether she'll find a friend. A sympathetic teacher introduces Wemberly to another nervous student and soon the pair are discovering that there's too much fun to be had at school to spend all your time worrying. Kids will empathize with Wemberly, and watching her overcome her fears will encourage them to see how they could do the same.

Black Dog by Levi Pinfold
Recommended Age: 4 – 8

When a huge black dog appears outside the Hope family's house, they're all terrified ... except for Small, the youngest, who chases the rapidly shrinking dog through the whole neighborhood. By the time they get back to the house, Small's courage has shrunk the dog enough that it fits through the cat door, and the Hopes agree that he doesn't seem so scary after all. This charming metaphorical story uses the story of a family

taking in a dog who's not "as huge nor as scary as they feared" to teach kids the power of facing their fears.

Fraidyzoo by Thyra Heder

Recommended Age: 4 – 8

Little T is reluctant to go to the zoo with her family: something scared her there – but she can't remember what! With some crafty silliness, her family takes a tour through the alphabet trying to think of what scared T ... and while she still doesn't remember, the laughter makes her realize the zoo might be fun after all. A touch of humor can be a great way to help kids overcome fears, and young readers will delight in T's family and their creative ways of helping her.

When Worry Takes Hold by Liz Haske

Recommended Age: 4 – 8

When Worry sneaks into Maya's mind, it seems like nothing can stop it from growing bigger and bigger, until it shadows everything that Maya does. In this metaphorical story about dealing with worry, kids will see how Maya's Worry keeps her from enjoying even the simplest things in life. Then, when Maya learns belly breathing, she discovers she can summon her Courage, which helps her overcome her worries.

Me and My Fear by Francesca Sanna

Recommended Age: 4 – 8

The little girl in this story has always had a tiny friend called Fear: a small, white creature with an uncertain smile. But when her family immigrates to a new country, Fear gets bigger and bigger, growing with every uncertainty and every moment of confusion. This empowering story encourages kids to recognize that fear is natural and understandable, while also realizing that fear doesn't have to control their lives.

Wilma Jean, the Worry Machine

by Julia Cook

Recommended Age: 5 – 8

For kids who find their fears and anxieties become an obstacle to day-to-day life, the story of Wilma Jean will offer reassurance that they're not alone! Wilma Jean worries so much that she wakes up feeling sick; all her brain seems to do is spit out more scenarios to worry about. Fortunately, when Wilma lets the adults in her life in on her fears, they're able to help her find solutions, including dividing her worries into things she can control and things she can't, and picking a "worry hat" she can put on when she needs a minute to think about her worries – and take off as a reminder that she can leave her worries behind.

A Mighty Girl, Blog, 1/5/22
www.amightygirl.com



Waverly Public Library, Facebook
 1500 W. Bremer Ave.,
 Waverly IA 50677
www.facebook.com/waverlypubliclibrary/

Victoria Public Library Board Votes to Keep All 21 Contested Books

by Cat DeLaura

Members of the Victoria Public Library advisory board voted to uphold the library director's decision to keep all 21 contested books in the library collection, during a specially called meeting Wednesday evening.

"As a group of volunteers, as a board, as members of the community, I think we have been trusted to make the right decision, and I think we did that," said Tony Vasquez, chair of the advisory board, in an interview after the meeting.

Board member Crystal Thornton voted against keeping 18 of the contested books. She was the only board member to vote against upholding the director's recommendation. At the beginning of the deliberation, Thornton said she would make her decision by considering the library as a business and the customers as a whole.

"If it's not being used more than a third of the year, then in the face of opposition from our customer base as a whole, I do not necessarily feel it will strongly be felt if the book is removed," said Thornton.

She had requested information for how many times each book had been checked out since October 2020, which is the oldest data available after the library switched to a new tracking system last year. *Jacob's Room to Choose*, *My Two Dads* and *My Two Moms* were the only books she voted to have remain in the library. All three of them are located in the juvenile section.

"While that's good information to consider, I don't consider it to be part of the removal of the book based on (the fact) the book wasn't asked

to be removed for those purposes," said board member Robin Knipling. "So I did not take that into consideration."

Instead, she said, she took into consideration the legal definition of obscenity and precedent set by court cases, specifically a case in Wichita Falls that found that "authorizing the forced removal of children's books to the adult section of the library" unconstitutional under the First and Fourteenth amendments.

A group of Victoria residents had originally submitted 43 formal citizen request forms for reevaluation of library material this summer. The library director denied the requests to remove the material or move them to a designated area in the library. Twelve residents then appealed the decision for 21 books, requiring the advisory board to make the final decision.

Most of the 21 books belong in the juvenile or young adult sections of the library, and all but one portray or discuss LGBTQ issues and relationships.

A public hearing was held earlier in November, during which dozens of residents voiced their opinions. Public comment was again allowed during Wednesday's meeting, and residents spoke to board members for over an hour at the beginning of the meeting.

The residents who spoke against the books often mentioned concerns about the safety of the community's children and a fear that pornographic material could be found in the juvenile or young adult sections of the library.

"How did we allow books to be put in our children section of the library that have sexual content and pictures that should be prohibited?" said Bonnie Cantrell, one of the 12

residents who appealed the library director's decision. "The 21 books is just a tiny little bit that we were able to review. But there are many, many more books ... that we haven't even approached. The entire section needs to be looked at."

Two books of concern, in particular, were mentioned by a few residents – *Let's Talk About It*, a sex education book for teens in the form of a graphic novel, and *Flayed Corpse and Other Stories*, an anthology of short story horror comics. Neither of those books were on the list of 21 contested books.

Others spoke in favor of keeping the books, arguing that representation is important for queer youth.

Nat Clark, a Victoria resident who is nonbinary, said that while they grew up in Victoria, they didn't want to stay here and left for college because "for some reason, subconsciously, I felt like I wasn't safe here."

"I am just a person who loves humans. Why can't I see that in a children's book? Why couldn't I see that when I was younger? Why wasn't that there? Because people didn't want it to be there," they said.

Clark said they hadn't been sure of what decision to expect from the board before tonight but was glad the board made the decision to keep the books.

"It gives me a sense of peace knowing that kids, who aren't necessarily mainstream to Victoria standards, or the conservative standard of mainstream, will be able to see themselves in a book," said Clark.

These are the books people specifically asked the Victoria Public Library to remove:

The Rainbow Flag: Bright, Bold and Beautiful by Michelle Miller Fisher

The Only Black Girls in Town
by Brandy Colbert

Sex Is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings and YOU
by Cory Silverberg

If I Was Your Girl by Meredith Russo

Rick by Alex Gino

Jack (Not Jackie) by Erica Silverman

The Black Flamingo by Dean Atta

Red: A Crayon's Story by Michael Hall

Teens and LGBT Issues

by Christine Wilcox

Jacob's Room to Choose by Ian Hoffman

Queer: The Ultimate LGBTQ Guide for Teens by Kathy Belge and Marke Bieschke

In the Role of Brie Hutchens

by Nicole Melleby

My Two Moms (My Family)

by Claudia Harrington

My Two Dads (My Family)

by Claudia Harrington

The List of Things That Will Not Change

by Rebecca Stead

Beyond Magenta; Transgender Teens

Speak Out by Susan Kuklin

The Moon Within by Aida Salazar

Neither by Airlie Anderson

Worm Loves Worm by J. J. Austrian

Uncle Bobby's Wedding

by Sarah S. Brannen

Jo: An Adaptation of Little Women

(Sort Of) by Kathleen Gros

The Victoria Advocate, Website
101 W. Goodwin Ave., Suite 1200
Victoria, TX 77901
www.victoriaadvocate.com

Library Assists Public in Applying for 'Housing Is Key' Rental Assistance Program

On Monday Nov. 8, 2021, the City became an approved local partner for the state's 'Housing Is Key' rental assistance program. In partnership with the City's Department of Housing, the library has begun helping residents who are behind on their rent and/or their utilities.

'Housing is Key' is a state-funded program for both tenants and landlords that will provide up to 18 months of rental assistance and unpaid utilities. The state has committed \$5.2 billion in rental relief funds for California residents.

By logging onto the states webpage and viewing the dashboard https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/dashboard.html visitors can select the specific county and city in order to view the number of applications submitted, the number of applications served as well as the total amount of funds requested and the total funds paid.

For instance, as of Dec. 16, 2021, 2,613 applications have been submitted requesting \$44,245,952. Of these 2,613 applications, there have been 1,154 applications served with an average of \$12,184 per household bringing the total dollar amount to \$14,060,825. Be sure to check back periodically to see the change in numbers.

The library has been alerting the community to the rental assistance program through word of mouth and via social media; as a result, hundreds of individuals have been reached. Villa Parke Branch Library staff alone helped nearly 60 community members from November through the end of December. A number of the clients were assisted in their native tongue. Many of them sought out help from the library either

because they lack access to a computer and the internet or because they have not developed computer skills. Beginning Jan. 3, 2022, until the state's funds are exhausted, the La Pintoresca Branch Library will be assisting the public with their rental assistance applications. For information about the program visit <https://housing.ca.gov/>.

Off the Shelf, Newsletter
January/February 2022
Pasadena Public Library
285 East Walnut Street
Pasadena CA 91101
<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/library/>

Why Some Local Libraries Are Hiring Social Workers

by Colin Martin

Yanna McGraw is the first full-time social worker at Central Library in Indianapolis, IN and has helped a number of people in more ways than helping them return a book.

After seeing some patrons struggle with complex life issues, the Indianapolis Public Library hired McGraw. She is one of about a dozen social workers employed by libraries in the Midwest.

McGraw has been on the job for about 5 months, and has already helped guests with questions about the Department of Child Services, those dealing with housing insecurity or difficulty accessing federal stimulus money, and even assisting people in need of mental health resources.

McGraw says she's able to help patrons in ways that librarians can't. Recently, she helped a man staying at a homeless shelter get a prescription filled by connecting him with a family member to help him pay for the medication.

"I'm able to spend that time, pick up the phone, ask the question, send an email to a community partner, if I have that relationship," McGraw said.

Libraries have always been a place for people to get information and solve problems, but more recently, guests are coming in with problems that librarians aren't trained to do. That's where social workers can become a major asset to libraries.

"We're a safe place, we're a clean place, where we try to be a helpful place," Indianapolis Public Library interim CEO John Helling said. "And so we do find patrons experiencing just a wide variety of needs that just end up in our building, because we're the only place where they can go."

Libraries often struggle to find funding for these types of positions, but the Indianapolis Public Library repurposed its operating budget to fund a social worker position after a librarian retired.

Melanie Huggins, president of the Public Library Association, said that there are still many challenges in hiring social workers. One of the barriers is the idea that libraries aren't intended to do this type of work.

"I think library directors, even if they think it's a really great idea, they still have to balance it with all the other needs that they have in their community and within their library," Huggins says.

While Beth Whaler, director of the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, suggests that because libraries are essential to local communities that they can be more helpful than other public places.

"Sometimes they're the first ones to know what gaps [in social services] exist, because those are the issues that are coming in the door with the patron population there," Whaler says.

McGraw went on to add that this role is the perfect job for her, and has created an open-door policy to help build relationships with guests.

"Just helping people navigate and make those connections is really important to me," McGraw said. "And when I go home, I am happy and content that I made a difference. It might be little differences, but it's the difference in some way in someone else's life."

Audacy, Website
audacy.com

Resolve to Use Omaha Public Library (OPL) More in 2022

When making New Year's resolutions for 2022, don't forget about OPL! There are so many resources at the library that can help you make good on some of your goals. Here are a few examples of how OPL can help to make 2022 your best year yet!

Read more

Reading is proven to make people happier, less stressed and more empathetic, among other benefits, so it comes as no surprise that people want to spend more time with a good book. Explore staff favorites from 2021 on OPL's Top Shelf, push yourself out of your reading comfort zone by participating in the 2022 Reading Challenge, or get a group of readers together and start your own book club with OPL's book club bags!

Get organized

Find tips and tricks for decluttering and cleaning using books about organizing in OPL's collection. If a calendar

would help you organize your schedule, request a 2022 Early Literacy Calendar the next time you stop by a library or schedule a curbside pick-up appointment.

Learn new skills

OPL's online resource center is full of valuable tools to help learn skills ranging from new languages to family history. Register for a free 6-week online class from Gale Courses. New sessions begin January 12, February 9 and March 16. There are also plenty of books that can help you to learn something new.

Eat healthier

OPL offers a variety of books about healthy eating, as well as cookbooks filled with delicious and nutritious meals that can help you to improve your eating habits. You can also sign up for the "Certificate in Food, Nutrition, and Health" class through Gale Courses to help gain a holistic view on food and nutrition.

Save more and spend less

If you haven't done so already, there's no time like the present to evaluate your finances and make proactive changes! Focus on your finances by taking in some books on saving money or enroll in one of the personal finance classes on Gale Courses. Utilize OPL's collection and online resources to save even more. There are some stories, movies and subscriptions that people want to own, but for all the rest, OPL is best!

Whatever 2022 has in store, there are endless ways that OPL can help you to achieve your personal and professional goals. Don't forget – staff are available to answer questions via AskOPL online chat or over the phone at (402)444-4800. If you have favorite ways of utilizing your local library, feel free to share a photo or post and tag @OmahaLibrary on Facebook, Twitter,

or Instagram.

2022 OPL Reading Challenge

Mix up your reading routine and broaden your horizons in 2022! OPL librarians have created a series of reading challenges to push you outside your reading comfort zone and into new literary realms. Take on one challenge each month or complete them on your own timeline. Finish all 12 to qualify for a prize!

Lists of suggestions for each month's theme will be available at www.omahalibrary.org as well as blog posts with even more ideas. Title suggestions will be geared towards adults, but readers of all ages may participate.

January: Read a comic book/graphic novel written/illustrated by a woman

February: Read a book about sports

March: Read a book from OPL's 2021 Top Shelf

April: Read a book about neurodiversity

May: Read a book by an Asian American or Pacific Islander

June: Read a book about or featuring water

July: Read a book about travel

August: Read a book by a Midwestern author

September: Read a microhistory

October: Read a book mentioned on The Book Drop Podcast

November: Read a book published or set in the decade you were born

December: Read a collection of short stories or essays

Connect, Newsletter
Winter 2021/22
Omaha Public Library
215 S. 15th St., Omaha NE 68102
www.omahalibrary.org

First Ever Lenape-Curated Exhibition in New York Features Masterworks by Lenape Artists. Created Through Partnership Between Brooklyn Public Library and The Lenape Center

Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) and The Lenape Center announced today *Lenapehoking*, the first-ever Lenape-curated exhibition in New York featuring masterworks by Lenape artists past and present. The new exhibition, opening January 20 and on view through April 30 at Greenpoint Library and Environmental Education Center, includes never-before-seen beaded bandolier bags from the 1800s, a newly created turkey feather cape, culinary tapestries from a seed repatriation project in the Hudson Valley, and more.

In addition to the exhibition, BPL and The Lenape Center will present a number of educational programs and lectures throughout the winter and spring including a panel conversation with Gloria Steinem on the crisis of missing Indigenous persons; a series of original music by Brent Michael Davids; poetry readings by Rebecca Haff Lowry; insights into Lenape food ways with Farm Hub; and talks by Indigenous scholars and lecturers such as Curtis Zunigha, Heather Bruegl, and Hadrien Coumans, among others in collaboration with BPL's Center for Brooklyn History.

Curated by Joe Baker, enrolled member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and Co-Founder/Executive Director of the Lenape Center, *Lenapehoking* uses a mix of contemporary and historical objects, telling the story of a vast and vibrant community, reframing the narrative of indigenous tribes told in more traditional settings, which too often overlooks the genocide of the Lenape people and their living legacy today. As part of the virtual exhibition, Baker leads a digital tour of the artwork and ephemera on display, sharing the items meaning and significance.

"The exhibition site is a library branch, a public space, a very democratic space, a place where grandmas gather, and children gather; it is in many ways kind of messy and noisy and it's a part of a community and it is really alive. And that to us was very important in terms of disrupting the historical hierarchal museum model and placing this work at the very ground level of human experience," said Joe Baker.

The exhibition features a series of historical beaded bandolier bags made between 1830 and 1850 alongside contemporary examples by Joe Baker. The bags were once an important element of men's attire, worn for important social and political occasions and served as a passport, identifying the wearer as Lenape. They are a tribute to survival, made during a time of forced displacement and oppression after the Removal Act of 1830 was ratified. Additional objects include a contemporary turkey feather cape created by Rebecca Haff Lowry with Sandra Lowery which will be exhibited for the first time. Worn by both men and women, the cape provides a dramatic flourish to traditional dress but also provides warmth and protects the wearer from seasonal weather.

Additional featured objects include three tapestries made of Purple Kingessing, Blue Shackamaxon, and Hannah Freeman beans which represent the repatriation of ancestral Lenape seeds to their native soil after hundreds of years of removal. This living fabric is a result of a partnership with Farm Hub, a regenerative agriculture non-profit in the upper Hudson Valley.

As part of the exhibition, Greenpoint Library's rooftop teaching garden will feature Indigenous fruit trees that were historically cultivated by the

Lenape in Manhattan, creating continuity between the ecological past and present. The incorporation of organic materials into the exhibition space creates a portal into the living culture of the Lenape people today.

"The *Lenapehoking* exhibition does not relegate indigenous history to the distant past," said Linda E. Johnson, President and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library. "It traces a through-line to the Lenape artists working today, who have much to teach us about memory, survival, and stewardship. This is precisely the kind of work public libraries are meant to do – ensure every member of the community has access to our shared past and the tools they need in the present to imagine a future that's more sustainable and more just."

PROGRAMS

Lenapehoking: The History of Lenape Forced Removals

In this panel discussion commemorating the 2022 *Lenapehoking* exhibition at Brooklyn Public Library, the Lenape Center's Curtis Zunigha and Joe Baker, and Indigenous historian Heather Bruegl discuss forced removals of the Lenape people from their northeastern homeland.

Lenapehoking is the Lenape name for the Lenape homeland, which spans from Western Connecticut to Eastern Pennsylvania, and the Hudson Valley to Delaware, with New York City at its center. During the panel, hear Baker on his family's experience of forced removal to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Bruegl on the Stockbridge-Munsee forced removal to Wisconsin, and Zunigha will describe the pre-settler colonialism map of Lenapehoking, tracing the scattering of the Nation to present day locations including three communities in the U.S. and two communities in Canada.

Lenapehoking: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons Crisis

This panel addresses the crisis of violence, often gender-based, against Native Peoples. It features members of Nichusak ("my women friends"), a working group of extraordinary activists and lawyers created by the Lenape Center to address the crisis. Speakers include Gloria Steinem, Mary Kathryn Nagle, Heather Bruegl, Caroline LaPorte, and Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum, working to bring justice to this pressing human rights issue. Other group members include Chelsea Kimura, Rebecca Lowry, and Cardozo law students Brett Jones and Sheryl Wallin.

Our current legal system does almost nothing to protect Indigenous People from violence and sexual assault. In 1978, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that Tribal Nations could no longer prosecute non-Indians who commit crimes against Native victims on tribal lands. This fact combined with the remote location of much of Indian Country, the nearby "man camps" that house thousands of transient oil and mineral workers, the many centuries of sanctioned neglect and discrimination towards indigenous nations, and media neglect, has created a crisis both profound and urgent. Join us for a conversation about an epidemic that is hiding in plain sight.

Lenapehoking: The Tenacious Myth of the Purchase of Manhattan

The Lenape Center's Joe Baker and Hadrien Coumans join indigenous lawyer and playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle to correct the long-held and false narrative of the purchase of Manhattan.

The myth holds that Dutch settlers purchased the island of Manahattan from native "savages" for \$24 worth of beads and trinkets. Enabled by Western historians and artists for centuries, this inaccurate and

pernicious story, as one panelist notes, "is a weaponized narrative by its implied justification of the genocide and forced removal of the Lenape." Our speakers explain the true history, setting straight the near universal misrepresentation. They discuss how this falsehood perpetuated prejudices, fed injustice, and served the interests of settler colonists and the United States government.

Lenapehoking: Returning Lenape Seeds to the Homeland

Speakers from Farm Hub and the Lenape Center discuss the return of Lenape seeds to the homeland.

The Seed Rematriation Garden is a collaborative project between the Lenape Center, whose mission is to continue Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland, through community, culture, and the arts. These indigenous leaders are actively addressing seed justice in their home communities.

The Seed Rematriation Garden was established with Farm Hub in the Hudson Valley in 2019 on Lenape land. The goal of this project is to secure seed harvests of such quantity that they can be repatriated to home communities in the diaspora.

Lenapehoking: The Orchards of Lenapehoking

The Lenape Center's Joe Baker and Hadrien Coumans are joined by contemporary artist Sam Van Aken.

From the Lenape's first contact with Europeans, there were beach plums in Lenapehoking. Crews on European ships sailed into New York Harbor and reported seeing these plums on the shores. If left uncultivated, the beach plum will become a shrub. So the record suggests there were extensive agricultural practices, and a likely trade network between the Lenape and indigenous nations to the south. Lenape were

also growing peaches within 10 years of Europeans' arrival, bolstering the idea of an indigenous agricultural network. This all got artist Sam Van Aken more and more interested, as he sought to place the fruit varieties back in their context, which led him to the Lenape Center.

As Lenapehoking curator Joe Baker sees it, the beach plum was assumed to be part of the diets of "wild" Indians out foraging, too naïve to cultivate orchards or other agriculture. But the evidence of a sophisticated agricultural system suggests that orchards weren't just European. They were Lenape, and indigenous. Join this one-of-a-kind culminating discussion of the Lenapehoking exhibition at Brooklyn Public Library's Greenpoint Branch.

Programs are presented in partnership with the Lenape Center and as a collaboration between BPL Presents and BPL's Center for Brooklyn History.

Brooklyn Public Library, Website
10 Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn NY 11238
www.bklynlibrary.org

Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light nor dark. The pleasure they give is steady, unorgastic, reliable, deep and long-lasting.

Dr. Germaine Greer, Australian writer and public intellectual, regarded as one of the major voices of the radical feminist movement

SLPL Offering Free WiFi Until Next Summer

St. Louis Public Library (SLPL) is offering residents the chance for free internet connectivity for the next seven months.

SLPL applied for funding from the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) to purchase 4,000 hotspots to be used by St. Louis residents who don't otherwise have internet connectivity.

The ECF is a federal program, which gives funding to schools and libraries to provide internet connectivity to communities.

"Internet access is a necessity of modern life," said Waller McGuire, CEO of St. Louis Public Library. "One thing the pandemic made clear is that connectivity is no longer a luxury, but a lifeline. The digital divide is a painful challenge for much of St. Louis. The library serves thousands of people every week coming through our doors to connect to much of the world locked behind a digital wall. Providing these hotspots will let thousands of St. Louisans take a solution home."

Cardholders who check out the hotspots can keep the device until June 30, 2022. Each hotspot can provide internet connectivity for up to 15 different devices at a time.

To check out one of these hotspots, an individual will need to:

- Be a resident of the city without internet access at home
- Need WiFi for an educational purpose
- Visit one of the 16 SLPL locations
- Have an SLPL card or sign up for a card

"The Internet is essential for access

to government and community resources, employment opportunities, and knowledge, and many still lack that access," said Mayor Tishaura O. Jones. "St. Louis Public Library has always sought to break down barriers within our communities, and by providing hotspots to those that need it most they are continuing that tradition. I am grateful for their dedication to helping families overcome the technological divide."

Hotspots are pocket-sized WiFi devices that are easy to use and offer individuals without internet access an opportunity to have broadband anywhere. One hotspot connects up to 15 smartphones, tablets, or computers to the internet.

SLPL hotspots are limited to one per household. Even cardholders who have outstanding fees on their accounts can check out a hotspot.

St. Louis Public Library
 Press release
 1301 Olive Street
 St. Louis MO 63103
www.slpl.org

National Zoological Park Library

The evolution of the Libraries' outreach at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park (NZP) and Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) reflects how profoundly American zoos have changed in the last 50 years. What used to be called wildlife management is now conservation biology, and the traditional study of animals based on physical characteristics has evolved into investigation based on genetic distinctiveness. As the care and study of wild animals become increasingly sophisticated, the Libraries' expanding collections and evolving services are more critically needed than ever before.

Located on the grounds of the 160-acre zoo in Washington, D.C. and the 3,100 acre campus of SCBI in Front Royal, Virginia, the Libraries supports research into species survival as well as the daily care and feeding of more than 2,400 animals of 350 different species. Opened in 1898, the library is one of the oldest in continuing existence at the Smithsonian. The Libraries' print and online collections focus on topics such as genetics, comparative reproductive physiology, animal cognition, endocrinology, sustainability of endangered animal populations, conservation medicine, and biological diversity. Librarians also offer extensive training for staff on searching complex online databases that house medical and scientific publications.

In 1975, the zoo launched several long-term breeding programs which evolved over the years to include an endocrine research lab, a molecular genetics lab, and a global health program. At each phase of expansion, the library accelerated its acquisitions of state-of-the-art information resources in those areas. Presently the SCBI serves as an umbrella for the Smithsonian's global effort to conserve species and train future generations of conservationists. As NZP has evolved so have the services provided by the Libraries. Now in addition to supporting the on-site animal care and research activities, librarians regularly provide the researchers conducting studies from locations worldwide with the information and scholarly support services they need using advanced technology for collaboration.

National Zoological Park Library
Website
P.O. Box 37012, Washington DC 20013
[www.library.si.edu/libraries/
national-zoo](http://www.library.si.edu/libraries/national-zoo)

Acknowledging Harm. Rethinking Collections

by Bianca Crowley

The Biodiversity Heritage Library has released an Acknowledgment of Harmful Content to recognize deep prejudices within some of the pages of its collection. As a digital library of natural science publications and archival materials, BHL is a free and open access online resource that primarily reflects the print collections of its contributors. Some of the content in BHL is harmful because it reflects ableist, classist, colonialist, eurocentrist, racist, sexist, xenophobic, and other biased views, especially in descriptions of peoples, lands, and species. The long and, at times, painful history of the scientific record has privileged hegemonic perspectives with the right to print while stifling the voices of the powerless.

Acknowledgment of Harmful Content

The Biodiversity Heritage Library acknowledges the existence of harmful content in many biodiversity science publications and original materials included in its collection. We are reckoning with the, at times, painful heritage of our collection and seeking to address its impact on science and culture today. As a curated digital collection aggregating content from hundreds of providers into a single platform, BHL is a reflection of the historical collection development decisions of those providers as well as the publishing practices and historical colonial processes that have shaped the scholarly record of biodiversity science. Scientific understanding evolves over time, through critical analysis of new information and scrutiny of its mistakes. We recognize that as a free and open access digital

library, we simultaneously increase and promote access to materials, some of which espouse deep prejudices that are counterproductive to the advancement of scientific knowledge and overshadow the contributions of marginalized peoples across the globe. At best these views are outdated; at worst, the legacy of natural sciences is unjust and inhumane. The harmful content in BHL's collection goes against the values of the Biodiversity Heritage Library. It is provided for access as part of the historical record.

BHL joins recent global outcries against racial and environmental injustice. We are assessing our role as a digital library and the responsibility we have to question our neutrality and address harm without reducing access. We are deeply concerned about the continuing crisis of global species loss and the inequitable divisions within our own species. Reflecting on ourselves, we see an organization grappling with inclusion and the acute consequences that these harmful views have on the world and its people today.

Heritage institutions such as the AfricaMuseum, Digital Public Library of America, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Trove, and others are also addressing these issues. In general the museum and cultural heritage community is reckoning with our organizations' past and present, as well as the ways in which our collections, publications, public exhibitions and strategic goals impact society.

Over the course of 2020, BHL rethought the implementation of our strategic plan with the goal to challenge ourselves towards more equitable collection management, technical development, outreach, partnership development, and mission enabling practices. With regard to our collection management objectives

going forward, we will be:

- Publishing a collaborative research bibliography to inform new collection management strategies that focus on global challenges including biodiversity loss, systematic racism, and the effects of a worldwide pandemic on scholarly research
- Identifying and filling gaps in the collection to achieve more complete and inclusive representation of the available knowledge of and perspectives on biodiversity, e.g. including indigenous knowledge
- Conducting a comprehensive review and revision of our collection development policy

If "knowing the past is critical to reforming the present" as Dr. David Silverman suggests [1] then publicly acknowledging the biases in our collection is a first step towards making our collection more inclusive. As a global consortium with a variety of social, cultural, epistemological, and political factors at play, we are unified in our commitment to advancing equity in the global biodiversity community while also maintaining access to the historical record.

[1] Silverman, D. (2019, November 18). [This Land Is Their Land] | C-SPAN.org. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?466094-1/this-land-land>

Biodiversity Heritage Library
Blog
www.blog.biodiversitylibrary.org

2022: Healthy You

Our library, face to face.
In-person events return!

Germs, Germs Go Away!

Wash, wash, wash your hands, soap will make them clean. Scrub the germs until they come off to make them nice and clean. Recommended for ages 2-5.

Move Like the Animals

Can you hop like a frog? Waddle like a penguin? Run like a cheetah? See if you can move like the animals do!

Recommended for ages 18–36 months.

Finding Ourselves and Each Other Through Wellness

Explore the importance of taking care of yourself emotionally, physically and spiritually in order to find overall wellness. Presented by Project Harmony/ University of Central Florida Marriage and Family Research Institute.

Recommended for ages 18 and up.

Baby Discovery

Play with your little one while exploring colors and texture through stories, songs and activities that will enhance their world. Recommended for ages 0–18 months and their caregiver.

Fantastic Family Fitness Fiasco

Get moving and work together with your family to complete challenges and have fun. Recommended for families with children ages 5 and up.

Mixed Media Mood Monday

Create what you feel to express yourself, from collages to portraits, using paper, paint and fabric.

Recommended for ages 6–12.

Snack & Learn – Making a Healthy Change

Learn seven simple steps for making a healthy change. This event is part of the ongoing Snack & Learn series presented by Casman Mosby, CarePlus Health Plans. Recommended for ages 18 and up.

Stretch Across the Universe

Transform into a meteor, a shooting star and even the moon. Gather the family for a space-themed introduction to yoga. Recommended for families with children ages 5 and up.

Wiggle Worms Workout

Wiggle, wriggle, squirm and boogie to get your body moving! Help your little one explore fine and gross motor movement with songs and fingerplays.

Recommended for ages 18–36 months.

Orange County Library System,
Newsletter, Jan. 2022

101 E. Central Blvd.,
Orlando FL 32801, www.ocls.info



Solution to puzzle on page 13

S	V	A	O	S		G	E	L		S	K	V	A
K	O		S	I	C	A	T	E		S	E	T	
N		A	R	I	A	L	B	R	A	R	I	A	N
			R	O		C	A	I	R	O		I	N
N						B	O	A	T	M	E	N	
						C	H	A	S	T	E		
						R	I	N	K				
						E	N	O	N	E			
S						A	E	R	I	E			
						T	A	L	L	T	A	L	E
						B	E	L	L	J	A	R	
						B	I	O		R	I	P	E
						T	V	S	E	T			
						S	E	P	I	A			
						R	U	T	H				

The Rise of School Libraries as Technology Hubs

School librarians may be a relatively recent addition to school faculties, but their role has quickly become indispensable within the structure of a school community. Until the early 1900s people didn't recognize the value of housing a library staffed by a professional librarian within school buildings. Throughout the 20th century, the landscape of school libraries has changed rapidly. They have been required to adapt, becoming not only reading and research experts, but also curriculum experts, and technology navigators. These professionals are often the technology wizards at their schools. School libraries have evolved in the past 50 years into tech hubs that are helping close the technological divide.

A History of School Librarians

It wasn't until the turn of the 20th century, when the necessity of having trained librarians and library specialists accessible to students and teachers was recognized, that librarians found a home in schools. In the latter half of the 20th century, technology took center stage. Personal computers and the internet became necessary educational tools. The integration of technology education into the school librarian's responsibilities became more prevalent. The connection that librarians had to the fast-moving world of technology and education made them ideal technological facilitators for students and teachers.

Where Are They Now?

School librarians and media specialists are now expected to be experts in digital literacy. School librarians teach students where and how to access resources and connect them with information that is appropriate and reliable. Students are learning many essential computer and technology skills from their school librarians. In addition, school librarians have become a resource for teachers,

helping them to stay on top of relevant technology, navigate and source technology tools, implement digital techniques.

Essential Educators

School librarians have had a significant impact on their school communities. However, the sad reality is that when budget talks arise, school libraries and librarians are the first to be threatened. Jarrett J. Krosoczka once stated, "It is an awfully sad misconception that librarians simply check books in and out. The library is the heart of a school, and without a librarian, it is but an empty shell." School libraries and librarians have come a long way since they first became housed in school settings. The role they play in the lives of students and colleagues is essential as they continuously adapted their skills and tactics to provide top-notch technology education and assistance.

Save School Libraries

Modern school libraries not only house technology such as laptops, tablets, and maker space tools, they also house technology experts. They are truly the center of their school and a place where learning and the digital world come together. It is more important than ever that students have access to technology and a guiding professional who can show them how to use it safely. Saving these tech hubs starts by recognizing the crucial roles they play and the impact they have on students and teachers. Many don't realize or appreciate the value that schools get from their libraries. There is so much knowledge that school librarians and libraries can share with their schools and their absence would be noticed immediately, leading to increased challenges as schools and families overcome the digital divide.

EveryLibrary, eMagazine
P.O. Box 406, Riverside IL 60546
[www. everylibrary.org](http://www.everylibrary.org)



Snuggling up with a story at Barrington (RI) Public Library

The U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D Librarian

91 Main Street, Suite 322
Warren RI 02885



5-DIGIT 55416

Sanford Berman
4400 Morningside Road
Edina, MN 55416-5043

