

WISL THROUGH THE FALL

The Wisconsin Small Libraries Newsletter



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Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week is September 27 through October 3rd. With COVID-19 impacting many of our libraries and spaces, it can be difficult to think of ways to connect with patrons from a distance. Fortunately, ALA shares many free resources and access to digital events for this celebration of the freedom to read.

Free downloadable Banned Books Week resources:
<https://bit.ly/3j2dno3>

PORTUGAL. THE MAN, Live with Banned Books Week and NCAC: <https://bit.ly/3mN9Zbz>

Alex Gino, LIVE with Banned Books Week and ALA OIF:
<https://bit.ly/3kMaQrb>

Gene Luen Yang, LIVE with Banned Books Week and NCTE: <https://bit.ly/332nP25>

In the Loop

Fill WISL Newsletter readers in on your relevant meetings and happenings! Share announcements for this section with Aubrey Huff at huffa@uwstout.edu using the subject line "in the loop."

WISL PUBLIB Event

DATE: Thursday, October 22nd

TIME: 2-300 p.m.

LOCATION: Zoom (Registration coming soon!)

The theme for the next WISL PUBLIB event will be "**Christmas at Curbside: Cold and Creative Winter Programming.**" Don't miss out on PRIZES! Three drawings will take place. You must be present to win.

Thanks for this update, **Angie B.!**



2021 WISL Leadership

WLA membership voted to allow section leadership to continue through 2021. This means no WISL election in 2020 and our existing leaders have agreed to continue their terms. Though some sections have decided to hold elections this fall, our leaders were very interested in the opportunity to continue service. We hope that this provides the opportunity to fulfill the duties that have been postponed due to the cancellation of a whole years worth of conference schedules.

Speaking of conferences, WLA is all abuzz with the intention of hosting a mini-conference in November. The board intends to offer the opportunity to re-connect with membership after this year of quarantines, curbside service & cancelled conferences. Look for a dose of the best of what a full conference offers: Librarians at the Movies, for sure! Watch your email and we hope to see you there!

Gina Rae

WISL Representative, WLA Board

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The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man. — T.S. Eliot

Small Libraries and the Election

Engage your patrons in the electoral process with convenient resources.

As we social distance, it can be difficult for libraries to act as a nonpartisan home for civic engagement in the upcoming election. Nevertheless, we maintain our responsibility to our patrons to provide election resources to everyone in our community.

Coming up with ideas for engagement in the voting process can feel daunting, but it doesn't need to feel that way. Excellent resources are already in place to help us boost our civic engagement.

Create a Plan

Become inspired by ALA's "Libraries and Voter Engagement" resource to help you facilitate a role for your library and the democratic process. Voter turnout for the upcoming election will likely be impacted by COVID-19, and your patrons are likely feeling confused about where to find the answers. Of course, the answers are at the library. Brainstorm ways your library can become involved using ALA's guide.

"Libraries and Voter Engagement": <https://bit.ly/2EIq696>

“

Voting isn't the most we can do. But it is the least.”

—Gloria Steinem

It's Great to Educate!

A great first step could be ensuring you and your staff can answer questions about local voting laws. Learn more about your voter information using non-partisan resources.

MyVote Wisconsin, a useful informational site for voter registration, local ballot examples and more. Resource provided by the State of Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Find MyVote Wisconsin here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

Ballot boxes are on everyone's mind as we consider safe voting, but where can we find them? League of Women Voters of Wisconsin assembled a useful list of absentee ballot dropbox locations. If your municipality isn't listed, the site connects you with information to find your Municipal Clerk!

Absentee Ballot Dropoff Locations and Early Voting Information: <https://bit.ly/3l3QLXj>

Host an Event

Video conferencing software is more useful than ever as we enter this voting season invite candidates in a local election to speak, or host a debate on a specific issue and invite patrons to register to speak! Host a virtual session where people tell stories of their experience voting, and advertise on social media. Social distance; don't socially disengage!



In the next issue...

We want to hear your stories about working in a library during the COVID-19 pandemic. What was difficult? What were your triumphs? Did you discover a new way to connect to your patrons? Share your story with Aubrey Huff (huffa@uwstout.edu) with the subject "COVID Story," and it will be featured in the next newsletter!

Feeling Crafty

Coffee Filter Bats

It's that creepy time of year. Leaves crunch; air chills, and it's time to do some crafting! What better way to celebrate the season than with a craft made of things you can find around the house? Grab your markers, clothespins, and coffee filters because this easy craft is sure to delight!

This craft can be a great pairing to a seasonal storytime or virtual movie night!

Find full instructions here:
<https://bit.ly/33gfEPP>



Small and Rural Libraries Grant Alert!

"The American Library Association (ALA) invites libraries in small and rural communities to apply for grant funding to help them address issues of concern in their communities.

Up to 650 U.S. libraries in small and rural communities will receive \$3,000 each to tackle issues ranging from media literacy to COVID-19 safety to unemployment. Grants will be awarded in two waves in 2020 and 2021."

Learn full details and apply now through December 2, 2020 at:
<https://bit.ly/2S6M5d4>

Easy Glitter Glue Slime

The most dreaded or anticipated acronym of the year is here: PSL! Say what you will about the beverage (it's delicious), but here we're talking about that Pumpkin Slime Life! Engage your teens, tweens, or children with orange glitter glue slime. Best of all, it's made of only two ingredients that your patrons likely already have around the house!

Dive into slime with instructions here:
<https://bit.ly/34cKXdg>

