Rhode Island Library Association
2024 Annual Conference

Providing Public Library, Providence, RI
May 22 - 23, 2024
#RILA2024
ACCESS. LEARNING. ENGAGEMENT.

RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES

Helping Rhode Island libraries inspire and transform lives!
Welcome
May 22 - 23, 2024

Rhode Island Library Association
2024 Annual Conference
Wednesday, May 22nd and
Thursday, May 23rd, 2024
Providence Public Library, Providence, RI

RILA Conference Committee Members
Alyssa Taft, Cranston Public Library, Co-Chair
Tina Ash, Riverside Middle School, Co-Chair
Emily Goodman, Office of Library & Information Services
Megan Hamlin-Black, Rhode Island State Library
Tanya Paglia, Barrington Public Library
Carol Derosier, East Smithfield Public Library
Julie Holden, Cranston Public Library
Siobhan Egan, Barrington Public Library
Pam Schwieger, East Providence Public Library
Kim Usselman, Middletown Public Library
Esther Wolk, SLRI conference rep
Ben Hanley, Barrington Public Library (RILA Website)

Beatrice Pulliam, RILA President
Mary Moen, SLRI President

Conference Brochure Designed by
Kyera Shea, University of Rhode Island

Thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors!

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Exhibitors
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Stillwater Books
University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (URI GSLIS)
Tutor.com - The Princeton Review
World Book
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<td>Workshop Classroom</td>
<td>Opening Remarks From PPL, RILA Awards &amp; Business Meeting - Farish Auditorium</td>
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<td>Cookie Break &amp; Visit Exhibitors - Grand Hall</td>
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<td>Stop by the RILA Lounge and have a book signed by Raul the Third.</td>
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<td>Need a book? Purchase one at the Stillwater Books table in the vendor area.</td>
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<td>Seminar Room</td>
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## Conference-at-a-Glance
### Thursday, May 23

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8:00 - 8:45
Registration & Continental Breakfast Sponsored by EBSCO Information Services

8:45 - 9:45
Tech Savvy Seniors: Connecting Seniors, One Class at a Time
SEMINAR ROOM
Paul Pazienza & Michael Crispino, North Providence Library

Dive into the process to create a 5-week tech course for the North Providence Mancini Senior Center. We will discuss the step-by-step process to design a comprehensive, yet entry level computer class catering to the specific interests of seniors. From identifying relevant topics, to establishing a supportive learning environment, we share insights regarding challenges and finding innovative solutions. Attendees will gain valuable perspectives on fostering digital literacy among seniors, promoting community engagement, and enhancing well-being through technology education.

Navigating The Census Bureau's Website To Easily Find The Data You Need
MURAL ROOM
David Kraiker, US Census Bureau

Have you ever needed to find data on your community to support a research project, grant, or educational paper? Are you curious about the make-up of your community - what are the social, demographic, housing and population characteristics of your community and how does it compare to surrounding communities? This workshop will provide an overview of Census Bureau surveys, data tools and provide a live tour of census.gov and demonstrate data.census.gov, one of the Census Bureau's most popular data retrieval tools where you can easily find rich data to provide valuable insight on your community.

Building Community For First-Generation Students
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Dymond Bush, Bryant University; Olivia Seymour, Salve Regina University; & Alicia Vaandering, University of Rhode Island
Sponsored by: Cornucopia of Rhode Island

For many first-generation college students, the library can seem like an intimidating space and present challenges that often aren't encountered by traditional students. This panel discussion will focus on how academic libraries are creating community and space for historically marginalized students. In this session, panelists from three different academic libraries will discuss how they've developed programs and enhanced instruction to support the first-generation student population on their campuses. Attendees will leave with ideas for strengthening their bonds with campus partners and how to better support first-generation college students.

9:45 - 10:15
Coffee Break & Exhibitors
Sponsored by Gale!
GRAND HALL

10:15 - 11:15
Phone It In: How To Easily Set Up A Dial-A-Story Program At Your Library
SEMINAR ROOM
Siobhan Egan & Patrick Elliot, Barrington Public Library

Learn how you can start your own Dial-a-Story program at your library. You don't need any fancy equipment or software to get started. We'll share some tips and best practices we have learned over the last few years of running successful Dial-a-Poem and Dial-a-Spooky-Story programs at Barrington Public Library. The possibilities are endless for creating great dial-in content and expanding your library programming to reach more people and help bridge the digital divide.

Veteran Briefings: The VA Providence Healthcare System; Essential VA Websites; and Veteran Suicide Prevention
MURAL ROOM
Cheryl R. Banick & Kimberly Ferrante, VA

Local libraries have a unique opportunity to be a safe space where veterans and their caregivers can have social interactions and find supporting resources. Librarians can establish better relationships and communications with them if they know resources are available. An
introduction on the VA Providence Healthcare System, what Library Services are at the Medical Center, and pertinent online resources are presented. In conjunction with this introduction, a discussion regarding suicide, as it relates to our veterans, and what preventive actions are being done by the Medical Center, and related information are also given.

Build Your Social Calendar! A Year Of Community Engagement In N. Providence
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Stefanie Dalton, Jenny Durant, Paul Pazienza, & Jennifer Cortez, North Providence Library

Are you looking to be more involved in the annual celebrations in your community? Not sure how and where to start? North Providence Union Free Library staff invites you on a year-long journey of parades, parties, festivals, holiday happenings and more. In addition to showcasing yearly events, you will gain insight regarding the planning process, including finding contacts, maintaining relationships, investing in a "community kit" for reusability ease, and hear some anecdotes regarding the impact library presence creates. Learn how to build and maintain your own social calendar, while making a mark on non-library users and stakeholders in Town.

12:15 - 1:00

Keynote Speaker: Raúl The Third
FARISH AUDITORIUM

Raúl The Third is a New York Times bestselling and three-time Pura Belpre award-winning illustrator, author, and artist living in Boston. Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge was awarded one of the year’s Best Illustrated Children’s Books of 2021 from the New York Times and the New York Public Library. His work centers around the contemporary Mexican-American experience and his memories of growing up in El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

1:00 - 1:30

Grab a boxed lunch!
SHIP ROOM

1:45 - 2:45

Libraries As A Trusted Elections Resource
SEMINAR ROOM
Megan Hamlin-Black, RI Secretary of State

Libraries serve as hubs where Rhode Islanders receive important community-focused information. It is natural that patrons already seeking resources available at libraries can also go to help desks and information centers to receive trusted elections and civic participation information. The Rhode Island Department of State’s State Library sends Voter Information Stations to public libraries ahead of each election. State Librarian, Megan Hamlin-Black, will explain the materials in these stations, demonstrate how to find additional trusted information, and hold a discussion with the presentation attendees that may lead to additional election education resources for you and your patrons.

Libraries As Partners In Community-Based Publications
MURAL ROOM
Genesis Barrera, Brown University

Genesis Barrera provides an overview for librarians interested in how to successfully implement and manage community-based publication projects which utilize the library as a site from which to foster community support and activist networks to enable more social participation intended to push for systemic change. With a focus on strategies for best engaging in public relations and advocacy to identify potential partners, Genesis speaks to the importance of librarians in building partnerships, developing a community relations plan, and envisioning their local community’s future based on the needs of its various stakeholders.

Live Podcast Recording With Raúl The Third
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Cranston Public Library

Join us for the 3rd annual RILA
Conference Live Recording Down Time with Cranston Public Library. The Down Time with Cranston Public Library Podcast is a show where host Tayla Cardillo chats with librarians, authors, and community members about what they’ve been reading, what they’ve been watching, and a topic that they are passionate about. Come see an episode recording live with a special guest: Raúl the Third.

Connecting Communities And Connecting To Health Information
WORKSHOP CLASSROOM
Sarah Levin-Lederer, UMass Chan Medical School
Learn about the Network of the National Library of Medicine Region 7 (NNLM R7) including support for health information programming, training, professional development, and funding. The mission of NNLM is to advance the progress of medicine and improve the public health by providing all U.S. health professionals with equal access to biomedical information and improving the public’s access to information to enable them to make informed decisions about their health. Also hear from Carla Jaggi and Julie Holden from the Cranston Public Library on how they used funding to support health information programming and connect to their Health Equity Zone.

2:45 - 3:15
Cookie Break, Book Signing & Exhibitors Sponsored by Perma-Bound Books
GRAND HALL

3:15 - 4:15
Let’s Talk Books
SEMINAR ROOM
Alyssa Taft, Cranston Public Library; Colleen LeComte, Portsmouth Public Library; Melissa Chiavaroli, Cumberland Public Library; & Emily Goodman, Office of Library & Information Services
Looking for some 2024 book recommendations? Join us for a panel discussion of what we are most excited about in the world of adult books! Our genre specialists will be discussing historical fiction, romance, nonfiction, audiobooks, and more, as well as sharing our favorite readers’ advisory resources and answering your bookish questions.

Building Information Literate Communities
MURAL ROOM
Heather Pouliot Kisilywicz, Ancestor Answers
How can your library create strong during one of the United States’ most divisive times? Interest in genealogy has exploded thanks to increased internet access, commercially available DNA test, and digitized primary sources. Review case studies on genealogy and history programming, receive a list of suggested local LAM (library, archive, museum) partners, and leave with some inspiration that will get the most out of ancestry.com licensing agreements. Heather Pouliot Kisilywicz, MLIS is professional archivist and genealogist and believes genealogy programming improves information literacy that supports the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) framework to combat disinformation.

Libraries and HEZ- Working Together for Our Communities
WORKSHOP CLASSROOM
Meredith Richards, George Hail Library & Ryan McCauley, East Providence Library
This session will shine light on how libraries in Warren and East Providence are working with the Health Equity Zones (HEZ) in their towns for the benefit of their patrons. HEZs are place-based collaboratives created to reduce and eliminate health disparities and barriers to wellness and are run by the East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP). The mission of EBCAP is “to provide high-quality, comprehensive and accessible health and human services to assist people to achieve their fullest potential.” As libraries continue to be one of the few places in the community for people to go for free, there are many opportunities for collaboration between public libraries and HEZs.

ALL DAY (except 11 am - 1 pm)
RILA Lounge
RI ROOM
Join us in the RILA Lounge throughout the day to take a break, meet up with your colleagues for a quiet networking conversation, browse ARCs available for you to take, provide conference feedback, and more.
Thursday
May 23
#RILA2024

8:00 - 8:45
Registration & Continental Breakfast
Sponsored by Springshare

8:45 - 9:45
Book Talk Blitz!
SEMINAR ROOM
Alyssa Taft, Cranston Public Library & Sarah Hunicke, Portsmouth High School

Can we do 75 booktalks in under an hour? Yes we can! Join Sarah Hunicke and Alyssa Taft as they booktalk 75 recent titles they are excited about, including the 2025 Rhode Island Teen Book Award nominee list. If you are excited to talk about young adult literature, this session is for you!

Who’s Wearing the Rooster Costume?: Rooster and Lighthouse Games in North Providence
MURAL ROOM
Jenny Durant, North Providence Library; Cindy Eastman & Lynda LaCava, North Providence Schools

Why did the chicken cross the road? To play Rooster Games, of course! Are you looking for a way to engage older elementary or middle school students and get them excited about books? Have you participated in or facilitated Rooster Games and want to reinvigorate your work? Maybe even expand your current program to middle schoolers by offering “Lighthouse Games?” In this session, public and school librarians will share their experiences collaborating to present Rooster and Lighthouse Games in both school and public library settings.

Presentation Skills to Connect with Your Community
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Deb Hoadley

Want to build your presentation skills and deliver your message with confidence? Today’s library staff are being asked to speak to community groups, businesses, boards, etc. and they often lack the skills and confidence to do this. Public speaking is hard for a lot of people, and this conference session will break down the components of making a presentation (whether formal or informal) so everyone will feel confident to present the library and their projects in the best way possible. Participants will learn skills and strategies to develop effective presentations, boost audience engagement and speak with authenticity and authority.

ML3: RI Librarians as Leaders for Media Literacy
WORKSHOP CLASSROOM
Mary Moen, University of Rhode Island & Esther Wolk, Coventry Public Schools

Join this session to increase your skills and visibility as leaders in media literacy education. Participants will engage in constructivist media decoding activities that can easily be implemented in library instruction and learn about free educational resources developed by Project Look Sharp. The opportunity for RI school librarians to participate in the ML3: Librarians as Leaders for Media Literacy grant funded project led by Project Look Sharp in partnership with AASL will also be shared.

9:45 - 10:15
Coffee Break & Exhibitors
Sponsored by EBSCO!
GRAND HALL

10:15 - 11:15
Legislative Action Update
SEMINAR ROOM
Panelists: Ed Garcia, Bill Lancellotta, Marianne Miranda, Cheryl Space
Facilitator: Beatrice Pulliam

Join our panel of library advocates for an update on the library bills currently making their way through the Rhode Island legislature. The panel will share insight on how issues become bills, what it is like to give testimony, identify partners and allies, and how attendees can advocate for their own libraries within their communities.

Texture Talks: How public libraries can help build more inclusive and anti-racist communities
MURAL ROOM
Cassidy Mills, Mount Pleasant Library (CLPVD)

Help make your neighborhood more inclusive and anti-racist by starting a natural hair group. Cassidy Mills, Teen & Adult Services Librarian at the Mount Pleasant Library, was inspired when she got hired and
discovered how diverse the staff is. She started Texture Talks: A Natural Hair Support Group for library staff and patrons alike. The group aims to foster a safe space and community where people of color can discuss, get tips, and celebrate their textured hair. Learn about the importance of such a program and how to start one just like it at your library!

How to use the Diversity/SEL Analysis for Collection Development
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Mary Haggerty, Follett Learning

Analyze the Diversity and SEL of your collection. Identify areas for weeding and collection development. Analyze Lists to make smarter purchasing decisions with this detailed breakdown of your list by important characteristics – fiction vs. nonfiction, classification, age, reading level, audience, 44 areas of diversity and 14 areas of SEL – to help you quickly assess and ensure alignment with your collection goals.

LibLearn30
WORKSHOP CLASSROOM
Wendy Gustavel, Rocky Hill Country Day School
Come learn about LibLearn30, a monthly professional growth opportunity offered to faculty at a PreK-12 school. Monthly sessions feature underutilized library skills, resources, and tools. During each 30-minute session, teachers receive a 10-minute tutorial, have the opportunity to experiment with the tool/resource for 15 minutes, and then reflect on how they will use what they learned in their practice for the last 5 minutes. Session attendees will be given access to the presenter’s LibLearn30 sessions which can be adapted for use in their schools.

11:30 - 12:15

Keynote Speaker: Courtney Pentland
FARISH AUDITORIUM

Courtney Pentland is a high school librarian in Nebraska. She has served as a high school librarian, elementary librarian (for the 2019-20 school year), and been a member of a district library services department. She is adjunct faculty for the University of Nebraska-Omaha School Library program and has served on the Nebraska School Librarians Association board as board member at large, president, and chapter delegate to AASL. She is the 2023-2024 AASL President. Follow her adventures on social media: @livluvlibrary

12:15 - 12:45

Grab a boxed lunch!
SHIP ROOM

12:45 - 1:45

Alternate Activities:
Library Tours: 12:45 & 1:45
INFORMATION DESK

Career Connections in the RILA Lounge
RILA LOUNGE
Join the RILA Mentor Committee for Career Connections, an interactive networking lounge focused on navigating your career path within RI’s vibrant library community. Explore table topics, engage in self-paced activities, and connect with peers and mentors to advance your career. Drop by to build valuable connections, gain insights, and cultivate your professional journey alongside fellow community members.

12:45 - 2:15

RI Book Awards
Plenary Session Presentations
RICBA / RIMSBA / RILBA (30 min each)
FARISH AUDITORIUM
RICBA: Nomi Hague, Cranston Public Library; Rebecca Lelli, Narragansett Public Library; Michaela Reed, Blackrock Elementary; Marissa Salvas, William D’Abate Elementary
RIMSBA: Elena Rios, Cranston Public Library; Brit Comahue, West Warwick Public Library
RILBA: Maria Cotto, Pawtucket Library; Betsy Montes, Providence Country Day

All your 2025 Rhode Island Book Award news and nominees are in one place this year! Join us for an afternoon plenary session in the auditorium with the RI Children’s Book Award, RI Middle School Book Award and the RI Latino Book Awards. Representatives from each award committee will present about how their awards work, how to get involved, and will book-talk their lists of nominees for 2025.
2:15 - 2:45
Cookie Break & Exhibitors
GRAND HALL

2:45 - 3:45
News from the 9th: How a Veteran Newsletter Is Making History Available to the World
SEMINAR ROOM
Lisa Villa, College of the Holy Cross

This presentation introduces an online resource and describes how the relationship between a college archives and a veteran’s organization (9th Infantry Division Association) resulted in a unique resource that serves the veterans and associates of the Division as well as researchers interested in family history, genealogy and United States, World, or Military history. It demonstrates the impact a small, hidden collection can have on the greater community and hopefully inspires other libraries to discover and promote local community histories and collections.

Well This Bites - Easy SFX Makeup for Teen Programming
MURAL ROOM
Molly Virello, Southington Public Library

Special effects makeup (SFX) often seems unattainable and expensive. But it doesn’t have to be. Join Molly as she walks you through creating a SFX program at your library with everything from sourcing SFX materials cheaply, to a hands-on demo of creating your own zombie bite using tissue, liquid latex, and makeup. She will talk about the products used, their prices, and how to implement this program in your library. As this is a hands-on demonstration, SFX materials will be provided for the first 20 participants to try their hand at creating their own zombie bite.

AI in Education: School Librarians Take Action
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Mary Moen, University of Rhode Island; Heidi Blais, Cranston Public School Department;

Join this session for an introduction to generative AI and to learn how school librarians are exploring its uses in education. Many districts are blocking AI tools because they don’t know enough about it. The panelists in this session are in schools and districts that are addressing AI and will share their experiences using AI in their practice. Participants will learn about challenges and successes, the types of guidelines being created for classroom use, and ways the school librarian can become a leader in training teachers about it. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences and concerns.

From Sea to Shining Sea: A Survey of Intellectual Freedom Practices in the United States
WORKSHOP ROOM
Amanda Izenstark, University of Rhode Island; David Bernardo, Providence College; Jo Knapp, Johnson & Wales University

The American Library Association provides a form for librarians to share challenges to library materials in order to gather data and provide support. In the face of increasing challenges to library materials, some states have also developed local procedures for gathering information and providing local support. In 2023, the presenters distributed a survey to gather information from states, territories, and tribal nations that do not publicly share their procedures to document efforts. This presentation will share the preliminary survey results, which are crucial in understanding the differences across entities, lessons learned, and areas for future research.

3:45
SLRI General Meeting and Awards Ceremony
FARISH AUDITORIUM

Reception immediately following.

ALL DAY
RILA Lounge
Join us in the RILA Lounge throughout the day to take a break, meet up with your colleagues for a quiet networking conversation, browse ARCs available for you to take, provide conference feedback, and more.
Level G

- Ground Entrance/Exit
- Gender Neutral Restrooms
- Workshop Classroom

Level 1

- Grand Hall
- Rhode Island Room
- Ship Room
- Info Services Desk
- Children's Room
- Info Commons
- Gender Neutral Restrooms

Note: Green locations are rooms used for the conference.
Level 3

- Registration
- Farish Auditorium
- Seminar Room
- Mural Room
- Exhibition Gallery
- Restrooms

Note: Green locations are rooms used for the conference.
Don’t forget to visit the...

RILA LOUNGE

Open all day Wednesday & Thursday (except 11–1 on Wed)

- FREE advanced reader copies of recent titles
- Fun bookish swag
- Space to socialize and network
- Games and activities

Special RILA Mentoring Committee activities Thursday 12:45–1:45pm

Play Vendor Hall Bingo for a chance to win amazing raffle prizes!
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