



SEPTEMBER 2020

ULA President's Message

Dear friends and colleagues,

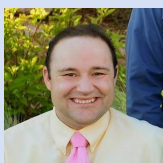
What a difference six months makes since the last *Utah Libraries News* in April 2020! On behalf of the ULA Board, we wish you health, safety, and work! We admire the efforts so many of you are making to be the best libraries you can be in the unique pandemic situations you are all facing. You are the essence of the 2021 ULA Conference theme: **We Are the Heart: Of Communities, Of Libraries, Of the Country**. Even before the stress and conditions of COVID and social tensions pushed many of us to adaptability, we knew that the true strength of the library is to be a beating heart of the community. Those communities include our schools, universities, and municipalities. The library can bring together people in each of those groups that may generally be separated by affluence, religion, politics, and more. The library itself provides a foundation for this great service; however, it is not the institution that makes it great, but the library's own heart: its staff. Libraries have succeeded or floundered on the compassion and sacrifice of you, the library staff, from management to library aides.

We Are the Heart has at least a three-fold meaning: Libraries are the heart of communities, we are the heart of the library, and this year, we welcome our fellow colleagues of the Mountain Plains Library Association from many heartland states in the USA. I am certain the theme can be personalized and applied to your many unique memories and experiences in the library. Many of us can remember library staff members who went above and beyond for us perhaps as children, as students, or as adult patrons. Are we doing the same for our communities now? Are we keeping that heart beating? I hope we will all reflect on how we can individually improve and more fully embrace our part as the community heart thrum.

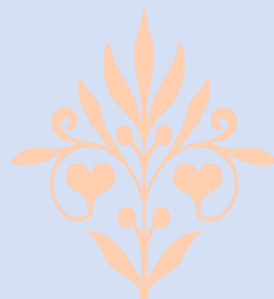
By way of update, much has occurred behind the scenes. Due to continuing COVID impacts and concerns, the Board voted to transition the 2021 ULA Conference to a virtual conference. We know this is a disappointment, but it was deemed the most sound financial and safe mode of conference, while allowing as many to participate as possible. More news will be forthcoming as we now aim to make it the best virtual conference it can possibly be!

ULA's Virtual Fall Workshop will be held Sep. 25 for free. Register at ula.org. You will also notice the ULA website is having a facelift thanks to the hard work of Vice-President Rita Christensen and Executive Director Barbara Winters! While you log in, take a moment to review your profile and see if your affiliations with ULA roundtables and sections are up to date. Remember you are entitled to join any and all roundtables and sections you are interested in at no extra charge. The leadership of each group would love to engage with you and share your specific library interests. Finally, thank you to those who provided feedback on the recently proposed ULA Bylaws revision. We have taken that feedback and are updating the revision at this time. It will be re-released one more time ahead of the 2021 conference before its formal approval.

All the best to you this fall! Keep the heart beating!



Daniel Mauchley, ULA President 2020-2021



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Utah Librarian Spotlight

Every issue, ULA President-Elect Rita Christensen introduces readers to a Utah librarian.

In this issue, the spotlight falls on Janae Wahnschaffe.

In 1880, a spring gushed out of the foothills of southern Provo. Just south of the swamp was the city dump below the mouth of Slate Canyon. These were the landmarks that rooted the Utah Territorial Insane Asylum in 1885. It's been called a human warehouse. Associated with a haunted castle. And linked to unmarked graves. Over a century of change has transformed the asylum and its environs. The swamp has been drained. The dump is a city park. The asylum was renamed the Utah State Hospital (USH). The hospital now provides safe treatment and rehabilitation for patients with mental illness. An essential part of USH patient care is access to information, programs, and library



Janae Wahnschaffe at USH Library.

services. The Utah State Hospital Library has recently transformed from a tired space of dusty old books to a popular hub filled with current print titles and digital media. Janae Wahnschaffe, the USH librarian, recently received a State of Utah Employee Pillar

Award for her efforts in making literature and services more available for the USH community by implementing a new audiobooks and music program.

Janae grew up in Sacramento, California and attended Ricks College in Idaho. She and her husband, Royce, then moved across the state to attend the University of Idaho. Janae graduated with a bachelor's in English education and relocated to Eagle Mountain, Utah, so her husband could focus on his career goals in finance. Janae pursued a variety of interests while raising four children: she was editor to a publishing company, a correspondent for the Daily Herald, and a high school English substitute teacher. Then she made a decision that would change the course of her career and the communities she served: Janae helped establish the Eagle Mountain Public Library by serving on the original library board. She volunteered a few years and

later accepted a position as a part-time librarian in 2007. She decided to begin the MLS program at Emporia State while working in Eagle Mountain. Janae decided to diversify her library experience by working at the Harold B. Lee Library for four years in document delivery, reference services, and library instruction. She then accepted the role as the director for the Highland City Library and served there until 2018. Janae has worked for two years as the community librarian with the Utah State Library.

As director of the Highland Library, Janae expanded the library footprint and created a new children's library in the added space. Prior to her expansion, the children's library existed entirely in a slightly oversized corner. It was not sufficiently meeting the needs, nor expanding for new materials or programming, for the community she served. The families who frequented the library were thrilled to have a new area to explore and learn.

Janae's service at the USH Library has been unique. When she first began her service with the USH, the library was in need of attention to the physical space. She completed a small renovation and the result was immediately noticed and appreciated by all users. Janae noticed the library had never offered audiobooks and knew the audio medium held potential for patients who suffered from blurry vision or concentration issues. She set to work on updating collections and services. The library now has a small collection of audiobooks and an extensive music collection for patients to access and use.

Janae enjoys learning more about mental health and serving this unique community. She has enjoyed the challenge of rediscovering what a library truly should be and how to best serve in that capacity. She has enjoyed playing a small role in a very large story of triumph, success, and overcoming lifelong struggles. Janae is honored and humbled to be part of such an impressive institution which exists solely to help others succeed despite setbacks and frustrations. Janae believes that "The existence of libraries promotes democracy, freedom, and individuality. I love that we exist to serve and offer information to anyone who chooses to pursue additional knowledge. That is why I was drawn to libraries as a career years ago, and that is still true for me today."

We are fortunate to have Janae—with her experience in public, academic, and now special libraries—join our team as our current Manager of Conference-Related Grants on the ULA Conference Planning Committee

2020 ULA Award Honorees

Casandria Crane, Chair, ULA Awards Committee



Distinguished Service Award recipient Dorothy Horan

The Utah Library Association Awards Committee wishes to recognize excellence in our field throughout the past year.

Dorothy has served as a librarian for 40 years. She is retiring this month from the Family History Library and FamilySearch. She has worked as a United States/Spanish Records Cataloger, User Guidance Supervisor, Reference Consultant, and Acquisitions Team Leader. She is an accredited genealogist and now works with the FamilySearch Research Wiki. She obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Radio and Television and a Master's of Library Science, both from the University of Arizona.

Dorothy has contributed to the Utah community through her volunteer efforts at Salt Lake Comic Con, FanX, and Fantasy Con over various years. She has served the Utah Library Association in many ways including as 2007-2008 President, Mountain Plains Library Association Representative, Special Libraries Section Chair and Vice-chair, and over 10 years as a chair and member-at-large of various committees and roundtables. Most recently she served on the Past Presidents Committee and Genealogy Round Table.

During her presidency she oversaw the most recent joint MPLA/ULA conference. She also contributed to the publication *Utah Library Association 1912-2012: Essays in Honor of Its Centennial*. Dorothy advises, "If you have ever thought about becoming an officer in ULA, don't hesitate." Congratulations to Dorothy on her exceptional service and support for Utah libraries.



Librarian of the Year Raquel Ruiz

Raquel started with Salt Lake County Library as a Custodian in 2013. She had a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from her home country of Mexico. She went back to school to get her MLS and began her career as a public librarian.

Raquel spreads her zeal for library services by overseeing several projects. She promotes Salt Lake County Library resources to Utah's Hispanic/Latinx community weekly through the Radio (Placer 107.1 FM) as a guest speaker. She organizes monthly outreach programs with the Mexican Consulate, and hosts annual Community, Education, & Health Fairs within libraries.

During the pandemic, Raquel has continued reaching her community through online conference calls for programs such as Computer Basics for Spanish Beginners, Spanish for Librarians, and facilitating a Spanish book club. People come from all over the valley to see Raquel, "their librarian," because she is so welcoming, friendly, knowledgeable, and willing to help. She is a wonderful example of a librarian who reaches out to everyone and partners with them to promote library services.

Raquel says, "I am honored to receive this recognition as Librarian of the Year for 2020; and I am grateful to those colleagues and managers willing to collaborate and support the projects in which I have worked in the SLCO Library system. But I want to give a special thanks to my mentor Ms. Cindy Smiley (Taylorsville Library Manager) with whom I started this wonderful adventure."

2020 ULA Award Honorees continued.

The **2020 Outreach Award** recipients are **Deanna Simonis, Lisa Henderson, and Vern Waters.**



2020 Outreach Award honorees, l to r: Simonis, Henderson, and Waters

While all working at the South Jordan branch of the Salt Lake County Library, Deanna, Lisa, and Vern created a new and innovative outreach program. They presented adult storytimes to memory loss patients at assisted living centers. They used poetry, stories, music, and pictures to encourage patients to find old memories and engage their minds. The patients appreciated when this team came to see them and shared their storytime, but the experience was sometimes heartbreaking. None of the memory care patients "get better." Lisa's vision for the program, Deanna's tireless research, and Vern's musical talents combined to create a rewarding and pleasurable pursuit. Currently, Vern, Deanna, and Lisa are working to create a mobile version of their Memory Care Storytime program to serve that supportive community, regardless of librarian access to facilities.

Lisa Henderson was inspired to create this outreach program while caring for her mother as she suffered from memory care issues toward the end of her life. She used library resources and experience to create daily activities for her mother. Since starting in 2018, Lisa and the team have held over 120 of storytime events, serving hundreds of residents in memory care facilities.

Deanna Simonis is a family librarian at the Smith Branch of the Salt Lake County Library, as well as a non-practicing attorney, former Peace Corps volunteer, and a foster parent for special needs dogs. She spends her programming hours trying to combine her dual passions for outreach and serving the underserved—both human and nonhuman—in fun and creative ways. When she's not working, Deanna shares her home with her husband, two teenage boys, three dogs, and a chicken, as well as foster dogs from the local Humane Society.

Vern Waters is currently the manager of the Columbus Branch in the Salt Lake County Library. After working at libraries in Weber County and Broadview University, he started his County career by going to jail (library branch), where he was pleased to discover a passion for helping underserved populations. He championed rights to information for blind incarcerated persons and LGBTQ individuals while there. Vern says about this program, "It has been such a pleasure to get the chance to work with such talented and creative people. A special thank you to ULA for honoring us and this program."

The **Special Service to Libraries Award for 2020** goes to **Dr. Scott L. Smith.**



Scott has championed the cause of libraries for more than a quarter century. The direct result of his sustained investment of time, talent and financial means is the viability of not one, but two public libraries. Dr. Smith graduated from BYU and has advanced degrees from the University of Utah Medical School, Duke University Family Medicine Residency, and Harvard School of Public Health. He is married to Catherine Smith, and they are the parents of 5 children and 8 grandchildren, all great readers. Despite a successful and busy medical practice, Scott has volunteered countless hours to promote and support both the American Fork and Highland City libraries.

Dr. Smith served on the Highland City Library Board for eight years. His was a crucial voice in advancing the Library's efforts to become a full member of the North Utah County Library Cooperative, and he currently serves on the Highland City Council, a position that allows him to effectively campaign for libraries.

Dr. Smith has been actively involved with the American Fork Library for twenty-five years. He has volunteered as a member of the Friends of the Library since its inception and started the annual Scary Story Contest, which has grown to a yearly tradition with hundreds of participants. He also supports other programs to reach underserved communities, including memory care outreach, youth intern opportunities, monthly mental health and wellness workshops, and the Book Fairy project.

Dr. Smith says, "I believe that a city library serves not only as an essential resource promoting literacy but is also a 'community gathering place' that inspires and uplifts!"



2020 ULA Awards cont.

The **2020 President's Award** goes to **Mindy Hale**.



Mindy has worked for both Orem Public Library and Salt Lake County Library System. She has a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and a Master's degree in Library Science from Emporia State University. At the Orem Library, she worked in a variety of roles over nine years. She started out as a part-time clerk, moved on to community relations work, and then advanced to an associate librarian position. Mindy's commitment to the local community and patrons secured her a spot as the librarian over Adult/Teen Reference Services. She is a passionate guardian of the freedom to read and has worked hard at developing a strong collection and a safe haven for LGBTQ teens. Mindy is very handy. She could fix anything at the Orem Library that required power tools. She enthusiastically came to Salt Lake County to work at the Jail Libraries. She has been a valuable asset to the Jail Library in providing reference and reading materials to those she served.

Mindy is married to popular graphic novelist Nathan Hale, and they have two children. She grew up in Provo Canyon in a family of cross-country skiers. Mindy is a licensed Yoga instructor. She attended a European Study Abroad program during her last semester at Emporia. Julie Heckert, Orem Library Associate Librarian, says that she has always been impressed by Mindy's "work ethic and her passion for librarianship. She is committed to diverse collections, patron access and has a strong vision for the future of the public library. Mindy is an asset to the Utah Library Association community."

ULA Awards Committee Members: Casandria Crane, chair; Becky Muir, Tim J.S. Heise, Steve Decker, Alli Bartus, Wendy Hargis, Cristina M. Reyes

What's On at Your Library?

Utah Library News is happy to publish announcements of library-related exhibits, lectures, open houses, tours, and other events.

Send announcements to Michele at michele.richings@stevenshenager.edu. We publish issues in September, November, February, and April (Annual Conference Issue).

ABOUT THE UTAH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The mission of the Utah Library Association is to serve the professional development and educational needs of its members and to provide leadership and direction in developing and improving library and information services in the state. In order to accomplish these goals, ULA supports and provides continuing education programs for Utah librarians and library employees, especially at its annual spring conference. ULA also offers members a number of opportunities for library leadership, professional growth, networking, and community service. We hope you find the Utah Library Association to be an organization that makes a difference for you, for Utah librarians, for Utah Libraries, and for the citizens of Utah.



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Association**

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