



## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023

4:00 P.M.

**VIRTUAL MEETING ONLY – Via One of the Options Noted Below**

### Library Trustees

Amy Ghilieri, Chair

Frank Perez, Vice-Chair

Al Rogers

Lea Moser

Vacant

This meeting will be held remotely. Participants may attend remotely via telephone or Zoom webinar. To join by phone, call in to one of the following numbers (multiple options provided in case of busy signal or call quality issues): 1 (719) 359-4580 / 1 (253) 205-0468 / 1 (253) 215-8782 / 1 (346) 248-7799. When prompted, enter Webinar ID # 842 2413 1597, and / or Passcode # 889408.

To join via Zoom webinar, please use the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84224131597>. If prompted, use Passcode # 889408. Please note: the Zoom link option will require a computer or phone with internet access or the Zoom application with audio capabilities.

**Forum Restrictions and Orderly Conduct of Business.** The Library Board of Trustees conducts the business of the Washoe County Library System and its citizens during its meetings. The orderly, efficient conduct of the meeting is integral and necessary to allow the Board to conduct business. The Chair or presiding officer may order the removal of any person whose statements or other conduct disrupts the orderly, efficient, or safe conduct of the meeting. Warnings against disruptive comments or behavior may or may not be given prior to removal. Examples of disruptive conduct include, without limitation, yelling, stamping of feet, whistles, applause, heckling, name calling, use of profanity, threatening use of physical force, or any other acts intended to impede the meeting or infringe on the rights of the Library Board of Trustees, staff, or meeting participants. The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place, and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks which antagonize or incite others are examples of speech that may be reasonably limited.

**Public Comment.** Public comments are welcomed during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting for all matters, whether listed on the agenda or not. Additionally, public comment specific to the action item being considered will be heard during individual action items on the agenda. Public Comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. During the “Public Comment” items, anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda. Anyone wishing to provide live public comment may do so by teleconference or by logging onto the Zoom webinar by accessing the above link. To provide public comment via Zoom, log into the meeting at the above link and utilize the “Raise Hand” feature during any public comment period.



Additionally, persons are invited to submit comments in writing by emailing L J Burton at [LJBurton@washoecounty.gov](mailto:LJBurton@washoecounty.gov). The County will make reasonable efforts to send all email comments received by 4:00 p.m. on the business day before the meeting to the Trustees prior to the meeting.

**Response to Public Comment.** The Board can deliberate or take action only if a matter has been listed on an agenda properly posted prior to the meeting. During the public comment periods, speakers may address matters listed or not listed on the published agenda. The Open Meeting Law does not expressly prohibit responses to public comments by the Board. However, responses from the Board members to unlisted public comment topics could become deliberation on a matter without notice to the public. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Board will consider, Board members may choose not to respond to public comments, except to correct factual inaccuracies, ask for Staff action, or to ask that a matter be listed on a future agenda. The Board may do this either during the public comment item or during the following item: “Board Comment – limited to announcements, strategic plan activity updates, or issues proposed for future agendas and/or workshops.”

**How to Get Copies of Agendas and Support Documentation.** Copies of agendas and supporting documentation for items on the agenda are available to members of the public at the Downtown Reno Library Administration Office, 301 South Center Street, Reno, Nevada, and may be obtained by contacting L J Burton at [ljbarton@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ljbarton@washoecounty.gov) or (775) 327-8341. Copies of agendas and supporting materials are also posted on the following websites: [www.washoecountylibrary.us](http://www.washoecountylibrary.us) and <https://notice.nv.gov>.

**Special Accommodations.** We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled, who need special accommodations or assistance, and wish to attend meetings. Should you require special assistance or accommodations for any Board meeting, please contact L J Burton at [LJBurton@washoecounty.gov](mailto:LJBurton@washoecounty.gov) or (775) 327-8341, at least 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting.

**Possible Changes to Agenda and Timing.** The Library Board of Trustees may take agenda items out of order, may consider two or more items in combination, may remove one or more items from the agenda, or delay discussion on an item. Items scheduled to be heard at a specific time will be heard no earlier than the stated time but may be heard later.

**Posting of Agenda.** Pursuant to NRS 241.020(4)(b), the agenda for the Trustees’ meeting has been posted at the following locations: Washoe County Courthouse, Washoe County Administration building, Downtown Reno Library, Incline Village Library, North Valleys Library, Northwest Reno Library, Sierra View Library, South Valleys Library, Spanish Springs Library, and Sparks Library. Further, in compliance with NRS 241.010, this notice has been posted on the official website for the Washoe County Library System at [www.washoecountylibrary.us](http://www.washoecountylibrary.us) and at <https://notice.nv.gov>.

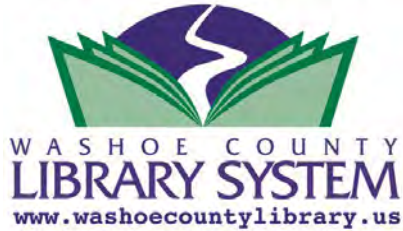
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**LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION**  
301 South Center Street | PO Box 2151, Reno NV 89505  
(775) 327-8341 | [www.washoecountylibrary.us](http://www.washoecountylibrary.us)



The Board of Trustees may take action only on the items below that are preceded by the words “For Possible Action.” The Board will not take action on any other items.

- 1) Call to Order [Non-Action Item]
- 2) Roll Call and Determination of Quorum [Non-Action Item]
- 3) Public Comment – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action Item]  
*No discussion or action by the Board may be taken upon any matter raised under this public comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.*
- 4) Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - a) Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of June 21, 2023 [For Possible Action]
- 5) Old Business [Non-Action Item]  
None
- 6) New Business
  - a) Presentation and Discussion: Washoe County Library Strategic Plan Update by Library Director Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]
  - b) Discussion and Approval of Library Board of Trustee Bylaws for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 [For Possible Action]
- 7) Reports
  - a) Library Director Update by Director Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]
  - b) South Valleys Library Presentation by Branch Manager Julie Ullman [Non-Action Item]
  - c) Internet Librarian Presentation by John Andrews [Non-Action Item]
- 8) Staff Announcements [Non-Action Item]  
*No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.*
- 9) Board Comment [Non-Action Item] – Limited to Announcements, Strategic Plan Activity, Updates or Issues Proposed for Future Agendas and/or Workshops.
- 10) Adjournment



**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES JUNE 21, 2023  
4:00 P.M.**

**The Board met in regular session in a hybrid format via Zoom webinar and in person.**

Chair Ghilieri called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**1) ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: Amy Ghilieri  
Frank Perez  
Lea Moser  
Ann Medaille  
Al Rogers

Board Members Absent: None

County Staff Present: Library Director Jeff Scott  
Assistant District Attorney Brandon Price  
Assistant County Manager David Solaro

**2) Public Comment**

The following members of the public commented in opposition to the drag queen story time (DQST) event: Christ Noht, Jim Lyon, Janet Butcher, Nichelle Hull, Fred and Victoria Myer, Robi Avelar, Liza Cabria, Rebecca Andrews, Susan Califa, Nancy Carlson, Joseph Schulz, Bruce Parks, Sandy and Gary Burnell, Linda Robins, Jason Coursey, Agnes Boutte, Cheryl Anderson, Yolanda Knaak, Sophie Bush, Mikhail Ivanov, Sara Hadden, Ed Forrest, John and Marlene Ciaffi, and Dale Elias.

Valeri Fiannaca pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Reva Crump welcomed new Board Trustee Al Rogers. She stated she had emailed the Library Trustees but did not receive a response; although she received a reply from Library Director Jeff Scott, Ms. Crump noted she was not happy with his reply. She suggested the main Library web page be updated.

### **3) Approval of Meeting Minutes**

#### a) Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of May 21, 2023

Bruce Parks expressed opposition to the brevity of the Board minutes.

On motion by Trustee Lea Moser, seconded by Vice Chair Frank Perez, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the minutes of the May 21, 2023 Library Board of Trustees meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

### **4) Old Business**

None

### **5) New Business**

#### a) Election of Chair for Library Board of Trustees for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Chair Amy Ghilieri nominated Vice Chair Frank Perez as Library Board of Trustees Chair for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Vice Chair Perez stated he would not want the position and nominated Amy Ghilieri for reappointment, stating he felt she had done an excellent job the past year and would prefer to see her continue in the role.

Bruce Parks commented in opposition of Amy Ghilieri being reappointed as Chair.

Ann Henson opined the Board should wait until 6:00 PM before voting on the next Chair and Vice Chair.

Nichelle Hull asked Assistant District Attorney Brandon Price about agenda changes and elections for Chair and Vice Chair.

On motion by Vice Chair Frank Perez, seconded by Trustee Moser, which motion duly carried, the Board reappointed Amy Ghilieri as Library Board of Trustees Chair for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

b) Election of Vice-Chair for Library Board of Trustees for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Trustee Lea Moser thanked the Board members and Chair Amy Ghilieri for their service and maintaining order during the meetings.

Bruce Parks commented in opposition of the appointment of any current Library Board members to the Vice Chair role.

Trustee Moser nominated Trustee Frank Perez for Vice Chair.

On motion by Trustee Moser, seconded by Chair Amy Ghilieri, which motion duly carried, the Board approved Frank Perez as Library Board of Trustees Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Vice Chair Frank Perez stated it would be an honor for him to serve as Vice Chair for the Board. He added he was proud of staff and the Library System and enjoyed being a part of the Library Board of Trustees.

Trustee Moser thanked everyone for being amicable and looked forward to seeing how the Board progressed in the next year.

c) Appointment of One Library Board Trustee as Friends of Washoe County Library Liaison for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Bruce Parks, Victoria Myer, and Nichelle Hull commented in opposition of the Friends of Washoe County Library.

Janet Butcher stated she wanted to see the Board appoint a liaison who would be fair and whom the public could trust.

Trustee Lea Moser asked whether any of the Trustees were interested in accepting the appointment as Liaison to the Friends of the Washoe County Library.

Vice Chair Frank Perez opined that appointing a Trustee who did not currently hold a role (such as Chair or Vice Chair) could be beneficial, and he thought Trustee Moser would be a good fit as liaison.

Trustee Moser indicated she would be interested in the position.

Vice Chair Perez commented he thought highly of Trustee Moser and felt she was very engaged with the public.

On motion by Vice Chair Perez, seconded by Chair Amy Ghilieri, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the appointment of Trustee Lea Moser to the role of Liaison to the Friends of the Washoe County Library for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. All in favor; none opposed.

d) Approval of Library Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule/Service Team Presentation Cycle for 2023-2024

Library Director Jeff Scott reviewed proposed dates for the 2023-2024 Library Board of Trustees Meetings/Service Team Presentation Cycle.

Trustee Perez asked whether 4:00 PM worked for all the Trustees or if a different time might be better, but it was decided the meeting schedule and times would remain as proposed.

On motion by Trustee Lea Moser, seconded by Vice Chair Frank Perez, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the Library Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule/Service Team Presentation Cycle for 2023-2024. All in favor; none opposed.

e) Approval of Library Holiday and Closure schedule for Fiscal Years 2023-2025

Bruce Parks expressed concerns regarding the holiday closure schedule, and wanted to know what the Library would be doing to promote the holidays.

Frank Meyer wanted to know why he could not have access to Library branches when staff were present there and expressed a desire to see a clearer schedule.

On motion by Vice Chair Frank Perez, seconded by Trustee Lea Moser, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the Library Holiday and Closure Schedule for Fiscal Years 2023-2025. All in favor; none opposed.

f) Approval of Library Board of Trustee Bylaws for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Bruce Parks opined the Bylaws did not reflect what was posted, pointed out that some dates did not appear to be accurate, and stated he wanted to see the Board follow the Bylaws by specification.

Reva Crump commented regarding changing the meeting times, and stated she would

like to see the item on the Library Board's next meeting agenda. She stated it would be good for all Board members to agree on a time.

Trustee Lea Moser asked Assistant District Attorney Brandon Price whether the Board could propose a change to the suggested meeting times; Assistant District Attorney Price indicated this was possible.

Trustee Moser indicated she would consider proposing modifying the meeting time from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, to include web-based meetings.

Vice Chair Perez suggested he would also consider supporting a change to move the meeting time to 5:00 PM.

Chair Amy Ghilieri expressed openness to the suggested changes but indicated further discussion would need to wait for a future meeting.

- g) Presentation and Discussion: Washoe County Library Strategic Plan Update by Library Director Jeff Scott

Director Scott reviewed updates regarding the Library System's Strategic Plan, book vending machines recently installed in Cold Springs and the Sun Valley teen center, a book promotion on KOLO TV, the Sparks Library renovation including installation of new carpet, the commencement of the Summer Reading Program and kickoff promotions at different branches. He discussed recent staff day training events, the hiring of two new Library Assistant IIIs and the promotion of Jamie Hemingway to the role of Development Officer, and the hiring of new Assistant Library Director, Stacy McKenzie. Director Scott mentioned the Rainbow Fest and Drag Queen Story Time events had been well-attended and successful.

- h) Presentation of Proposed Collection Development Policy by Library Collection Development Manager, Debi Stears; Discussion of Proposed Collection Development Policy (also known as Book Selection); and Approval of Collection Development Policy

The above Agenda Item was postponed for a future meeting.

- i) Presentation of Proposed Interlibrary Loan Policy by Library Collection Development Manager Debi Stears; Discussion of Interlibrary Loan Policy; and Approval of Interlibrary Loan Policy

The above Agenda Item was postponed for a future meeting.



- j) Presentation and Discussion: Washoe County Library Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by Library Director Jeff Scott

Director Scott reviewed an overview and breakdown of the Library's funding, explaining that funds typically came from four areas: the Washoe County General Fund, the Expansion Fund, the Friends of the Washoe County library, and Gift Funds. Most funding was utilized for staff and benefits, services, and supplies. Director Scott also discussed the Expansion Tax, which was due to sunset or end in 2024. He noted Expansion Tax funds had been used to renovate some of the library branches.

## 6) Reports

- a) Library Director Update, including hiring, Library Board of Trustees Appointment, and future Library projects by Director Jeff Scott

Director Scott mentioned there had been a great turnout for Drag Queen Story Time, with the Reno Gazette-Journal and other news media outlets covering the event; he noted he would be sharing some of the coverage during the next Library Board meeting in July. Director Scott noted new Assistant Library Director Stacy McKenzie had been hired and would be introduced at the July meeting. He also welcomed newly appointed Trustee Al Rogers.

- b) Incline Village Library Presentation by Branch Manager John Crockett

Incline Village Branch Manager John Crockett conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was included in the Board packet. He explained the branch focus was to support the Library System's strategic goals, serve the community, and maintain and improve the unique Incline Village facility. The branch was now open to the public on Saturdays, and staff were working on a plan to maintain services during inclement weather. The Incline Village branch was also participating in the Summer Reading Challenge with a kickoff block party. Mr. Crockett said the lending book kiosk had been a huge success, with tons of books being checked out; a new Zoom room was available at the branch, and members from the Incline and Crystal Bay communities had utilized the room for job fairs and interviews. He welcomed rehired Library Aide Phyllis Rogers and new Library Assistant II, Louise Whewell. He congratulated long time staff member Robin Barnett for 15 years of service, and Natalie Villegas for 5 years of service. He also thanked the 4 volunteers who regularly served at the branch, with a combined 38 years of experience.

c) Outreach Team Presentation by North Valleys Branch Manager Jonnica Bowen

North Valleys Branch Manager Jonnica reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was provided in the Board packet, regarding recent Outreach Team activities, such as Farm Day at the Rancho San Rafael Park staff helped to promote library services and issuance of library cards. The Outreach Team also assisted with the Incline Village job fair, and setup of the Sun Valley and Cold Springs book kiosks.

**7) Staff Announcements**

North Valleys Branch Manager Jonnica Bowen took a moment to thank her colleagues publicly for their support in several recent events.

**8) Board Comment**

New Trustee Al Rogers introduced himself briefly, and thanked Library Director Scott and the Board for the opportunity to serve as a Board member.

Chair Amy Ghilieri welcomed Trustee Rogers and stated it would be nice to finally have a full Board and able to meet quorums.

Vice Chair Frank Perez also welcomed Trustee Rogers to the Board and the members of staff and the public in attendance. He discussed the need for public commenters to treat each other with respect regardless of their differences in opinion. He wanted to know whether security staff was present; Director Scott responded that there were not security staff present, but the Incline Sheriff was aware of the meeting.

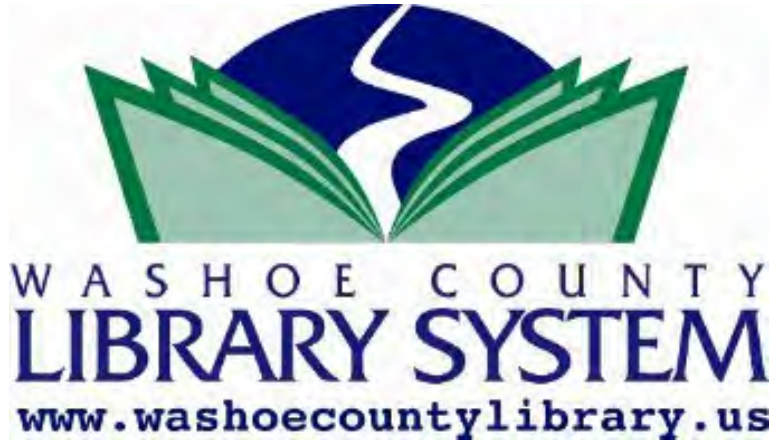
Vice Chair Perez indicated he would like to see a more detailed plan regarding the Expansion Tax from Director Scott, particularly regarding the campaign efforts being planned, as it was a very important ballot initiative.

**9) Adjournment**

Chair Ghilieri adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm.

July 2023

# Washoe County Library Strategic Plan Update



1

## Stimulate Imagination

- Book Vending Machines installed
- Sun Valley Kiosk has over 80 checkouts since going live in June.
- Cold Springs Kiosk was vandalized with the glass broken. We are waiting for timeline for repair.
- Bookmobile may be acquired mid-August



2

## Welcoming Spaces

- Lit Fiber to Gerlach project scheduled for completion July 24
- Legal Kiosk Project
- Planning for future library improvements at Spanish Springs, South Valleys, and Senior Center Libraries
- ADA Restroom Downtown Entering next phase
- Additional Zoom Rooms at Sparks, Sierra View, and Northwest Reno Library via LSTA Nevada State Library Grant
- Kids Café ongoing at our libraries where children can access to a meal while enjoying the library. This program is available at:
  - North Valleys Library
  - Sparks Library
  - Downtown Reno Library
  - Sierra View Library



3



## School Support

Baby's First Library Card project has issued over 11 library cards to new parents since the program launched in June.

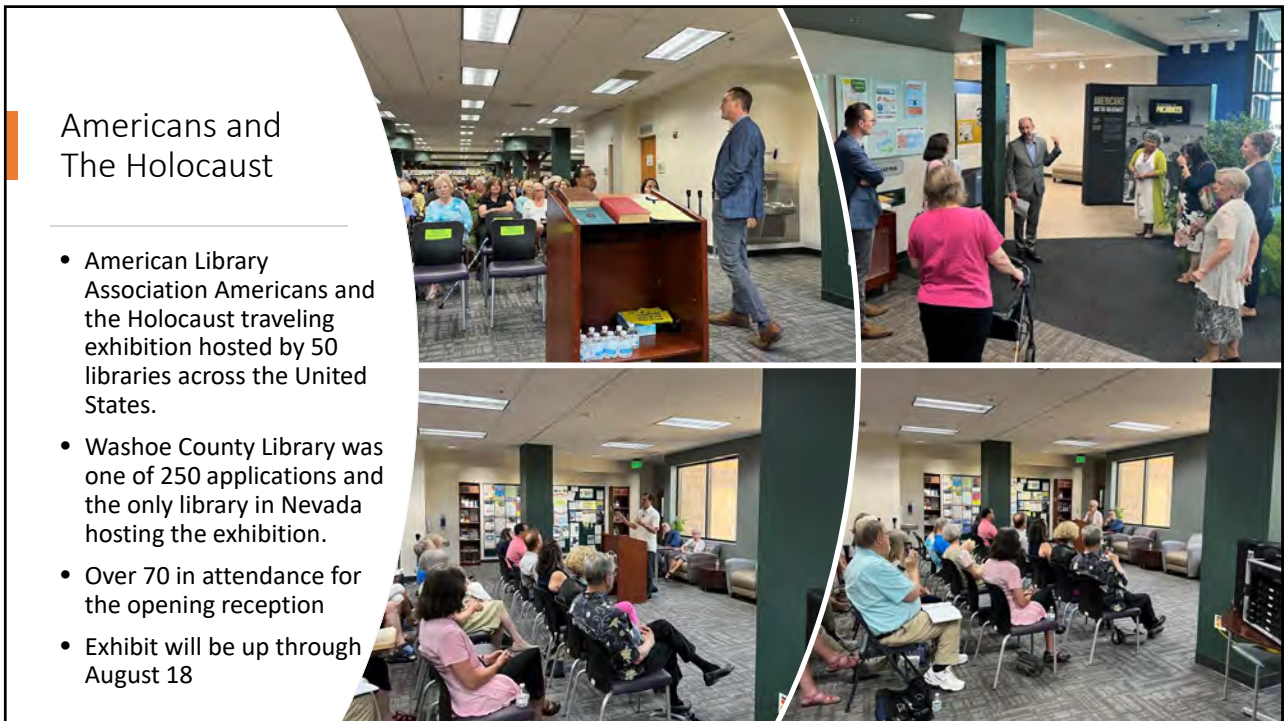
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## Celebrate Diversity

- Drag Story Hour a huge success at Downtown Reno and North Valleys Libraries
- Over 100 in attendance at Downtown Reno Library had to provide an impromptu Rainbow Storytime outside
- Over 100 at North Valleys Library for storytime
- We thank our partners at Our Center for their support for this program

5



## Americans and The Holocaust

- American Library Association Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibition hosted by 50 libraries across the United States.
- Washoe County Library was one of 250 applications and the only library in Nevada hosting the exhibition.
- Over 70 in attendance for the opening reception
- Exhibit will be up through August 18

6

# Celebrate Diversity

- Will begin work on increased partnerships with a focus on access for monolingual Spanish Speakers.
- Categories for initial DEI plans:
  - Monolingual Spanish Speakers
  - African American
  - Asian American
  - Indigenous
  - LGBTQ
  - Americans with Disabilities
  - Seniors
  - Veterans
  - Houseless



7



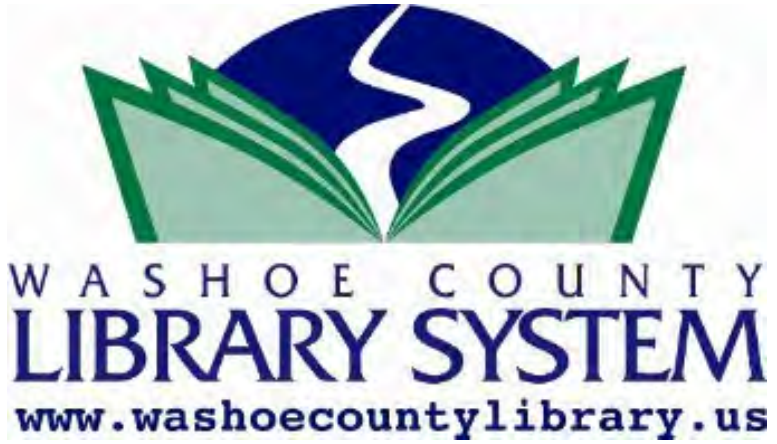
# Promote the Library

- Planning for renewal of Tax Initiative with plans starting in August.
- Forming of groups
- Fundraising
- Plan of Action

8

THANK YOU

Washoe  
County  
Library  
Strategic  
Plan Update



# Washoe County Library Board of Trustees

## Bylaws

The Board of Trustees of the Washoe County Library System, pursuant to the authority vested by Nevada Revised Statutes 379.025, hereby establishes the following bylaws:

### I. Purpose

The Washoe County Library Board of Trustees shall, consistent with provisions of applicable state and federal law, exercise the powers and duties granted pursuant to NRS 379.025. The Board shall endeavor to administer and manage the resources of the Washoe County Library System in a manner consistent with the public trust, the Library Mission Statement, and the Library Vision Statement.

### II. Organization and Membership

A. The name of the organization shall be “The Board of Trustees of the Washoe County Library System”

#### B. Membership:

1. The Board of Trustees will be comprised of five (5) members.
2. Trustees will be appointed by the Washoe County Board of Commissioners.
3. Trustees will meet the minimum requirements as determined by the Washoe County Board of Commissioners.
4. Trustees will serve a 4-year term, as provided in NRS 379.020.
5. Trustees will be eligible for no more than two full four-year terms. Any appointment for the remainder of a term of less than 2 years will not count toward this limitation. In the event a Trustee’s term expires, the Trustee ~~may~~ shall continue to serve as Trustee until such time a replacement is appointed pursuant to NRS 379.020(1). ~~Notwithstanding~~ the term limitation set forth herein, ~~Nothing~~ in this provision shall be construed to prohibit the reappointment of a trustee for additional terms to be served after a break of one term of non-service prior to re-appointment.
6. Resignation: If any Trustee resigns at any time, written notice must be provided to the Board of Trustees Chair and the Library Director. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of receipt of such notice or at any later date specified therein; ~~and~~ unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
7. Removal: The board of county commissioners may remove any trustee who fails, without cause, to attend three successive meetings of the trustees.



~~7.~~

C. Trustees are public officers as defined in NRS 281.005(1) and NRS 281A.160(1). Accordingly, ~~Trustees~~ ~~4365~~ and are subject to the Ethics in Government Provisions codified in NRS 281A.010 et. seq. Trustees shall comply with the Code of Ethical Standards of NRS 281A.400 et. seq.

D. Duties of a Trustee:

1. Regularly attend meetings and actively participate in such meetings and actions;
2. Review meeting materials prior to each meeting;
- ~~3.~~ 3. Be attentive to the needs and concerns of library patrons, volunteers, library staff, library administration, county staff, county commissioners and the general public;
- ~~3.~~
- ~~4.~~ 4. Set policies governing the operation of the library system as appropriate;
- ~~a.~~
- ~~5.~~ 5. Hire and evaluate the job performance of the Library Director;
- ~~b.~~
- ~~6.~~ 6. Work with the Director, library staff, community members, and political leaders to plan for the future of the library system;
- ~~e.~~
- ~~7.~~ 7. Acknowledge the annual budget for the library system, and monitor expenditures;
- ~~d.~~
- ~~8.~~ 8. Monitor and evaluate library effectiveness; and
- ~~e.~~
- ~~f.~~ 9. Advocate for the Washoe County Library System within the community and political organizations, as appropriate

### III. Officers

A. Chair

1. Selection.
  - a. The ~~e~~Chair will be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees who are present at the meeting.
  - b. The term will be for one-year at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees.
  - c. Elections shall be held at the regular Board of Trustees meeting each June.
2. Duties. The chair shall:

- a. Preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees;
- b. Execute all documents and actions authorized by the Board of Trustees;
- c. Call special meetings as warranted;
- d. Appoint committees;
- e. Serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of all committees;
- f. Work with the Library Director and staff;
- g. Review agendas and assist in scheduling meetings;
- h. Add or remove items on each meeting agenda;
- i. Draft correspondence as directed by the Board of Trustees; and
- j. Perform all duties associated with the office.

B. Vice-Chair

1. Selection

- a. The ~~Vice-Chair~~ will be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees who are present at the meeting.
- b. The term will be for one year ~~and is renewable~~ at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees.
- c. Elections shall be held at the regular Board of Trustees meeting each June.
- d. In the event the ~~Vice-Chair~~ must ~~permanently~~ assume the duties of ~~Chair~~ for the one-year term because the Chair is no longer able to serve in that capacity, an election for a new ~~Vice-Chair~~ will be held at the next meeting following the succession.

2. Duties. The ~~Vice-Chair~~ shall:

- a. In the event of the absence or disability of the ~~Chair~~, or of a vacancy in the office, the ~~Vice-Chair~~ shall assume and perform all duties associated with that office. In the event of an absence or short-term disability of the ~~Chair~~, the ~~Vice-Chair~~ shall assume the duties of the ~~Chair~~ for the period of his/her absence or disability. In the event the ~~Chair~~ is permanently vacated, the ~~Vice-Chair~~ shall assume the office of the ~~Chairperson~~ for the remainder of the vacated term.

IV. Meetings

- A. Regular meetings: The Board of Trustees will normally meet monthly, on the third Wednesday of each month, ~~at 5:40 p.m.~~ The time of the meetings will be set at the discretion of the Chair of the Board of trustees. Trustees may change the time and date of meeting by a vote of the membership. The Chair shall have the authority to cancel a regularly scheduled meeting in the event it is determined, after consultation

with the Library Director, that there is insufficient business to come before the Board or that other good cause exists to cancel the meeting.

- B. Meeting locations: When possible, the Board of Trustees will normally hold regular meetings on a rotational basis at Washoe County Library locations. A calendar of possible meeting locations will be provided annually to the Board of Trustees. Meetings may be held virtually at the Chair's discretion pursuant to the requirements of NRS Chapter 241.
- C. Nevada Open Meeting Law: All meetings of the Board are subject to the provisions of state and federal open meeting laws and shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable laws. The Library Director shall be responsible for ensuring the proper public notice is made for each meeting of the Board. Trustees should endeavor to refrain from discussing agenda items or actions by the Board outside of public meetings in groups that may constitute a quorum.
- D. Agendas: The Director shall ensure the preparation of the agenda for each Board meeting and the compliance with the applicable open meetings laws. An item may be placed on the agenda at the request of any Trustee or by written request by any individual to the Director 15 days prior to the scheduled meeting.
- E. Pertinent Materials: The Director shall ensure that notices and informational materials pertinent to any agenda item for any Board meeting shall be distributed to Trustees, Board legal counsel and anyone with a written request of notification on file with the Board no later than 9 a.m. of the third working day before the meeting to ensure adequate time for review. In addition, pertinent materials shall also be posted on the Board of Trustees web site no later than 9 a.m. of the third working day before a scheduled meeting.
- F. Quorum: A minimum of three Trustees must be present to have a quorum. ~~and a~~ majority vote of those present at the meeting is required on any action items on the agenda for said action to be of any legal effect.
- G. The Director, or his duly appointed representative, shall attend each meeting of the Board.
- H. Special meetings: Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the ~~e~~Chair or upon the written request of any two Trustees.

I. Order of Business: To the extent possible, the order of business at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Board shall be:

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Public comment
- Review/approval of minutes
- Old business
- New business
- Presentations
- Reports
- [Public comment](#)
- Board comment
- Staff Announcements
- Adjournment

J. Where consistent with state law, and not otherwise provided in these Rules of Procedure, the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees may refer to the principles of the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order for guidance in conducting its meetings.

K. Committees: Committees shall be created as needed by the Chair, shall have a specific purpose, shall report regularly as to progress in completing their charge, shall be subject to annual review as needed, and shall automatically dissolve upon the completion of their charge.

L. Annual Bylaws Review: The Bylaws herein can be revised as needed by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. Any proposed revisions must be placed on an agenda and addressed in a public meeting in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. The Bylaws shall be reviewed at least annually at the regular June meeting of the Board of Trustees, or as soon thereafter in the event reasonable grounds exist so that the Bylaws cannot be reviewed during the June meeting.

DATED this ~~1<sup>st</sup>~~-~~19<sup>th</sup>~~ day of July 202~~30~~

WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Amy Ghilieri

\_\_\_\_ Frank Perez

\_\_\_\_ [Anne Medaille Al Rogers](#)

\_\_\_\_ Lea Moser

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5 | Library Board of Trustee Bylaws – FY 2023/~~21~~2024

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These bylaws were presented to the Board on ~~June~~July 19 2023 and were adopted.

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Amy Ghilieri, Chair



# Library Director Update July 3, 2023



Scott, Jeff  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

## Library Director Update July

Good morning, Happy Fourth of July!

We are midway through our Summer Reading Program. Attendance has been outstanding at our programs and events. There is still a lot going on, so I will try to catch you up.

## New Assistant Library Director Stacy McKenzie

Please welcome our new Assistant Library Director Stacy McKenzie! She comes to us from Lubbock Texas and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our library. Please say hello when you see her. We will plan tours of all of our facilities so you get an opportunity to meet with her.

## Drag Story Hour Follow-up

Everyone did fantastic for our Drag Story Hours. We were over capacity at Downtown Reno Library and a great showing at North Valley Library a few days later. Our patrons in all parts of our community enjoy this program. It is a great way to demonstrate everyone is welcome at our libraries.

## RGJ: Drag queen story hour returns to Washoe County libraries by Mark Robison

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/local/2023/05/16/drag-queen-story-hour-washoe-county-libraries-2023/70220212007/>

## KUNR: Librarians, volunteers prepare for Drag Story Hour with training KUNR Public Radio | By Jose Davila IV

<https://www.kunr.org/local-stories/2023-06-14/librarians-volunteers-prepare-drag-story-hour-training>

## KUNR: Drag Story Hour sees capacity crowd at Downtown Reno Library

<https://www.kunr.org/local-stories/2023-06-16/washoe-county-library-system-drag-story-hour>

Sierra Nevada Ally: Standing room only at fabulous first Drag Queen Story Time: The family-friendly event kicked off with little issues and lots of rainbows and camaraderie. BY WILL HOUK

<https://sierranevadaally.org/2023/06/16/standing-room-only-at-fabulous-first-drag-queen-story-time/>

RGJ: Families pack downtown Reno library for Drag Queen Story Hour

"It's a celebration of being a person and expressing joy," said Reno mom Emily Davis. "Parents are making the choice for their own children."

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2023/06/15/drag-queen-story-hour-library-downtown-reno-nevada-protest/70327733007/>

RGJ Photo Album of Event: <https://www.rgj.com/picture-gallery/news/2023/06/15/photos-drag-queen-story-hour-downtown-reno-library/12113139002/>

### **Sierra Nevada Ally: As book bans rise, could Nevada libraries offer solutions?**

LGBTQ+ titles once again top the list of most challenged books nationwide. BY NOAH GLICK

<https://sierranevadaally.org/2023/06/29/as-book-bans-rise-could-nevada-libraries-offer-solutions/>

We can anticipate similar stories about our collection from the Nevada Independent and the RGJ soon.

### **Holocaust Exhibition: Americans and the Holocaust from the American Library Association at the Northwest Reno Library**

<https://washoelife.washoecounty.gov/library-system/americans-and-the-holocaust-traveling-exhibition-coming-to-northwest-reno-library/>

The exhibit will be up from July 7<sup>th</sup> to August 18<sup>th</sup>, with an opening reception planned for Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

### **Book Vending Machine at Sun Valley News Coverage**

<https://www.kolotv.com/video/2023/06/16/book-kiosks-bring-books-literature-deserts/>

### **Bookmobile Purchase Pending**

We have a Van in stock that will meet our needs. We should be able to bring this to the BCC for approval soon.

### **LBOT Appointment**

We will have one more appointment happening soon.

### **Cold Springs Book Vending Machine Vandalism**

We had someone break the glass for the Book Vending Machine at Cold Springs. We are currently working with our insurance to replace books and repair the glass. We should have this machine in operation soon.



### Mercury Spill at Spanish Springs Library

Last Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, library staff discovered a mercury spill in the parking lot of the Spanish Springs Library. I want to thank the quick work of the library staff to keep everyone safe. This is the initial report from Kelly Echeverria, our Emergency Operations Center Manager:

“This afternoon (June 29) 10ml of mercury was found in the parking lot of the Spanish Springs Library. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District was able to secure the scene and the Washoe County Health District quickly joined them on site. 72 individuals were briefly sequestered in the library until the appropriate steps to safely remove them from the property were identified. A request came through Emergency Management for a notification to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and for the potential use of a mercury vapor analyzer. US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and WCHD were able to identify the safest process for releasing the individuals in the Library and for remediating the parking lot and inside the library.”



Photo of Mercury at Spani...

Clean Harbor came out Thursday evening and did quick work to clean the area. EPA came out on Friday to give us the

go-ahead to open on Sunday. The mercury in the parking lot will naturally evaporate. The spot is marked off and should not pose a further threat. We do not know the cause of this incident, but it is unlikely intentional. Big thanks to Jana, Aurora, and Lynsy for coordinating information from Truckee Meadows Fire to our patrons (we had a senior fair out there at the same time as this incident) and communicating with library management for support.



Hazmat Crews Handling Spanish Sprin...





Truckee Meadows Fire & Resc... · 3m · ...

Confirmed small Mercury spill at Spanish Springs Library. @SparksFireDept and #TMFR on scene. Out of abundance of caution, library patrons/employees are confined to facility until cleanup and confirmation of no further contamination. Library is CLOSED indefinitely.



Washoe County and 4 others

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## As book bans rise, could Nevada libraries offer solutions?

LGBTQ+ titles once again top the list of most challenged books nationwide.

BY NOAH GLICK • CIVICS • JUNE 29, 2023





*The Northwest Reno library branch. Photo credit Black Hawk Virtual Media / Courtesy Washoe County Libraries*

Banning books that contain ideas certain people don't like is not a new idea. Yet, censorship in the form of challenging whether books should be available in school and libraries is at a record high. Across the country, parents, activists and provocateurs are especially pushing to remove material including LGBTQ+ themes and content.

Last year, the American Library Association (ALA) reported a new record number of book challenges. 2,571 unique titles were challenged in 2022, compared to 1,858 unique titles in 2021 and just 223 in 2020.

### CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE

The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubled the number reported in 2021. The number of unique titles targeted marked a 38% increase over 2021.

CENSORSHIP  
STATISTICS  
COMPILED BY:



OFFICE FOR  
*Intellectual Freedom*  
American Library Association

### NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR



A report from the American Library Association shows a steep rise in book challenges beginning in 2021. Credit ALA

Last year, 30% of all book challenges came from parents, while 17% were initiated by political or religious groups. Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, the ALA's 2022-2023 president, said these groups do not represent the view of most communities.

"In March of 2022, ALA did a study of voters across party lines (so red, blue, independent, conservative, liberal) and found that 71% of voters were opposed to book challenges, were opposed to removing books from public libraries," Pelayo-Lozada told the *Sierra Nevada Ally*.

So why are there a record number of book challenges happening? Pelayo-Lozada said a concerted effort is underway, as part of a larger political movement.

“It used to be a one-to-one situation. One individual would ask for one title, or maybe two titles, to be removed from the library. But what we’re seeing now is an organized effort to challenge multiple books at one time,” Pelayo-Lozada said.

The ALA releases an annual list of the top 10 most challenged books, and in 2022, LGBTQ+ titles and content led the list. Seven of the 13 titles that were most challenged (four titles tied for 10<sup>th</sup> place) were done so because of LGBTQ+ content. All titles in the top 13 were claimed to be sexually explicit, with Toni Morrison’s “The Bluest Eye” being challenged because it had equity, diversity and inclusion content.

# TOP 13 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2022

**ALA.ORG/BBOOKS** **ALA**AmericanLibraryAssociation

The director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, emphasized the scope of the problem in the organization's annual *State of America's Libraries* report.

"These numbers . . . are evidence of a growing, well-organized, conservative political movement whose goals include removing books addressing race, history, gender identity, sexuality, and reproductive health from America's public libraries and school libraries that do not meet their approval," Caldwell-Stone wrote.

While it may seem like this rise of book challenges is representative of a shift in attitudes, the ALA's Pelayo-Lozada said that's not the case.

"It's really important to for us to understand that it's not all of us, but if the 71% of us who are against it come together, then we can be even louder, and we can put a stop to all of this," she said.

## **How a book gets challenged**

The process to get a book banned depends on the individual community and library and their guidelines. The process is often like this:

1. An individual or group requests that a book be removed from the library's collection.
2. A librarian will meet with the person one-on-one to discuss why they want the content removed.
3. Most of the time, that is the end of it. But if the requester is not satisfied:
  - They would likely fill out a form with the title and reason for the challenge.
  - A committee may be formed, which will then read the book and send a response to the request.
  - If the person is still unsatisfied, they may go to a public hearing of the Library Board.

Debi Stears is the collection development librarian for Washoe County Libraries, which follows the same process. She's essentially in charge of deciding what materials get added to the overall collection.

"It's really a thrill to try to say actually. It's a great metaphor for living in Nevada, because it's really a bit like gambling. You read about a book that's coming out and we kind of place a wager on do we think folks in our community want to read that book," Stears said. "We're very careful that we want to spend our money well, and buy the things that people want to read. And so every every title we look at, we try to anticipate, 'Is there a reader for that book?'"

She points to the library's [collection development policy](#) if there are ever any questions about whether or not they should acquire certain materials.

"When we're looking at a title and thinking, 'Boy, I don't know if that's a good fit for the collection,' we literally pull out that collection development policy and walk through [it] and remind ourselves, 'What's the framework for what we're trying to do? And does this fit that framework?'" Stears said.

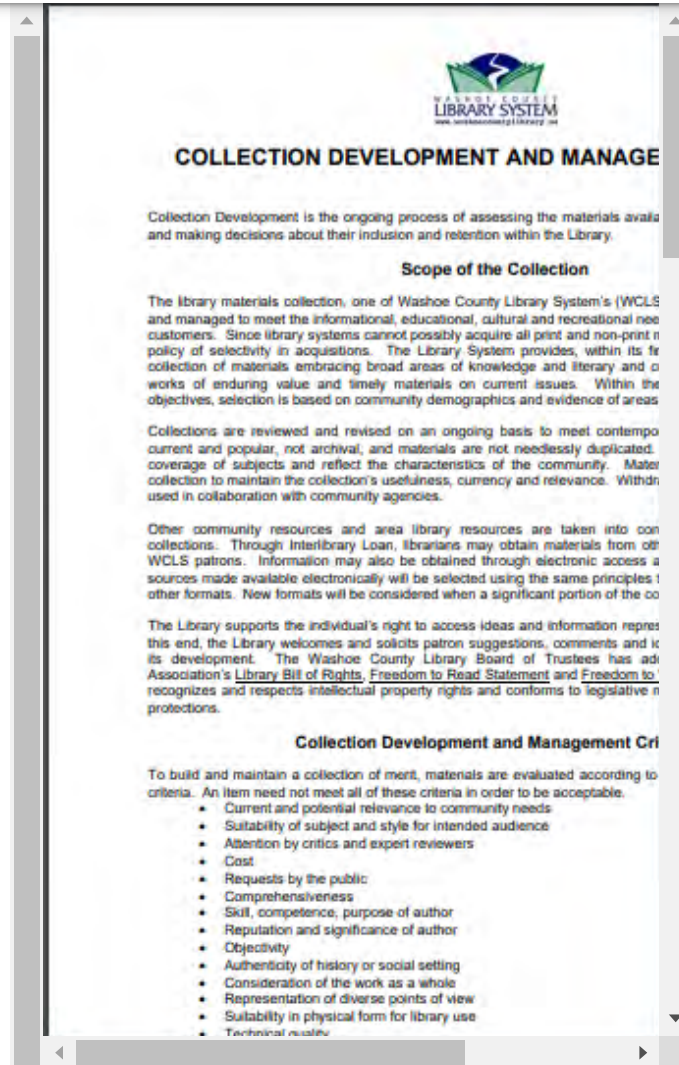




1



2



Washoe County Libraries Collection Development Policy

[Download](#)

Ultimately, Stears said it's the job of public libraries to provide titles that local residents want, as well as expose them to a variety of viewpoints, experiences and content.

"We don't steer away from controversial topics, but we do really try to make sure that we're representing multiple viewpoints on that topic. And we definitely encounter things that we don't personally agree with. And part of the



usefulness of going back to that form is to remind ourselves of the bigger goal of the collection that we're building, that we're not building our own personal libraries to reflect our interest. We're building a collection to reflect the interest of the entire community," she said.

For example, the Northwest Reno branch has a Holocaust collection, which Stears said was created to serve a specific need.

"Sadly, Holocaust titles are coming under attack...Because the state of Nevada does not have a Holocaust Museum, there is a statewide effort to make sure that we are addressing the history and not forgetting the Holocaust," Stears said.



PRESENTED BY:

ALA American Library Association

UNITED STATES MEMORIAL HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
www.washoecountylibrary.us

# AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST

July 7 – August 18, 2023  
Northwest Reno Library

*The Americans and the Holocaust exhibit was created in part due to a rise in challenges related to Holocaust materials. Courtesy Washoe County Libraries*



While Stears isn't seeing a noticeable increase in book challenges in the public library system locally, she said there has been a noticeable shift.

"It used to be that public libraries were places where books were being challenged, but it appears that people are now shifting that concern to the schools saying, 'You have provided this book to my child, you've made this decision that it's okay for my child to read this book,' she said.

## **Public vs. school libraries**

The ALA reports that 51% of last year's challenges were against materials in schools and school libraries. This is a key distinction, as public libraries and school libraries fall under different jurisdictions. Public libraries are usually managed by county or municipal governments, while school libraries fall under the school districts and the Department of Education.

"In public libraries, we really view ourselves as partners with the parents. But we recognize that authority and responsibility rests with the parents, that we're not taking that responsibility on for ourselves. With schools, they are there in the place of parents, and so they have a much higher burden in determining what is appropriate for children," Stears said.

The person who has that burden in determining what is appropriate in schools is Kindra Fox. She is the director of secondary curriculum and instruction for the Washoe County School District.

"We have state standards around libraries and media specialists. So our librarians curate a collection of books that is great, developmentally appropriate, but also tries to give all students the ability to see themselves in books. So we are careful about what books we put in the library to make sure they're appropriate. However, we do like to make sure that students can go find a book that that they can engage with," Fox said.

“It’s a really fine line these days.”

Fox mentioned in Middle School libraries in particular, it can be difficult to get the right mix of materials. Many sixth graders aren’t ready for young adult books, while eighth graders who are about to enter High School need books that have more depth. But, parents have a choice when it comes to what their kids access at school. In Washoe County schools, parents have the option to restrict their child from checking out particular titles from the library – without removing the title for the rest of the students.

“Our premise is the parent is definitely the first line of defense, so to speak, for what they want their child to engage in. But they don’t get to say what other children are able to read. If a parent then says, ‘I don’t want that book in the library at all,’ then they usually work with the librarian and the principal to determine maybe if it was misplaced,” Fox explained.

This policy can help to keep books from being challenged locally, but Fox said she still runs into the occasional issues.

“What we see more often is when a Language Arts teacher, English teacher, reading teacher has a book on their reading list that the parent is not fond of. We’ve seen more of that rise over the last three or four years than anything else,” Fox said.

To help students and the community get materials they need, the Washoe County School District is working with the public library system.

“One of the things we allow students to do is when their parents register them in Infinite Campus (the district’s student information system), they can select that they would like to get a Washoe County Library card. And when they click yes for that, we share that information with the public library. The public library issues the student a library number, and then they can go check out books if they don’t already have a library card,” Fox said.

Debi Stears with Washoe County Libraries agrees and said this is the ultimate aim of libraries: to provide the community with equal access to information and different kinds of ideas.

“Our goal is to make sure that as a community member, you are finding something in the library that does speak to what your interest is. And of course, the risk of that is there may be things that that very much are contrary to what you would care to engage in.”

*Editor’s Note: At the Sierra Nevada Ally, we believe in the humanity of all people, including those who identify as LGBTQ+ and we will not engage in any debate that argues otherwise.*

*A previous version of this story incorrectly identified Lessa Pelayo-Lozada as Lessa Pelayo-Loza. We apologize and have corrected the error.*

*The Sierra Nevada Ally is now available as a [podcast](#)! You can listen to the latest audio news reports from our team on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Amazon Music](#), or by searching “Sierra Nevada Ally” wherever you listen.*



**Author**

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**NOAH GLICK**

Noah Glick is an award-winning journalist, audio and podcast producer, and writer, whose work has been heard nationally on NPR, Marketplace, Here & Now, and more. He is a multiple regional Edward R. Murrow Award winner for his reporting on climate, energy, and housing.

Noah brings his years of experience to the Sierra Nevada Ally, where he will serve as Executive Editor, overseeing the organization’s content strategy, audio production, and editorial oversight. His goal is to create content that helps readers become more informed about the world around them and to inspire everyone to think more critically and see the world with a little more kindness and understanding.

When not mixing audio or writing podcasts, Noah can mostly be found at home with his family or out on a lake with a kayak.

**Related Articles**

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LOCAL

# Drag queen story hour returns to Washoe County libraries



**Mark Robison**

Reno Gazette Journal

Published 7:00 a.m. PT May 16, 2023

Drag queen story hour is making a return engagement for 2023 at Washoe County libraries, this time with help from Our Center.

The nonprofit Our Center bills itself as Northern Nevada’s LGBTQIA community center.

Many of its clients and volunteers had been part of efforts in previous years to keep drag story hours safe and family friendly, said Stacey Spain, Our Center’s programming and operations manager.

“So we just decided to assist more clearly this year,” she said.

The scheduled dates – all from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – are:

June 15 at Downtown Reno Library

June 17 at North Valleys Library

July 15 at Sparks Library

As with past such story hours, the readers are not paid for with tax dollars, children must be accompanied by an adult, no solo adults are allowed and the events are voluntary.

When asked why do drag queen story hours, Spain responded, “With the uptick in hate speech and activities against LGBTQ people across the country, we felt that as a community, we wanted to show up for something that’s very positive – reading to children in libraries – to show folks that we are part of the community and that there are kids in our lives, too.

“And we want folks to feel that freedom of expression and creativity and joy are all things that go along with the LGBTQIA identity.”

Washoe County Library Board of Trustees - July 19, 2023

Page 38 of 119

*Mark Robison covers local government for the Reno Gazette-Journal.*





# Drag Story Hour sees capacity crowd at Downtown Reno Library

KUNR Public Radio | By [Jose Davila IV](#)

Published June 16, 2023 at 3:44 PM PDT



LISTEN • 2:34





*Jamie Hemingway / Washoe County Library System*

Miss Ginger Devine reads to the crowd at Drag Story Hour at the Downtown Reno Library on Thursday, June 15, 2023, in Reno, Nev.

# Reno Library.

Washoe County Library System Director Jeff Scott was happy to see such a high attendance for story hour.

“This has been really successful today. We had capacity crowds, which was way higher than last year, I think,” he said. “Our auditorium capacity is 104, and so we thought we would give out bracelets up to 75 and then hold some in reserve. And, if it went over, we could kind of go over. So, we went over, and we actually had to turn kids away.”

But the children who were turned away didn’t have to go without a story hour thanks to a new partnership with local LGBTQ community hub Our Center. Our Center programming and operations manager Stacey Spain led an impromptu reading outside.

The Our Center partnership isn’t the only new part of Drag Story Hour in Washoe County libraries this summer. The library system has also added a new crafting portion after the story time. It is also expanding this event to a third library. [North Valleys Library will host a story hour on June 17](#) and there’ll be one at the Sparks Library on July 15.

Library officials and parents said that events like this one are integral to getting kids interested in books from a young age and laying the foundation so they can begin learning how to read

Miss Ginger Devine, the drag persona of Christopher Daniels, read three picture books to the crowd. As a drag queen, he tries to entertain the crowd and keep them engaged with the book – nothing more than that. He said that teaching kids about acceptance is a goal of the events.

“To be able to come here in community with other parents and other children and experience this joyous celebration is important,” Daniels said. “And, really, at the end of the day, this is about reading. Like the whole point of story hour is that these kids will be captivated by stories.”

Not everyone agreed that Drag Story Hour should go on, though. A group of residents, including Washoe Republican Party Chairman Bruce Parks, who said he was present as a “Washoe County taxpayer,” showed up to observe the event and film parts of the proceedings. They were not given access to the reading itself.

Parks and others have recently given [public comments](#) in opposition to the story hours during meetings of the Washoe County Board of Commissioners and Library Board of Trustees. They oppose having the events in public libraries and have even called the events a form of “child abuse” and “sexualization.”

library for story hour.

*Jose Davila IV is a corps member for [Report for America](#), an initiative of the [GroundTruth Project](#).*

**Tags**

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## Jose Davila IV

Jose Davila IV reports on K-12 education with a focus on Latino students and families in Northern Nevada and the Eastern Sierra. He is also a first-year Report for America corps member. Es bilingüe, su familia es de Puerto Rico, y ama los tostones de su padre más que nada.

[See stories by Jose Davila IV](#)

# Families pack downtown Reno library for Drag Queen Story Hour

*n of being a person and expressing joy,” said Reno mom Emily Davis. “Parents are ce for their own children.”*



**Mark Robison**

Reno Gazette Journal

Published 3:44 p.m. PT June 15, 2023

Colorful umbrellas and rainbow flags — as well as a handful of protesters across the street — greeted a long line of attendees Thursday at the first of three Drag Queen Story Hour library events in the Reno area.

The downtown Reno library’s auditorium hit its capacity of 102, inspiring an impromptu pop-up story time reading outside for the overflow visitors.

"It's definitely one of the highest attended story time events at the downtown Reno Library," said Jamie Hemingway of the Washoe County Library System.

Emily Davis of Reno brought four of her five children because she thought it'd be fun for them and because she thinks it's important to celebrate everybody.

"It's my son's birthday," she said. "He's been so excited that he got to go to the Drag Queen Story Hour for his birthday."

Her family had been talking about it for weeks, and they took photos afterward with performer Ginger Devine.

“They were bummed there weren’t more drag queens,” she said, laughing.

The reading downstairs featured the story of a penguin lost in the city. Some children sat on stage as Ginger read, while the littlest ones sat on parents’ laps in the audience or in the aisles.

They laughed and cheered and shouted out responses to Ginger’s asides, like “What’s an orca?”

At the end, everyone sang along to “The Goodbye Song.”

Across the street, one man read aloud Old Testament Bible verses and a woman silently rubbed prayer beads while on her knees.

One strummed a guitar and sang religious songs. Another used a video camera to record attendees and their supporters, who spun multi-colored umbrellas to block the camera’s view of families in line to get inside.

Two protesters held signs saying “Stop drag queen story time” and “Libraries are for education not immoral indoctrination.”

John Quandt talked while re-inking the signs with a marker to make them more readable from a distance.

“I received a notice that they were having men dressed up as women read stories to 3- to 5-year-olds,” he said when asked why he showed up for the event.

“Anybody that gets an invitation for something like that and doesn’t oppose it, you’ve lost touch with reality. Kids don’t understand that stuff, and you’re just confusing the heck out of them.”

Davis said she didn’t think there was anything inappropriate in learning about other people in the community who live differently than yourself.

“It’s a celebration of being a person and expressing joy,” she said. “Nobody is forcing anybody to be here. Parents are making the choice for their own children. If you don’t like it, don’t come in.”

Erin Atkinson of Sparks brought her children, ages 7 and 9.

This was their first Drag Queen Story Hour.

“We’ve wanted to come to one of these story hours for a long time to see how fun it is and to show our support for the LGBTQ community,” she said.

She’s been going to the Washoe County libraries since she was little herself.

“This is the most people I’ve seen,” Atkinson said of a story- and craft-time event.

“The library does a fantastic job putting on events — we haven't been to a bad one," she said. "This one was great. The staff was really positive. It was a welcoming environment as usual.”

Reno city council member Devon Reese stood outside the library waving a rainbow flag.

"I've been in this library since I was probably 4 or 5 years old and spent most of my teenage high school years in this library, this physical library," he said. "So it's a special place."

He said that events like this one help to show kids who are struggling and their families that they are loved.

"We want them to know that we want happiness for them," he said.

Washoe County Commissioner Mariluz Garcia attended the reading with her two children.

They are frequent visitors to the library and have attended many library events. They each checked out a stack of books before leaving.

“I unapologetically support our library system,” she said, “because our country wouldn't be the same without it.”

## **Upcoming events**

The next two Drag Queen Story Hour events — from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — will be:

June 17 at North Valleys Library

July 15 at Sparks Library

The readers are not paid for with tax dollars, children must be accompanied by an adult, and no solo adults are allowed.

For more library events, visit [washoecountylibrary.us](http://washoecountylibrary.us) and click on the "events" tab.

*Mark Robison covers local government for the Reno Gazette-Journal. His wages are 100% funded by donations and grants; his journalism is done in the public good and always free for all to read. If you'd like to see more stories like this one, please consider donating at [RGJ.com/donate](http://RGJ.com/donate).*

*Email your comments to [mrobison@rgj.com](mailto:mrobison@rgj.com), follow Mark's Greater Reno Facebook page and subscribe to his free weekly Greater Reno newsletter.*





# Librarians, volunteers prepare for Drag Story Hour with training

KUNR Public Radio | By [Jose Davila IV](#)

Published June 14, 2023 at 4:02 PM PDT



LISTEN • 2:14



*Jose Davila IV / KUNR Public Radio*

The Downtown Reno Library will be hosting Drag Story Hour on Thursday, June 15, 2023 in Reno, Nev.

# preparation for this week's Drag Story Hours in county libraries.

Local residents Danielle Gann-Lind and Jon Lawhead have a combined 26 years of experience of using de-escalation tactics.

They used that experience to help prepare local librarians and volunteers for any possible protests during this week's Drag Story hours. Gann-Lind and Lawhead provided ways to help keep the event focused on the kids and families who are participating.

The Washoe County Library System is [hosting two story hours](#) this week: Thursday at the Downtown Reno Library and Saturday at the North Valleys Library.

Volunteers won't be engaging with any protestors, Lawhead and Gann-Lind said. Instead, they are going to spread positivity at the event.

"Sometimes people think, 'Well, why does that need training?' Right? You're just sort of standing there," Lawhead said. "You're not actually interfacing with the people who are yelling all of these hateful things. But that's really physiologically corrosive, right? It's super hard to stand there and just take a wall of negativity and not be in a position to go out and actually engage with that."

awareness and self-regulation.

All that self-regulation comes with a price, though. Gann-Lind said that Our Center, a local community hub for LGBTQ residents, would be creating a space for volunteers to vent after the story hours.

“We’re going to give them a safe space to vent if they need to vent to acknowledge that this is hard,” Gann-Lind said. “And it’s hard to stand on a line when people are perhaps threatening your existence or protesting something you believe strongly in.”

The trainers said that they are excited to be out at the story hours to welcome families to the library and create positive energy outside of the events. At the Drag Story Hour at [Sparks Library last summer](#), a group of Proud Boys, a far-right hate group, protested the event and one man wearing Proud Boys attire approached the library holding a gun. No shots were fired.

*Jose Davila IV is a corps member for [Report for America](#), an initiative of the [GroundTruth Project](#).*

**Tags**

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## Jose Davila IV

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[See stories by Jose Davila IV](#)

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## Related Content

## Standing room only at fabulous first Drag Queen Story Time

The family-friendly event kicked off with little issues and lots of rainbows and camaraderie.

BY WILL HOUK • COMMUNITY • JUNE 16, 2023





Volunteers with rainbow umbrellas lined the streets of Downtown Reno to escort families with children into the library for the first of three Drag Queen Story Time events this summer. The volunteers were with Our Center, an organization

whose goal is to maintain a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community. The Washoe County Library System is hosting these three events in conjunction with Pride Month, and the Reno Pride Parade in July.

“They reached out last year for support to see if they needed anything and we had a conversation with some of the staff at Our Center about partnerships for this,” said Jeff Scott, director of the Washoe County Library System. “That’s a natural alliance for us. We’re working on our diversity, equity, inclusion, programming, strategic planning, that was a big thing that came out of it and so we’re looking to strengthen those partnerships.”





*Community members wait outside the downtown Reno library for the first Drag Queen Story Hour, on June 15, 2023. Credit Will Houk.*



Last June during a Drag Queen Story Time event in Sparks, armed protesters associated with the extremist group Proud Boys intimidated patrons. In response to that incident, the Washoe County Library System decided to partner with Our Center to help de-escalate and assist with keeping the peace at this year's event. Volunteers from Our Center received training in de-escalation techniques from Black Rock Rangers before the event to ensure a peaceful and calm experience for the families and children.

"It's important to have inclusivity in general, and to recognize people as people and to accept everybody, no matter how they identify, how they choose to present," said Kelly Tanguay, programming and volunteer coordinator for Our Center. "And I think it's really cool to see families come out and maybe have some exposure to some things and some excitement and some joy and some inclusivity that maybe they wouldn't have regularly."

While there were a number of protesters at Thursday's event, they were far outnumbered by the "Rainbow Brigade" volunteers, allies from Our Center who held rainbow colored umbrellas to shield attendees from the protesters as they entered the library. The event was calm and peaceful with no major conflicts between the two groups.



The read aloud quickly reached capacity as 75 parents and children filed into the library for Drag Queen Story Time with Ginger Devine, who said this event is critical to building excitement about reading. “One, children’s literacy is important, and it’s important in Nevada first and foremost. This is an opportunity that folks have to inspire children to read, to have children captivated by stories and stir their imaginations and instill within them a want to get their library card and to check out books for summer reading,” Devine said.

But it’s much more than that. Devine said these events are crucial to help more people see themselves in the community.

“We know that representation matters. We know that representation is a life-saving thing, and that’s not just some fantastical notion pulled out of the ether. That is real. That is a fact. When individuals, especially from marginalized communities that have been historically silenced or ostracized...see members of their community at these events doing these things just like everybody else, that has a visceral impact on their sense of self, on their well being.”





*Drag Queen Ginger Devine at Drag Queen Story Time in downtown Reno on June 15, 2023. Credit Will Houk.*

Parents in attendance seemed to echo this sentiment, including Reno resident Candice Powell.

“It was great. It was a wonderful opportunity for our kids to be read to. And I mean, what a beautiful collection of people, right? Even the volunteers out front, the umbrella people, I mean, just what a lovely, lovely event. Who wouldn’t want to bring their kids to such a nice thing?”

*Editor’s Note: At the Sierra Nevada Ally, we believe in the humanity of all people, including those who identify as LGBTQ+ and we will not engage in any debate that argues otherwise.*



*Credit Will Houk*





*Community members were offered crafts and other decorative items to use during Drag Queen Story Time on June 15, 2023. Credit Will Houk.*



*Buttons with different pronoun options were offered to those at the Drag Queen Story Time in downtown Reno, June 15, 2023.*



**Author**



## **WILL HOUK**

Will Houk is the host of the radio show and podcast “Roots, Rednecks, and Radicals.” The weekly radio show airs weekly on KNVC 95.1 FM Carson City, and features the best of Americana, folk, and roots music. The podcast takes a deep dive into modern roots music featuring in-depth interviews with recording artists. A lover of music and the outdoors, Will was raised in Northern Nevada. He now calls Carson City home with his wife Jes, and son William. He’s a teacher at Carson High School where he has taught Social Studies for 18 years.

### **Related Articles**

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**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Alessandra Richards <alessandraalr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 3:18 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Support

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Mr. Jeff Scott,

I do support book representations of diverse families and individuals to honor pride month in all libraries.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Alessandra Donder

**Scott, Jeff**

---

**From:** Alison Hollman <alisonh@bowlincline.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 2:07 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Opposition to Drag Queen Story Time

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

This email is sent to show my families opposition to Drag Queen Story time, presented to young children in the Washoe County Libraries.

As a Christian family, with children ages 4 & 7, we do not believe exposing our children at a young age to a SEXUAL ORIENTATION lines up with our moral belief system or core values.

We believe in love for all of God's people, we have no problem with anyone from the LGBTQ+ community – but we do have a problem exposing the youth to a personal sexual orientation. It is not ok – and should not be allowed in tax funded local libraries.

With respect,

---

**Alison Hollman**

Bowl Incline, Director of Fun (Events)



925.286.3536  
alisonh@bowlincline.com  
920 Southwood Blvd  
Incline Village, NV 89451  
<http://www.bowlincline.com>

**Scott, Jeff**

---

**From:** Ann Demolski <anndemolski71@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2023 3:29 PM  
**To:** Clark, Mike E.; Clara Andriola  
**Cc:** Washoe311; epricebrown@washoecounty.com; Solaro, David; Library Board  
**Subject:** Washoe County library drag queen story hour

**[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]**

I am furious to hear that this is happening in our town. I attended the meeting but it seems like we were all allowed to vent our sadness and frustration ...but the board didn't hear and seemed to be wrapped up in their own electronics to ignore the wishes of the public. This is an abomination and we all see the crude efforts to push the morals of the next generation into the world of no return. let truth and integrity take hold of your thoughts and allow the faith of our fathersto touch your hearts.

Ann Demolski  
Incline resident for 45 years

**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Anna Bogh <annabogh10@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 3:09 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Supporting Drag Queen Story Hour

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi there!

My mom recently shared with me an email from Cornerstone Church here in Incline Village insisting that people attend the Library Board meeting this evening, the purpose being to speak out against Drag Queen Story Hour. I just wanted to send an email showing my support for this event. I believe that it will be a super fun experience for kids (and anyone, really!). I hope that there will be enough support for this to happen.

Both my mom and I think that this is a great idea and we would love to attend Drag Queen Story Hour with my younger sister. I'm sure it would be so much fun.

Thank you!

Anna Bogh

**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Ashley Holt <ash@holt1.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 3:49 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Drag Queen Story Hour

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Mr. Scott,

I'm an Incline Village resident and library patron (along with my 3 children). We oppose the introduction of "Drag Queen Story Hour" to our town and the continuation of such a story hour in our county.

Thank you for counting our input amidst your discussion.

Best,  
Ashley Holt



**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Becky Andrews <becky.a.andrews@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 7:41 PM  
**To:** Library Board; Scott, Jeff  
**Subject:** Drag Queen Story Time

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Mr. Scott and Library Board,

I would like to express how deeply saddened and appalled I am that Drag Queen Storytime is happening at our public library. I also downloaded the presentation slides and can't believe what our young children are subjected to.

Our tax dollars are going toward this very damaging and clear indoctrination of our children. It is disguised as beneficial but it clearly is brainwashing of innocent young children and all of us are paying for this!

Shame on all of us. I will be at the IV library tomorrow June 21st to express that we do not want Drag Queen Story Time at our publicly paid-for libraries.

Thank you,

Becky Andrews

---

Becky Andrews  
[becky.a.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:becky.a.andrews@gmail.com)

**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Brent Terry <b9751@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 3:14 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Cc:** SecureInnocence@proton.me  
**Subject:** Drag Queen Story Hour

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Mr Scott. We are Adamantly against using our Tax Payer dollars to promote Men dressed up as Women at any of our Washoe County Libraries. Regards, Brent and Benet Terry. Address is 335 Skiway, Incline Village, NV 89451

Sent from my iPad

**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Brandon Ensley <brandonensley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 3:51 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Drag story hour

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

This is simply unacceptable. Cancel immediately.

Brandon H Ensley  
989 Tahoe Blvd Unit 80  
Incline Village

**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Brenda Kiesel <bbrinderson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 6:40 AM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Drag Queen Hr

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Jeff

I have raise my kids in Washoe County and we would go to the library once a week for years. We moved from CA and loved NV because we would see half our community at church unlike the community we came from.

I believe our public funds need to be respectful to all values. If you have drag queen hour I would hope that during Christmas you would have stories of Jesuses birth and the nativity and have local pastors came in. However I have never seen the library do this.

As you are publicly funded ALL beliefs need to be valued and there needs to be EQUAL time to ALL holidays. Christmas is not just Santa Claus but the birth of Christ our Savior. So this Christmas I can't wait for pastors coming into the public library for Jesuses Birth Hour. Or have a rabbi come in and Roshhashanah. Or Ramadon .... I missed the Veteran on Veterans Day. Or the people discussing the people they lost on Memorial Day. Or historian explain the American Revolution on the Fourth of July.

I think it is best if you don't have drag queen hour because I KNOW you will not have Pastor Hour, Veterans Hour, Ramadon Hour ....

Until you are ready to honor EVERYONE and honor EVERY holiday with guests, maybe it is best to be respectful to opposing views and not have drag queen hour which some people are religiously opposed to.

Sent from my iPhone

**Scott, Jeff**

---

**From:** BRUCE FOSTER <grtdad53@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023 9:11 AM  
**To:** Library Board; friends@washoelibraryfriends.org  
**Cc:** Herman, Jeanne; Clark, Mike E.; Hill, Alexis; Garcia, Mariluz C.; Clara Andriola; Washoe311  
**Subject:** Drag Queens are the Marines of the Trans-Movement

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Follow the money!

The promotion of sexual deviance by the Washoe County Library System, as

well as the government schools, is only one small piece of the entire worldwide sexual perversion puzzle. Please take the blinders off and

recognize what you are allowing our vulnerable youth to be exposed to.

There must be a purging of all Library Board Members to eradicate our libraries of this sexual deviant indoctrination.

How did we get here? (Can you say Margaret Sanger?)



[UnAborted: Scratching The Surface Of The Sexual Revolution | Guest: The Battle Cry on Apple Podcasts](#)

Why is the goal of 2 million to view this movie on July 4th?

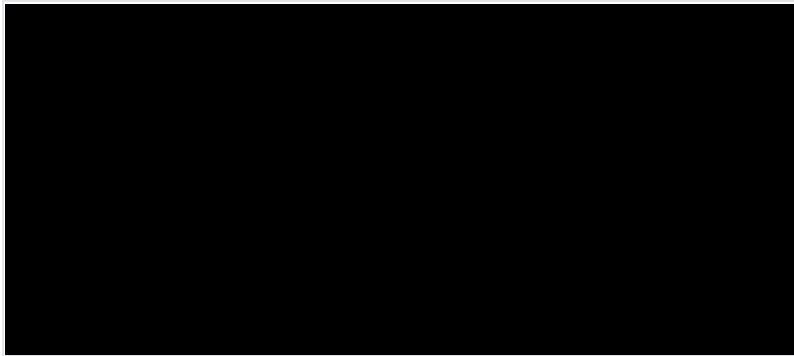
Prostitution, child smuggling, organ harvesting: The world of global human trafficking is dark, and it is vast. Charlie talks to Operation Underground Railroad founder Tim Ballard about his efforts to protect millions of people sucked into the world's most secretive and evil industry.



[https://podcast.app/the-six-million-person-slave-trade-with-kurt-schlichter-and-tim-ballard-e335360049/?utm\\_source=and&utm\\_medium=share](https://podcast.app/the-six-million-person-slave-trade-with-kurt-schlichter-and-tim-ballard-e335360049/?utm_source=and&utm_medium=share)



[Sound of Freedom | Let Freedom Ring | Final Trailer](#)



**Sound of Freedom | Let Freedom Ring | Final Trailer**

+++

"I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their inequity. I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant and lay low the pompous PRIDE of the ruthless." Isiah 13:11

Respectfully,

Bruce/ Sandra Foster  
Sparks  
( In District 4, Precinct 6411 )

**Scott, Jeff**

---

**From:** Bryan Foertsch <bfoertsch@omnino.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023 1:11 AM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Fw: Washoe County Library - Drag Queen Story Hour - Email in Opposition

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Library Board:

I was unable to attend the meeting and protest last week, however as a longtime resident and grandfather of five young impressionable children, I take great offence at the thought of our library exposing little impressionable minds with insane garbage.

While I respect everyone's right to their own life and life choices, I cannot condone our library exposing our children to choices that only a rare and small minority chose as a way to live their lives.

Please make certain that these events do not happen in our Incline library.

Bryan Foertsch  
Incline Village Resident

**Scott, Jeff**

---

**From:** C. White <cmwhitenv@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Library Drag Reading Proposal

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Library Board:

I understand I have missed the deadline for yesterday's public hearing as I was traveling, but I wish to send this email explaining why I am in opposition to the introduction of a drag reading day for children at our local library.

We are local homeowners, I am an attorney, and I also am a mother to an eight year old boy. We adore the library. We are largely screen free at home and rely heavily on library books and other wonderful library resources.

Drag art culture originated as a night adult entertainment industry. The costumes perpetuate stereotypes of females, including heavy make up, ample cleavage, and sexually explicit behavior. This is not an appropriate physical or behavioral model of female empowerment that should be inspiring young children today. If your goal is to host a library event that celebrates strong women, please choose from an impressive collection of female scientists from NASA, authors or doctors or lawyers or community service providers, female explorers in history, or any number of amazing female athletes. You have access within Washoe County and the Tahoe basin to pull from an enormous depth of inspiring women, should this be your goal.

If your goal is to celebrate inclusivity and diversity, then it is an utter oxymoron to select a method that is highly divisive and upsetting to a large portion of our community. I'm sure it comes as no surprise that you in fact are having the opposite impact and are inciting discord and divisiveness. We don't need to identify or teach children values based on sexuality, but must retain their innocence and childhood and encourage them to define themselves by their unique intelligence, creativity, and service to the world around them.

Please keep children's activities tailored to children, not the adult entertainment industry. The library is a safe place for us, and as tax paying residents, I'm writing this letter in an effort to keep my child's world safe and appropriate for him. Libraries are not a place for liberal or conservative politics, but simply need to inspire a love of books, that's it.

For what it's worth, my son and I always like story times that are with local dogs. Listen to us library board: ditch the drag (and go for dogs).

Thank you,  
Corinna White



**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Callie Hokuf <calchokuf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 3:42 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Drag Story Hour Opposition

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hello.

We would like to notify you that we do not want drag queen story hour to be held in our publicly paid for library. This is inappropriate and does not belong around our children in the public library.

Thanks

Callie Platte

## Scott, Jeff

---

**From:** Chelsea Truax <chelseat@sierrachild.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:19 PM  
**To:** Scott, Jeff  
**Subject:** PRIDE support/representation

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hello,

I am emailing you on support of LGBTQIA+ and diverse families within the libraries sphere. I am in full support of all things representing and highlighting pride month. I am in full support of the drag queen story hour. Thank you for this representation in our community. 🙏

Chelsea Truax

**Scott, Jeff**

---

**From:** Cheryl Anderson <cheryla88@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 1:42 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** KEEP DRAG QUEENS AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

It is an outrage that you are willing to sponsor influencers and groomers for queer behavior to our children at our expense.

Children need to learn basic education and not be indoctrinated into insecure feelings of self-worth and identity.

The introduction of drag queens to our children should be prohibited. Let children be children and let parents be parents. Get out of our lives and discontinue this horrendous type of solicitation of mental problems.

By the way, apparently you must not be aware that the US is an outlier nation in promoting gender confusion in our youth.

**Scott, Jeff**

---

**From:** Chris Nolet <cnolet99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 2:04 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Drag Queen Story Hour

**[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]**

Dear Jeff:

I want to register my strongest opposition to the Drag Queen Story Hour today. Unless I am wrong (and please correct me), I doubt there was much of any demand for this event from the community at large. While I don't take exception to adults living as they choose, I see NO basis for introducing the Drag lifestyle to children

As a full-time resident of Washoe County, I pay you salary and take great exception to this event being held in IV.

Chris Nolet

**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Cindy Agudelo <cindy@apple.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 2:04 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** Drag Story Hour at Incline Village Library

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Jeff,

I am a proud resident of Incline Village and welcome everyone in the community to come to our beautiful library. The library should be a safe and nurturing space for everyone to learn about their individual areas of interest.

Unfortunately I am unable to make the board meeting taking place today at 4pm at the library regarding the Drag Story Hour, but would like to send my comments ahead of time so that you are aware of my opposition in having a drag queen story hour for our children and young adults.

There is a time and a place to introduce these topics but at the library is not one of them.

The same love and respect we need to give to our pride families, is what we also should be asking for our children and young adults. Give them a chance to understand their own identities and not introduce areas that might be confusing especially during a children's story hour.

While it is important for everyone to respect each other, it is equally as important to allow our children to be children and not introduce topics that are just not appropriate to be introduced during a children's story hour.

With much love and respect,

Cindy Agudelo Arnold

**Scott, Jeff**

---

**From:** Courtney Hamilton <cecarr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 12:54 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** let people be - put me in the column of in support of all story hours

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Let parents decide on an as needed basis what works for their family. Don't "ban" anything - if it is popular, so be it.

As Wanda Sykes so eloquently said, "Until a drag queen walks into a school and beats eight kids to death with a copy of 'To Kill A Mockingbird', I think you're focusing on the wrong" <stuff>

Thank you!

**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** Cynthia Perine <perinecynthia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 12:45 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** FOR TODAY' MEETING of Library Board. EXPERTS SPEAK:IN-DEPTH: How 'Child-Friendly' Drag Events Can Expose Children to Sex Offenders

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

IN-DEPTH: How 'Child-Friendly' Drag Events Can Expose Children to Sex Offenders

[https://link.theepochtimes.com/mkt\\_app/in-depth-how-child-friendly-drag-events-can-expose-children-to-sex-offenders\\_5316026.html](https://link.theepochtimes.com/mkt_app/in-depth-how-child-friendly-drag-events-can-expose-children-to-sex-offenders_5316026.html)

If you don't have an account with The Epoch Times yet, you will automatically receive another email with a link that gives you free access to read the article, and also an invite to try full access of the entire website.

Sent from my iPhone

## Scott, Jeff

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**From:** Darlene Nilsson <dac0857@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 3:18 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Subject:** No to drag story hour

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Library Director, Jeff Scott,

I am writing to you as a concerned mother to two elementary aged children in opposition to the Washoe County drag story hour.

Drag is adult entertainment, a highly sexualized performance, and as such it is completely inappropriate in a public library where very young and impressionable children come to enjoy their time.

Drag queens take on the most absurd sexualized elements of female stereotypes and gay culture, and add a few cans of hair spray to make it even bigger and bolder. They strut out on stage and boldly unleash epic poems of intentionally offensive obscenity. That is all part of 'the show'.

Although many have argued that drag can be redirected into child-appropriate entertainment, education and advocacy, the reality demonstrates otherwise. Drag performers can't turn it off. Whether in front of a cheering crowd in a gay bar or a room full of children at a library, the performance doesn't change.

But even if the drag performer were to modify the performance - when you take away the cursing, the sexual innuendo, the revealing clothes, the provocative dress and the sharp political commentary, you are left with an adult man in a dress mocking women and trying to convince children he is an ambassador for an entire community.

To me that is not about drag, but rather outright advocacy for something kids just shouldn't be exposed to. Drag performers are not there to read Alice In Wonderland and just leave. They're there to talk about gender. They're there to talk about being different, and the whole lifestyle gets talked about — homosexuality, trans issues, the 10 million genders that we have now.

These are topics that are not meant for a child's mind. My children don't even know what they want for dinner. How do they know anything about gender and sex and sexuality?

This is wrong. Leave the kids alone.

Drag is unsuitable for children. Stop sexualizing children.

Please do not host drag story hours in our community libraries.

Respectfully,  
Darlene Johnson of Incline Village



**Scott, Jeff**

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**From:** David Gong <gong8888@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 4:01 PM  
**To:** Library Board  
**Cc:** SecureInnocence@proton.me  
**Subject:** From David Gong/against Drag Queen Story Hour in our publicly paid-for libraries

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Jeff,

My name is David Gong, an incline resident. I am very concerned about this program and vote NO to the Drag Queen Story Hour in our publicly paid-for libraries.

Best regards,  
David Gong  
(408) 659-9611

# South Valleys Library

**Library Board of Trustees Report**

**July 2023**



# Libraries Are for Everyone



**Happy Anniversary  
South Valleys Library!  
Opened May 14, 2003**



# Libraries Are for Everyone

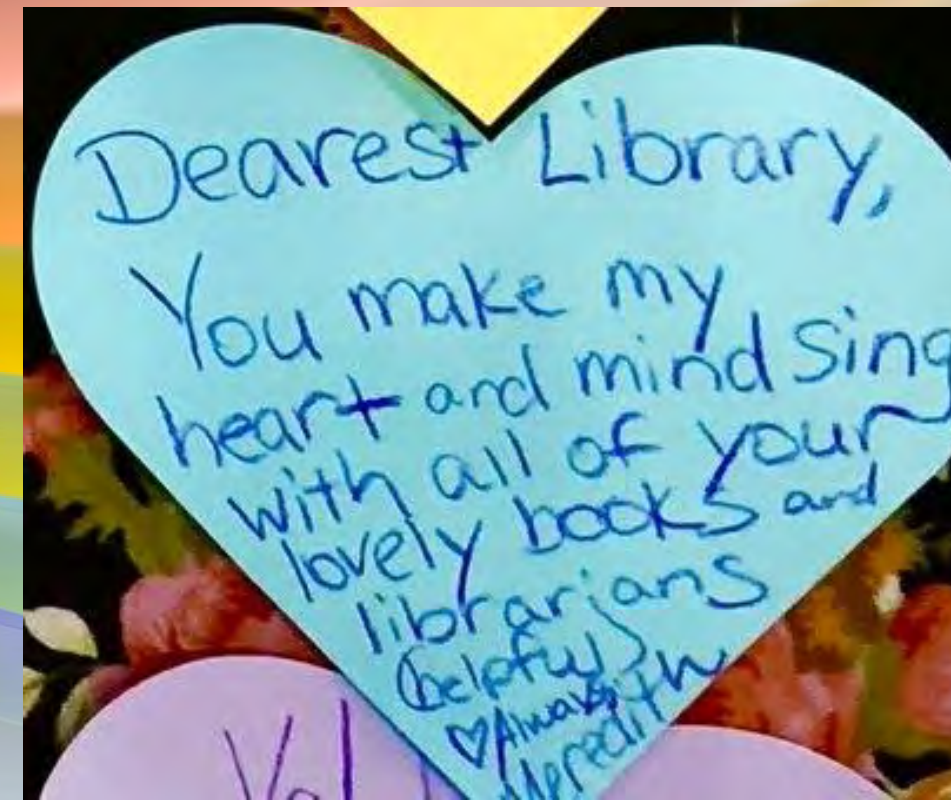
Celebrate  
Washoe  
Valley



Little  
League  
Opening  
Day



# Libraries Are for Everyone



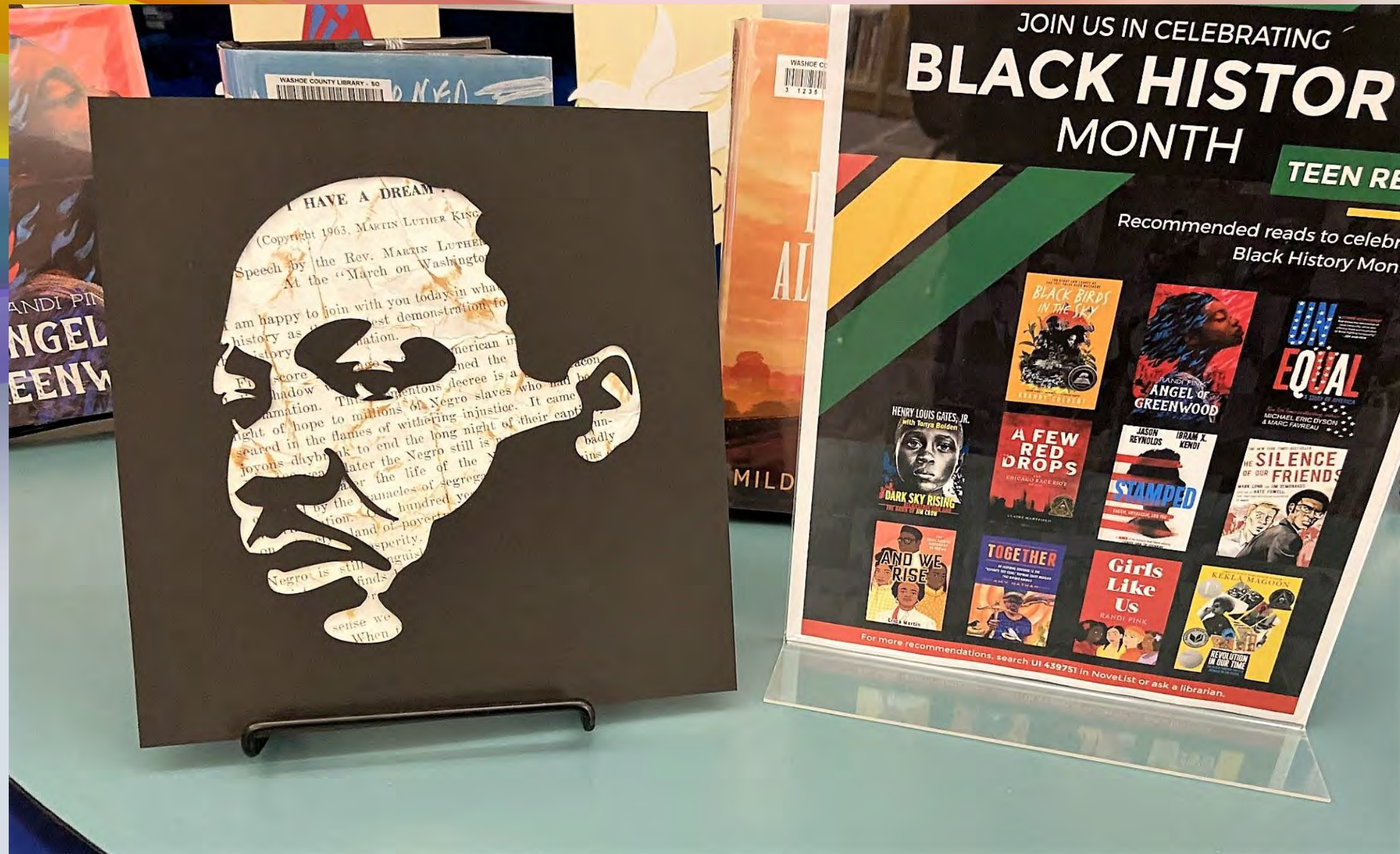
# Libraries Are for Everyone



**Our First Baby Story Time  
So Fun!**



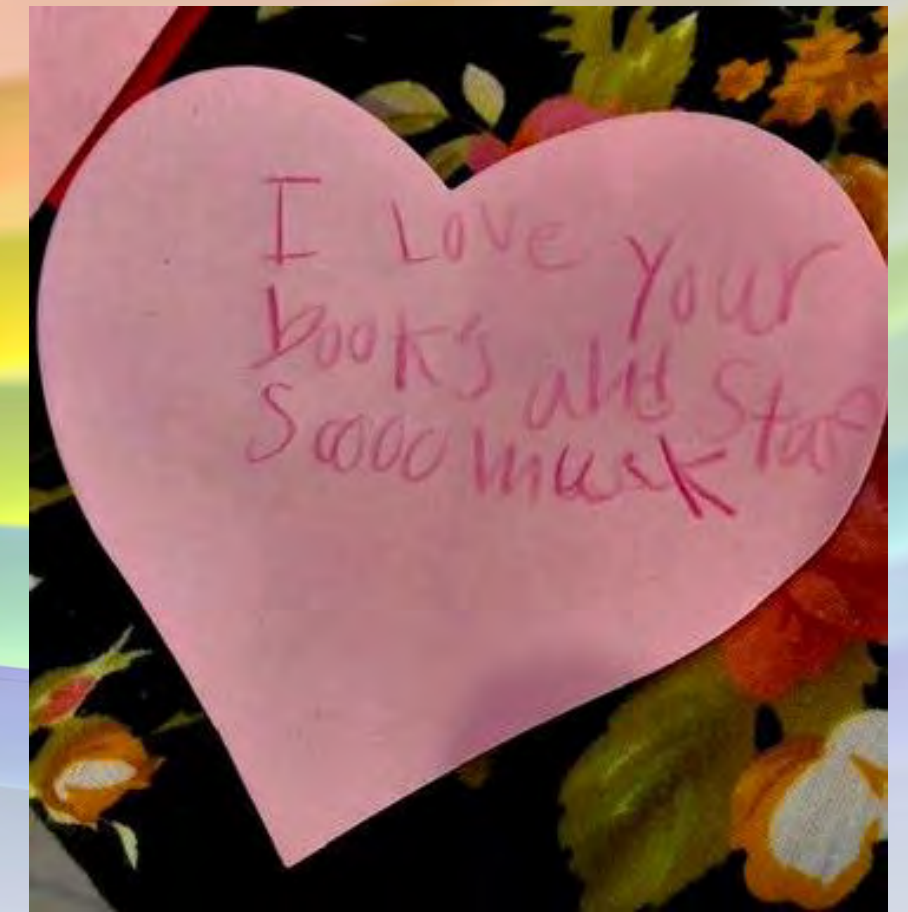
# Libraries Are for Everyone



Using our Cricut machine for displays



# Libraries Are for Everyone





# Libraries Are for Everyone



**Women's History Month**  
**Yes, that skirt is made of book covers**

# Libraries Are for Everyone

## Poetry Month



## Older American's Month



## Mardi Gras



# Libraries Are for Everyone

WCLS staff from multiple branches attended the outreach at the Discovery Museum for the Northern Nevada Science and Technology Fest



Making music with homemade sound sandwiches

Exploding popsicle sticks!

# Libraries Are for Everyone



## Pride Displays

...and Rainbow Day for  
all Washoe County employees



# Libraries Are for Everyone



## Dr. Seuss's Birthday

# Libraries Are for Everyone



**Halfway to Halloween  
Story Time**



**Head-turning Titanic  
collection displayed by  
library patron**

# Libraries Are for Everyone

Poetry Month  
display  
featuring  
original poems  
from Brown  
Elementary  
students



Senator  
Cortez-Masto  
attended the  
City of Reno  
Senior  
Resources Fair



City of Reno  
Poet Laureate,  
Dustin Howard  
inspired  
creativity in  
local poets

# Libraries Are for Everyone



## Holocaust Remembrance Day



**Read something fun this summer!**

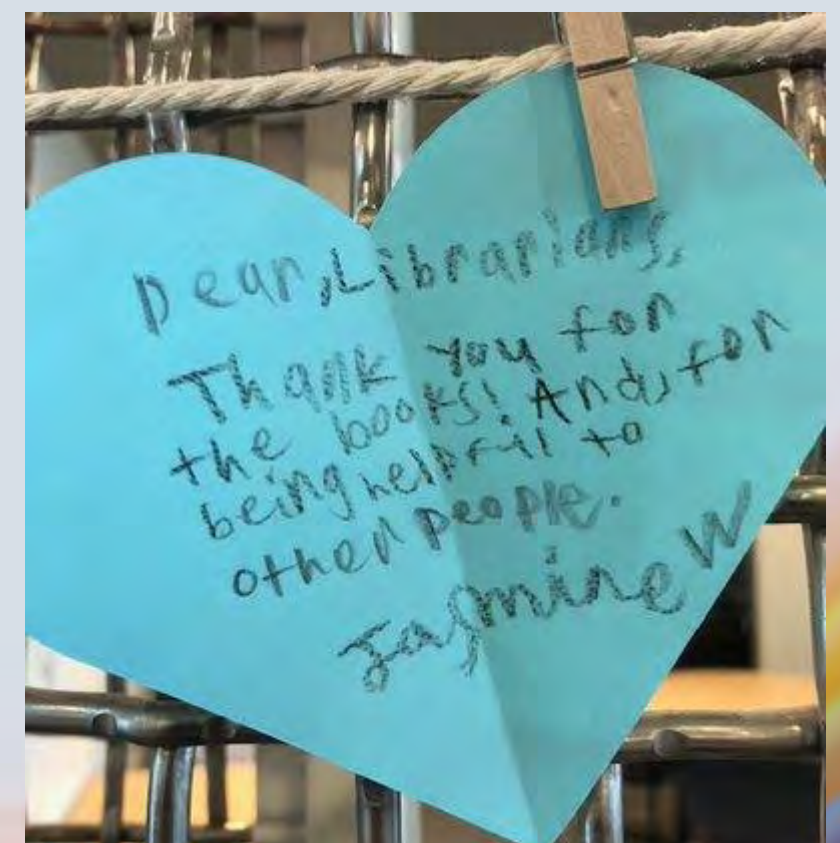
**It's okay if you don't like that book, someone else will love it. We have something for everyone!**



## Star Wars Day-May the 4th



# Libraries Are for Everyone



# Libraries Are for Everyone



## Through Our Eyes The Women Veterans Experience

**We've been lucky enough to host this twice, and one of our patrons is even featured on a poster!**

# Libraries Are for Everyone



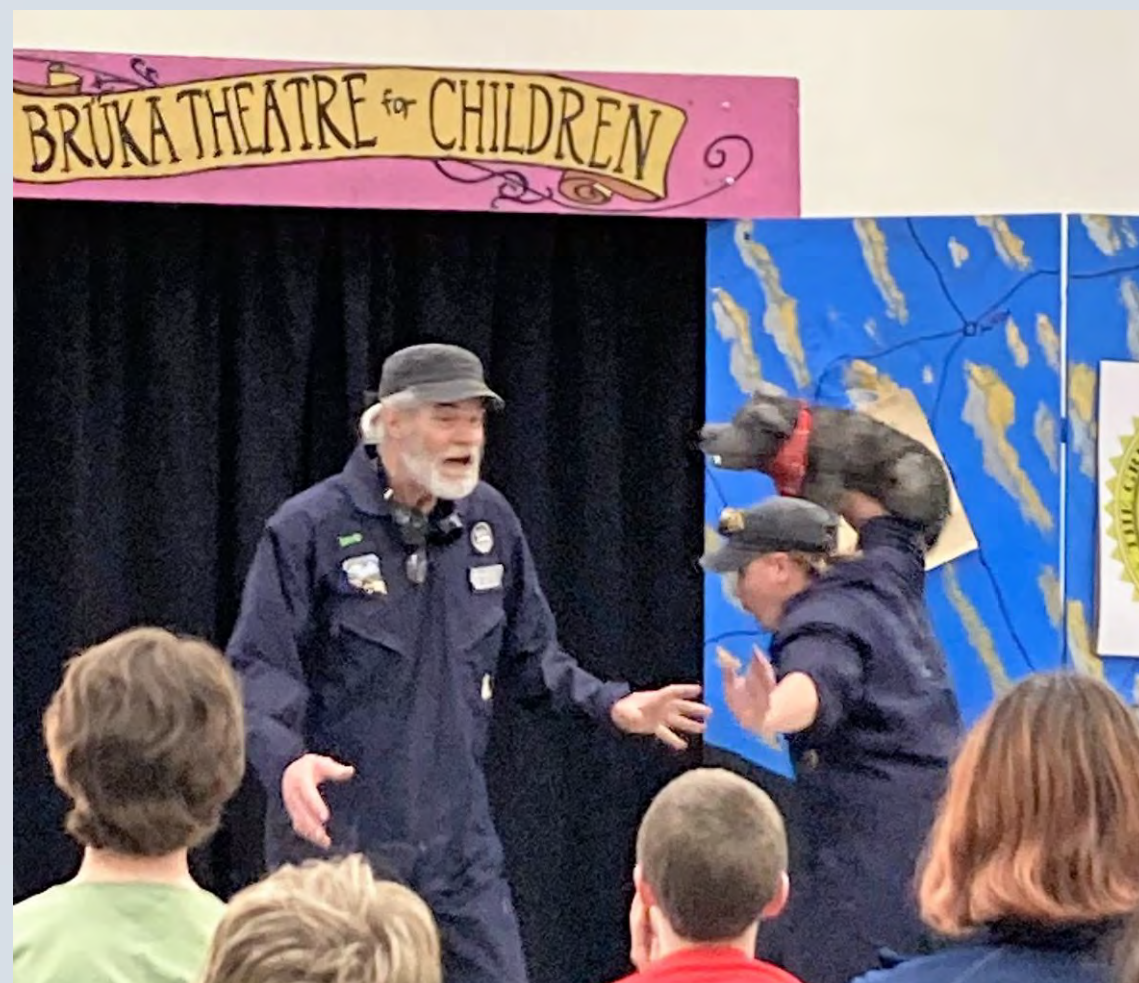
**Happy  
Birthday,  
America!**



# Libraries Are for Everyone



## Block Coding with the First Nevada LEGO Robotics Team



## Bruka Theater- Thank You Friends of the Library!



# Libraries Are for Everyone



## Cold-Blooded Critters 4-H Club Reptile Expo



# Libraries Are for Everyone

## All Together Now Summer 2023



# Libraries Are for Everyone



**All Together Now  
Summer 2023**



# Libraries Are for Everyone

**Thank you, Community Helpers!  
WC Roads Dept.**



**Thank you, Community Helpers!  
WC Animal Services**

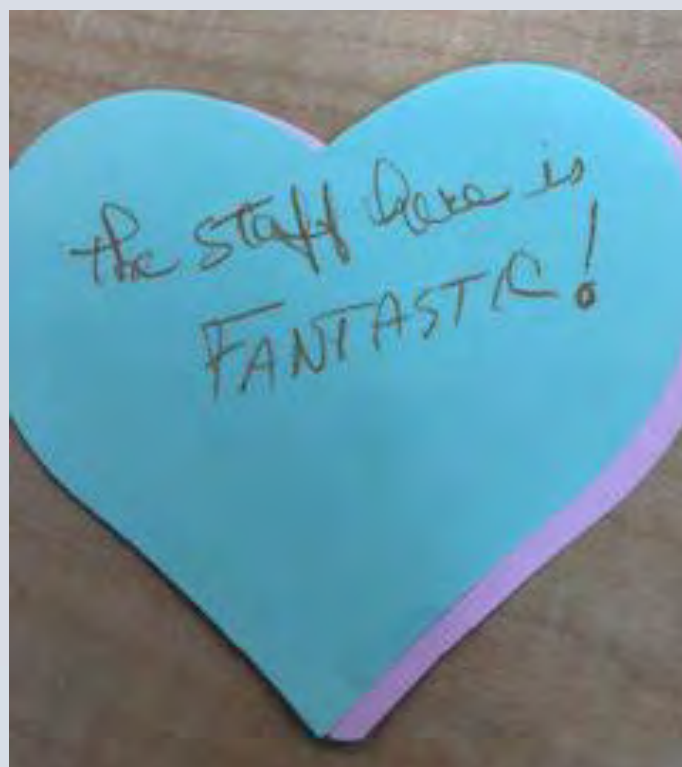




# Libraries Are for Everyone

## Kindness Cards

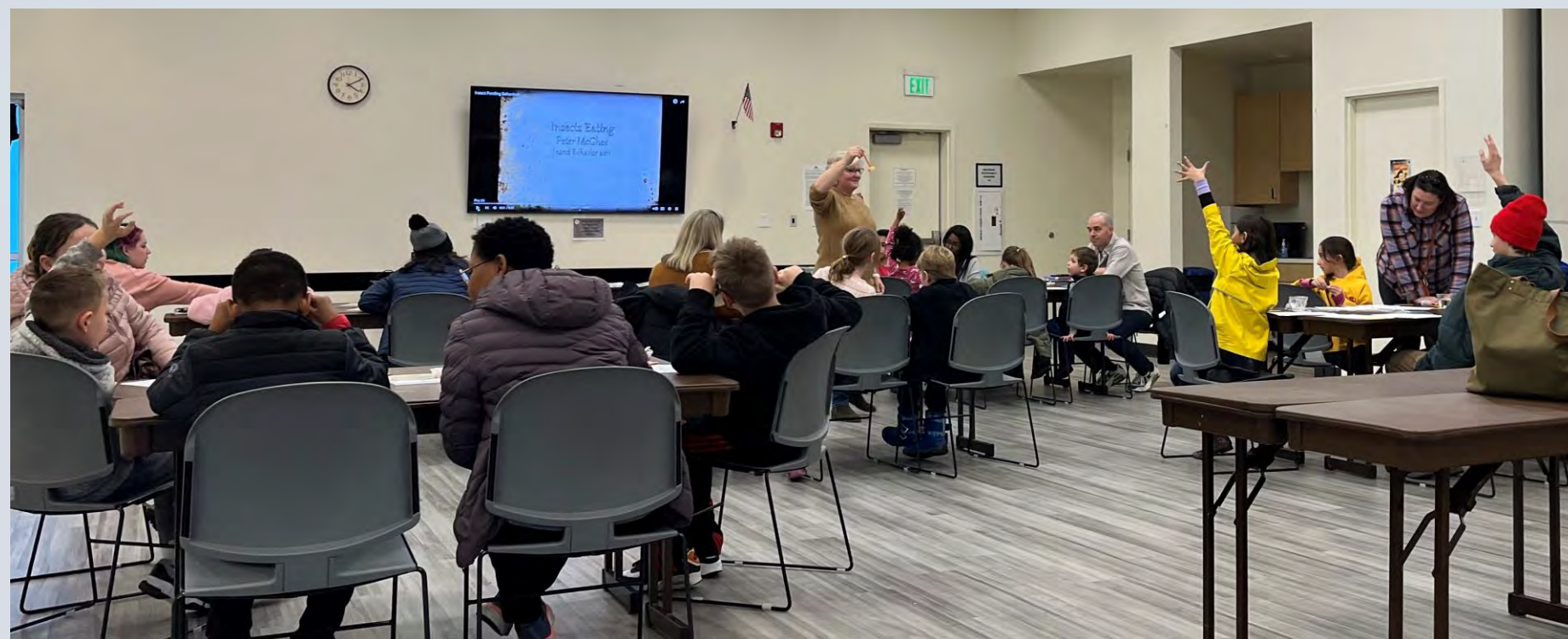
All branches are hosting this event this summer with kids making beautiful cards for local seniors. A special delivery will be made to WC Senior Services once all the branch cards have been collected.



# Libraries Are for Everyone



**YPL Window Garden—flowers created by young library visitors**



**Feeding Frenzy—STEAM Thursday with KNPB**



**STEAM Thursday—Map Skills**

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## Conservation Ambassadors' Wild Things



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## Pokemon Go!

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# Thank you!

