



WYOMING  
LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

**2023 WLA Annual Conference Schedule**  
**Bound Together**  
**October 4-6 | Casper, Wyoming**

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**2023 WLA Speakers Sponsored by:**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Sarah Vowell  
*Author/Actor*



**AUTHOR LUNCHEON SPEAKER**

Jennifer Nielsen  
*Author*

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**Conference Schedule**

**Wednesday, October 4**

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- 12:00 PM ..... Registration Opens!
- 12:45 PM ..... Welcome
- 1:00-1:50 PM ..... **Understanding the Workforce** - *Kate Hayes*
- 2:00-2:50 PM ..... **Emotional Intelligence in Those You Lead** - *Kate Hayes*
- 3:00-3:50 PM ..... **WLA Legislative Committee: Legislative Session Training** - *Caitlin White*
- 4:00-4:50 PM ..... **Navigating Tough Conversations** - *Kate Hayes*



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Thursday, October 5

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- 7:30 AM..... Vendor Set-Up
- 8:00 AM..... Registration Opens!
- 8:00–9:00 AM..... Interest Group Meetings
- 9:00 AM-5:00 PM..... Vendor Hall Open
- 9:30-10:20 AM..... Breakout Sessions (4x 50 min)
- Beyond the Book: Intro to Creative Storytelling for Children** - *Angel Capone Evans*
- Community Connection Through Adult Programming** - *Leah Shlachter*
- Making in the Library: Lessons Learned and Moving Forward** - *Conrado Saldivar*
- Libraries and Telehealth: An Opportunity for Service** - *George Strawley & Amanda DeDiego*
- 10:30–11:30 AM..... Vendor Hall Grand Opening!
- 11:30 AM–1:30 PM..... Kickoff Luncheon:
- WLA Business Meeting**
- Keynote Speaker:** *Sarah Vowell*
- 1:30–2:00 PM..... Vendor Time
- 2:00–2:50 PM..... Breakout Sessions (4x 50 min)
- Storytime 2.0** - *Abby Rowswell & Janey Vanlandingham*
- Creating Community Collaborations through Program Partnerships** - *Judi Boyce*
- The Moby Bookmobile: Bringing Library Materials to the Wind River Reservation** - *David Brown, Robin Levin, & George Strawley*
- It's Time to Tell Our Poems** - *Betsy Bernfeld*
- 3:00–5:30 PM..... Intellectual Freedom Featured Sessions
- 3:00-3:30 PM..... **The 80-hr Work Week: The Time Demand in the Fight for Intellectual Freedom** - *Elizabeth Albin & Sara Rosier*
- 3:30-4:15 PM..... **The Right Side of History: The Fight for Intellectual Freedom** - *Darcy Lipp-Acord*
- 4:30-5:30 PM..... **Shared Values, Shared Vision** - *Darcy Lipp-Acord & Conrado Saldivar*
- 6:00 PM..... Awards Reception

Friday, October 6

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- 7:00 AM..... **POUND Workout Session** - *Angel Capone Evans*
- 8:00 AM–12:30 PM..... Vendor Hall Open
- 8:00–9:00 AM..... Vendor Time
- 8:00–9:00 AM..... Interest Group Meetings
- 9:00–9:50 AM..... Breakout Sessions (4x 50 min)
- Making a Difference with Summer Reading!** - *Holly Baker*
- Opportunities Abound** - *Judi Boyce & Panel*
- Creative Aging Program Development in Wyoming** - *Brian Greene & Panel*
- Bookmobile Services for Vulnerable Populations** - *Lee Tschetter & Lorene Peterson*
- 10:00–10:30am..... Coffee and Treats with Vendors
- 10:30–11:20am..... Breakout Sessions (4x 50 min)
- Aligning PreK-3rd Grade Library Programming to The Science of Reading** - *Michelle Ottoes*



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**EDI in Action: Examples from Wyoming Libraries** - *Conrado Saldivar*

**Reaching New Peaks: Prioritizing Community Outreach at Teton County Library** - *Angela Jordan  
& Alex Cook*

**Who are We, What are We, Your State Library** - *Wyoming State Library Panel*

11:30–12:50 PM..... Breakout Sessions (3x 80 min)

**Readers' Theater Programming** - *Anita Marple*

**Marketing 101: How To** - *Leah Varela*

**ChatGPT and AI: The Good, the Bad, and the Ridiculous** – *Katrina Brown*

1:00 PM..... Author Luncheon

**Speaker:** *Jennifer Nielsen*



## Conference Descriptions

Wednesday, October 4

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1:00-1:50 PM..... **Understanding the Workforce** – Kate Hayes

*A study of 5 generations in the current workforce. We will look at the background, habits, and thought processes of all as well as dissect what it takes to lead each one. Exercises will encourage you to learn more about those around you and help you develop an open mind so you can lead all with confidence.*

2:00-2:50 PM..... **Emotional Intelligence in Those You Lead** – Kate Hayes

*This workshop helps you discover the WHY behind what those you lead do what they do. Why they don't do what they say they will and how to help them become the emotionally intelligent giant themselves. We dive deep into the current sociology/psychology of the modern workforce and provide cutting edge techniques to not only get the most out of your team, but also give them the gift of knowing themselves better than ever.*

3:00-3:50 PM..... **WLA Legislative Committee: Legislative Session Training** - Caitlin White

*The Legislative Committee presents about: 1) how to find and read relevant bills; 2) explaining and walking through the Wyoming Legislature website; 3) focus on other legislative topics that were highlighted in WLA's recent survey; and 4) tips and advice for how to deal with patrons that put in a complaint for all staffing levels.*

4:00-4:50 PM..... **Navigating Tough Conversations** – Kate Hayes

*One of the most difficult, but important aspects of being a leader – the art of navigating tough conversations. These are the crucial, highly emotional moments that can shape your career, life and those you lead.*

## Breakout Session Descriptions

Thursday, October 5

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9:30-10:20 AM..... Breakout Sessions

**Beyond the Book: Intro to Creative Storytelling for Children** – Angel Capone Evans

*Every day we engage in storytelling: What you did over the weekend; the funny thing your kids said this morning; that annoying encounter with a stranger at the supermarket. Stories help bind people together over shared experiences. Some people are wonderful at creating a whole world with their words while some struggle to pull it all together. Join me for an introduction into the art of creative storytelling for children, including traditional storytelling, cut-and-tell stories, draw-and-tell stories, musical storytelling, flannel board,s and more.*

**Community Connection Through Adult Programming** – Leah Shlachter

*Teton County Library will share how they created two successful library program series: Cabin Fever Story Slam, a live storytelling competition, and The Swap Meet, a discussion*



*series with local politicians. Participants will learn how to build and produce their own story slams and discussion series for their communities.*

**Making in the Library: Lessons Learned and Moving Forward – Conrado Saldivar**

*Natrona County Library’s Creation Station opened in 2018 after an extensive “switcheroo” of library collections, and then expanded onto the Innovation Wyrkshop network in 2021. In those years, we’ve learned how best to use the space, what can be done in it, and, more importantly, what can’t be done in it. We’ll also discuss how we hired and trained two student interns through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as how you can find resources to create and/or sustain your own makerspace.*

**Libraries and Telehealth: An Opportunity for Service - George Strawley & Amanda DeDiego**

*Imagine a patron without broadband access at home going to your library to meet with their doctor or mental health provider. That's what library telehealth is about, and it's getting underway in Wyoming. This presentation will define and discuss telehealth as it applies to public libraries, detail how libraries in Wyoming are approaching the service, and offer information on training and networking opportunities that can empower library staff to assist the public with telehealth needs. Presenters will discuss telehealth with a health equity focus, explaining how it can help address challenges of broadband access, especially (although not exclusively) in rural areas that are distant from in-person medical services.*

2:00–2:50 PM.....Breakout Sessions

**Storytime 2.0 - Abby Rowswell & Janey Vanlandingham**

*Capture your built-in Storytime audience and extend the learning a little farther! Hear about some of the unique early literacy sessions offered at Laramie County Library System. We’ve taken our core Early Literacy Class model (“Tales Together”) and branched it out into special storytime options. Learn a little bit about Yoga Together, Play Together, Ready Readers, Cuentos y Amigos (Spanish Storytime), and more!*

**Creating Community Collaborations through Program Partnerships – Judi Boyce**

*This is the story of how we built a community collaboration partnership, which stemmed from hosting the Smithsonian exhibit “The Way We Worked” in 2018. We gathered key members of our community together to cohost programs and cross-promote businesses and organizations in our region, who in turn, promoted the library, for a month-long focus on the key industries in Sublette County’s past. The feedback was so positive that the people involved in the collaboration asked our library to turn this into an annual program, dedicating each April to a community-focused theme. The experience led to the library collaborating on much more than just the April events. This program will show what we did, and how it can be replicated anywhere.*

**The Moby Bookmobile: Bringing Library Materials to the Wind River Reservation - David Brown, Robin Levin & George Strawley**

*This presentation highlights the establishment, accomplishments, and future directions of the Moby Bookmobile. The Moby Bookmobile is a Wyoming nonprofit organization that focuses on distributing library materials (primarily books) to Native community*



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*members who live on the Wind River Reservation. Through funding from the Wyoming State Library, the Network of the National Library of Medicine, Institute of Museum and Library Services and several other organizations, the bookmobile has been successful at distributing library materials throughout the reservation. There will also be a discussion about The Network of The National Library of Medicine and their goals for partnership with libraries throughout Wyoming. The Network's goal is to help citizens achieve access to high-quality health information.*

### **It's Time to Tell Our Poems – Betsy Bernfeld**

*At the WLA conference in 2001 in Cody, a small group of participants met after the day's events. They were librarians... and poets. It was the beginning of the West Thumb Poets, who gathered annually in Yellowstone National Park and shared their poems for more than 20 years. The theme of the 2001 conference was "It's Time to Tell Our Story." It is now a good time to tell our story of the development of poetry around West Thumb and across Wyoming! The West Thumb Poets will present a diverse roster of contemporary Wyoming poets, who will gift you with poems--to make you think, feel, and laugh, along with a list of Wyoming poetry books for your collections.*

3:00–5:30 PM ..... Intellectual Freedom Featured Sessions

### **The 80-hr Work Week: The Time Demand in the Fight for Intellectual Freedom –**

**Elizabeth Albin & Sara Rosier**

*Join Elizabeth Albin and Sara Rosier from the Campbell County library as they talk about the time demand the fight for intellectual freedom takes on top of one's daily library duties. They will discuss the time spent on data retrieval, presentations to elected officials and board members, tours through library processes, recreation of the entire library discard procedure, being a listening ear for staff and patrons, and more. They will give practical advice for balancing the time required to give accurate and timely information when asked and help staff and patrons process, while maintaining the daily operations of the library...without making you want to quit your job!*

### **The Right Side of History: The Fight for Intellectual Freedom – Darcy Lipp-Acord**

*This session will provide an overview of important events, court cases, and movements that have helped preserve intellectual freedom in America's history. While not solely limited to libraries, much of the material will cover the ways libraries have faced historical challenges to intellectual freedom, and the ways librarians came together to develop resources to support one another.*

### **Shared Values, Shared Vision – Darcy Lipp-Acord & Conrado Saldivar**

*In this moderated panel discussion, representatives from various state agencies will introduce their agencies' missions and discuss how similar values can build potential coalitions with the Wyoming Library Association.*



Friday, October 6

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9:00–9:50 AM.....Breakout Sessions

**Making a Difference with Summer Reading! – Holly Baker**

*Five years ago, the Cody Library changed the focus of our Summer Reading program from prizes to kindness, and we couldn't be happier! Hear how we did it and see if any of what we've done might be a good fit for other libraries.*

**Opportunities Abound – Judi Boyce & Panel**

*If you've ever wondered what all these interest groups and associations are, this is the session for you. Representatives from each of the following groups will give a brief synopsis of what the group does, the opportunities members have, and how you can join. Groups include: WLA, ALA, PLA, MPLA, ABOS, ARSL, LEAD, PIG, SLIG, WLLI, WYLD, and YSIG. WLA also has several committees that will be outlined. We're always looking for willing participants.*

**Creative Aging Program Development in Wyoming - Brian Greene & Panel**

*Brian Greene facilitates a panel of Creative Aging program specialists from Wyoming libraries. This group will "show and tell" how the Creative Aging Arts Education Model is used to bring a revived sense of self and purpose to the lives of older adults. This is done with a Wyoming teaching artist who helps older adults develop artistic skills over time (across all disciplines) with an integration of social engagement. These classes end with a culminating event to publicly celebrate participants' creativity. Our panel will conclude with an intro and access to a free on-demand course and toolkit based on this model for use by audience members.*

**Bookmobile Services for Vulnerable Populations – Lee Tschetter & Lorene Peterson**

*The new Natrona County Library Bookmobile was designed with a rural focus to bring outreach to many types of residential facilities. The focus will be on how the Bookmobile is scheduled to visit the vulnerable population unable to make it to the library. We serve toddlers in day cares, the elderly in assisted living facilities, and many in between. We will discuss lobby stops to bring books inside facilities for checkout, and patrons coming on to the Bookmobile for library services. Topics will include criteria for accepting stops, checkouts, handling facilities with high turnover rates, technology, challenges, flexibility, and more.*

10:30–11:20 AM.....Breakout Sessions

**Aligning PreK-3rd Grade Library Programming to The Science of Reading – Michelle Ottoes**

*Based on LETRS<sup>1</sup> research and methods, you will learn how to add fun, focused strategies that little (PreK-3rd) library users will love. Participants will take away renewed energy and solid Science of Reading (SoR) knowledge in defense of the literacy value of read-alouds. Modeled and shared will be a SoR read-aloud template, a storytime planning worksheet, and themed SoR-infused lessons for each grade level (PreK-3rd) including read-alouds, felt stories, finger plays, rhymes, music, and movement.*



**EDI in Action: Examples from Wyoming Libraries – Conrado Saldivar**

*Equity, diversity, and inclusion have rocketed to the top of library initiatives across the US, yet the current political climate can make it difficult to explicitly reference these topics in our day-to-day work. How can you continue to promote EDI without saying the words? Conrado Saldivar will share existing measures from the Public Libraries Survey and reports in BLUEcloud Analytics, as well as stories from around the state to help tell Wyoming libraries' EDI stories.*

**Reaching New Peaks: Prioritizing Community Outreach at Teton County Library –**

**Angela Jordan & Alex Cook**

*Teton County Library's new strategic direction necessitated some shifts and job responsibility changes for the Adult Services team in response to new goals and priorities. If you are curious how one team met this challenge to prioritize increased programming and community outreach, this session is for you!*

**Who are We, What Are We, Your State Library – Wyoming State Library Panel**

*This is intended to be a quick, but comprehensive, overview of what is a state library and how the Wyoming State Library serves libraries and library staff throughout the state.*

11:30–12:50 PM ..... Breakout Sessions

**Readers' Theater Programming – Anita Marple**

*Readers' Theater opportunities encourage literacy skills, social skills, and personal confidence. In Youth Services programming, one-time programs or multi-session workshops are cooperative learning opportunities that may be tailored to children from preschool through high school. Develop a repertoire of warm-up activities, cooperative drama games, script resources, and ideas to bring readers' theater programming to your young patrons. Be prepared to have fun and stretch your comfort zone!*

**Marketing 101: How To – Leah Varela**

*This session will first focus on some basic education/marketing 101 information. We'll chat about how libraries of varying sizes and resources can implement marketing tactics to reach their goals. A large component of this discussion will focus upon proactive public and media relations. How to get your messages out into the community proactively versus reactively. We understand this is important in today's climate with regards to libraries, intellectual freedom, the challenging political climate, lack of public support, etc. Our team can provide a larger direction on implementable tools and tactics that varying libraries can utilize. We'll also provide a breakout session to discuss marketing tactics/public and media relations per the size/resources available of those in attendance and discuss ideas, etc. based specifically on their individual circumstances and experiences. Attendees can walk away with actionable steps to advance their marketing and communications efforts.*

**ChatGPT and AI: The Good, the Bad, and the Ridiculous – Katrina Brown**

*As artificial intelligence becomes more prevalent, headlines proclaim it is the greatest thing, the worst thing, and everything in between. In libraries, we are helping our patrons understand this new tool. We are also curious as to how we may use it.*





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*Together, we will explore ChatGPT and other AI services, how they are built, what they do (and don't) do well, prompt engineering, and ethical considerations.*