

# Adult and Outreach Services update April 7, 2026

It was good to see several of you last month at the 2026 KPLA Conference.

Let me know if you have questions about anything I have shared below or if you want to brainstorm ideas. I will be glad to help you as best as I can.

Our next Adult & Outreach Services meeting is via Zoom on **April 16, at 2:00pm, ET / 1:00pm, CT**. This virtual meeting is a time for you to share ideas and ask questions of your fellow library staff members from across the state.

Click on the links below to go to the section(s) of interest to you.

[Programming](#)

[Articles](#)

[Grants](#)

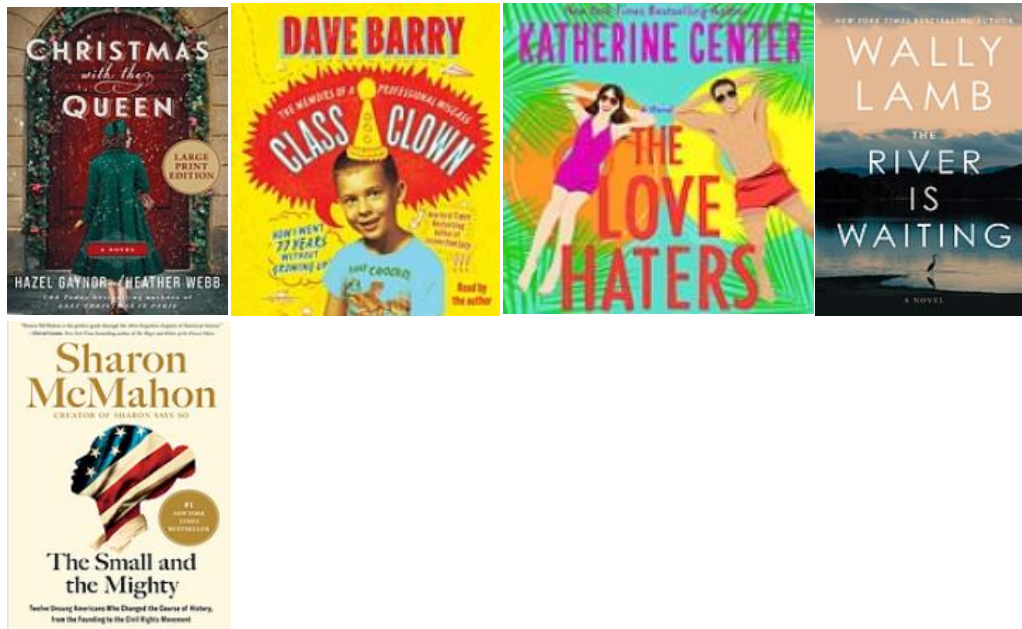
[Webinars](#)

## Programming

[A City That Plays Together: What It Takes to Run a 17,000-Player Library Game](#) (Programming Librarian, March 20)

A summer-long library event that [has activated an entire community](#), created proud library users, and even [sparked a marriage](#), the Summer Game is everywhere you look in Ann Arbor, running from the last day of school in June through the end of August. Playable across various community points from school buses to public parks, museums, storefronts, and the library's catalog, the Summer Game is played by people of all ages and has become a community tradition since 2011.

## New book discussion kits from KDLA!



- [\*Christmas with the Queen\*](#) / Hazel Gaynor
- [\*Class Clown\*](#) / Dave Barry
- [\*The Love Haters\*](#) / Katherine Center
- [\*The River Is Waiting\*](#) / Wally Lamb
- [\*The Small and the Mighty\*](#) / Sharon McMahon

See the other book discussion and programming kits that are available to reserve in [KDLA's kit reservation catalog, MyTurn](#).

## Articles

ALA releases landscape report on the current state of library programs for older adults (American Library Association, March 24)

ALA releases free library programming toolkit for library workers to support online health literacy and selects twelve libraries for pilot program (American Library Association, March 20)

Barriers to Reentry (Publishers Weekly, March 27)

Finding your voice: Public speaking tips for library staff (OCLC's WebJunction, March 30)

Legacy Story Project (Programming Librarian, March 24)

Librarians Must Step Up as Data Disappears (School Library Journal, March 31)

New program brings soft skill workplace training to BG (Bowling Green Daily News, March 25)

Paintsville High School students gain workforce experience through community partnerships (The Paintsville Herald, March 5)

The Power of Youth Service: How Service Empowers Young People (The Allstate Foundation, 2026)

# Grant opportunities

[Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services \(ABOS\) - Awards, Scholarship, and Grant Opportunities](#)

## **Mini-grant for MSLIS students**

The [Elder Justice Task Force](#) (EJTF) is a part of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. Our mission is to partner with adults 65 and older, libraries, and communities to identify, understand, and address the needs of this growing and diverse population.

**Friends of the Elder Justice Task Force invite submissions for up to 3 \$100 mini grants to Master of Library and Information Science (MSLIS) students or early career library professionals (those who have worked in libraries for less than 3 years or earned their MSLIS within 3 years).** The details and the submission link can be found [here](#).

The timeline for the mini-grant process is:

April 1: Application opens (No joke!)

May 15: Application closes

June 15: Create Community Committee completes review & selects 3 winners

June 30: Awards are made public & funds are sent

*The monies funding these grants were generously provided by the Friends of the Elder Justice Task Force and do not use ALA funds*

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Kristina Shiroma  
Assistant Professor  
Louisiana State University  
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## Webinars & Trainings

### [Introduction to APHA's Climate & Health Youth Education Toolkit for Programming, Engagement and Education](#)

Date: April 14, 2026; 1:00pm, ET / 12:00pm, CT

Summary: This webinar provides an overview of the climate and health education curriculum and resources developed by the American Public Health Association (APHA) Children's Environmental Health Committee. It can be used by public health practitioners, librarians, teachers, and other professionals for educational programming, youth engagement, and as an interactive activity. The presenters will share best practices for implementing and adapting the toolkit.

**Platform:** Zoom

Check out all of our upcoming and on-demand classes on [our Training Schedule](#).

### [Free Guide and eCourse: Libraries as Leaders in Bridging Divides](#)

The [new free guide](#) and [eCourse](#) from the American Library Association (ALA), developed by a [team of seven advisors](#) in collaboration with the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD), will equip library workers with the tools needed to facilitate challenging conversations on divisive issues, promoting understanding and empathy.

Building on the success of [Libraries Transforming Communities](#), which launched in 2014 and has provided millions in funding to support community-focused projects nationwide, the Libraries

as Leaders in Bridging Divides project continues ALA's commitment to empowering library workers.

### **On-demand**

[Designing Health Literacy Programs: Insights from Boston Public Library](#) (Library Journal)

[How Are We Serving Emerging Adults?](#) (LibsWork)

The needs and interests of Emerging Adults (EAs), ages 18-28, are often missed in library services as they “graduate” from traditional library youth services but don’t quite fit neatly into traditional adult programming. During these key transitional years, emerging adults are experiencing challenges and decision-making involving education and employment to housing security and new relationships to finances, health-care and more. Carrie and Nini will provide the historical context that led to the Maryland State Library Agency hosting an Emerging Adults Summit in Spring 2025 as well as some strategic information for libraries considering library services for this target population. Heather Jackson and Alli Jessing, Maryland public library practitioners, will highlight work their library systems are offering for emerging adults.

Sincerely,

Hilary