

Attendance: Judith Wines (UHLS), Anne Pitlyk (UHLS), Tim Wiles (GUIL), Kelly Akin (VAFL), Melissa Tacke (CAST), Catherine Snow (EGRN), Amy Powarzynski (WSTR), Jane Chirgwin (RENS)

Thank you to Rensselaer Public Library for hosting this month's ASAC meeting!

System-Wide Spelling Bee

UHLS is currently planning a system-wide spelling bee for 2023!

J. Wines asked if attendees had any opinions on keeping it a traditional spelling bee or making it team-based.

- J. Chirgwin was concerned that requiring teams might make it more difficult to get registrants.
- M. Tacke said that APL had a team-based spelling bee a few years ago that she participated in and it was a lot of fun!
 - J. Wines pointed out that COLN also had a successful team spelling bee.
- T. Wiles described his experience with a spelling bee put on by the United Way. It was held at The Hollow and the words were all based around a theme. (ex. New York State words)

J. Wines explained that the format would involve individual libraries holding their own bees or teaming up with neighboring libraries to hold a local round. Winners of the local bee would move on to the championship.

C. Snow asked when it would be held. J. Wines answered that while there is no set time frame for local rounds, the aim is to have them in April.

T. Wiles cautioned against calling it a Capital Region spelling bee to prevent confusion around participation in neighboring areas like Schenectady.

- J. Chirgwin suggested "The Great Library Spell-Off"

There was some discussion about whether the system-wide championship round should be held at a centrally located library or at a bar. Several options were suggested with most attendees agreeing that an outside venue would be a fun option!

The championship round will be held on April 22nd, 2023.

There was some discussion on what elements the libraries will need to provide themselves for the local round. Some examples included a pronouncer, a judge, and a venue.

- T. Wiles mentioned that the spelling bee he attended used the word "Stewarts" in every sentence when a participant asked for a word to be used in a sentence.

J. Wines pointed out that all libraries would need to use the same rules for the local rounds.

Cypress Resume

The UHLS COSAC committee has decided to use outreach funds to re-purchase Cypress Resume. Cypress Resume is an easy to use resume writing tool that uses prompts to guide the writing process and automatically handles formatting. Cypress will be available to all UHLS libraries as of January 1st, 2023.

- J. Chirgwin asked if it was downloadable. J. Wines replied that it is only web-based but that the last time UHLS had a subscription a lot of libraries added a desktop shortcut to the site on public computers.

Albany Guardian Society (AGS) Book Club

UHLS is partnering with AGS to sponsor a book club over the 2023 winter months. They will be reading *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson (January 19th), *In Love: A Memoir* by Amy Bloom (February 16th), and *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus (March 16th). J. Wines would like to promote this to UHLS patrons alongside the AGS promotions in order to revitalize the UHLS book club. All meetings will be live on Zoom.

Central Library OverDrive Funds

Restrictions on Central Library funds will be lifted in 2023! In the past, central library funds could only be used to purchase Adult Nonfiction titles in OverDrive. Now they can be used for any OverDrive purchases. The E-content Advisory council has made recommendations to split Central Library funds between three categories: new J/YA (20%), new nonfiction (50%), and holds (30%). The effect on the waiting time will be reviewed after the first quarter. This means that significantly less money will be going towards purchasing new nonfiction, so member libraries are encouraged to purchase nonfiction titles in 2023.

Bookpage

Bookpage subscriptions have been renewed for 2023. J. Wines received some requests to change orders after the renewal was submitted, which isn't possible. There will be reminders sent out closer to the renewal date, but here is the first reminder that 2024 subscriptions will be renewed starting in October 2023!

- J. Chirgwin announced that although RENS doesn't subscribe, NASS sends unused copies of past issues and her patrons don't seem to be bothered about timeliness.
- T. Wiles suggested that libraries with more copies than they need could use the director's list to send them out, similar to what happens when libraries get copies of books that they don't need.

Interlibrary Loan

A. Pitlyk explained some changes to the UHLS ILL policy. We are now loaning AV materials and mass market paperbacks, which means that we can now request AV materials and mass market paperbacks as well!

The CDLC eform is switching to a new platform with more features and greater ease of use. There is a training on the new system on December 14th at 10:00 that library staff are

encouraged to attend. The training will be recorded and posted on the CDLC website for anyone who can't make it on the 14th. To register, click on the event on the CDLC's calendar [here](#).

M. Tacke thanked UHLS staff for their work in ILL!

Large Print Rotating Collection

J. Wines has doubled the spending for Large Print rotating collections. The number of available collections hasn't changed, but they will be fresher and more up-to-date. There are some collections at UHLS that are available if any libraries would like to request more.

- M. Tacke asked how many books come in a collection. J. Chirgwin said that one collection fits in one bin.
- A. Powarzynski and J. Chirgwin report that they are barely buying new large print because of the expense, so the UHLS collections are very helpful.
- T. Wiles reported that GUIL tends to weed a lot of large print and he would be happy to send weeded titles to anyone who wants them.
 - This can be facilitated by UHLS. Weeded items can be sent to UHLS where they will be shelved for perusal by directors after or before DA meetings.

ENL Conversation Group

J. Wines asked if any attendees had ENL conversation groups at their library.

- C. Snow reported that EGRN partners with Questar to hold ENL groups at the library two times a week.
- T. Wiles reported that Maria Buhl will be starting ENL classes at GUIL.
- C. Snow suggested that holding ENL classes at a location more easily accessible without a car might be helpful for patrons.
- J. Chirgwin explained that having bilingual staff has been very valuable for RENS. Currently she has an employee who is able to translate for Spanish speakers.
 - T. Wiles suggested a UHLS language inventory.

Open Forum

T. Wiles offered Natale Hurteau's services to any libraries that would like to become passport acceptance facilities. She spearheaded the effort at GUIL and it has brought in significant income. K. Akin said that VAFL has also become a passport acceptance facility and has also seen success. M. Tacke asked how long the training is. K. Akin said it is a one day training.

J. Chirgwin asked if the EGRN film festival will start again this year. C. Snow responded that it is sadly on indefinite hiatus.

J. Wines asked if anyone had ideas about how to expand appeal for the Library Expedition to retired folks. Last time there were early literacy prompts included with the handouts, this time there could be local history prompts.

- J. Chirgwin suggested a "something I learned at the library" theme.
- T. Wiles suggested the craziest things that ever happened at the library.