



Director's Report

July 2023

Special Highlights

SOREDI Bowl-a-thon

JCLS had a team at SOREDI's first annual Bowl-a-thon, a fundraiser for their Foundation. Library Director Kari May joined five other staff members for a night of bowling at Lava Lanes.

Urban Libraries Council

JCLS joined the [Urban Libraries Council](#), a membership-based organization that works with urban libraries across the country. ULC's mission is to enrich communities by "strengthening and promoting the value of libraries as essential public assets." As members, JCLS has access to several member hubs on topics ranging from Collection Development to Social Services to Leadership, as well as research-based publications, networking opportunities, and professional development.

ALA Annual Conference

Assistant Director of Support Services, Kelda Vath, recently attended the American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference held in Chicago, IL in June. Highlights from the conference included the opening session with a keynote from beloved author Judy Blume, as well as great sessions that shared ideas about advancing digital inclusion among Latinx populations, data privacy, and one entitled, "The Top 5 Mistakes in Renovating your Library – And How to Avoid Them!" Vath also met with vendor partners from OverDrive and Lyngsoe, and explored the exhibits hall to gather information about products and services JCLS may want to consider in the future.



Public Services

Bear Creek

The Ashland Library has taken on a festive air with several new colorful displays. In May, Librarian Ethan Craft invited the community to join the library in folding 1,000 paper cranes in honor of Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Packets of origami paper with instructions were available, and patrons responded enthusiastically. One elementary school teacher asked for packets for her whole class to participate. The challenge was met and surpassed, with more than 1,000 paper cranes folded and displayed at the end of the month.

In the Teen department, a Pride display coordinated by teen volunteers saw significant interaction from young patrons. It invited them to write reviews and recommendations for LGBTQIA+ materials. One patron responded to the call with a rave review of *Loveless* by Alice Oseman: "It's so good! I'm 13 and I would recommend it for readers of 13-whatever age. My great aunt who is 70 loved it and it's a great book!" To continue the reading enthusiasm, the Children's team decorated the whole department to coincide with the Summer Reading Kick-off





Party. Patrons delighted in the whimsical decorations, and children have been motivated to participate in the program and earn the prizes on display.

In Phoenix, Branch Manager Jody Fleming took a cue from Salt Lake City, which recently [designed and adopted a new flag](#). She created a take and make kit that included examples of city flags from across America and a template. The kits encouraged participants to create their own flag to represent the City of Phoenix. This cat-themed patchwork flag and many others were hung around the branch for everyone to enjoy.

In early June, the Talent library had several visits from classes of school kids eager to learn about the library and summer reading. After a story time presented by branch manager Patrick Mathewes, many of them received their first library cards and were eager to check out books. One of the young boys began crying when it was time to leave the library, but a school helper and Mathewes soon had him smiling again once he was reassured that the library would be open throughout the summer, and he would be able to return as often as he liked. Afterward, one pleased adult patron presented a bouquet of flowers to the Talent staff in recognition of all their friendly helpfulness.

Central Area

The Medford Adult Services Team had something for everyone in June. They kicked off summer with a variety of programs, ranging from a painting program to events celebrating International Tabletop Game Day and Pride Month. Adult Services Librarian Carrie Tannehill and Business Librarian Roslyn Donald took the show on the road at the Applegate Evening Market. Many people stopped by the JCLS booth to vote on their favorite vegetable – beets won by a landslide - and also learned about library services and the summer reading program.

Medford Childrens is having a great turnout for summer programs. Especially popular is Minecraft Family Storytimes, which combine a Minecraft related story with STEAM activities. Bi-weekly Make Your Own Character programs and The Babies and Wobblers program are also seeing steady attendance by many families.

Branch Manager Erin Ulrich has truly leveled up the Central Point library with phenomenal décor celebrating the SRP theme. She used the old 8-bit design style and created “pixel art” all around the library using small squares of paper. The installments incorporate popular characters from video games such as Pokémon, Legend of Zelda, Mario Bros., Among Us, and Lego. Patrons of all ages have enjoyed the displays. One patron expressed her appreciation of all the signage and book displays that promote inclusivity in the library, saying, “I think it’s just wonderful.”

In collaboration with Denise Brown of the Maslow Project and Sharon Bigelow of the Housing Authority of Jackson County, Spark Space Specialist Kayla Adamiec and Library Associate Noel O’Brien provided a brief presentation about Spark Space at the Creekside Community Center, where families with teens were given a demonstration of some of the Space’s features and encouraged to attend a tour of Central Point Library afterwards.

Lower Rogue

June began with a bang in Gold Hill with Gold Dust Days on June 3rd. The Dart Van followed as the Friends of the Library group marched in the parade and promoted the summer reading program. Afterward, more than 150 people perused the Friends’ book sale set out in the meeting room.



Jacksonville is ready for Summer Reading! Staff have arranged several in-house activities for patrons to enjoy. There's an ongoing scavenger hunt for children's book characters around the juvenile section, along with an 'I Spy' display case. As patrons wander the library looking for all the hidden objects, there are opportunities along the way to pick up registration materials.



Throughout the past year, the outdoor school Freckled Fawn Nature School regularly used Jacksonville's meeting room as a place to have indoor work time. With school wrapped up for summer, the students presented staff with a framed drawing as a token of their gratitude.

Just in time for the first program in the Summer Reading series, a young rock collector worked with the library to display a beautiful variety of rocks and minerals. The installation greeted eager patrons as they came to attend a Bugs-R-Us program that was focused on rocks, minerals, and fossils. Bugs-R-Us programs continue to be popular at all branches.

An Applegate patron came in with her daughter, who was visiting from California. They brought a special treat: avocados fresh from the tree, saying thanks for "being such a sweet branch!"



Library Associate Laurel Mills and Branch Manager David Haywood represented Rogue River at the annual Rooster Crow festival. Though the turnout was not quite as robust as last year, they still had many positive interactions with passersby in which they were able to promote library services and hand out applications for new library cards.

In Ruch, staff created displays to honor Pride month and Juneteenth, and also put up a new 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten interactive bulletin board where participating children write their names on a butterfly and add stickers to mark their reading progress.



Upper Rogue

Butte Falls hosted a Chalk the Library Walk event. Lots of kids had fun doodling all over the sidewalks, and a few adults added their art, too. The Kingdom Hearts Sea Salt Ice Cream Take & Make kits disappeared quickly, and several patrons reported back that the popsicles they made had been very tasty.

Prospect had a blast hosting the Scienceworks Be a Physicist: Power Plant session. Attendees were fascinated by the power plant model and had a lot of fun manipulating the electrical circuit to discover better ways to make power flow and identify problems like short circuits. Staff and patrons alike are very excited about future modules in the Be a Physicist program - especially the upcoming session on lasers.



The Shady Cove branch was invited to be a part of the Festival on the Rogue. Because the branch was closed that day, both Branch Manager Marion Mensing and Library Associate Sydney Salisbury were able to staff the table there, highlighting library materials and signing people up for library cards and Summer Reading.

Shady Cove also had a special Summer School class visit, and branch staff partnered with Community Librarian Evelyn Lorence and Education Services Specialist Stephanie Polendey to plan a fun "Doodle Cubes" craft for the visit. Doodle cubes are

basically Rubik's cubes that arrive blank, and the students get to create their own designs on them. The students loved this activity so much that they did not want to leave.

White City started the month of June with Kids Unlimited at their Literacy Night, helping sign kids up for library cards and summer reading. In the first few weeks of June, staff already had some younger readers coming in with five books read, and they are excited to keep reading all summer long. One young patron has been practicing her oral reading skills by reading to Library Associate Milagros Morales. She is quickly filling up her Summer Reading logs and delighting staff as well.

Programs

June kicked off the Level Up Summer Reading Program, to the delight of patrons across the district. Wildlife Images toured six branches with their Animal Meet & Greet program. In Shady Cove the turnout was so numerous that the parking lots at the library and the community center were completely full. The community room was filled to capacity, and the lobby and the main library served as overflow. One parent standing in the library held her kids up to peek through the window at the presenters and their critters. At the end of the program, patrons who had not been in the room were able to take turns looking at the animals.

The Ashland Children's department launched a series of weekly programs called the Level Up Club. The first of these offered a STEM program demonstrating how to make elephant toothpaste. Both children and adults learned about molecular bonds, catalysts, exothermic reactions, and just how cool science can be!

Medford Teen Services hosted a bracelet-making program in honor of Pride. Teens learned about various colors and what they represent on flags, and then chose what best represented them to create a physical reminder of community with their bracelet.

Jacksonville Library and Rebel Heart Books teamed up to host author and therapist Frank De Luca. Bookstore owner Eileen Bobek interviewed De Luca about his book, *A Field Guide to Humans: Enriching Relationships through the Enneagram*. The audience was very engaged and asked the author many questions about his work.

In Ruch, local historian Dolores Lisman's program, *Goldminer's Daughter, the Life of a Young Girl in the Upper Applegate (1903-1909)*, explored the diary and life of Uvena Emily Arnold. The attendees, including Uvena's niece and nephew, thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Outreach

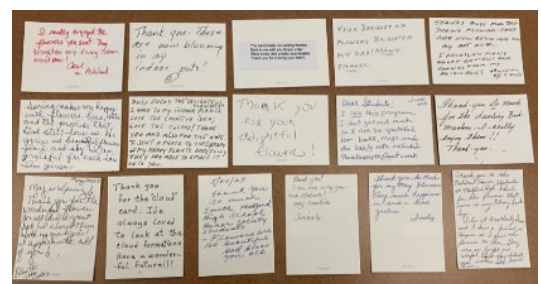
At Home Services

At Home Services staff have created ways to help increase Summer Reading engagement this year. All of their patrons received a reading log with their monthly shipments, and the effort seems to be working: several patrons have already returned completed logs.

In response to the Project Sunshine packages sent to AHS patrons in May, the department received a host of 'thank you' notes. These notes will be passed on to the South Medford High School Honor Society students who put the packages together.

Business Librarian

Ashland Chamber of Commerce held its weekly Greeters meeting at Ashland Library on June 2, followed by a ribbon-cutting photo opportunity to celebrate both the library's extended hours and the completion of the HVAC project. Many attendees commented on how lovely the Gresham meeting room was. Some also mentioned that they hadn't known about the Library of Things but were eager to try it out soon. The series of ribbon-cutting events held throughout late spring



was an effective public relations move and reinforced the library's relationship with local Chambers. These events reinforce the idea that the library is part of the economic community, not just for education or entertainment.

Another highlight for the month took place at the June 13 Downtown Medford Association general meeting. The Association presented Business Librarian Roslyn Donald and Marketing Manager Ryan Bradley with an Outstanding Performance Award for their work on the Downtown Quest promotion.

DART

Summer season events were in full swing in June, resulting in a busy month for DART. Mobile Services Specialists saw an increase in attendance at events with the Housing Authority of Jackson County. DART was out in the Medford community representing the library at two large city events: the Juneteenth Celebration and Medford Pride, both taking place in Pear Blossom Park. Pride proved to be a fun and productive event, with over 700 interactions and 25 new cards issued. Several attendees expressed that they were new to the area and that it made them feel very welcome to see the library there.

One of these moments was particularly memorable and heartwarming. Library Specialist Emily Hawks recounted after the event that, "we were aware going into the event that protestors were a possibility. At one point, I was speaking with a lovely dad about Storytime and all the great programs that Medford Children's puts on. We were interrupted by loud, hateful speech. In an attempt to drown out the noise, I cried out, 'Come visit the library! We've got totes, water bottles, and everything is free, because we're the library!' Alas, I am not that loud of a person. The father I was speaking to cupped his hands around his mouth, took a firm stance, and boomed, 'THE LIBRARY IS AWESOOOOOOOOOME!' He completely drew attention away from the protestors, and our JCLS team gave him a round of applause. It was so gratifying to speak to a patron who utilizes the library and supports all that we do."

Digital Services

Area Manager Carrie Turney Ross and Digital Services Supervisor Eric Molinsky were awarded a grant to participate in Phase 2 of the PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive. PLA DigitalLearn training materials will be available throughout the program, and up to \$6000 dollars will be made available for projects formed in connection with it.

Acknowledgement of the high-quality service provided to patrons was a highlight of the month, with one happy patron returning to the library after her appointment with six boxes of cookies for the team, and another taking the time to send an appreciative email to Molinsky. In part, she mentioned that the assistance she received "exceeded that of my telephone service carrier, my computer's help line, and Geek Squad at Best Buy".

Education Services

As the school year wrapped up, the Educational Services team put a great deal of effort in promoting Summer Reading. Education Services staff reached around 525 students in schools in Medford, Phoenix, Talent, Eagle Point, Shady Cove and Butte Falls. During the events, students crafted, listened to audiobooks, and were given reading material to take home for the summer. At Hillside Elementary, the free books were met with such excitement that many of them sat down and began reading them right away.

An ongoing craft and reading program with Shady Cove summer schoolers began in June. Although many Summer School Programs have been cut this year due to funding, the educators that staff are working with have been extremely appreciative and receptive to ongoing support for their summer programs.

Outreach to Child Care

Library Specialist Emily Hawks attended the Head Start Progress End of Year Celebration to promote Summer Reading. They encountered 50 participants and distributed gift books to the preschool graduates.

Social Services

The Social Services team and Security continue to find stable footing and calibrate the scope of the department. At the end of June, the Morning Hours Program as hosted by JCLS officially drew to a close. Staff have worked closely with other service agencies to support the start of a similar program off site. Throughout this transition period, the team has been able to better assist more patrons and have been able to dedicate more time building rapport and trust within the community.

The Resource Specialists have expanded their reach with the launch of a Satellite program, where Resource Specialists have regularly scheduled time at each branch. Staff and patrons alike seem to be responding well, and the team is looking forward to these relationships developing in the future.

Human Resources

Open Enrollment for benefits took place in the month of June. The District's broker representative from PeopleStrategy provided educational sessions about the JCLS benefit package and staff enrolled in plans for the new benefit year online. This year, staff were given options to expand dental coverage, well as having further EAP resources added for all staff.

The EDI Roundtable was held June 28th. Staff Development Coordinator Loren Clupny educated attendees about the Stonewall Rebellion and the Queer & Trans rights movement.

Conscient Strategies, the consulting firm chosen to conduct the Employee Engagement Survey, hosted a tech-enabled conversation on June 8th. With 77 participants, almost 50% of staff participated. According to Conscient Strategies, this was a highly successful effort, as most organizations see participation in the 20-30% range. May and Fogerty had a series of meetings where results were discussed, along with plans to address the areas that were highlighted as needing improvement. Results will be shared with staff in July and August, and May and Fogerty will present the results to the Board at their August meeting.

Finance

The Finance Department has been wrapping up year-end invoices and payments so that they can close out the fiscal year and prepare for the audit. They have also set up the new Fiscal Year budget and shared department budgets with each department head. The auditors are scheduled to be onsite for the audit in late August. Former Finance Manager Brittany Brite will assist with the audit preparation so that the audit can be completed by the deadline this year.

Marketing

June was an exciting month for the library and library lovers. Not only did Summer Reading start, but the video game collection launched. The Marketing team was excited to support these initiatives with campaigns and swag to energize the community. In addition to supporting these big events, staff released a companion video to the documentary on the Butte Creek Mill. Marketing also released a new installation in ASL Storytime, a sign-language video series which has found a solid following beyond the usual storytime entries on YouTube: ASL Storytime: In the Kitchen: <https://bit.ly/3ruPPKs>

Media Coverage:

KOBI on the Video Game Collection: <https://bit.ly/3qsXng2>

Press Releases:

Video Game Collection: <https://bit.ly/3XObgSA>

July Windows in Time: <https://bit.ly/3DbOBGk>

Notable Videos:

We Will Rebuild: The Milling Process: <https://bit.ly/3NtXUqY>

Support Services

Book Lockers

An Implementation Team has been assembled to bring a 24/7 access holds pickup locker to the Shady Cove Library. The team members are in the process of finalizing site preparations which included bringing power and data to the new locker site. Configurations to the library's Integrated Library System (ILS) are currently underway, in addition to the various IT configurations. A site visit from the vendor is anticipated in the coming weeks to put the locker into production, and the Library is on track to begin offering the Shady Cove locker as a holds pickup option for patrons early this Fall.

Collection Development

JCLS was approached by Blackstone Publishing to help them test their upcoming product Blackstone Unlimited, a streaming audiobook platform that provides patrons unlimited access to their entire catalog. Around thirty audiobook-loving staff members were given access to the product for a week. They then submitted their observations to Collection Development Manager Laurin Arnold, who not only passed them along to Blackstone but will use them to determine if JCLS should pursue access to the product in the future.

Technical Services

June is always a busy month for the Technical Services team. Rounding out the end of the fiscal year, the department, along with the assistance of Collection Development and subs, received and circulated 11,322 new items into the JCLS collection.