

## Edmonton Outreach To Add Five Branches

One of the many reasons Alberta's Edmonton Public Library (EPL) was chosen as the *Gale/Library Journal* 2014 Library of the Year is its commitment to community service. In particular, EPL's outreach program to support the city's homeless population is a necessary initiative in a rapidly growing urban center—Canada's fifth-largest municipality—where temperatures rarely rise above freezing from November through March. Not only has the program survived the loss of its province-based funding, with the library system itself stepping in to cover costs, but this winter EPL's outreach will expand to five additional branches on a pilot basis.

Last year outreach workers at downtown Edmonton's Stanley A. Milner Library, the system's large central branch, had more than 6,000 interactions with at-risk individuals, offering them assistance with finding medical care, housing referrals, employment counseling, and suicide prevention resources, among other services. The city's homeless population, however, is scattered, and those who are not near the Milner branch have trouble accessing available services.

To address this problem, by the end of 2014 the program is also expected to be in place at the Strathcona, Woodcroft, Sprucewood, Highlands, and Abbottsfield branches. EPL currently has three support outreach workers on staff who will work a full five days per week across all five branches. A part-time clerical assistant and a library assistant work closely with the outreach team as well.

In 2008, in a groundbreaking move, EPL hired 17 community librarians—one for each of its branches—whose job was to connect with the people outside the building. Last year EPL's community librarians logged in nearly a thousand hours.

In 2011, in response to the growing number of individuals taking shelter in the Milner Library, EPL became the first library in Canada to hire an outreach worker: Jared Tkachuk, who had recently gotten his social work degree.

He spent much of his first year just walking around the building, introducing himself and letting people know about the program. In the process, he discovered just how complex downtown Edmonton's homeless issue was and "how little public and inclusive space was left for people."

For the program's first three years, some \$605,000 in funding was cov-

## Interview

### Amed Demirhan

In our latest In-Depth Interview with *Library Journal* 2014 Movers & Shakers from academic libraries, we spoke with



Amed Demirhan, currently director of the Barzani National Memorial in Kurdistan. He previously was director at the American University of Nigeria (AUN), Yola, Adamawa.

#### What are the particular needs of libraries in war-torn and rebuilding countries?

Many (most) individuals in these environments do not have access to basic reference sources, learning and knowledge resources, and so on. In the places where some libraries are available, they are not necessarily accessible even for the communities they are supposed to serve.

#### Were people at AUN open to the idea of ebooks replacing print books?

Most students didn't have a problem, but some faculty and administrators did challenge the idea. However, the University president...is a firm believer in e-learning. In addition, we had a strong argument about cost of the collection, effectiveness, accessibility, and serious usage statistics to demonstrate it.

Photo © 2014 by Michael Pilla.

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## LibraryAware Community Award

The LibraryAware Community Award emphasizes a library's engagement with its community and recognizes a library or library system that has demonstrated the ability to make its community "aware" of what the library can do—and delivered on that promise. The award will be given by *Library Journal* and funded by LibraryAware, a product of EBSCO Publishing's NovelList Division. *Postmark deadline: January 19, 2015.*

[lj.libraryjournal.com/awards/libraryaware-community-award](http://lj.libraryjournal.com/awards/libraryaware-community-award)

ered by the provincial Safe Communities Innovation Fund. When that money ran out in 2014, rather than abandon the program, the library moved in to cover its costs, freeing up money by choosing not to refill a vacant senior-level position and taking additional funds from the furniture and equipment budget.

The outreach program initially partnered with Boyle Street Community Services, a nonprofit inner-city agency that assists and advocates for Edmonton's marginalized population, providing food, shelter, and support and welcoming more than 12,000 people into its drop-in facility annually. Although the official partnership ended with the original grant, Tkachuk still considers Boyle Street the program's closest ally.

Tkachuk recalled one man with schizophrenia and substance abuse issues who had been on the streets for some 25 years. He avoided the city's drop-in centers but would come to the library, where many of the staff knew him by name. As winter approached, Tkachuk began a concerted effort to house him and eventually found him a small suite just before Christmas 2013.

The man spent most of a peaceful year in his apartment; he died there this past fall. Tkachuk credited the flexibility of EPL's outreach program with allowing him to spend the weeks necessary to pursue a single open case. "Success can mean a lot of different

things to people," he explained to *Hotline*, "but sometimes it comes down to 'at least you didn't die on the streets.' I think of him as a success story."

## Beanstack Partners with Sacramento Public Library

For many parents, figuring out what their kids want to read is a daunting prospect. In order to take the guesswork out of the equation, Jordan Lloyd Bookey, a mother of two and a former classroom teacher, created Beanstack, a free new readers' advisory (RA) app for young children, with the help of her husband, Felix Lloyd. The duo are behind the children's books and app services company Zoobean. Beanstack works by curating and recommending books for children, from ages zero to eight, that are available at a local library, based on user-added keywords and categories.

Beanstack got its start shortly after the Lloyd-Bookey team launched Zoobean, a personalized "book-of-the-month" paid subscription service (sharing the name of its parent company) in May 2013. Zoobean subscribers receive a monthly book in the mail that they can keep.

"When we became parents, we found it challenging to discover books and apps that were good matches for our two children," said Bookey. "Then, a friend sent us the book *All the World*, which happens to picture a multiracial family like ours,

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
*Library Journal & School Library Journal*

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www.libraryhotline.com/sub

**Outside U.S.**  
760-317-2332

LIBRARY HOTLINE (ISSN 0740-736X) (RPUSA 123397467) is published weekly (every Monday except on the two Mondays nearest to the year-end holidays) by Library Journals, LLC, 123 William St., Suite 802, New York, NY 10038. Randy Asmo, Chief Executive Officer; Ian Singer, VP, Group Publisher. Library Hotline is a registered trademark of Library Journals, LLC. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. SUBSCRIPTION: \$119.99 per year, Canada \$159.99, Other (incl Air) \$159.99, Single Copy (U.S.) \$5.95, and Single Copy (all other) \$10.00. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Library Hotline, PO Box 460483, Escondido, CA 92046-9803 Telephone 800-588-1030 Outside US 1-760-317-2332.

Printed in the U.S.A.



## Paralibrarian of the Year

The 2014 Paralibrarian of the Year is Clancy Pool.  
*Library Journal* will honor one support staffer with the  
16th annual Paralibrarian of the Year award,  
sponsored by DEMCO, in its March 1, 2015, issue.  
Learn more to submit your nominations.

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<http://ow.ly/EmyKu>

and we absolutely loved it. So we set out to create [Zoobean]...where by each child receives a book hand-picked just for them based on their particular age, background, interests, and reading level.”

Zoobean found its start-up funding in a nontraditional way: through a nationally broadcast pitch on ABC’s popular reality series *Shark Tank*, in which entrepreneurs pitch their start-ups to investors for funding.

Bookey says the idea for pairing the recommendations app with a library service emerged from the feedback from families who loved having highly recommended books and apps selected for them but who preferred to get the books for free from their local library.

Hence, the Beanstack app was born, and it has been recently adapted by the Sacramento Public Library (SPL), CA, the first institution to integrate the app with an existing library catalog. Patrons will be able to create a Beanstack profile, selecting preferences such as “animal characters” or “outer space.” The titles of books that fall into those categories, according to the child’s reading level and ability, will be sent to their in-box on a weekly basis. (Each recommendation links back to the participating library’s catalog.) Users can also track their child’s favorite reads.

According to Bookey, the service is available to Sacramento residents regardless of whether they have a library card or not.

Creating a Beanstack profile is a straightforward process, said Amy Calhoun, virtual branch coordinator at SPL, and can be done over the Internet in two to three minutes while answering questions about the child’s age, reading abilities, and preferences. The Beanstack website is also mobile and tablet-responsive.

Beanstack’s mobile-friendly design was a major factor in SPL’s de-

cision to integrate its service. The app also serves as a marketing agent for the participating library. According to Calhoun, users who do not yet

have a library card are then prompted by Beanstack to sign up for a library card, and the app walks the user through the sign-up process.

## Seven-Year-Old Challenges Abdo To Change Series Title

Seven-year-old Parker Dains, of Milpitas, CA, enjoys books about insects and wants to own a circus, where she “would treat the animals nicely.” During an April 2014 visit to the Milpitas Public Library, Parker was reading the *Biggest, Baddest Book of Bugs* (2012), from Minnesota-based Abdo Publishing, only to discover the title was part of a series called the “Biggest, Baddest Books for Boys,” according to London’s *Guardian* newspaper.

Outraged, the second grader at Joseph Weller Elementary School soon followed up with a letter to Abdo in which she wrote (excerpted from *The Mary Sue*):

“Dear Publishers: I am a 6-year-old girl [at the time of this writing] and I just read the *Biggest, Baddest Book of Bugs*. I really enjoyed the section on Glow in the Dark bugs and the quizzes at the end. When I saw the back cover title, it said ‘Biggest Baddest Books for Boys’ and it made me very unhappy. It made me very sad because there’s no such thing as a boy book. You should change from ‘Biggest, Baddest Books for Boys’ into ‘Biggest, Baddest Books for Boys and Girls’ because some girls would like to be entomologists too.”



Abdo responded with a letter, dated April 22, which read (excerpted from *Inside Bay Area*):

“Dear Parker... We love the way you decorated the envelope—you must be a very creative person! While the envelope was eye-catching, what you wrote inside caught our attention even more so. You brought up a very good point: there should certainly be a ‘Biggest, Baddest Books for Boys’ for everyone. After all, girls can like ‘boy’ things too!”

The letter went on to inform Parker that the publisher would be changing the series’ name to “Biggest, Baddest Books.” Parker received a box of books, courtesy of Abdo, under the new series title on November 7.

“I think it was so awesome...they took my advice,” said Parker to a local publication. “If boys want to, boys can have long hair, and girls can have short hair, just in case they like to keep hair safe from headlice like some of my friends did in my class.”

Parker’s “victory in the United States is the latest in a series of changes made to children’s stories” in the publishing industry, wrote the *Guardian*, following momentum from the UK campaign Let Books Be Books and the worldwide We Need Diverse Books.

Stateside, at the Brooklyn Public Library, Rachel Payne, the coordinator of early childhood services, told *Hotline*, “From my experience, kids usually know in about five seconds whether they want to open a book or not. Gender labels are just going to limit their choices. And if adults don’t know what books to get the kids in their lives, they can always turn to a knowledgeable librarian or bookseller.”

Among Parker’s select reads are Rachel Renée Russell’s *The Dork Diaries* (Aladdin), Jeff Kinney’s *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (Amulet), and Peggy Parish’s *Amelia Bedelia*, according to *Inside Bay Area*.

## Defunct Bronx School Library Returns to Life

P.S. 54, a New York City public elementary school just off of Fordham Road in the Bronx, is nestled next to Snake Hill, a twisted enclave with a long-standing history of being a drug hot spot.

For two years, the P.S. 54 school library was defunct after the former principal's longtime friend retired as school librarian. Upon reopening under Tracey Wong's leadership in 2012, the library had only two antiquated PCs for the school's population of 475 children. Several students were inept at navigating online, since they

did not have computers or web access at home. Because so many buildings in the neighborhood house homeless families, much of the school population is transient, which contributed to the school's failings.

By 2014, things had turned around, and the school library had become a genuine library media center. By forging alliances and building partnerships with community-based organizations, Wong was able to build resources and create learning opportunities.

Many New York City schools have faced budget cuts resulting in principals eliminating libraries altogether, or in principals claiming New York State Textbook Law funds for general school use instead of collection development. However, through careful planning, a great deal of collaboration, a whirlwind of grant writing, and some imagination, Wong was able to obtain additional resources.

Wong collaborated with NY Cares, a nonprofit that organizes volunteers who go into low-income neighborhoods, to beautify the school. Several alumni groups and a financial firm came in on a Saturday and set up classroom libraries, created outdoor pallet benches for the school's garden, and painted murals to be hung up in the auditorium.

Citizens NYC funded P.S. 54's scholar-created garden. Parents and community members also helped plan, plant, and maintain the environmental initiative. Citizens NYC and HSBC Bank sponsored a \$5,000 contest on water conservation, which the school library won.

Nonprofit CookShop NYC, a division of the Food Bank of New York City, provided lessons, handouts, materials, and fresh produce for students to learn how to create healthy food and snacks. CookShop also encouraged involvement through parent workshops, so that healthy foods and

### Branching Out



Following a major renovation, the **Essex Branch** (pictured) of the Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) reopened on Saturday, December 13 (see *Hotline*, 9/22/14). The 1969 20,000 square foot facility was upgraded with new carpeting, new shelving, fresh paint, and a refurbished information desk, among other alterations. The \$415,000 project, executed by local contractors, was funded through the Baltimore County Capital Maintenance Project.

Steinberg Architects of San José, CA, is undertaking the \$7.5 million renovation of Building 100, the **Chabot College library**, Hayward, CA. The plan stems from a 2012 student survey that indicated more space was necessary for both group and individual study. The construction, to be completed in April 2015, will include larger study rooms and computer labs, according to the *Spectator*. The rehab has been on the drawing board for eight years,

and several options had been proposed during that time, including the installation of an elevator. Unfortunately, the expected initial funding (\$10 million from the Facilities Committee and \$10 million from the state) was not forthcoming. A bond measure for a new building was another solution considered at one point. Cur-

rently, the elevator is off the table, but the library is hoping the committee can come up with an additional \$1 million for electrical upgrades—including a significant number of new outlets—more study rooms, carpeting, new lighting, and furniture.

The **Raymond Public Library**, East Hartford, CT, part of the East Hartford Public Library System, is entertaining a clever fundraising ploy as it moves forward with its renovation and expansion. The 48,000 square foot library, 14,000 square feet larger than its predecessor, has an \$8 million budget, but that won't cover certain furniture and computer enhancements to the existing structure. In order to raise an additional \$150,000, according to the *Hartford Courant*, residents and local businesses and associations are being asked to contribute to "Everybody Loves Raymond," with donations of \$500 or more recognized with a plaque.

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eating habits would have a greater chance of being reinforced at home.

Fuel Up to Play 60, a program sponsored by the National Dairy Association and the National Football League (NFL) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, used workshops led by NFL players and fitness/health professionals to empower students to become active for 60 minutes each day and to make healthy food choices. This led to collaborations with gym and classroom teachers on subjects including farm-to-table eating, geographic awareness of what crops grow where, environmental studies, ecology, and plant parts.

Lastly, the school library media center obtained resources for its shareholders. The Fund for Public Schools underwrote six desktops and six iPads and promoted family reading nights with giveaway books and refreshments sponsored by Tar-

get. Wong also appealed to the office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. for three smartboards and 58 laptops. All were fully funded.

## Ten Honored at I Love My Librarian Awards

The Carnegie Corporation of New York, the *New York Times*, and the American Library Association (ALA) honored the ten recipients of this year's I Love My Librarian Award at a reception on December 2 in New York City.

The award drew more than 1,000 nominations nationwide, and the winners—including three school librarians—were chosen by a committee of ALA leaders.

For one of the winners, Ciro Scardina, a library media specialist from P.S. 18 in Staten Island, NY, the award was the culmination of a year of na-

tional recognition. Earlier this year, he was named a 2014 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker.

In addition, in 2013 he was awarded a Heart of America/Target School Library Makeover grant for the renovation of his library. He also formed a partnership with the Food Bank of New York and has made the last Friday of every month a day for food distribution for the students in need at his school.


Scardina joined nine other librarian award recipients: **Michael Beller**, head of Reference & Access Services, F.W. Olin Library, Mills College, Oakland; **Cherry Hamrick**, director, Delta Township District Library, Lansing, MI; **Lynn Hancock Hurt**, coordinator of library services, Brown Library, Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke; **David Lopez**, librarian, Santa Ana Public Library, CA; **Sarah Sugden**, director,

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Waterville Public Library, ME; **Frances Yates**, library director, Indiana University East, Richmond; **Kevin M. Ray**, children's librarian, Cleveland Public Library; **Jessica Elaine Holmes**, librarian, Westridge Elementary School, Frankfort, KY; and **Christine Payne**, librarian, Appoquinimink High School, Middletown, DE.

Payne (a past president of the Delaware Library Association) was nominated by one of her students, Rachel Wagner. In Wagner's nomination form, she described how Payne fights to keep literacy alive through such initiatives as Real Men Read, in which a diverse group of men speak on the importance of reading, and a districtwide writing project called Festival of Words.

A year after inheriting a dismal library, Westridge's Holmes "transformed the library into a warm and

inviting place for all," said Charley Preston, assistant superintendent of Franklin County Public Schools. Through a host of programs, including a Student Leadership Technology Program, Mock Newbery, and "Booknic," Holmes helped to form a spirit of community. ("Booknic" is a program that asks the faculty to bring in a dish based on their favorite book.) She also created the Collaboration Café, a comfortable spot in her library in which she regularly meets with teachers to confer on classroom instruction.

Each honoree received a \$5,000 cash award, a plaque, and a \$500 travel stipend to attend the awards reception in New York City. Nominees must be librarians with a master's degree from an ALA-accredited MLIS program or a master's specializing

in school library media from an educational unit accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

## School Library Renaissance in MA District

One year after Swampscott School District, MA, proposed budget cuts to its middle and high school librarian positions, the district is undergoing a renaissance.

A new cataloging system has been installed at all five schools, a new high school librarian is in place for the current school year, and a school librarian for the middle school will be hired for the 2015–16 school year, with school librarians for all three elementary schools starting the following calendar year (2016–17). Those promises, now being met, have recharged parents in the district who are now volunteering at Hadley Elementary School (HES), ready to fill in staffing gaps in the meantime.

"Once they posted the high school librarian position and the PTA paid for the cataloging system, there was a lot of excitement," said Melissa DeFilippi, the parent who spearheaded the school library push last year. "The school district is fulfilling its promises, so there's more interest in helping out."

At HES, where DeFilippi is co-president of the PTA, part of that assistance included manually cataloging the 7,000 books in the library that remained after a tough culling. Many books were in disrepair, some were moved to the middle school, and others had some first aid—plastic covers and transparent book tape—coordinated by fellow parent Melissa Upton, herself a former reference librarian at a Boston-based law firm.

"Kids are not always gentle on books, and our hope is to get them back into their hands quickly," said Upton.

The cataloging ended in early No-

## People

**Dan W. Golden** was named Director, Liverpool Public Library, NY. He was previously Assistant Director, Onondaga Free Library, Syracuse, NY.

**Brian Kopetsky** was named Assistant Director at McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, effective January 19, 2015. He is currently Community Partnerships Section Head at Appleton Public Library, WI.

**Ryan Livergood** was appointed Executive Director of the Warren-Newport Public Library District, Gurnee, IL, following **Stephen Bero's** retirement. He was previously Director of the Robbins Library, Arlington, MA.

**Laura Skandera Trombley** was appointed the first female President of the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA, effective July 2015. She is currently President of Pitzer College, Claremont, CA.

**Derek Wolfgram** was named Director of the Redwood City Public Library, CA. He previ-

ously served as Deputy County Librarian at Santa Clara County Library District, CA.

**Tony Zanders** was appointed Vice President of Global Customer Development at EBSCO Information Services. He was previously Director of Marketing and Customer Development for Ex Libris.

The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, made the following hires: **Mireille Djenno**, previously Assistant Reference Librarian and Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago, was named Librarian for African, African American, and Diaspora Studies at the Stone Center Library; **Kristan Shawgo**, previously Community Outreach and Special Projects Manager for the Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory, was named Social Sciences Librarian; and **Therese Triumph**, previously Reference and Information Literacy Librarian at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, was named Science Librarian at the Kenan Science Library.

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vember, and by January parents expect to have the library open an hour a day, three days a week, after school. Parents can pick up their children and come up to the library to use the space and check out books. Two mornings a week, the K-4 students will also be able to exchange a book, and teachers are being invited to use the space as well. Plus the PTA has donated \$1,000 for new titles.

All work is being done by parent volunteers with the backing of new school principal Stacy Phelan, who suggested a grand opening party for the rehabbed library on December 19. "All this energy is creating a new buzz throughout the school, and people have realized how important the library is and what we have been missing these seven years without one," said DeFilippi. "Now that this buzz is created, we feel that licensed staff can't be far behind."

**Saint John's University's Hill Museum & Manuscript Library**, Collegetown, MN, received a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to develop an online reading room. It will consist of more than 25,000 digitized manuscripts from libraries in the Middle East, South India, and Africa.

**The Library Corporation (TLC)** was certified by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC). This allows TLC to compete for real-time business opportunities provided by WBENC corporate members and government agencies.

**SirsiDynix** was selected as one of the Wasatch Front Top Workplaces. The list was constructed through feedback from employee surveys created by WorkplaceDynamics, LLP.

**The F. Franklin Moon Library at the State University of New York College of Environ-**

**mental Science and Forestry**, Syracuse, received a \$5,000 grant from NY 3Rs Association, Inc. The award was for the school's "Library as Publisher of Graduate Student Data" project.

**Purdue University's Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center**, West Lafayette, IN, acquired the papers of astronaut Neil Armstrong (1930-2012). Donated by Armstrong's widow, Carol, the collection will join the Barron Hilton Flight and Space Exploration Archives.

**University Libraries at Penn State**, Philadelphia, received the Caroline F. Schimmel Fiction Collection of Women in the American Wilderness from alumna Caroline Schimmel. The archive includes more than 6,000 novels, short stories, poems, and songs.

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