



**DATE:** July 17, 2023

### **Administrative**

We said good-bye to our part-time Regional Cataloger and express driver, Madison Hough. Madison has taken a job as the Clinch River Regional Library's new Assistant Director in Clinton, Tennessee. Mr. Jay was happy to resume his duties as the Express driver once again after his illness. The position of collection development and cataloger will be combined once again into a full-time position.

We held our Spring Workshop in May for Branch Managers and Library Assistants. The workshop included sessions on stem programs, the 2024 solar eclipse event, Traveler Databases and Customer Service with guest speakers, Jennifer Wann and Katie Walton with the Arkansas State Library.

I have been selected to present at the Arkansas Library Association Conference in Hot Springs in September. I will be presenting "Let Your Light Shine: Telling Your Library Story!" Star City Branch Manager, Simone Kirk's session was chosen as well so we will have two representatives for SEARL at the conference this fall.

### **Technology & Branch Updates**

All the branch libraries are in their busy season with Summer Reading. Attendance has been good this year. The theme "All together Now" sparked some great events concerning unity in the communities. Everything from first responders, saving the pollinators, crisis response animals, to citizen science and gardening has been offered. Our branch managers never cease to amaze me with their ingenuity to adapt the theme into fun and educational programs for our young patrons. We also have community projects going on as well. Lake Village patrons are making a community patriotic afghan that will be raffled off and Monticello patrons are creating a painted quilt block that will adorn the outside of the library building and be added to the trail of quilts.

### **Community Engagement & Outreach**

At the end of April I attended the Texas Library Association Conference with Digital Coordinator, Jennifer Knight. There were lots of new library products hitting the market to see and of course we were able to purchase many new books for bargain prices. We also toured the Lyndon Johnson Presidential Library and the Austin downtown Library.

In May the Monticello Library hosted a book signing for Philip Shackleford, Library Director at South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado, Arkansas. His book, Rise of the Mavericks: the U.S. Air Force Security Service and the Cold War was released in April.

The Monticello Branch Library was also selected to be one of three host libraries for the *If All Arkansas Read the Same Book* annual, statewide reading program author tour. The selection for 2023's *If All Arkansas Read the Same Book* is "Beasts of Ruin", the second novel in the "Beasts of Prey" series by Arkansas writer, Ayana Gray.

## **Meetings & Workshops Attended**

Texas Library Association Conference – Austin, TX, April 18 - 22

Association for Rural & Small Libraries – Solo Librarians – via Zoom, May 4

Arkansas State Library Board Meeting – Little Rock, AR, May 11

Author Book Signing – Monticello, AR – May 20

SEARL Spring Workshop – Monticello, AR May 24

Niche Academy – Book Bans webinar, via zoom, June 14

Arkansas Attorney General, Freedom of Information Webinar – via zoom, June 21