

Happy New Year! Today in EYE-OPENER January 4, 2016

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1) New Year Resolutions @ Your Library: Friday ushered in a new year and for many people, resolutions to do more...or less...or better ☺ Libraries can make some strides along a new path, too, with some simple pledges going forward.

Here's a great start: designate which holidays the library will observe in 2016. Grab a calendar and start with the "obvious" ones: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Then toss in other "likely"

holidays: MLK Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, and Veterans' Day. Then consider what to do with Black Friday, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve. Decide what happens when holidays land on Saturdays or Sundays.

Most importantly, talk with city hall to learn what other city departments do because you're all city employees. Talk through the process for holiday pay for full-time and part-time staff. And finally, secure board approval for your library's designated holidays and staff compensation, recording all decisions in board minutes. Commit these decisions to a calendar and to the library's website. Then staff can make any travel plans well in advance. Likewise, patrons can plan accordingly, knowing when the library is expected to be open or closed.

This same practice applies to inclement weather closings. Many public libraries look to their city government, main street businesses, or the school system when closing for bad weather. Rather than deciding from storm to storm, make inclement weather closings a matter of written policy. Because like holidays, inclement weather affects how staff are paid during early closings.

Questions about holiday and weather closings are guaranteed to be asked on IOWALIB several times each year, so resolve to be pro-active and pre-emptive in 2016—approach this year's slate of holidays anxiety-free! Let us know if you would like sample holiday and inclement weather policies and look for more New Year Resolutions next week...



2) Dan Wardell's 2016 Reading Road Trip: Thanks to Merri Monks for this announcement: IPTV's Dan Wardell is planning his annual reading road trip for this summer. And he is now taking requests from Iowa libraries that would like to host a performance. Merri adds that the usual Facebook challenges and original approaches are always appreciated but optional. Dan Wardell himself has more:

"...at Iowa Public TV, we're excited to again be able to provide the Reading Road Trip Tour at NO COST to Iowa's libraries. Next summer will be our 10th anniversary of providing this children's programming opportunity. If you would like to be considered for next summer's storytime adventures, I will be taking requests through January 18. Your request can come in the form of a phone call, email, letter, or whatever else your imagination comes up with! As always, no cash bribes or baked goods will be accepted ☺ And please remember that no library is too small to be considered.

I plan to lock myself away January 19-21 to select my stops. We'll plan on playing our usual Facebook challenges during that time as well. But don't forget, the challenges are OPTIONAL and DO NOT affect the chances of your library being selected. The final list will be revealed on January 22. For more information, contact me at <http://site.iptv.org/about> ..."

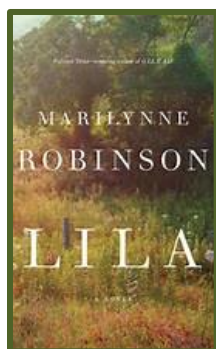


3) ILOC Conference Preview: The 2016 ILOC Conference is just 2 ½ weeks away, coming up **January 21, 2016**. **ILOC (Innovative Libraries Online Conference)** is a proven and popular event, drawing hundreds of Iowa library staff and trustees together for full day of learning online. The **ILOC Team** has chosen "**Digital Citizenship**" as this year's theme. The concept of digital citizenship can be complex, but essentially it encourages people of all ages to be responsible and savvy users of today's social media, websites, and digital products. Today, two more previews of some of the many sessions lined up.

- ✓ Jerri Heid with Ames PL presents a session titled "**It's APP-licable: Librarians as Media Mentors.**" *Through a short history of the American Association of Pediatrics' opinion on screen time, the position of Fred Rogers Institute, and the work of Common Sense Media and Little E Lit media mentors across the country, attendees will walk away with a tool box of resources to be a media mentor in their library community.*

- ✓ Samantha Helmick with Burlington PL presents a session titled **“Making Meaningful Communication: Library Spaces & Social Media.”** *Gain insight into the essentials of using mobile social marketing apps...successfully advertise a new series of programs and promote traditional resources with digital communication campaigns such as: a Teen Advisory Tumblr Archive, a Library Book Club Facebook Group, and Reader’s Advisory Through Instagram.*

Morning and evening keynote presentations will be done using ZOOM conferencing software; throughout the day, breakout sessions will be held in Adobe Connect classrooms. Be sure to register for ILOC and join this ambitious all-day online conference!



4) All Iowa Reads Webinar This Month: Following Robin Martin’s retirement, Helen Dagley has taken over as Iowa’s Center for the Book Coordinator. Helen assumed her new duties in November and has this announcement about an important webinar on January 27:

“...Registration is open for the 2016 All Iowa Reads Webinar on January 27 (10:30AM-12:00PM) This webinar is designed to help library staff, trustees and community discussion leaders plan a discussion of the 2016 All Iowa Reads (AIR) selection Lila by Pulitzer Prize winning author Marilynne Robinson. The AIR Webinar segments include:

- ✓ *Mini reviews of books that were AIR 2016 finalists*
- ✓ *Review of the criteria used to select Lila*
- ✓ *In-depth exchange between Susan Craig (Director Iowa City PL) and George Minot (English Professor Kirkwood Community College) They will summarize the story, introduce the characters, and identify topics and themes important to librarians planning their own discussions*
- ✓ *Participant chat and Q&A throughout*
- ✓ *Resources available on the Iowa Center for the Book Website such as publicity materials, tips for successful book discussions, reserving multiple copies of the book”*

This webinar will be held online using ZOOM conferencing software. When you register in the c.e. catalog <http://www.statelibraryofia.org/cgi-bin/cecat/index.cgi> you’ll receive follow-up email confirmations with instructions for using ZOOM. You’re welcome to contact Helen with any questions; in her new capacity, reach her at Iowa’s Center of the Book iacenterbook@lib.state.ia.us

5) Meetings / Events This Week: Rolfe PL Board meets with me online Thursday evening for a conversation about Friends Groups; otherwise, a quiet week.

A new year brings new national webinars. A handful shows below, find the full listing and registration details here <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted>

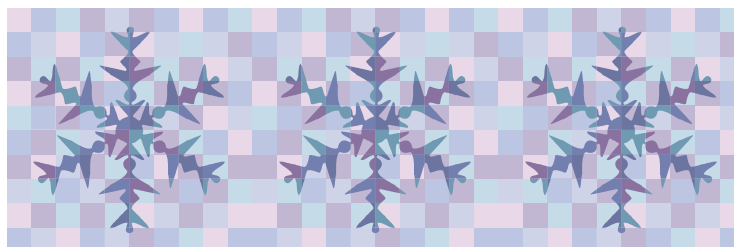
January 5. 12:00-1:00PM. *A Conversation with the 2016 YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Finalists* sponsored by School Library Journal <http://www.slj.com/category/webcasts/>

January 5. 12:00-1:00PM. *The Power of You: Handling the Chaos of Work* sponsored by InSync Training <https://www.insynctraining.com/complimentary-programs/>

January 6. 10:00-11:00AM. *Best New Children's Books of 2015* sponsored by Nebraska Library Commission <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL>

January 6. 1:00-2:00PM. *Getting Technology Donations Through TechSoup* sponsored by TechSoup <http://www.techsoup.org/community/events-webinars>

January 7. 12:00-1:00PM. *Quiet Leadership: Harnessing the Strengths of Introverts to Change How We Work, Lead and Innovate* sponsored by Training Magazine Network <http://www.trainingmagnetwork.com/calendar>



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