

# NAVIGATOR: COLORADO LIBRARIES AND THE WORLD

Issue 13

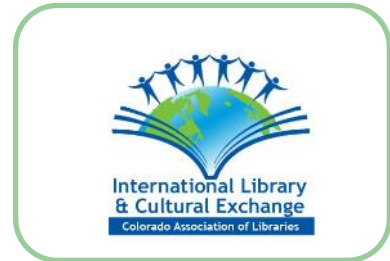
March 2022

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE  
INTEREST GROUP / COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIES

## Shannon Brennan Named Littleton Employee of the Year 2021



Shannon Brennan, Children's Librarian at the Bemis Public Library in Littleton and Steering Committee Member of the International Library and Cultural Exchange Interest Group, has been named the 2021 Employee of the Year for the City of Littleton, a most deserved award. She faced stiff competition for this city-wide award, but as the record of accomplishments attest, her dedication to the community and to library services to children is self-evident. She was recognized for her community outreach work, her promotion of a healthy and caring workplace, and her early literacy work supporting children to be school ready. As a children's librarian, Shannon's work with children and their families has a profound impact on a child's early literacy development and school success.



Recognizing an influx of families with children from birth to five years old frequenting the children's area of the Bemis Public Library, she increased promotion of children's services to children and their parents and caregivers. Shannon's first initiative was to apply for and receive the Colorado State Library grant "Growing Readers Together," a program funded by the Buell Foundation and distributed to multiple libraries and library districts in Colorado. This award funded two programs: Take Home Story Time Kit and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program at Bemis.

In addition, it was her desire to expand on the popular StoryWalk®, which displays pages of a picture book in sequential spots to promote reading and walking. Bemis Public Library started one at the Gallup Gardens park, located adjacent to the Bemis Library during Summer 2020. It was so well received during the pandemic that it has continued ever since. The popularity of StoryWalk® quickly grew, and the Aspen Grove Shopping Center indicated interest in participating with the book pages on display in their store fronts. Shannon brokered a partnership with them in June 2021. Originally planned for one month, the partnership proved so popular that the shopping center has asked to continue the story walk partnership indefinitely.

Shannon is also dedicated to the library profession. She has served on the ILCE-IG steering committee for three years and has been instrumental in organizing and scheduling programs at the annual CALCON conferences, marketing the programs, and scheduling speakers. She recently updated the ILCE-IG brochure that serves as a key marketing tool.

She has been selected to participate for a two-year term with the CLEL (Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy) Bell Award Selection Committee. Each year the committee reads all the 2021 book nominations for the five early literacy practices and selects a book for each category that is best represented: Read, Write, Sing, Play, and Talk. These areas are the foundation to reading and promoted between birth and five years of age.

For full details of her accomplishments, photos, and testimonials, check out the ILCE-IG webpage: <https://ilceig.wordpress.com/2022/01/09/shannon-brennan-named-littleton-employee-of-the-year-2021/>

### Inside this issue:

- Shannon Brennan named Littleton Employee of the Year **1**
- Laptops to Lesotho Sponsors Palang Book Festival **2**
- HJH Libraries for All Gifted with Books **3**
- Welcome, Linda Tillson **3**
- Focus on a Project: Bemis Public Library **4**

### Save the dates:

- ALA Annual, Washington, D.C. June 23-28, 2022
- IFLA WLIC, Dublin, Ireland July 26-22, 2022
- CALCON 2022, Westminster, September 8-10, 2022
- LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience, New Orleans, LA. Jan 27-31, 2023

## Laptops to Lesotho Sponsors Paleng Book Festival



Former ILCE-IG steering committee member, Kathy Plath, announced the successful Paleng Book Festival in support of the Kokobe Primary School in Lesotho. Kathy is the chair of Laptops to Lesotho (<https://www.laptopstolesotho.org>), a non-profit that has built a library at the Kokobe Primary School. In addition to a core collection of books, Laptops to Lesotho, will be furnishing a SolarSpell server, loaded with vetted electronic content that will be accessed by children through digital devices.

The Paleng Book Festival was orchestrated by Paleng, a local non-profit, which has been assisting in local arrangements of the festival at the Kokobe Primary School. The festival was held in November, 2021, utilizing eight boxes of books shipped from the U.S. combined with books supplied from Book Dash, a South African organization.

Paleng books included:

- 'Mokopu oa 'M'e Maneo ('M'e Maneo's Pumpkin)
- 'Peo ea Thoko ea Fanta Pine' (Thoko's Fanta Pine Seed)
- 'Molumo oa Puo ea Sesotho oa Bana' (Sounds of Sesotho for children)
- 'Bolo' (Ball)
- 'Thupa ea Mollo oa Tau' (Lion's Fire Sticks)
- 'Phoso ea Mojalefa' (Mojalefa's Mistake)
- 'Kokoana-Hloko ea Corona: kea u sireletsa, u ua nts'ireletsa' (Corona virus: I protect you, you protect me)
- 'Tlohong, he re baleng!' (Come, let's count)



It would not be a festival without food. The menu included:

- Boerewors (farm-style sausage) and *papa* (corn) with an onion, tomato and chakalaka (spicy relish) sauce. Meat is something these children will see very little of
- apples
- juice
- Biscuits and some sweets were bought as treats for the children to put with the books they were taking home.

During the book festival, many of the books were placed on shelving in the library (with room for library growth. Others were set aside for the children to take home. Teachers were instructed in the methods of circulating books to students, proper shelving of the books, and tips on keeping the collection attractive. The teachers were also instructed on the many different ways that they could encourage the children to use the library. A select group of students were shown how to use the library becoming student leaders and teaching by example.

Typically book festivals are for younger children, but the Paleng/Kokobe Book Festival included all grades reaching an audience of 140 children. The festival began with the reading of Paleng book 'Mokopu oa 'M'e Maneo' ('M'e Maneo's Pumpkin) to the children. The storyteller engaged the children in a discussion of the book as they shared books and read along.

Other activities included playing educational games, which involved teamwork. After lunch, each child was given a plastic book bag with age-appropriate Paleng books to take home, pencils and treats, and a goodbye song was sung. The children were given instructions on the care and treatment of their books and encouraged them to read to family members and friends.



"The Book Festival was a great success, children engaged with a book, had a very happy time playing games, enjoyed a good lunch, and best of all received personal copies of Paleng books to take home," reported Marion Drew, from Paleng.

Check out the video documentary that highlights events of the Paleng Book Festival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkeD978z1K4>

## HJH Libraries for All Foundation Gifted with Books in Spanish



Months ago, Jane Mirandette, founder of the Hester J Hodgdon Libraries for all Foundation, learned that a foreign language bookstore in Cincinnati, OH was closing after 40 years, and the owner wanted to donate the books to projects in Nicaragua. Georgia Crowell, owner of Aims International Books Inc., wanted her extensive collection of books to be put to good use.

After reviewing the bookstore's catalog, Jane decided she needed to travel to Cincinnati to explore this opportunity. While Georgia had books of all genres and for all ages, Jane was on a mission to find books in Spanish for older school kids, a hard-to-reach group due to the scarcity and expense of materials. For the past few years, Jane has had a vision to expand the Mobile Project to reach this age group. Georgia's catalog contained classic novels, poetry collections, chapter books, and titles that could make expanding the Mobile Project a possibility.

With volunteer, Laura Pineda, she arrived at the bookstore and it was clear that the collection would be of great value and would help reinvigorate the library collections in Nicaragua, including the existing Mobile Project and possibly replace over 50% of the existing collection. It would also provide books for older students, refresh the satellite libraries collections, and give the possibility to donate new books to some of the Library in a Box Recipient Libraries throughout the country. Jane and Laura filled three suitcases and 11 twenty-pound FEDEX boxes to be shipped back to Colorado. In addition, Georgia paid for the shipping of an additional 27 forty-pound boxes back to Colorado.

While Georgia is closing the doors to her bookstore, she is simultaneously lifting economic barriers that have kept book projects in Nicaragua from expanding. This generous gift is the spark that will light a wildfire of opportunities for HJH.

For a fun, time-lapse video of Jane Mirandette and Laura Pineda in action see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLbvn1aDKAE>

## Welcome, Linda Tillson, New Steering Committee Member



Linda Tillson has served as the District Director for the Eagle Valley Library District for 9 years. Prior to Eagle Valley she served as Park City Public Library Director for 12 years. She received her Masters of Library Science degree from the University of Arizona in Tucson and worked for the Phoenix Public Library for 14 years before relocating to Park City. Linda also served as President of the Utah Library Association in 2010 and was the Utah Chapter Councilor to ALA for two terms. She has been a Rotary President in Park City and later in Eagle, Colorado. She became interested in international connections when a sister library program began between Park City and Dharan, Nepal and when she attended Rotary International in Salt Lake City and later, IFLA in Columbus, OH.

## Watch for 10th Anniversary Events, Coming Soon!

ILCE-IG is celebrating its 10th anniversary as an interest group this year. Watch for 10 anniversary events throughout the year. They will include the International Reception at the CALCON conference in September, workshops, and a call for grant proposals. ILCE-IG is also expanding its board. If you have an interest in international librarianship or outreach to the international community within Colorado, please contact a steering committee member.

## STEERING COMMITTEE:

Janet Lee, Chair, janet.lee35@gmail.com  
Jen Yadav, Secretary, jyadav@dclibraries.org  
Nancy Bolt, At large, nancybolt@earthlink.net  
Janet Lee, At large janet.lee35@gmail.com  
Jane Mirandette, At large, janem101@aol.com  
Shannon Brennan, At large, sbrennan@littletongov.org  
Linda Tillson, At large, ltillson@evld.org

Colorado Association of Libraries  
P.O. Box 740905  
Arvada, CO 80006  
Phone 303 463-6400  
[cal@cal-webs.org](mailto:cal@cal-webs.org)



Be Social: Like us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ilceig>

## Who We Are

The International Library and Cultural Exchange Interest Group (ILCE-IG) grew out of the American-Bulgarian Library Exchange Project (1996-2011), which sought to create connections and cooperation between American and Bulgarian libraries. The ILCE-IG has extended its scope to encourage projects that foster relationships between Colorado Libraries and those of other countries, to help build and maintain libraries in communities overseas, and to celebrate non-dominant cultures across Colorado.

We're on the web:  
[ilceig.wordpress.com/](http://ilceig.wordpress.com/)

## Focus on a Project

### Bemis Public Library StoryWalk® at the Gallup Gardens and Aspen Grove Shopping Center

Photos courtesy of Shannon Brennan

Bemis Public Library started a StoryWalk® at the Gallup Gardens park, located adjacent to the Bemis Library during Summer 2020. It was so well received during the pandemic that it has continued ever since. StoryWalk® displays pages of a picture book in sequential spots to promote reading and walking. The popularity of StoryWalk® quickly grew, and the Aspen Grove Shopping Center indicated interested in participating with the book pages on display in their store fronts. Children and their families walk from store to store reading the story together ending at Tattered Cover where they receive a small incentive for reading the book and answering a question about it.

