

2020 "Coming to America" Reading Groups for Public Libraries Program
Yiddish Book Center
January 27-29, 2020

About the Participants

Christy Billings, Russell Library (Middletown, CT)

Christy Billings has worked in public libraries for over ten years. She is currently working in the Information Services and Adult Learning Department at Russell Library in Middletown, CT. Christy leads a variety of book discussion groups including, Racial Justice Book Group, Books and Brews, and Book Yak on a Kayak. She is also one of two leaders for The Russell Library Veterans Writing Group. Christy loves to hear people say, "I didn't know libraries do that," as a response to some of the programs and services that Russell Library offers.

Amy Carroll, Campbell County Public Library (Campbell County, KY)

Amy Carroll is from Campbell County, Kentucky. She has worked at Campbell County Public Library for three years first as an Adult/Teen Programmer and now as the Adult/Teen Programming Coordinator.

Jonina Duker, Metropolitan DC Public Libraries (North Bethesda, MD)

Jonina Duker first founded a book discussion group, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Junior Reviewers, as a rising seventh-grader when she was too young to join the existing Senior Reviewers. As a lifelong library volunteer, she leads book discussion groups in libraries in the metropolitan DC area (including a Judaic one she founded in 2012) as a volunteer and leads book discussion groups in venues other than libraries as a professional facilitator.

Deborah Estreicher, King Library (San Jose, CA)

Deborah is a first generation American, born in Wisconsin, to parents of the Shoah. She lives in San José and has been a librarian for almost 30 years, currently supervising a multitude of programs and volunteers, and enjoying her work as a reference librarian. Deborah enjoys travel and engages with almost every dog she encounters.

Kristina Gómez, Milwaukee Public Library (Milwaukee, WI)

Kristina Gómez is the events and programming librarian at Milwaukee Public Library. She coordinates adult programming for Milwaukee Public Library's 13 locations. A 2010 graduate of University of Wisconsin Madison iSchool, Kristina is passionate about and active in EDI library work at the local and state level. Her family emigrated from Zacatecas, Mexico and she is a proud first generation American.

Janis Holden, North Regional/Broward County College Library (Broward County, FL)
Janis Holden is a librarian with Broward County, Florida. She is the point person for the annual Jewish Book Review Series, presenting monthly Jewish-themed book reviews. Yiddish was spoken in her home, but only so the *kinder* wouldn't understand what the adults were saying!

Sandra (Sandi) Hopkins, Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library (Virginia Beach, VA)
Sandra Hopkins is a reference and outreach librarian at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She loves people and enjoys helping them. She leads a History Comes Alive! Book Club in collaboration with the Virginia Beach Historic Museums. Most recently she read the book *Taste and See: Discovering God among Butchers, Bakers and Fresh Food Makers* by Margaret Feinberg.

Anne Baker Jones, Vernon Area Public Library (Lincolnshire, IL)
Anne's ancestry is 99% Eastern European. She visited Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest, Prague and Vienna earlier this year. Anne learned to read and write Yiddish as a child, but now she mainly remembers vocabulary and choice expressions which she uses often. As a librarian, Anne's favorite roles are fiction collection development and reader's advisory.

Courtney Jones, Adolphine Fletcher Terry Library (Little Rock, AR)
Courtney Frazier Jones is the Adult Programming Librarian at the Adolphine Fletcher Terry Library, a branch of Central Arkansas Library System. She is an avid gardener, writer, artist, traveler and community volunteer. Mrs. Frazier Jones lives in Little Rock, AR with her family.

Jessica Jones, Bryan + College Station Public Library (College Station, TX)
Jessica is a public library branch manager in College Station, Texas. She is back in Texas after stints in Michigan, Wyoming, and New Mexico working in academic and research libraries. She loves seeking out diverse narratives and discussing them with colleagues and her STEAM book club at work.

Faith Kaufmann, Forbes Library (Northampton, MA)
Faith Kaufmann is the Arts & Music Librarian and an Information Services team leader at Forbes Library in Northampton, MA. She engages the community through arts and cultural programming, exhibits, special collections, online services, and ukuleles.

Sarah Meitzler, Lower Macungie Library (Macungie, PA)
Sarah Meitzler is from Kutztown, Pennsylvania and she earned her Bachelors of Education and Certification in Library Science K-12 from Kutztown University of PA and her Masters of Library Science from Clarion University of PA. Sarah has been working in libraries for 18 years including a summer teen volunteer position at her home library, Brandywine Community library, 4 years as a student assistant at the

Kutztown University Library, a summer internship at a special library at Carpenter Technology, 2 internships at the Clarion University Library, and 3 years as an elementary school librarian. Currently she has been working at the Lower Macungie Library for 9 years where she has served in different positions including her current position as the Circulation Manager and Adult Program Coordinator.

Pam Nath, New Orleans Public Library (New Orleans, LA)

Pam Nath is a Library Associate at the New Orleans Public Library and serves on the adult programs team. She also works as an Undoing Racism trainer and organizer with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. She loves spending time by the water and with trees in New Orleans, and cares passionately about deeply grounded spiritual work for liberation and healing.

Janet Ryan, Jones Library (Amherst, MA)

Janet Ryan is the Head of Programming & Outreach at the Jones Library in Amherst, MA. She can be found at the reference desk when she isn't busy planning adult programming or buying mysteries and cookbooks for the collection.

Ruth Shafer, White Salmon Valley Community Library (White Salmon, WA)

Ruth Shafer has worked for The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District for nearly 30 years. She began her career as children's librarian, which she was lucky enough to work with youth for over 25 years. Originally from New York, Ruth now lives in beautiful Columbia River Gorge.

Barbara Shatara, Fletcher Free Library (Burlington, VT)

Barbara Shatara is the Programming & Partnerships Librarian at the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington, Vermont. She also oversees the Library's Outreach and ELL services. Originally from Florida, Barbara manages to get through each Vermont winter by bundling up and getting outside with her family and dog, Daisy.

Prudence Taylor, Greenwood County Library (Greenwood, SC)

Prudence is from Georgia originally. She is the Director of the Greenwood County Library System, Greenwood, SC, and facilitates the adult book discussion groups at the headquarters library.

Kerry Weinstein, Fort Lee Public Library (Fort Lee, NJ)

Kerry Weinstein is a New Jersey-based librarian living in Jersey City and working in Fort Lee, whose specialties are planning programs for adult audiences and establishing and leading book clubs. She is professionally active in her home state, serving on the Adult Services Committee for her library's consortium, Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS), and the Executive Board for the New Jersey Library Association as a Member-at-Large. Outside the library, Kerry enjoys reading nonfiction

and memoirs, listening to podcasts on 1.25x, and spending time with her friends and family.

Lily Weitzman, Public Library of Brookline (Brookline, MA)

Lily Weitzman is a programming, outreach, and communications librarian at the Public Library of Brookline, MA. Her responsibilities include chairing the programming committee, collection development, providing reference services, and coordinating both ongoing book groups and special events. Lily is also a devoted Yiddishist who has studied at the Yiddish Book Center, Yiddish Farm, and YIVO Institute; she chairs the Yiddish Committee at Boston Workers Circle.

Linda Wentworth, Jones Library (Amherst, MA)

Linda is Head of Collections at the Jones Library in Amherst, Mass. She is in her dream job being a librarian at a public library in a college town full of avid readers; she is responsible for the adult collection, reader's advisory, and book clubs. She previously ran a small public library and before that worked at Cornell University Press.

Wendy Westgate, Los Angeles Public Library (Los Angeles, CA)

Wendy has been a Librarian at Los Angeles Public Library for 15 years and has served in various branches as an Adult and a Children's Librarian. For the past 4 years, she has had the good luck to work in the most fun department (in her opinion!) at LAPL: The Exploration & Creativity Department. She manages a system-wide cultural program series called LA Made, now entering its 5th season, and coordinates Adult Programming of various types. With many relatives who spoke Yiddish as their first language, she has long been intrigued with the language and has studied it on and off for 14 years.

Rachel Wilhoyte, Shaker Heights Public Library (Shaker Heights, OH)

Rachel Wilhoyte is a librarian in the Adult Services Department at the Shaker Heights Public Library. She maintains much of the genre fiction at the library. She also facilitates a book discussion group called PubReads.

Kathi Woodward, The Library Center (Springfield, MO)

Kathi Woodward, a native of Springfield, Missouri, has been the Reference Department Manager at The Library Center branch of the Springfield-Greene County Library District since 2012. Previously she managed a Waldenbooks store for 25 years. Kathi would like to spend all her time reading or talking about books, so she enjoys serving on book selection committees such as the Missouri State University Common Reader and the Missouri Author Award.

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Selected Libraries

Library Name	City/State
Bryan + College Station Public Library	College Station, TX
Campbell County Public Library	Cold Spring, KY
Central Arkansas Library System	Little Rock, AR
Fletcher Free Library	Burlington, VT
Forbes Library	Northampton, MA
Fort Lee Public Library	Fort Lee, NJ
Greenwood County Library	Greenwood, SC
Jones Library	Amherst, MA
San Jose Public Library	San Jose, CA
Los Angeles Public Library	Los Angeles, CA
Lower Macungie Library	Macungie, PA
Milwaukee Public Library	Milwaukee, WI
New Orleans Public Library	New Orleans, LA
North Regional / Broward County College Library	Coconut Creek, FL
Public Library of Brookline	Brookline, MA
Russell Library	Middletown, CT
Shaker Heights Public Library	Shaker Heights, OH
Springfield-Greene County Library District	Springfield, MO
Vernon Area Public Library	Lincolnshire, IL
Virginia Beach Library Foundation	Virginia Beach, VA
White Salmon Valley Community Library	White Salmon, WA