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The President's Column

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The President's Column

Ahh...the chill is in the air; but we all know that this is false fall; we still have a warm spell to come before fall truly arrives. No matter – football is on, libraries are celebrating all sorts of holidays and special events, conference for 2023 is in the books, and we are busy planning our 2024 calendar. Are you the fiend who is already listening to holiday music? Join me as we buck tradition and turn on those lovely tunes while you cuddle with some warm tea, a cozy blanket, and your latest must-have book.

As I reflect on our busy 2023, I am once again thrilled to be part of SELA. We have hosted and partnered on so many events across library types. As we look to 2024, what are we thinking? How do we focus on the important things and not get overwhelmed by the bad news all around? Having that mentor in place helps keep me grounded, both in reality and in hope. I encourage you to find a mentor if you do not already have one. Even for those of us who are mentors ourselves, there comes a time when we still need to be the mentee and draw on the wisdom of those who came before us. If you do not have one or one in mind to call upon, please feel free to drop me a note and let's set up a time to chat. I do not promise to have the answers, but I can promise to be a listening ear.

For 2024, SELA leaders are considering a throwback and tradition-breaking event: a late summer conference where we will meet to celebrate each other and our services to our profession and communities while learning from professionals around our great region. For those who have been around a few years, you may remember our summer leadership conferences with fondness – I certainly do. You may also note that 2024 is our big award year! Go ahead and get ready to nominate deserving colleagues, libraries, and more. This summer event will be an opportunity to come together at a reasonable cost and bring a colleague along to discover the joys and benefits to being involved in SELA. I recommend you stay tuned to the listserv for details coming soon to an inbox near you.

As we close out a year and ready ourselves for a new year, we tend to reflect. Personally, I like to start each year with a word. Something I can hold on to during the dark nights and something to inspire when looking to make a difference in the world around me. Do you follow a similar practice? I've found that resolutions are easy promises to make and break, while a word can have so many meanings that it sticks around all year long. It is a word that can be your guiding north star when you might otherwise falter or even fall. I've found my word as early as October or as late as February. This time, I connected with my new word quickly. As members of our association, feel free to hold me accountable so that we grow SELA and remind each other of the benefits of membership. 2024 word: DARE. How many ways this can make an impact...Dare to dream, Dare to be different, Dare to lead, Dare to be a risk-taker, Dare to stand up for others, Dare to stand up for myself, Dare to share, Dare to reach, Dare to step back, Dare to step forward, Dare to serve. Dare.



“Power is given to those who dare to lower themselves and pick it up. Only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to dare!” - Fyodor Dostoevsky

Interested in joining SELA or need to renew your membership?

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