

## NJLA-CUS/ACRL-NJ Organizational Report for VALE 2021

Despite working entirely remotely, we have been as busy as ever! Much of our efforts this year have been focused on social justice, equity, and increasing representation among our membership. We've formed an Anti-Racism Task Force to work on important issues and have joined up with other groups working on the same. In early October, our annual Open Membership meeting was a workshop and discussion, 'Dismantling the Racism Machine: Myths Taught to White People that Perpetuate White Supremacy' led by Dr. Karen Gaffney, Professor of English from Raritan Valley Community College.

As we look ahead to 2021 and the upcoming spring semester, we are gearing up for the annual NJLA Conference to be held June 3 & 4, with a theme of 'All In: Accessibility, Equity, and Inclusiveness.' You can expect to see a strong showing of programs and presentations from NJ academic librarians including some of the traditional events we sponsor each year including the Distinguished Service Award, Technology Innovation Award, Research Award, and Technical Services Award and also the annual College & University Section Luncheon. Although the format of the conference is still in flux, it will most certainly be a worthwhile experience for anyone involved in NJ libraries!

This year's VALE conference planning was unlike any other in the past. Immense thanks to my co-chair Amanda Piekart for her tenacity, organization, and skills at keeping everything running. Thank you to the conference planning committee, Melissa Lena, VALE member's Council and VALE executive council and Kurt Wagner and Joe Toth. Without the support of VALE and its leadership, this year's conference simply would not have happened.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has been involved in our organization this year, executive board members, committee chairs, committee members, NJLA leadership, and all of our general members! Without all of you working together, we would not be such strong advocates for NJ academic libraries! I wish you all a very happy 2021 and I look forward to continuing working with you and the opportunity to work with you if I haven't yet done so.