

# Celebrating April

I write this column at the end of April—April that some poets would have us sorrow for: “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d,” in which Whitman “mourn’d, and yet shall mourn with ever-returning spring,” or T. S. Eliot’s famous beginning “April is the cruellest month, breeding / Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing / Memory and desire, stirring / Dull roots with spring rain.”



Image by LtPowers, Wikimedia Commons

Not me. I would rather celebrate Spring—after all, even in his elegy Whitman acknowledges that “every leaf” of the lilac bush is “a miracle.” And there is much to celebrate this spring, including this issue of *North Carolina Libraries*! In addition to the Biennium minutes, the encouragement of our association President to protect intellectual freedom, and a well-researched and enthusiastic history of Carnegie public and academic libraries in North Carolina, we have in this issue an article describing the creation and use of a multi-sensory and sensory inclusive library space and two new columns.

The first new column is “In Step with Library Leaders,” and the inaugural article provides responses to three questions asked of three library

leaders, one each from an academic, public, and school focus. Future articles in this column may range from “why I stepped up for library leadership” to “deciding when to say ‘no’” or from how to handle difficult conversations to how to bring people together in support of a strategic vision.

The second new column is “On the Front Lines,” and it is intended to provide a venue for sharing experiences, suggestions, and encouragement from library staff who work directly with patrons. Many thanks to ECU’s Head of Interlibrary Loan William Gee for contributing the first article in this column, “Welcoming the Next Patron.”

I hope our readers will join me in soaking in this first 2024 issue of *North Carolina Libraries* and look forward to a second issue in the fall. Feel free to contact me at [editor@nclaonline.org](mailto:editor@nclaonline.org) or 252-737-2728. In the meantime, listen to an April Rain Song play “a little sleep song on our roof at night” and then get outside and enjoy this puddle-wonderful spring!

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor and mailed to: Joyner Library, 1000 E Fifth Street, Greenville, NC 27858, or by email to [editor@nclaonline.org](mailto:editor@nclaonline.org).

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. If you are interested in writing for *North Carolina Libraries* or would like consideration for news and product information, please send brief information to the editor at the above address.