What led you to a career in public libraries? When I look back on it, I have always gravitated to libraries, from being a child and hanging around Loveland Public Library to volunteering in my local elementary school library. I never actually had that job but I loved public libraries – that was really where my passion was: feeling like you could make a difference in the community and help people in all the different ways they may need help to live their best lives.

What energizes you about your work? There’s two things. First, the people you work with. Working for anything that is such a mission-driven organization, people really share that common sense of purpose. And the flip side is the community and how the library can respond, their best lives.

As we move through the pandemic, how do you see the role of libraries changing? I think it’s so important for us to remain of service even when it is hard from a public health perspective – both to be open to our customers and to have a safe work environment. It’s so important for us to be flexible and figure out how to do that as best as possible. That includes more service in the virtual space than I think we did before, which works for some people, but it’s also an acknowledgement that public libraries are often the only place people can connect to the virtual world.

I’m really excited about the energy around outreach and finding people and populations who don’t necessarily walk through our doors and to be of service to those folks however and wherever they need it. I think that will continue to be important; it has been important with our homebound folks and people who can’t come through our doors for whatever reason that is – the pandemic, lack of transportation, it’s not convenient, or they’re not aware.

What excites you about the future of the Poudre Libraries and our community? That’s the reason I’m here because I am excited about the potential for the library and just the type of community this is. There’s been a lot of planning and thoughtful analysis of the needs of the community and how the library can respond, and I’m excited to dig into those plans. There’s a lot of good rich thought, so taking that and starting to create action plans and strategic plans is very exciting to me. And to be in a community that is supportive of their library.

This community is very engaged and supportive of quality-of-life opportunities like thelibrary. They want it and will respond to and support it going forward.

What are you currently curious about learning or doing? I’m curious about a lot of things. I was an art history major and I am eager to start creating art again and I’m not exactly sure what that looks like. I’m just ending a career in flamenco dance, so I am curious about the arts and opportunities to create art in Fort Collins.

Favorite book, author, or genre? The book that I get most excited about for new releases – and it’s due on our shelves momentarily – is Elizabeth George’s Inspector Lynley mystery series. That is just pure pleasure reading. Author-wise, I love Amy Tan and Isabel Allende and Edwidge Danticat. Those are three of my favorite authors, and they all have a very strong and very different-from-me cultural experiences and heritage. I think that is one of the best parts about reading, to experience somebody else’s life and characters and emotions; all of it.

For the full interview, see the River’s Mouth Blog at https://blog.poudrelibraries.org.
If you have questions about hoopla or any of its features, contact hoopla Digital at www.hoopladigital.com/collection/14617. You can browse the current BingePass collection online at hoopladigital.com/collection/14617.

Introducing hoopla BingePass

It's a brand-new way to explore online content - and a lot of it! hoopla BingePass gives you unlimited streaming of great online content for 7 days with just a single hoopla Instant borrow.

BingePass is a new format on hoopla — you can browse it just like you would browse audiobooks, eBooks, movies, etc. Find it with the “More” button in hoopla's bottom navigation on a mobile device.

Content will continue to be added throughout February 2022, but here's what you can expect right now:

• hoopla Magazines BingePass - access current issues of 50 popular and in-demand magazine titles with just one hoopla Instant borrow!
• The Great Courses BingePass - complete a whole course from The Great Courses, or watch the current issues of 50 popular and in-demand courses.
• “Alexa, ask hoopla to list my borrowed items.” (Alexa will ask you if you want to add an audio title. You can reply with “yes” or “no.” If you say “no” and you have another audio borrow, Alexa will respond with the title and give you the “yes” or “no” option for that title.)
• “Alexa, ask hoopla how many titles I can borrow.”
• “Alexa, ask hoopla to list my audiobooks.”
• “Alexa, ask hoopla to list my music.”
• “Alexa, ask hoopla for my library's phone number.”

Get started with the hoopla Alexa Skill

1. In the Alexa app, you can swipe right or tap on the menu icon at the top left.
2. Go to “Skills & Games.”
3. At the top right, you’ll see a “magnifying glass” icon; tap it and search “hoopla Digital.”
4. Tap the hoopla logo and select “Enable Skill.”
5. Log into your hoopla account and you’re ready to go!

Alexa commands for hoopla

• “Alexa, ask hoopla to list my borrowed items.” (Alexa will ask you if you want to play an audio title. You can reply with “yes” or “no.” If you say “no” and you have another audio borrow, Alexa will respond with the title and give you the “yes” or “no” option for that title.)
• “Alexa, ask hoopla how many titles I can borrow.”
• “Alexa, ask hoopla to list my audiobooks.”
• “Alexa, ask hoopla to list my music.”
• “Alexa, ask hoopla for my library’s phone number.”

Kevin Gock: The Quest

1:00 – 2:00 PM, Zoom
Adults. Registration required.
February's presentation, The Quest, continues with a discussion on how a quest represents manifestation of time and energy to explore places and seasons. This program will take place virtually. Registration is required to receive the meeting link.

Yoganna Relax

5:00 – 6:00 PM, Zoom
Come learn ancient and modern techniques such as yoga, Qigong, Tai Chi, and mindful breathing, that can help you manage life stressors. Meeting link will be sent via email to registered participants.

Dungeons & Dragons for Teens

1:00 – 4:00 PM, Zoom
Grades 6-12. Registration required.
Join our Dungeon Master for a fun-filled game of D&D on Zoom. If you're new to the game, we will create a character for you and show you the way. Please register with an email address so we can send you the Zoom link on the morning of the game.

Teen Writers

4:30 – 5:30 PM, Zoom
Teens. Registration required.
Teen Writers is a support and critique group for Teens who love to write. We will have writing exercises, prompts for ideas, and peer editing. Bring a piece you’ve already been working on to share with the group and start something brand new. See www.poudrelibraries.org/events for meeting link information.

Rekindle the Classics

6:30 – 8:00 PM, Zoom
Adults. Registration required.
Join CSU graduate students and faculty in informative discussion of literature favorites. This month’s title is The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner. Presented via Zoom. Link provided via email after online registration.

Antarctic Lecture Series

6:30 – 7:30 PM, Zoom
Adults
Researchers, historians, and adventurers present this series of talks about the exciting world of Antarctic science and extreme expeditions. Presented by the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at Colorado State University. See www.poudrelibraries.org/events for meeting information.

Book Club for Mortals

3:00 – 4:30 PM, Zoom
Adults. Registration required.
For February’s program, we will be discussing The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion. Facilitated by professionals in advance care planning from the Health of Magical Thinking.

DIY Stories & Songs

10:00 – 11:30 AM, Zoom
Kids. Ages 5-12, Registration required.
Join author and illustrator Memo Plastilina in this virtual makerspace where you will fall in love with clay modeling and its benefits while creating your own piece of art! Sign up to receive the Zoom link and free materials. Space is limited. In Spanish, simultaneous interpretation to English.

Tech

All ages

Kids

TEENs

Storytimes

www.poudrelibraries.org/events