



Celebrate Older Americans Month at Your Library



Each year, Americans celebrate Older Americans Month in May to pay tribute to the older persons in their communities. This year's theme, "Age Strong! Live Long!" recognizes the diversity and vitality of today's older Americans who span three generations. Below are some suggestions to recognize and engage seniors at your library :

- Set up a special book display with items like large print books, audiobooks, and descriptive videos. Alternately, arrange a display honoring the contributions of older Americans.
- Borrow the Wii Adult Gaming Kit and invite older adults to a game night to compete at games like bowling, brain puzzles, and virtual pinball. Help is available to learn to set up and use the Wii— just contact Corinne Weible (cweible@flls.org) for details.
- Forgive fines for 55+ patrons during the month of May, or during a "Senior Appreciation Day" celebration.
- Hold events like trivia night or musical bingo using items from the new Senior Programming Collection (see p. 3).
- Arrange a visit with local senior centers and assisted living facilities to promote your Adult Summer Reading Program— Marisa Iacobucci (marisa@flls.org) can assist with resources.
- Schedule workshops and events on topics of

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Love your Library? Be a Library Advocate and Make Your Voice Heard!

Libraries are part of our safety net—they are essential to life long learning, jobs and opportunity, quality of life and community empowerment.



Given the current economic crisis, people today are relying on libraries more than ever.

Despite these critical needs, Governor Patterson has proposed an 18 % cut to New York State library funding. This cut will be the fifth cut in less than 2 years, and follows a preceding decade (1998-2008) of nearly stagnant funding. A reduction of this magnitude would have a devastating effect on system services to our member libraries and their communities. Services like interlibrary loan, Mail-It Books-by-Mail for people with disabilities, the availability of electronic databases, and library hours of operation could all be affected.

If you value the services provided by FLLS and your local library, please lend your voice in support of library funding. **To take action, contact your elected officials today!**

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Older Americans Month

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interest to seniors, such as genealogy research, scrapbooking, local history, or finding health information at the library.

- Visit a local senior center or assisted living facility to advertise resources such as large print books, book group kits, audiobooks, and videos. In addition, add them to your mailing list to advertise library events.
- Hold a musical or classic movie night.
- Plan an intergenerational “Oral History Day” for kids and teens to interview older adults about their experiences.
- Ask several 55+ patrons to identify their favorite book and add it to a book display.
- Hold an informal focus group with 55+ patrons to learn good ideas for the future.

Additional Resources:

▶ Visit the official Older Americans Month site to download posters and get activity ideas:

www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press Room/Observances/oam/oam.aspx

▶ Contact Corinne Weible (cweible@flls.org) to receive the new ALA Toolkit : “Keys to Engaging Older Adults @ your Library”

▶ Contact your local Office for the Aging for resources, ideas, and partnership opportunities.

▶ Browse more ideas online at:

ALA—Services for Older Adults: www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/olos/servicesolder.cfm

Senior Spaces: www.infolink.org/seniorspaces/

Web Junction—Older Adults and Seniors: www.webjunction.org/older-adults

Advocacy (continued from p. 1)

This critically important action is easy and quick in the digital age. With the NYLA Online Advocacy Center, it takes only a minute or two to send a pre-drafted message to your policymakers:



1. Go to www.flls.org and click on the “Become a Library Advocate” button.
2. Click on the "Contact Your Elected Officials" button. Your browser will open a new window.
3. Click on the "Take Action" below any of the topics listed, and then type in your name, address and zip code. The software will identify your state elected officials for you, and you'll be able to edit and approve the message before sending.

If you don't have internet access, phone calls and traditional letters are very valuable too! You can also take action by writing letters to the editor to local publications and by contacting your local library to learn about advocacy efforts in your area.

Ways to stay informed :

- **Sign up for the NYLA Advocacy Email List:** Visit <http://capwiz.com/ala/ny/mlm/signup/> to receive email alerts when your involvement can make a critical difference.
- **Visit www.flls.org/advocacy** for recent news, talking points, and advocacy resources.
- **If you use Facebook, become a “fan” of the Finger Lakes Library System** to stay in touch about library advocacy issues and events (along with our other great activities).



New FLLS Senior Programming Collection

FLLS recently added several new senior programming titles to help activity directors and anyone else who would like to host an event for older adults. These group oriented games and activities can be tailored for use with a wide variety of audiences, and are perfect for reminiscing, sparking conversations, and exercising minds.



All materials can be requested through the online catalog and picked up at any local FLLS library. If you don't have internet access, you can also make a request by calling your local library. Titles in this series include:

The Everyday Life Trivia Book - Features 23 quizzes on topics common to life in America in the mid-20th century, with questions like: *Where is the Baseball Hall of Fame? What was the slogan of Brylcreem?*

Eldersong Bingo - Mix the friendly competition of bingo with everyone's love of music, and you have a winning combination!

Finishing Lines - Participants complete famous quotes, song and book titles, movies and TV names, proverbs, slang, rhymes, slogans, and similes. Examples include: *Bacon, lettuce, and...tomato; It's raining cats and...dogs*

It's In the Bag Cookbook - Cook with your group without messy cleanup. Ingredients for each recipe are mixed in a reclosable plastic bag, just pass the bag around and give everyone a chance to squeeze.

I Hear Memories, Volume I and I Hear Memories, Volume II - These reminiscing resources include dozens of sound scenes and mystery sounds to use as a guessing game. Each volume includes a CD and activity manual.

Mind Joggers - This trivia book includes activities that range from 10-minute fillers to hour-long programs. You'll find word games and trivia on over 50 topics.

Mind Stretchers and More Mind Stretchers - Energize your conversation groups with these discussion starters! Sample questions: *What is the best age to give a pet to a child? What is the strangest food you've ever eaten?*

Shake Out the Truth Card Game - Players read a card that recalls a life event or characteristic, such as "I have made sauerkraut," or "I have kissed someone at the beach." Surprise and laughter are the result as participants decide whether a statement is true or false about other players.

Table Talk Card Game - Each card offers a fascinating fact, then poses an intriguing question to encourage fun-filled conversation.

Trivia Treasury - This resource provides hours of mental exercises and trivia quizzes. Games include: *Double Words, What Was My Line?, Irony, and Guess the Calories.*

Requesting an item from the catalog is easy, and only takes a minute!

- 1). Go to www.flls.org and choose "Search the Catalog" from the menu bar;
- 2). Select your home library from the list and press "Start PowerPAC";
- 3). Search for individual items by title, or browse the entire list by searching for the "Senior Programming" series;
- 4). Select an item, then click "Place Hold Request" to have it sent to your home library for pickup.

Download Books, Audiobooks, Videos and Music with Overdrive!

Did you know that you can access electronic library items from home at anytime, day or night?

Using our Overdrive Media Center, you can instantly download books, audiobooks, music, and even movies and TV shows. Thousands of titles are available for all ages, and most items can be transferred to a portable device to enjoy while you're on the go. To access these materials, all you'll need is a computer with internet access and a library card.

For details, visit <http://flls.lib.overdrive.com>.



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