



## MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

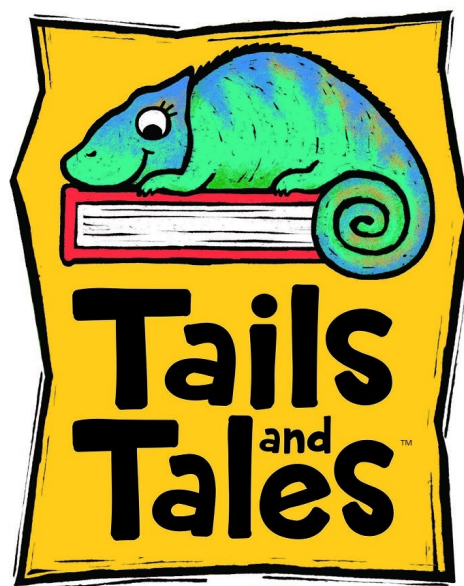
No. 21.8

Friday, April 16, 2021

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See SRP ideas for adults on page 6!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Whenever your service model changes, please fill out the streamlined online reopening form: <http://www.fils.org/2020reopenpoll/>. If you are closing your library due to a COVID-19 exposure, please also email [sglogowski@fils.org](mailto:sglogowski@fils.org).

### LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[The American Library Association says books with antiracist messages climbed the list of most-challenged or banned titles in 2020](#)

[SCRLC Technology and Digitization Grants Due April 30](#)



[Users at the Center of Everything](#)

[Library Skills Academy Registration is OPEN!](#)

[O'Mara: Recognize libraries in this post-COVID budget](#)

[SCRLC Recycle Right in Tompkins County Webinar on April 29](#)

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



We have a lot of State updates to share with you:

**State Budget** – Since our last newsletter, library and construction aid were finalized in the State Budget. State Library Aid will be \$94.1 million, which is stable from last year (prior to the 20% cut). While we were hoping for an increase, this final figure is better than the Governor's proposed cut of \$7 million. Library Construction Aid has a return to the 2019 funding of \$34 million, which is a huge gain for our public libraries. This restoration

acknowledges the need for library infrastructure support.

The budget also includes \$23 million for targeted aid. This will be broken down into the following: \$5 million for the Senate, \$8 million for the Assembly, and \$10 million for the Governor's office. This targeted aid is often referred to as "bullet aid" and is for school districts, public libraries, and not-for-profit institutions. FLLS has sent out a sample letter to library directors for libraries to use when crafting their bullet aid letters. I am happy to review ideas or to read letters before they go out and have done so for a number of our libraries this week. A reminder that bullet aid letters should go to a library's specific Senator and Assemblymember for consideration of funding by May 12.

**Digital Inclusion Portion of the Budget** – There is a possible \$15 million for digital inclusion competitive grants in our State Budget that is tied to federal funding that has not been completed yet. The PULISDO Executive Committee met with State Library staff on Thursday afternoon to start beginning conversations on what this funding could look like in NY State. While much is still being worked out, the general intent of the program is to award grants to eligible entities to establish and support digital inclusion programs. These programs are expected to provide economically disadvantaged individuals and households in-person and remote supports including, but not limited to, access to affordable and robust broadband services, internet-enabled devices, training, and technical support. We will be updating you more in the coming weeks when we have more information.

**Minimum Standard for Hours** – Public library system directors continue to provide statistics on level of openness of our libraries on a monthly basis to the State Library. The March 2021 snapshot data shows that roughly 73% of libraries in NY State are currently meeting the minimum standard for open hours. A reminder that the State Library expects libraries to be able to meet the minimum standard for hours by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Open hours are defined as including both in-library services and curbside/lobby/contactless pickup. If you do not believe your library can meet the minimum standard for hours, please contact me so we can work with you to develop a re-opening plan.

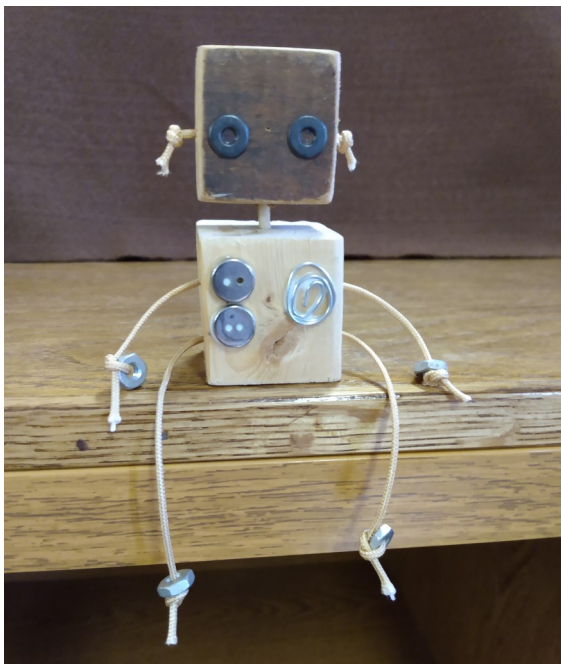
**Federal Funding** - In early March 2021 the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) received \$200 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The total amount available to the Grants to States program is \$178 million, of which NY will receive approximately \$6.2 million. IMLS anticipates that the ARPA funds will be available to the states in late April. The final IMLS guidelines should be available soon thereafter. The timeline calls for these new ARPA federal funds to be expended by September 30, 2022. Once developed, the proposed NYS expenditure plan for these new federal funds must be approved by SED and external control agencies. We will be getting more information from the State Library in the coming weeks on what this will look like for systems and libraries.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Sarah



## MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

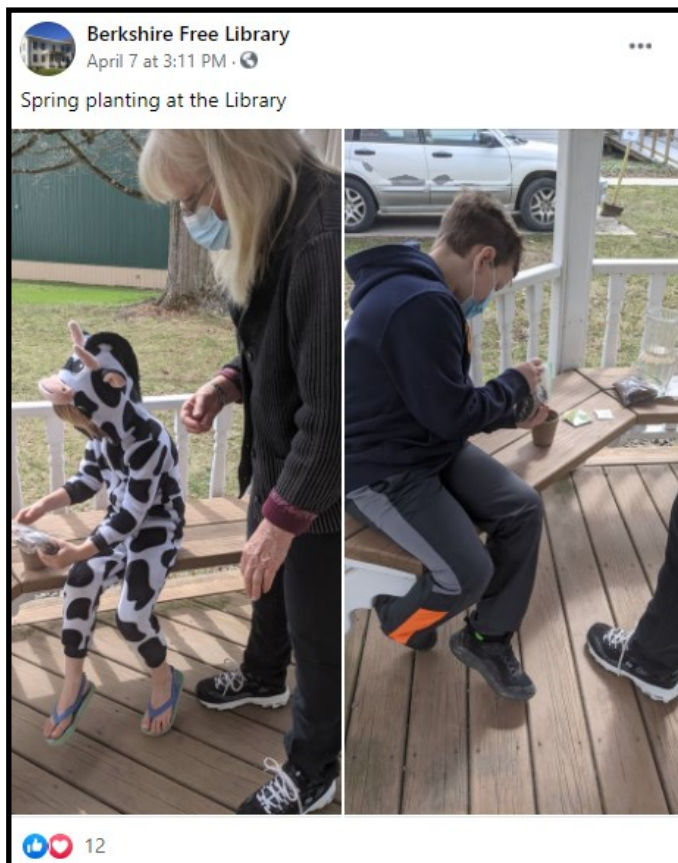


**Lang Memorial Library (Cato)** Director Gayle James shared the Take & Make craft for April—recycled robots!

### IN THE NEWS!

Lansing Community Library was featured in Tompkins Weekly:

[Lansing library slates trustee, budget meeting, vote](#)



**Have something to share?**  
**Email [jshonk@fills.org](mailto:jshonk@fills.org)!**

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# SCAM ALERT!

## Recent Phishing Attacks Using PDF Files Have Skyrocketed More Than 1,000%

Phishing attacks using PDF files have spiked over the past year, according to researchers at Palo Alto Networks' Unit 42.

"From 2019-20, we noticed a dramatic 1,160% increase in malicious PDF files – from 411,800 malicious files to 5,224,056," the researchers write. "PDF files are an enticing phishing vector as they are cross-platform and allow attackers to engage with users, making their schemes more believable as opposed to a text-based email with just a plain link."

The most common form of PDF phishing lures used an image of a fake CAPTCHA to trick victims into clicking the "Continue" button, which led to a malicious site. Another variant used an image that purported to be a coupon, and told victims to click the image in order to get 50% off on a product.

A third type of PDF phishing attack used images that appeared to be paused videos, but led to a phishing site when users clicked on them.

"These phishing files do not necessarily carry a specific message, as they are mostly static images with a picture of a play button ingrained in them," Unit 42 says. "Although we observed several categories of images, a significant portion of them either used nudity or followed specific monetary themes such as Bitcoin, stock charts and the like to lure users into clicking the play button."

The researchers conclude that users need to pause and think when they receive a suspicious file.

"Data from recent years demonstrates that the amount of phishing attacks continues to increase and social engineering is the main vector for attackers to take advantage of users," the researchers write. "Prior research has shown that large-scale phishing can have a click-through rate of up to 8%."

Thus, it is important to verify and double check the files you receive unexpectedly, even if they are from an entity that you know and trust. For example, why was your account locked out of nowhere, or why did someone share a file with you when you least expected it?"





# ONLINE LEARNING

## Upcoming Webinars

### **NYLA Briefinar: Get To Know: Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS)**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2:00**

In July 2018, NY became the first state in the nation to require mental health instruction as part of the K-12 Health Curriculum.

School Libraries and Library Media Specialists are essential to ensuring the success of mental health education - providing information for students, resources for teachers, and connections to community providers for families and caregivers. Join us to learn about the law, as well as resources to support the mental health and wellness of the entire school community. Not sure if you can make it? Register anyway to receive follow-up resources. NYLA Briefinars are only 30 minutes long!

### **Being Rational About Summer Reading (CLRC)**

**Tuesday, May 29, 10am**

Summer Reading is often a capacity-challenging exercise for many libraries. In 20\*\*, Albany Public Library partnered with the school district and the Albany Promise to examine the program's actual impact on the "summer slide." The findings were not nearly as exciting as anyone expected. APL found out that the program does have an impact on students. However, that positive impact is overstated by the library community. We will look at how the library as an organization has changed its approach to summer reading and how other libraries are earnestly taking on the challenge of the summer slide.

## **LOOKING FOR MORE?**

**CLRC:** <https://clrc.org/event-listing/>

**METRO:** <https://metro.org/events/>

**SCRLC:** <https://scrlc.org/Education/Events>

**WebJunction:** <https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/free-webinars-for-library-staff.html>

## Conferences & Special Programs



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
*Voice of the Library Community*

### **NYLA Social Responsibilities & Libraries: Speaker Series**

The Social Responsibilities Group of NYLA's Developing Leaders Program is proud to sponsor a series of 5 webinars exploring how libraries of all types and sizes embody ALA's definition of the core value: Social Responsibility. Each session looks at a particular aspect of how Social Responsibility has a role in librarianship; themes include digital equity, collection development, library programs, and making public statements on current events.

Register for a single session or attend the full series. Each panel is one hour and earns attendees 1 Continuing Education (CE) credit. Attendance and CE credits are free! Please register in advance, and come with questions.

#### **Sessions:**

- April 19, 3:00pm—*Building a Socially Responsible Collection*
- April 26, 11:00am—*Empowering Your Community*
- May 3, 2:00pm—*Diverse Views and Discussions in Library Programs*
- May 10, 11:00am—*Directors Decide: Public Statements After George Floyd's Death*

Register for one or more sessions:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErd2qrj8oGdYCrPD2Oq8db2OH1n84Xp5s>

**Library Journal Day of Dialog 2021**  
**Thursday, May 6, 9am-6pm**

Learn more and register here for this free event:  
<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?event=library-journal-day-of-dialog-nyc-ve-spring>



## PROGRAMMING IDEAS

# ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM IDEAS

*These can also be adapted for children and teens!  
All programs can be done virtually!*

- **Adoption Fair:** Partner with a local shelter or SPCA to hold an in-person adoption fair at the library or a virtual tour.
- **Animal Origami Crafts or Book Folding:** See manual for ideas.
- **Audubon Society/Bird Watching:** See manual for ideas.
- **Author Talks**
- **Bird Feeder or Bird House Crafts**
- **Dungeons & Dragons Tournament**
- **Paint & Sip or Paint Your Pet**
- **Paranormal or Spooky Tales:** Invite a local historical society.
- **Pet Photo Contest:** See manual for ideas.
- **Pet Toy Crafts:** Snuffle mats, catnip toys, rope toys, cat shelters. Create for a personal pet or donate to a local rescue/shelter. See manual for ideas.
- **Re-Tail:** Promote local businesses or host a career fair.
- **Storytelling Series or Tell Us Your Tale:** Memoir writing workshop. Story-writing contest. Contact a local university, college, or writing group.
- **Tail-pipes:** Host a car show at the library.
- **Tail-spin Crafts:** Stress-relief crafts.
- **Tales & Cocktails/Mocktails:** Share drink recipes and stories.
- **Tales & Trails:** Hiking book club, self-guided hikes, or photo contest. Have an experienced hiker offer tips and tricks.
- **Tall Tales:** Creative writing workshop. Contact a local university, college, or writing group.
- **Therapy Dogs or Reading Buddies**
- **Vet Tales/Tails:** Ask a local vet to share tips and tricks for new pet parents.
- **Weird Animal Trivia:** Use [Kahoot!](#) See manual for ideas.

*Remember that it's Tales AND Tails:  
Incorporate any kind of tale OR anything with a tail!*

View our Pinterest board for craft ideas:

<https://www.pinterest.com/flls/summer-2021-tails-tales/>

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# POLARIS FAQ

## Leap Picklist

The Request Manager in Polaris Leap will not show pending requests so it cannot be used in the same way as in the Polaris Client, instead use Picklist when locating items that fill requests at other libraries. In the upper right hand corner, click on **Utilities → Picklist Processing**. You will be presented with a list of items that have been requested at other libraries. You can view **Pending**, **Located**, **Unclaimed**, and **Holds to Transfer**.

**Picklist**

Cato-Stewart B Lang Memorial Lib. [Limited Access] REFRESH CLOSE

Pending (10) Located (0) Unclaimed (2) Unclaimed ILL (0) Holds to Transfer (0)

Located Ask Me Later Missing Deny Properties Filter requests

Total Items | 10 total

	COLLECTION	SHELF LOCATION	CALL NUMBER	AUTHOR	TITLE	MATERIAL TYPE	PICKUP BRANCH	BARCODE	PENDING DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult DVD		DVD-Adventure 10,000		10,000 BC	Videodisc	WEED	A20520526320	4/8/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Fiction		F Cook	Cook, Diane, 1976- author.	The new wilderness : a novel	Book	TCPL	A20520805902	4/9/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Fiction		F Williams	Williams, Niall, 1958- author.	This is happiness	Book	TRU	A20520800570	4/9/2021

To manage an item on the Picklist, click/tap in the box next to the item to select it and then click/tap on a specific command button.

Command Button	Action
<b>Located</b>	Indicates that the item has been selected and is on the way to a processing location where it will become held for the patron or go in-transit. The pending request moves to the Located list, which you can view by selecting <b>Located</b> at the top of the page. The items would then have to be checked in at a regular Polaris workstation.
<b>Ask Me Later</b>	The hold request is removed from the pending list, and it moves to the next step in the Request to Fill (RTF) process.
<b>Missing</b>	The item is set to Missing.
<b>Deny</b>	The hold request is denied, and it is removed from the pending list. *You should never use the Deny function as this request will never return to your library.
<b>Properties</b>	Provides you with information like the hold status, patron, pickup branch, and more.

You can also print the Picklist, locate the items in the library, and simply check them in as you would with the Request Manager in the Polaris Client. The **PRINT** button is located in the top right corner, just under your user name.



## AWARDS & GRANTS



Do you have an idea for an outreach project but lack funding? Member libraries in our service area can apply for an Outreach Mini-Grant.

Applications are **OPEN** for the 2021-2022 grant cycle:  
[2021-2022 Outreach Mini-Grant Application](#)

Please enter your information in the Word document and then save it as a PDF before emailing. **\$10,000 (total) is available, contingent upon funding from NYS.** You may apply for a minimum award of \$250, Max: \$2,500. Applications are due **April 23, 2021** and recipients will be announced on May 12, 2021.

Have a question? Stuck on an idea? Read the [Outreach Mini-Grant FAQs and Tips](#) document or email Jenny Shonk at [jshonk@flls.org](mailto:jshonk@flls.org).

### REMINDER!

Final reports for the 2020-2021 grant cycle are due June 30, 2021:  
[2020-2021 Outreach Mini Grant Final Report Form](#)