FINGER LAKES LIBRARY SYSTEM

MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

No. 21.20   Friday, December 3, 2021

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You can click on each link below to quickly navigate to your favorite bulletin sections!

Curl up with a good ebook this holiday season.

Joyous Kwanzaa
Happy Hanukkah!
Merry Christmas!

Libby.

Click **HERE** to download the Holiday Marketing Kit from OverDrive!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Whenever your service model changes, please fill out the streamlined online reopening form: **www.flls.org/2020reopenpoll/**. Visit **www.flls.org/member-library-service-status/** to view each library's quarantine period & hours information.

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

New York Public Library Spoofs Patrons for Black Friday

Want to secure our democracy? Stand with librarians

SCRLC Member Spotlight: Heidi Eckerson

WebJunction: Eviction Resources for Libraries

Librarians, Educators Warn of 'Organized' Book Banning Efforts

The New York Public Library Reveals the Best Books of 2021 for Kids, Teens, and Adults

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Did you miss an issue?
Check **https://www.flls.org/bulletin** for archived bulletins!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we begin to close out 2021, we are still have many updates for you:

Open Meetings Law Reminder - On November 8, 2021, the Governor signed into law Chapter 587 of the Laws of 2021 which amends the Open Meetings Law to require agencies that maintain a website and use a high-speed internet connection to post meeting minutes on its website within two weeks of the date of the meeting, or within one week of an executive session. It further states: "unabridged video recordings or unabridged audio recordings or unabridged written transcripts may be deemed to be meeting minutes. Nothing in this section shall require the creation of minutes if the public body would not otherwise take them."

In order to meet NY State Minimum Standards, all libraries must maintain a website and have the internet; therefore, public libraries must follow this. A reminder that these are your draft minutes, and should be marked accordingly when you place them on the website within two weeks. Your minutes remain drafts until your next board meeting when your board will officially approve them. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions on this.

Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library – On Thursday evening, I attended the virtual annual meeting of the Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library and gave an update on our activities over the last year. The Friends had to make the difficult decision to cut funding entirely to FLLS during the pandemic, but I am happy to report that we will be back in their 2022 budget. FLLS will be receiving $50,000 from the Friends in 2022, which will offset e-content purchases, databases subscriptions, summer reading endeavors, collections (storytime kits, etc.) and more.

NYLA – The NYLA Executive Director Search Committee interviewed six candidates virtually this week. Of those six, the search committee narrowed down three final candidates to come back for a second, in person interview during the week of December 20. On Friday morning, we received notice that one of our candidates we were asking to move forward has removed himself from consideration, so the committee will move forward with interviewing two final candidates.

COVID – Unfortunately we are seeing an uptick in cases throughout our service area over the last few weeks, and two of our libraries have had to shut recently due to staff illness. A reminder that in Tompkins County, a mask advisory is in effect where everyone is encouraged to wear a mask in public indoor settings regardless of vaccination status. Libraries have the ability to have mask mandates for both staff and public, and if you have relaxed your mask mandates, please consider implementing them again. At FLLS we went through a short (two-week) period in July where we as a staff agreed that vaccinated staff (our entire staff) didn't have to wear masks. However, since the end of July, we are all wearing masks at our building again. Some FLLS staff members have already received their booster shots, while others are scheduling them now. This week we also purchased rapid tests that will be available to staff, especially our drivers, who may have been exposed during a library visit.

I hope everyone has a relaxing weekend.
Sarah

MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Do you have something to share? Email jshonk@flls.org!

Springport Free Library
November 30 at 3:50 PM ·

Storywalk at the library! "How to Catch a Dinosaur".

👍❤️ 11   1 Comment

Springport Library (Union Springs) has a brand-new book shed! They also recently held an indoor storywalk, in addition to other fun activities, for Dinovember! Click on the image (right) to view the post on Facebook.

Meet the **Lang Memorial Library (Cato)** mascots!

"We have Stewie the owl as our Friday Nature Break mascot. He helps me present nature facts and sightings for our weekly nature post. You will see more pictures of him on **Facebook**. This summer Wombat was our mascot! For each book the kids read he got one carrot. Also, they were encouraged to write their own folk tale "How the Wombat Lost His Tail" for a Summer Reading prize. I complied the stories into a notebook that patrons can read. It was a lot of fun!" - *Gayle James, Director*

SCAM ALERT!

Phishing Emails Use Small Font Size To Bypass Security Filters

Researchers at Avanan have spotted phishing emails that use a font size of one to fool email security scanners. The emails appear to be password expiration notifications from Microsoft 365. The attackers have inserted benign links that are invisible to the human eye, but trick security scanners into viewing the email as a legitimate marketing email.

"In this attack, hackers utilize a number of obfuscation techniques to get a credential harvesting page through to the inbox," the researchers write. "First, all links are hidden within the CSS. This confuses natural language filters. Natural language filters see random text; human readers see what the attackers want them to see. In addition, hackers put links within the (font) tag, and brought the font size down to one. This breaks semantic analysis, which leads many solutions to treat it as a marketing email, as opposed to phishing. Beyond that, there are invalid parameters, as the 'Padding Left' is set to ';' further confusing scanners."

Avanan concludes that the phishing emails themselves appear suspicious, so a trained user would be able to spot them as malicious. The emails simply state, "Notification for Password 365. Access To Your Email will be Expired."

"To the end-user, this email looks like a standard request from their IT department," the researchers write. "The email is designed to fool both Natural Language Processing and human eyes. For a user to spot this attack, they should rely on their phishing training. They should notice the stilted grammar, such as 'Notification Microsoft 365' as a red flag. They should also ask their own IT department before resetting any passwords."

Thus, insecurity by obscurity. Attackers are constantly coming up with new ways to bypass email security filters. New-school security awareness training can give your employees a healthy level of skepticism so they can avoid falling for social engineering attacks.

Blog post with links:
https://blog.knowbe4.com/phishing-emails-use-small-font-size-to-bypass-security-filters

ONLINE LEARNING

Upcoming Webinars

PLA: Understand Your Library's Community Better with Census Data
Wednesday, December 8, 2:00pm
How well do you understand the diverse communities your library serves? Leveraging Census data can inform program and service development at your library. Data on education, home Internet use, income and poverty status, languages spoken, housing characteristics, and more can help you understand your patrons and reach more. In this free webinar, panelists will discuss how they use Census data to make decisions that better meet the needs and interests of their communities. Census data can also be used in tandem with the library's output and outcome data. Learn how PLA's tools, including Project Outcome and Benchmark: Library Metrics and Trends, and others can assist in connecting Census data to library metrics. Panelists will also share examples and tips that can help your library make the most of all the data available to you.

WebJunction: Promote Community Engagement and Challenge Prejudice with a Human Library
Thursday, January 20, 3:00pm
The idea of circulating 'human books' first emerged in 2000, in Copenhagen, Denmark, as a way to help grow community understanding of the diversity of the human experience, locally and on a global level. The Human Library® model seeks to create safe spaces for dialogue where topics are discussed openly between human books and their readers. Join us to gain insights from a public and academic library using this innovative and impactful model to create meaningful community dialogue.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

- **CLRC**

- **SCRLC:** Visit **https://www.youtube.com/user/scrlc1** to view recordings!

- **Tech-Talk** (Available through SCRLC): *Username & password = scrlc'*

- **WebJunction**

Conferences & Special Programs

Library Journal: How To Build an Antiracist Library Culture
February 15, 22, & March 1
$237.24 with Early Bird Discount thru 12/17
Through this course, you'll learn about the concrete actions library leaders are taking to help cultivate an antiracist, inclusive library culture—from reflecting on their own implicit biases, to evaluating spaces, programs, and services and examining policies and practices through an antiracist lens. Practical coursework, along with targeted support, will take you from theory to application, providing tools and resources that will help you to transform your library culture and services to more equitably meet the needs of your community.

PLA 2022 Conference
March 23-25
Portland, Oregon
Like the institutions they support, the role of the public library worker is ever-changing. The COVID-19 crisis magnified this more than any of us could have imagined, but public libraries responded swiftly and creatively to meet their communities' evolving needs. The PLA 2022 Conference is also evolving in order to provide public library professionals the opportunity to reconnect with one another, recreate the services they provide, and revitalize the passion for the work they do every day. While some aspects of the conference may be different due to safety measures, you can still expect to find the top-quality educational programming, awe-inspiring speakers, award-winning authors, and trend-setting exhibitors the PLA Conference is known for. Registration is now open! See page 8 of this bulletin for scholarship information.

Librarian's Guide to Homelessness
FREE On Demand!

To gain access to the webinar series, please have staff members email **jshonk@flls.org**.

PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

WATCH on YouTube:
Creating Literacy Solutions at Lodi Whittier Library in The Finger Lakes Library System

Check out this interview with Library Director, Beth Bevars, about ways the Lodi Whittier Library is creating literacy solutions for early and striving readers, and the community! She also discusses Lodi's Dyslexia Hub! From **Teach My Kid to Read**.

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzAskCw0PO8.

The *Roadmap to Reading* (below) is also mentioned in the interview.

ROADMAP to READING

- **Pre-Reading Language Skills**
  Talking
  Singing
  Read Alouds

- **Print Awareness**
  Book Handling

- **Building Background Knowledge**

- **Vocabulary**

- **Pre-Reading (phonological awareness)**
  Manipulating large chunks of sound in language.

- **Phonemic Awareness**
  Identifying and manipulating individual sounds in words.

- **Alphabetic Principle**
  Letter formation
  Sound-letter relationships

- **Phonics**
  Sounding out words/ Spelling words

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Teach My Kid to Read

Teach My Kid to Read

MUST READ PROGRAMMING ARTICLES!

Re-entry Toolkits: Helping the Formerly Incarcerated at the Library

Programming Librarian: Calendar of Events & Celebrations

POLARIS FAQ
Item Maintenance Reminders

Here are some of the most common errors that we see:

- Not checking Polaris to see if a bibliographic record with a matching ISBN or UPC is already in the system. Remember to search by ISBN or UPC, not title.

- Attaching items to the wrong bibliographic record, often the wrong format. A large print book should be attached to a **Large Print** bib record and a regular print book should be attached to a **Book** bib record.

- Entering the UPC instead of the ISBN when they are different. Sometimes the scanner reads the UPC rather than the ISBN so definitely check to be sure that the number entered is the actual ISBN.

- Scanning the item barcode instead of the item ISBN.

- Not entering all the details in the item record, such as the number of discs with a sound or video recording. Often this is necessary to be sure you are choosing the correct bib for their item. Simply writing "Check for discs" in the block is not specific enough.

- Not distinguishing between a DVD and a Blu-Ray.

- Creating quick bibs (often for old materials) without including an ISBN, or other distinguishing information. For example, a quick bib for "Little Red Riding Hood" with no author or ISBN could be impossible to resolve.

- Making mistakes in the volume field or skipping it altogether. Ex. Putting the number of discs in the volume field of a regular BOCD.

- Forgetting to change items from "New" to not new.

Having issues or need a refresher?
Polaris Item Maintenance videos coming soon to Vimeo!

Polaris handouts for *New User* and *Item Maintenance* have been updated on our website! See below for more info.

> **REMINDER:** To access Polaris handouts on our website, visit **https://www.flls.org/** and click on **STAFF LOGIN**. Enter the username and password and click on **Log In**. Then click on **Polaris Documentation.** Please contact **jshonk@flls.org**, **efranks@flls.org**, or **rhelwig@flls.org** for the username and password.
>
> **REMINDER:** All trainings will be held virtually until the pandemic ends. Jenny is available for one-on-one and small group Polaris trainings via Zoom. Email **jshonk@flls.org** to schedule a session.

AWARDS & GRANTS

PLA 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS
Applications Now Being Accepted

To encourage equity, diversity, and inclusion in the library profession, PLA is sponsoring fifteen (15) general conference scholarship with five (5) scholarships in each of three categories: Early-career Library Staff Scholarships, Non-Salaried or Unemployed Library Staff Scholarships, and Library School Student Scholarships. Each scholarship includes complimentary registration, one year of ALA and PLA membership, and a $500 stipend for travel and housing. *These scholarships provide financial assistance for public library workers and students to be able to attend the PLA 2022 Conference in person in Portland, March 23 –25. These scholarships may not be applied toward the PLA 2022 Virtual Conference.*

More information is available here:
https://www.placonference.org/general_scholarships.cfm

Apply Now! Peggy Barber Tribute Grant from ALA

 The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant is an annual grant of the American Library Association (ALA) that recognizes, promotes, and supports meaningful programs in libraries that have limited and/or no access to budgetary support for programming. The grant, named after the late library leader Peggy Barber, aims to help ease library budget challenges by awarding three libraries $2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort.

Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a specific type of library programming. For the 2021-2022 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications for a grant to support **humanities-based programming**.

Applications for the 2021-2022 cycle are now open!

- **Apply online** *(application open December 1, 2021 - February 1, 2022)*
- **Read the grant guidelines**
- **Review the frequently asked questions**

Margaret "Peggy" Barber was a transformative leader in ALA and the library field who was behind the creation of National Library Week and the Celebrity READ series. **Read Library Journal's tribute**. After she passed away in September 2019, Barber's friends and colleagues created the Peggy Barber Tribute Fund within ALA's Cultural Communities Fund, which recognizes and funds outstanding cultural programming in libraries. These generous supporters have made this annual grant possible.