



MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

No. 23.13

Friday, August 11, 2023

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"Think before you speak. Read before you think." - Fran Lebowitz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming FLLS Staff Vacations: Sarah August 11-18.

Not sure who to contact? Visit the [Staff Directory webpage](#) and click on the *FLLS Services Contacts Cheat Sheet!*

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[Kindness, Compassion, and Empathy: How Libraries Can Build Caring Communities](#)

[Good Things, Small Packages: Summer Reading](#)



[WebJunction: Sustainability 101](#)

[Are Libraries the Future of Media?](#)

[7 Books that Take on Back-to-School Mayhem](#)

[Stronger Together: Creating Space for Mutual Support](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Last week, we learned the sad news of former Tompkins County Public Library Director Janet Steiner's death. Janet played a special role in my library career, as she and Assistant Director Karen Greenan hired me to work at TCPL in 1999. I was fresh out of library school, working at the State Library in Albany, but knew I was interested in public libraries. While the job ad was appealing as it focused in Adult Services reference, when I interviewed and learned that the library would be moving into a new space (their current space) within the year, I knew it was the job I wanted.



Under Janet's directorship, the move to 101 East Green Street in 2000 was one of her highlights as director. Moving a library is hard; especially the size of a library like TCPL. We were not only planning the physical layout of the building such as where the collection would go, but also something entirely new to us – programming space. When I started at TCPL in 1999, programming for adults was almost entirely non-existent. The space in the old Cayuga Street building was limited and programming was in the basement for the most part, if it occurred at all.

Janet's leadership at TCPL allowed me to discover areas of librarianship that I absolutely loved. She encouraged me to start a readers' advisory focus at TCPL and do everything from ordering the fiction collection, book displays, reading lists and running book clubs. A meeting with Janet, me, and the Vice Provost at Cornell, Isaac Kramnick, lead to a strong multi-year town/gown partnership with Cornell and the creation of an Ithaca Community Read.

Some of the things Janet helped with me as a librarian was the importance of having the library visible in your community, becoming comfortable speaking with donors of all types, crafting a library message, and working with government entities, such as counties, towns and villages. She encouraged me to join boards of local not-for-profits, which to this day helps with our library trustee work. A special moment for me was to be able to invite her to the Finger Lakes Library System open house in 2015 when I became Executive Director of FLLS and show her our new building and thank her again for bringing me to Ithaca back in 1999.

You can read Janet's obituary [here](#).

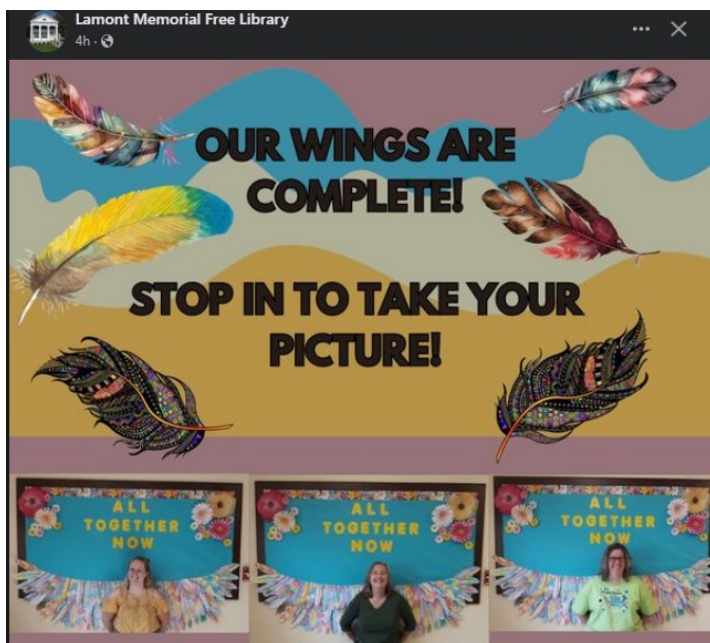
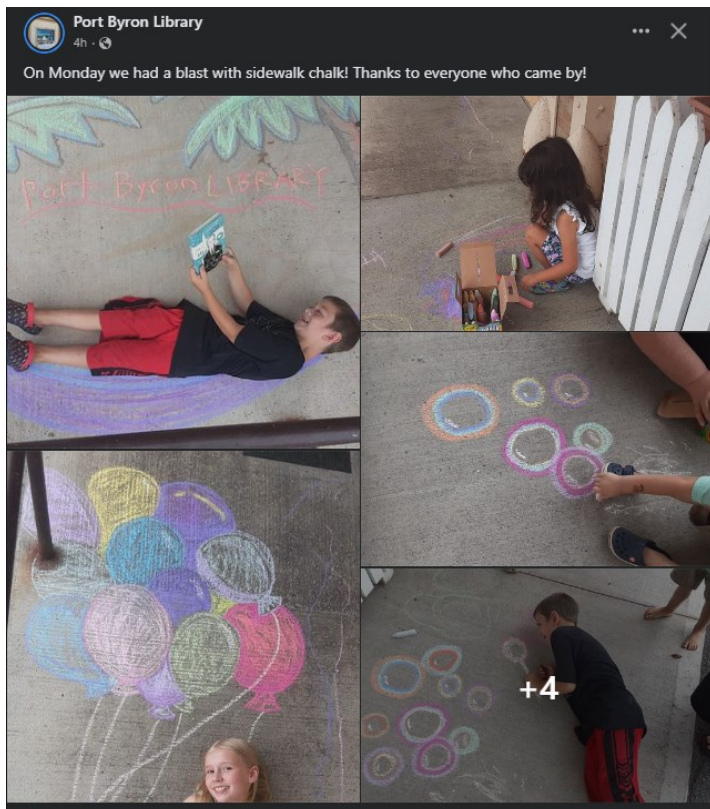
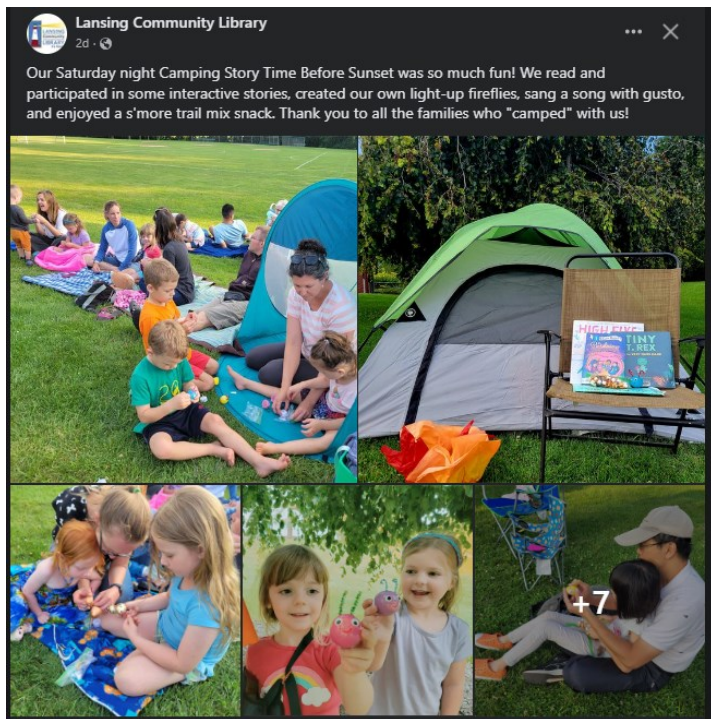
I'm currently out of the office on vacation from August 11 until Monday, August 21. If you need assistance, our librarians Jenny, Heidi and Deb are in the office next week.

I hope everyone has a relaxing weekend,

Sarah



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS



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

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upcoming Webinars

[Sign, Baby, Sign! with Kathy MacMillan \(FLLS\)](#)

Wednesday August 30, 10:00am

Babies can sign long before they can speak, and research shows that using American Sign Language with both hearing and deaf babies imparts language benefits that can last a lifetime. Learn the benefits of using signs with babies and toddlers, as well as ways to incorporate signs into your program and educate parents. Participants will leave with a basic vocabulary of signs to use right away. Kathy MacMillan is a nationally certified American Sign Language interpreter, librarian, and storyteller. She is the author of the *Little Hands Signing* series from Familius Press, *Little Hands and Big Hands: Children and Adults Signing Together* (Hands Up Press), the co-author of the bestselling *Storytime Magic* series (ALA Editions), and the creator of many other books for children, teens, librarians, and educators. She presents interactive programs and workshops to share American Sign Language with everyone. Find out more at StoriesByHand.com.

[Creating LGBTQ+ Inclusive Libraries with the SafeZone Initiative \(STLS\)](#)

Thursday, September 14, 9:00-11:00am

In this interactive workshops custom fit for Libraries, participants will have the opportunity to hear the personal coming out stories of the facilitators and be able to have a safe and affirming place to ask any and all questions and have an open dialogue. The participants will be able to further understand some of the experiences that LGBTQ+ folks navigate. We will look at the current climate for LGBTQ+ folks, and go through tangible tips for best practices for communicating respectfully with LGBTQ+ library patrons. This webinar will not be recorded.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

- ⇒ [CLRC](#)
- ⇒ [METRO](#)
- ⇒ [SCRLC](#)
- ⇒ [WebJunction](#)
- ⇒ [Libby Webinars from OverDrive](#)

Conferences & Special Programs



Trustee Handbook Book Club

The Trustee Handbook Book Club is back! See more information and the full roster of sessions [here](#)! Some of the upcoming sessions include:

- **Strategic Planning** (Tuesday, August 15, 2023 | 5:00-6:30pm) [REGISTER](#)
- **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access & Justice** (Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 5:00-6:30pm) [REGISTER](#)

All those who attend a live session will receive a certificate of attendance and a follow up message with a recording of the session. All sessions will be recorded and archived on [the landing page for the series](#).



Learn how public and academic library leaders can help make libraries safer for staff and patrons while protecting their privacy and maintaining open, accessible, and welcoming spaces.

[REGISTER!](#)

Polaris Help

To view Polaris documentation and videos from Innovative, visit the links below:

<https://vimeopro.com/innovativeiii/webinars>
<https://innovative.libguides.com/polaris>

You can also view FLLS training videos below, contact jshonk@flls.org for the password:

[Polaris New User Part 1](#)
[Polaris New User Part 2](#)
[Polaris Item Maintenance Part 1](#)
[Polaris Item Maintenance Part 2](#)
[Polaris Reporting Part 1](#)
[Polaris Reporting Part 2](#)
[Polaris Leap](#)

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PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

When Your Library Has Questions...

With so many resources available, it's easy to forget about what is out there. The Director's Listserv is always a great place to crowdsource ideas.

If your questions have a legal angle, [Ask the Lawyer](#) is a favorite go-to. Lawyer Stephanie "Cole" Adams offers library-specific advice to real questions from libraries around the state. You may just find your [question answered](#) there. Always feel free to reach out to us and we can do some of the digging for you.

Freedom to Read Stickers

FLLS is celebrating [Banned Books Week 2023](#) (October 1-7)!

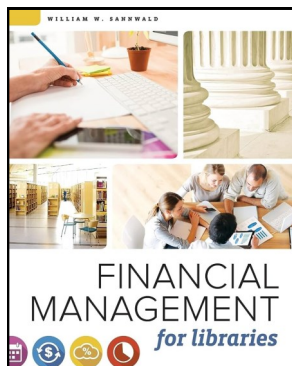
If you'd like to receive a free roll of "Let Freedom Read" stickers to encourage patrons to read freely, kindly fill out the survey: <https://forms.gle/HYo2YiewPvtys45PA>.

Heidi will get the order in and have them to you in time for October's event.

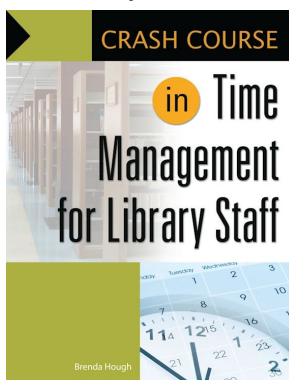


Featured Professional Collection Books

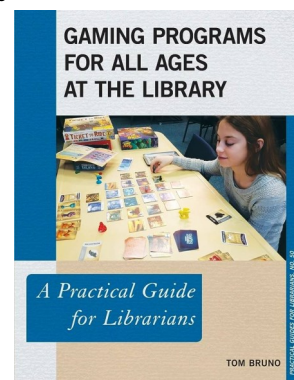
Search Polaris and place a request today!



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POLARIS TIP

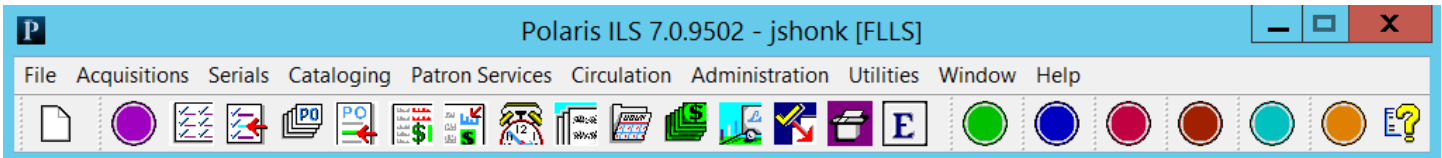
Logging On & Off Properly

It is critical to log on and off correctly! **Please Note:** When closing Polaris, simply clicking on the X on the toolbar or the Remote Desktop without logging off may cause issues the next time you try to login!

To Log On

Double click on the Remote Desktop/Polaris icon on your computer's desktop. The Remote Desktop will open on your screen and you can double click the Polaris icon along the left-hand side of the screen. Enter your unique User Name and Password.

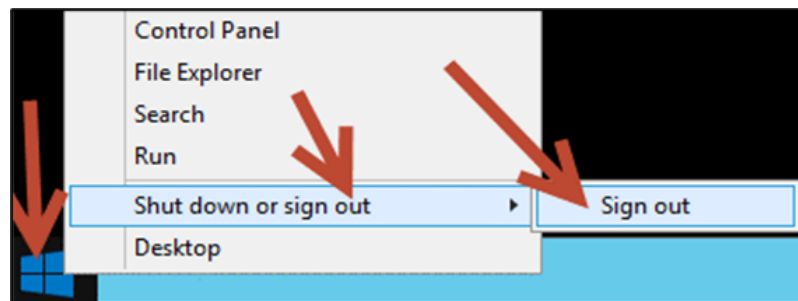
Note: Passwords are case sensitive.



Having trouble with your receipt printers? You may have logged onto the Polaris toolbar before the printers were able to map completely. It is recommended that you wait a few seconds before opening the Polaris toolbar to ensure that everything loads correctly.

To Log Off

On the toolbar, go to the **File → Log Off** or **Ctrl L**, then click **OK**. Next, go to **File → Exit** to close the toolbar. Lastly, go to the Windows button in the bottom left-hand corner of the screen, right click, move your mouse to **Shut down or sign out**, and left click on **Sign out**.



FLLS Job Opportunity: Computer Network Services Manager

The Finger Lakes Library System is hiring a Computer Network Services Manager. This full-time position is responsible for overseeing all functions of the Integrated Library System (ILS) hardware/software, network infrastructure and System servers and computers. The position includes assisting FLLS staff and our 33 member libraries. Having the ability to work with users that have a wide range of IT skills is paramount.

Read the full job description [here](#) or visit our [Job Opportunities page](#) for more information. **Applications received by Friday, September 1, 2023 will receive first consideration.**



AWARDS & GRANTS

[Call for Library Grant Success Stories!](#)

Stephanie Gerding, author of *Winning Grants, Second Edition: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians*, is looking for grant success stories. See post from her Library Grants blog below.

To submit your grant success story, fill out this online form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26CBSNH>.

Deadline: August 15, 2023

🏆 I'm on the lookout for inspiring grant stories to showcase the accomplishments of libraries like yours! Be part of the next edition of *Winning Grants, 3rd Edition: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians* to be published by ALA Editions. Let your experiences inspire and empower others in the library community!

☀️ Big or small, every grant is worth celebrating! Whether your library has received a game-changing grant or a small but impactful one, I want to hear all about it.

🏆 Inspire Others!

By featuring your library in this best-selling book, readers will have the chance to learn from your experiences, triumphs, and challenges. Reading about your accomplishments and impacts, both planned and unexpected, can inspire others to pursue grant opportunities and make a positive impact in their communities.

💡 Learn from Each Other: By sharing your grant journey, you contribute to the collective knowledge of the library community. Your insights and best practices can benefit other libraries facing similar challenges and seeking funding for their projects, serving as a valuable resource for fellow librarians.

💖 Celebrate Collaborative Spirit: Whether your success came through teamwork or community partnerships, your story celebrates the collaborative spirit that strengthens the library world. Even the most modest success story can show the positive impact of libraries in our communities. Share the joys and lessons of working together for a common cause.

😊 Benefit Your Library: Sharing success stories not only raises visibility and highlights your library's achievements but also increases advocacy, boosts morale, motivates support and funding, establishes your expertise, inspires others to share their stories, and improves your chances of winning more grants!

🏆 **Submit your grant success story today** and be a source of inspiration for librarians worldwide! To submit your success story, please use [this online form](#) to share the details of your grant project and advice for other grant seekers. I look forward to hearing about your achievements and the positive difference you've made through your grant project!



Check <http://librarygrants.blogspot.com/> frequently for more grant announcements or subscribe to have new blog posts sent to your email!

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