



MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

No. 23.16

Friday, October 6, 2023

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts about the bulletin via the survey: <https://forms.gle/warJw3bxwsKj8kkj9>. Thank you! We appreciate your feedback!

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[Build a Better Book: Teens Using STEM to Create a User-Friendly World](#)

[Do 1 Thing: Emergency Preparedness For Business](#)



[Banned Books Week Is Underway](#)

[The Safe Library: Free Handout!](#)

[NYS Historic Newspapers: New Website!](#)

[Watch The Trailer For All The Light We Cannot See](#)

[Explore Four Courses for Support with Crisis Communications, Burnout, and De-escalation](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are at the end of **Banned Books Week**, which takes place from October 1 – October 7. This comes at a time where nationwide, statewide and even in our system, we have seen intellectual freedom challenges increase.



Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. According to the American Library Association, *"Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. Banned Books Week highlights the value of free and open access to information and brings together the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and express ideas."*

Here are some sobering statistics from [Unite Against Book Bans](#):

- The American Library Association documented **1,269** demands to censor library books and resources in 2022. This is the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data. In 2021, there were **729** attempted bans.
- **2,571** unique titles were targeted for censorship in 2022. This is a **32%** increase over the **1,858** unique titles targeted in 2021.
- **58%** of the reported book challenges targeted books and materials in school libraries, classroom libraries or school curricula. **41%** of book challenges targeted materials in public libraries.

Over the past year, one of our member libraries (Seneca Falls Library) received a request to remove the book "It's Perfectly Normal" from the children's section of the library. After reviewing their policy, and with input from the library director, the board voted to retain the book in the children's section of the library. In July of this year, the Cortland Free Library was the target of picketing outside of the library due to the library hosting programs the day of a Pride Festival that was occurring across the street. This came days after the library had a first amendment audit from Daniel Warmus, a person who films first amendment audits for YouTube.

FLLS has been providing training to our directors and library staff at our monthly Directors' Meetings and Member Library Support Group meetings. We also have been discussing intellectual freedom issues at board meetings and board retreats for our member libraries. Our Annual Meeting which is being held next Friday, October 13, will also focus on this topic. Library boards should be aware of their library's collection development policy, reconsideration forms, and your Meeting Room Use policy. A reminder that FLLS is here to help you review your policies and/or provide feedback.

I have been loving all of the social media posts over the past week from our member libraries (special shout out to the Waverly Free Library!) celebrating this important week for libraries.

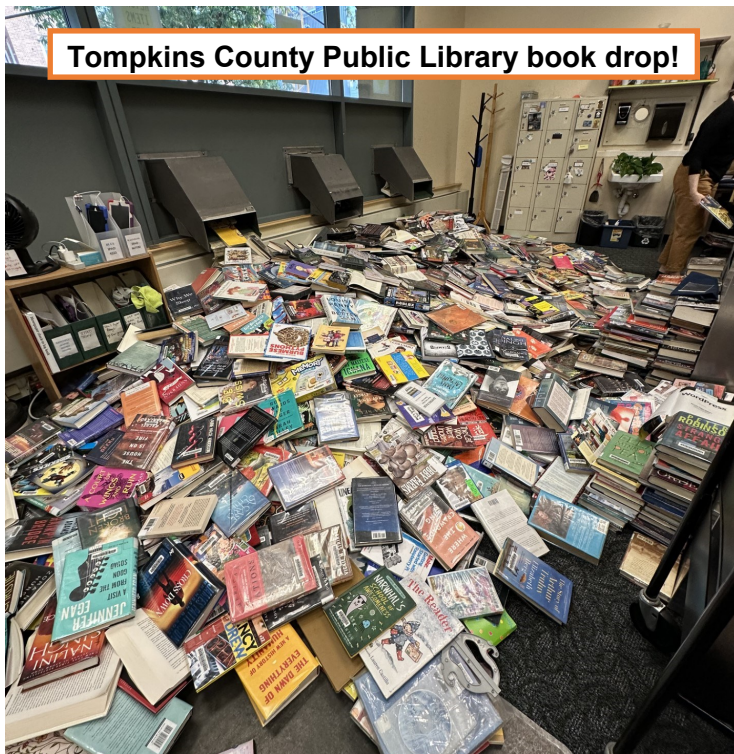
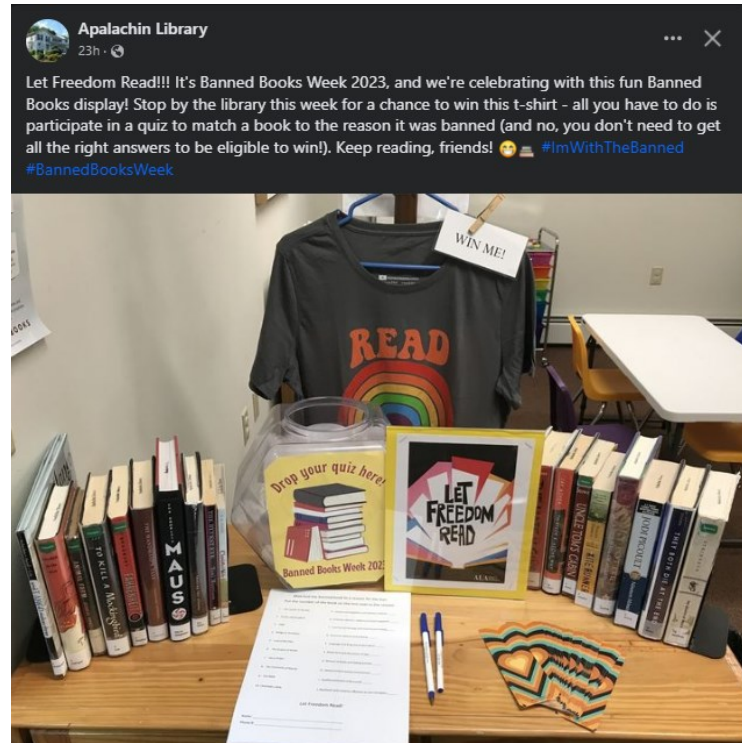
A quick reminder that Finger Lakes Library System will be closed on Monday, October 9 for Indigenous Peoples' Day. There will be no deliveries on Monday, but all 33 libraries will receive a delivery Tuesday, October 10.

Sarah



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

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



"Thanks for your support during our HVAC closure! We still have some loose ends getting tied up, but we are operational. Our Sunday hours start this week, too, on 10/08. Delivery starts back tomorrow [10/4], so lots of items headed your way and a trillion bags of delivery for us. We should be showing up in Polaris/PAC again, too."

- Leslie Tabor, TCPL Director



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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upcoming Webinars

[Early Literacy Webinar: "30 Favorite Storytime Books and How to Use Them" \(NYSL\)](#)

Thursday, October 12, 1:30-3:00

The webinar will be recorded and archived. You'll learn about: current picture book titles that work well for storytime; criteria/best practices for selecting storytime books; picture book titles that can be paired for easy thematic storytimes; how to pair extension activities with storytime titles; and great process-based and STEAM related activities that are manageable for younger audience.

[Cultivating Antiracist, Antibias Workplaces through Cultural Competence \(FLLS\)](#)

Thursday, October 19, 12:00-1:15pm

Many have seen the potential of developing cultural competence, or the ability to utilize a set of behaviors, attitudes and policies to interact effectively with people of different cultural backgrounds. Cultural competence has been suggested as an approach to combatting issues surrounding racism and bias within library and information organizations. But what does it look like in the cultivation of antiracist and antibias workplaces? This session will use the cultural competence continuum to identify specific actions or behaviors that both individuals and organizations can implement in order to develop cultural competence and combat issues of racism and bias within library workplaces. Presenter: Dr. Kawanna Bright.

★ [Collection Management 101 Hybrid Workshop \(FLLS\)](#)

Wednesday October 25, 11:00am-12:30pm

Building a well-used and relevant library collection can be a daunting task. With a limited library budget, you may wonder if you are selecting the best materials. Jenny will walk you through the Collection Management process from Analysis to Promotion. This hybrid workshop is intended for staff who purchase materials for their library and would like to determine where the funds could be best spent to serve and satisfy library patrons and the broader community. An intro to helpful Polaris reports will be included. Other topics to be discussed: eContent, funding, policies, & material challenges. Presenter: Jenny Shonk.

Conferences & Special Programs

Trustee Handbook Book Club Upcoming Sessions:

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

Financing & Managing Construction Projects
(Tuesday, December 19, 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](#).



**South Central Regional
Library Council**

Make Smart Connections.

[You're Invited to... SCRLC's 57th Annual Meeting of the Membership](#)

It's Not ~~Rocket~~ Library Science: Reconceptualizing American Librarianship as a Design Field with Dr. Rachel Ivy Clarke of the Syracuse University iSchool

Friday, October 27, 9:30am-2:00pm
Held In-Person at the Museum of the Earth
(Ithaca, NY)
[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

Solar Eclipse Glasses

Saturday October 14th is the [Annular Eclipse](#). Some libraries have created Solar Eclipse Make and Take kits that include the glasses. There are still glasses available. Reach out to Heidi if you are interested. We also have Extra Solar Eclipse kits for your library to borrow.

Check out the [postcard art](#) of local artist, astronomer, and night sky ambassador Dr. Tyler Nordgren featuring the Finger Lakes. He is also available for programs at your library.

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month

Libraries are for everyone! Looking for more information about the role libraries can play in making content accessible to a variety of readers? Libby features a [dyslexic font](#) that supports diverse readers. Thorndike Press also offers a [Striving Readers collection](#) of youth Large Type titles.

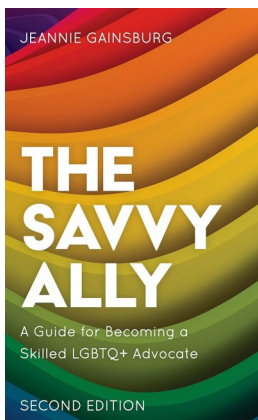
The organization [Teach My Kid to Read](#) has a complete toolkit to help you create awareness at your library. To access the kit, sign into The Road to Decode, and download the kit from "The Decodable Books and Literacy Resources" page. Beth Bevars at the [Lodi Whittier Library](#) is also the Library Director for TMKTR and also happy to answer any questions. Check out [Lodi's Literacy Hub](#) project for more information.

Summer Reading 2023

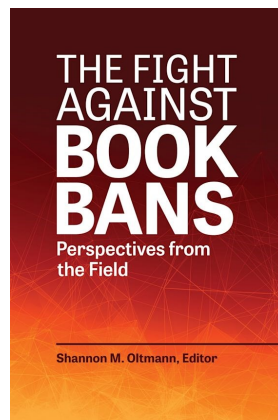
And the 2023 Summer Surveys are in and tallied! All **33** libraries held a Summer Reading Program this year with almost **9,000** kids, teens, and adults registered or participating. There were nearly **3,000** Take & Makes! Thanks for all your hard work to create a special summer for your communities.

NEW Professional Collection Books

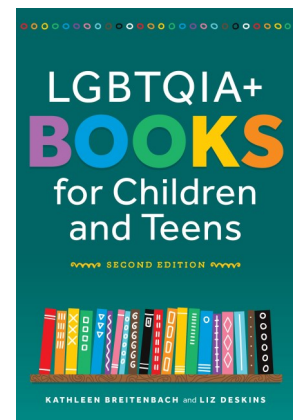
Search Polaris and place a request today!



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AWARDS & GRANTS



LIBRARIES
TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES
ACCESSIBLE SMALL AND
RURAL COMMUNITIES

ALA American Library Association

A SPECIAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES

ala.org/LTCAccess



Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities

will offer more than \$7 million in grants to small and rural libraries to increase the accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities.

To be eligible, a library must have a legal area population of 25,000 or less and be located at least five miles from an urbanized area, in keeping with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) definitions of small and rural libraries.

ALA will award two rounds of grants to be distributed over the next three years ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Participating libraries will first conduct community input-gathering sessions to assure that their work aligns with local needs. Libraries will be required to identify the primary audience they are hoping to reach (e.g., homebound seniors, children with autism, Deaf community members) and facilitate a community conversation with the impacted populations in order to guide the improvement of the library's services. Grantees would then use the funds to create services or improve their facilities based on the needs identified by their audience.

Applications are **NOW OPEN**, as of Monday, September 11, 2023.

- [Apply now](#) (*applications close December 11, 2023*)
- [Guidelines](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [View the application PDF](#)
- [Register for the Pre-Application Webinar Now](#) (October 4, 2023 at 1:00pm CT)

Free Downloads:

- [Download "Serving Patrons with Disabilities in Small and Rural Libraries: Practitioner's Guide"](#)
- [Download the "Accessible Conversations in Small and Rural Libraries Facilitation Guide"](#)
- [Read "Accessibility in Libraries: A Landscape Review"](#)