

## MEMBER LIBRARY BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Friday, January 12, 2024

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Groton Public Library made this adorable snowman using books in their stacks!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLLS will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, January 15**.

### LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[Meet the Librarian Spreading Library Love One TikTok at a Time](#)

[Public libraries reveal their most borrowed books of 2023](#)

[PLA Free Resource: Inclusive Internship Toolkit](#)



[2024 National Day of Racial Healing](#)

[Libraries as Summer Meals Sites Survey](#)

[Librarian by Day: The Eight Dimensions of Wellness](#)

[Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children](#)

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us for our first newsletter of 2024. Here are some updates for you:

**FLLS Staffing** - During November, our business manager parted ways with FLLS. We received temporary business help from a local accountant who worked with us 5 hours a week while we advertised for the position. We received some great applications and completed our interviews last week. I am happy to report that we extended an offer to our top applicant and on January 10, he accepted. Carlos Perez will be joining FLLS staff on February 5 as our business manager. He is coming to us from TCAT, where he worked in accounting.



During our upcoming FLLS Board of Trustees meeting on January 17, the trustees will be updating the Computer Network Services Manager job description and salary and we will be reposting that job announcement. This was the position that Rex held for us that been vacant since June. Our next goal is to have a replacement for that position in the next few months.

Tom has notified FLLS staff and our directors that he is healing nicely from his eye surgery and on schedule to return to driving on Monday, January 22. A big thank you to Ken and Rex for sub driving for us while Tom was out.

**NY State Budget** - Governor Hochul gave her State of the State on Tuesday. While she did focus on literacy and revamping the way reading is being taught in schools, there is no mention of the role of libraries in this endeavor. A reminder that NY State is operating in a deficit, so hopes are slim for a budget increase. The Governor does release her budget on January 16, and NYLA advocacy efforts will increase once those figures are released.

**Advocacy Day** - Advocacy Day is coming up on February 7. FLLS will not be providing a bus this year due to our staffing (I need to stay in the area and work with our new business manager that week). Instead, we will be focusing on individual meetings with legislators and I will take part on Spring on the Hill, which is a targeted advocacy effort in late April with NYLA and public library system directors. Please look for ways you can send legislators emails regarding library advocacy in the next few weeks shared by NYLA and FLLS.

**Annual Reports** - We are gearing up for NY State Annual Report time. While we do not have anything official from the State, we expect the portal to open up in late January and that reports will be due to the State from FLLS by the beginning of March. We do not expect any major changes in the reporting and will be helping our libraries by running reports and helping with any questions. Please remember that annual reports must be approved by a library's board of trustees, so please plan to have a meeting in February to approve your reports. Jenny Shonk is our FLLS staff member working with our libraries on Annual Reports, so expect more information from Jenny soon.

**FLLS Closed Monday, January 15** – A reminder that we will be closed on Monday, January 15 to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will not be doing deliveries that day. All libraries will be receiving a delivery on Tuesday, January 16 from FLLS.

I hope everyone has a relaxing weekend,  
Sarah



# MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Do you have something to share? Please email [jshonk@flls.org](mailto:jshonk@flls.org)!



The [Waverly Free Library Facebook page](#) is full of fun ideas for January! They recently posted their Top 10 books for 2023 across multiple categories, created using Polaris reports & Canva (see above).

The library is also hosting Fun Fridays on the first Friday of every month. Each month is a new theme. Patrons are encouraged to dress up and stop by the library. January 5th was Sports Day (see right). Next month is 70s Day! Find them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to follow along!



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# CONTINUING EDUCATION

## Upcoming Webinars

### [Building Authentic Relationships with Underserved Communities \(WebJunction\)](#)

**Tuesday, January 30, 2:00-3:00pm | FREE**

You know your library could do more to connect with and respond to the systematically excluded communities you serve. But if you're starting with little or no existing connection, how do you build authentic, trust-based relationships? How do you go beyond transactional interactions and guessing at services to effective engagement and participation? This webinar will help you develop a plan for identifying, reaching, and building relationships with communities experiencing oppression. Presented by Dr. Audrey Barbakoff, Amita Lonial, and Mia Henry.

### [Free and Low-Cost Library Programming \(CLRC\)](#)

**Wednesday, February 6, 10:00-11:00am | FREE**

Engage patrons while saving your budget by using free and low-cost resources. This timely webinar provides inspiration for showstopping library programs for all audiences from seniors to children. Tools and materials range from free resources to teach financial responsibility to toddlers to STEM lesson plans from NASA to resources to host an Earth Day event incorporating a 'free trees for kids' program. Discover resources to host an amateur radio program at the library to contact the crew of the International Space Station, host a free retro game night, or host a financial protection workshop for senior patrons. Jam-packed with where to get free lesson plans, printables, downloadables, online learning resources, collaborative library programs, program grants, and donation resources, this webinar will show participants where to find a large collection of resources for costless library programming including resources for program planning, marketing, and assessment. Presented by Ellyssa Valenti Kroski.

### [Book Banning In 21st-Century America: A Book Talk With Emily J. M. Knox \(METRO\)](#)

**Thursday, February 22, 4:00-5:00pm | FREE**

Join us for a discussion with Emily J. M. Knox, author of Book Banning In 21st-Century America. Emily, an associate professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will talk about how understanding contemporary reading practices are key to understanding why people attempt to censor books in schools and public libraries. This discussion will be moderated by Mary Bakija. We look forward to including questions from our audience as well.

## LOOKING FOR MORE?

[CLRC](#)

[METRO](#)

[SCRLC](#)

[WebJunction](#)

[Libby Webinars from OverDrive](#)

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## 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](mailto: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

## eContent Updates

### Mango Languages ASL

We're excited to announce that [American Sign Language](#) will soon be available for patrons through our [Mango Languages](#) app. Watch for info about the free trial that's set to start on January 16th. FLLS will be adding this feature to its language line up on Mango for 2024.

### eContent Contributions

Thank you to all the libraries that contributed to the FLLS OverDrive pool. This helps keep our digital collection rich and sustainable. We'll be sending out invoices later this month. We've been leveraging lending models to fill holds more quickly. Currently, we're down from a 48 day wait period to 28 for our patrons!

### Reciprocal Lending Arrangement

Finger Lakes Library System patrons also have expanded access to OverDrive materials through a Reciprocal Lending Arrangement (RLA) with the OWWL Library System and the Southern Tier Library System (STLS). Learn more at [Read Across the Region](#).

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## FLLS Physical Collection: Sensory Storytime Items

TCPL has generously loaned us some sensory storytime items to circulate to other member libraries, see below. These items are not for patrons to borrow.

- Storytime Box Smocks | A20519 411724 | Smocks. 10 plastic/nylon smocks.
- Storytime Box Tactile Path | A20519 411685 | 8 pieces makes different paths.
- Storytime Box Parachute 6 | A20519 411805 | 6 ft parachute. (Orange)
- Storytime Box Parachute 12 | A20519 411766 | 12 ft parachute. (Green)

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## Solar Eclipse Planning

A State Library virtual webinar, *Preparing for the Shadow: [What You Need to Know about the 2024 Eclipse](#)* is designed to help libraries understand and plan for the total April eclipse is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31 at 1:30pm. The session will be presented by Mindy Townsend, astronomer at the Dudley Observatory of Siena College. See the event details and register on this event page of the [State Library LibCal](#). The session will be recorded.

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## Summer Reading 2024: Looking for Adventure Ideas?

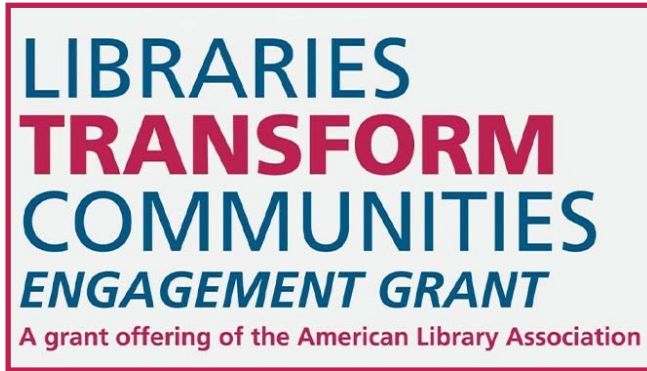
Watch your email this week for the registration link to the 3rd annual Summer Reading Collaborative program. FLLS and 13 other systems are hosting a 3-hour children's programming extravaganza webinar on Thursday, February 15 from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Hope to see you there! (CEs are available.)

The [CSLP Summer Symposium Recordings](#) from December are now available.

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## AWARDS & GRANTS



Two of ALA's annual library programming award grants are now accepting applications until **February 1, 2024**:

- The Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant will provide two libraries with \$2,000 to expand their community engagement efforts: <https://programminglibrarian.org/articles/apply-now-libraries-transform-communities-engagement-grant>
- The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant aims to help ease library budget challenges by awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort: <https://programminglibrarian.org/articles/apply-now-peggy-barber-tribute-grant>

Please email [publicprograms@ala.org](mailto:publicprograms@ala.org) with any questions.



**It's that time again!** 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 **NOW OPEN** for the 2024-2025 grant cycle. \$15,000 is available! **All applications are due March 22, 2024.** Visit the [Outreach Services](#) page to download an application or to view the FAQs and Tips. *Have a question? Stuck on an idea?* Email Jenny Shonk at [jshonk@flls.org](mailto:jshonk@flls.org).