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More information about the Big Library Read on page 7!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Did you know? NYS residents can apply online for library cards at [New York Public Library](#), [Brooklyn Public Library](#), and [Queens Public Library](#)! Access eBooks, audiobooks, and other digital resources for FREE!

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[Sensory-Friendly Programming: Lessons from Small & Rural Libraries](#)

[NYC's Morgan Library celebrates 100 years and historic librarian](#)

[Stuffie Sleepover at the NYS Library: Chapter 1](#)

[Good Things Small Packages](#) (Features Edith B. Ford Memorial Library in Ovid!)

[Bias, Subjectivity, and Psychological Safety: The Feedback Gap](#)

[The Power of Rewards and Recognitions: Library staffers work for more than just money](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Here are some updates for the month of April:

State Budget/ Federal Updates – Unfortunately we do not have State budget as I write this today. While NY State is supposed to have a budget in place on April 1, we have seen in recent years that this typically does not occur. The main issues do not appear to be monetary in nature, but instead are about policy issues. There are current indications that a budget may pass in early May and once it is finalized, we will be sharing that information out to you.



The State Library is still at-risk funding wise due to the fact they lost Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding. This funding is roughly \$8.1M. The hope is that this \$8.1M will be added into the State budget. The State Library is still uncertain about the status of IMLS and is awaiting word on the lawsuits that have been filed. DLD has pulled back on a few projects that rely on Federal funding but are still moving forward with things that are "mid-stream." The State Library cannot do direct advocacy work themselves, so they are relying on organizations like NYLA, public library systems, and regional library councils to advocate on their behalf. FLLS and our colleagues continue to contact our legislators on this matter.

Just a reminder, FLLS and member libraries are not funded through the federal government. Federal grants and E-rate could be affected.

On a federal level, there are legal responses to the dismantling of IMLS. Letitia James, NYS Attorney General, has joined 20 other states in suing federal government to stop dismantling of IMLS and other agencies. The ACLU and ALA have also filed lawsuits to stop actions against IMLS. We will keep you updated on the progression of these suits.

Summer Reading Kick-Off Meeting – On Thursday, April 17, we welcomed library directors and library staff from our member libraries to our building for our annual summer reading kick-off day of learning. Besides our annual meeting, this is our largest in-person event at our system and it was great to see so many of our members join us for our workshop, network with each other, and share ideas for summer reading. The theme for summer reading this year is "Color Our World".

FLLS Surveys Taking Place – FLLS is asking our 33 member libraries to take part in a few FLLS surveys. Our first survey is complete and looked at benefits our library staff receive (healthcare, vacation, sick time, etc.). We will be sharing out information on that survey shortly with you. We are currently conducting a survey about accessibility of our physical spaces (our library buildings) and plan to make a brochure for patrons with our outcomes. Our next survey will be about job titles and pay for various library position at our libraries. Look for more information on that survey soon.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend,
Sarah



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Seed Libraries @ Member Libraries!

Libraries across Finger Lakes Library System make their seed libraries available to patrons through Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA, or local gardeners!



Spencer Library



Powers Library in Moravia



Groton Public Library



Waverly Free Library



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Seed Libraries @ Member Libraries!



Seymour Library in Auburn



How to Start a Seed Library

Gabriel Fox, Niagara Falls Public Library



May 1st, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Looking to start your own seed library but don't know where to start? Check out this timely webinar from WNYLRC: [How to Start a Seed Library on May 1!](#)

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upcoming Webinars

Join us for...

Free Webinar

**Information Literacy: Autism Awareness
for Library Workers**

Monday, April 28th
7am PT / 9am CT /
10am ET

Moderated by
Sally Stieglitz



Featured speakers


Cindy
Hohl


Temple
Grandin


Mychal
Threats

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, ALA invites you to a virtual program to learn how libraries can support coworkers and patrons on the autism spectrum.

The program will be a moderated conversation: *Information Literacy: [Autism Awareness for Library Workers on April 28 @ 10am](#)*

[Outreach, Advocacy, and Marketing: Understanding the Venn Diagram](#) (FLLS)
Tuesday, April 29 | 11:00am-12:00pm | FREE

[AI and public libraries: Panel and discussion](#) (WebJunction)
Thursday, May 1 | 3:00-4:00pm | FREE

[Rooting out Dysfunction and Creating Successful Teams](#) (RRLC)
Wednesday, May 14 | 2:00-3:00pm | FREE

[If We Could Have Just 10 Minutes of Your Time, Public Library Workers!](#) (ALA)
Tuesday, May 20 | 2:00-3:30pm | FREE

[If We Could Have Just Ten Minutes of Your Time, All Library Workers!](#) (ALA)
Thursday, May 22 | 2:00-3:30pm | FREE

OWWL Library System Save the Date / Call for Proposals

The fourth Small Libraries Summer Symposium will be held at the OWWL Library System headquarters in Canandaigua on Thursday, July 10, 2025.

We are looking for speakers from small libraries or who directly work with small libraries. Proposals can be for a one-hour presentation that includes time for Q&A or a 20-minute "How To" session that offers practical skills, programs, or services that can be taught in short sessions.

[Click here to learn more and access the proposal form.](#) The deadline to submit is Sunday, May 11. Conference registration will open Monday, May 19.

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TECH TIP

Caution: Smishing!

A [smishing \(SMS phishing\)](#) campaign is targeting iMessage users, attempting to socially engineer them into bypassing Apple's built in phishing protection. For months, iMessage users have been posting [examples](#) online of how phishers are trying to get around this protection. And, now, the campaign is gaining traction, according to our friends at [BleepingComputer](#).

It works like this: Under normal circumstances, iMessage will disable all links in messages from unknown senders to protect the user against clicking them by accident. However, if a user replies to a message or adds the sender to their contact list, the links are enabled, allowing the person to click on the link. The text of the messages comes in all the variations that phishers love to use:

- [Undeliverable packages](#) from USPS, EVRI, Royal Mail, DHL, Fedex, etc.
- [Unpaid road toll](#).
- Owed shipping fees.
- Other outstanding payments that you are unaware of.

But they all end in a similar way to this:

(Please reply Y, then exit the SMS, re-open the SMS activation link, or copy the link to open in Safari)

Replying with Y (or actually anything) will enable the links and turn off iMessage's built-in phishing protection. Clicking the link will then lead the recipient to whatever malicious website the phisher had in mind. Even if the user just replies with "Y" and then decides not to follow the link—because it looks slightly off—the phishers will know that they have found a likely target for more attacks.

It's also important to know that there are similar instructions for the Chrome browser:

(Reply with 1, exit the SMS message, and reopen the SMS activation link, or copy the link to Google Chrome to open it.)

How to avoid smishing scams:

- Never reply to suspicious messages, even if it's only a "Y" or "1." It will tell the phishers they have a live number and they will bombard you with more attempts.
- Never add a number you don't know to your Contacts as that will disable the iMessage protection as well.
- Don't assume any message is the real deal. If you're being asked to do something, contact the company directly via a known method you trust. If it turns out to be a fake, you should be able to report it to them, there and then.
- If you live somewhere with a Do Not Call list or spam reporting service, make full use of it. Report bogus messages and numbers.
- Your mobile device may already have some form of "safe" message ID enabled without you knowing. It's tricky to give specific advice here because of the sheer difference of options available on models of phone, but the Options / Safety / Security / Privacy menus are a good place to start.
- Check the link before you click it or copy it in your browser. Is it exactly what you would expect it to be? Scammers often use [typosquatting](#) techniques (for example [evri\[.\]top](#) instead of the legitimate [evri\[.\]com](#), or they fabricate a link that uses the subdomain to make it look legitimate (for example [usps.com-track.infoam\[.\]xyz](#)). If it doesn't look real then don't click on it.
- If a message sounds too good (or bad) to be true, it probably is.

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PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH



On April 17, library staff from twenty member libraries gathered at FLLS to network and plan for their summer reading programming. The full day event featured presentations from the Sciencenter, the Family Reading Partnership, and Polyphony Lit, a teen literary magazine. You can find slideshows in the Summer Reading LibGuide: <https://scrlc.libguides.com/flls-summer-reading-2025/SRmeeting>

Need art supplies for your *Color Our World* summer programs? [Blick Art Materials](#) may be a solution. In addition to a wide selection, Blick also has free ideas, tutorials and materials lists for a wide range of projects. For more information, visit <https://www.dickblick.com/lesson-plans/>



Top: Heidi speaking to the group.

Right: Milly & Jessica having fun with the Sciencenter kits!



OverDrive announced that 'Uncommon Measure' by Natalie Hodges is the featured title for this May's #BigLibraryRead! [Big Library Read](#) is a digital book club connecting readers to the same ebook & audiobook at the same time - no waitlists, no holds – via the Libby App. Starting May 15th and running through May 29th, patrons can read or listen to Hodge's memoir:

How does time shape consciousness and consciousness, time? Do we live in time, or does time live in us? And how does music, with its patterns of rhythm and harmony, inform our experience of time? Uncommon Measure explores these questions from the perspective of a young Korean American who dedicated herself to perfecting her art until performance anxiety forced her to give up the dream of becoming a concert solo violinist.

More info: <https://link.overdrive.com/biglibraryreadmay2025>

AWARDS & GRANTS



Freedom to Read Foundation
FREE PEOPLE READ FREELY®

Applications Are Open for Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund Programming Grants

Deadline: April 30, 2025

Each year the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) distributes grants for organizations to support activities that raise awareness of intellectual freedom and censorship issues during the annual Banned Books Weeks celebration (October 5-11, 2025).

Staff at all types of libraries, schools, universities, and non-profit community organizations are encouraged to apply. Grants are awarded for \$1,000 and applications are accepted now through April 30, 2025.

Grants are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **WHY NOW?:** Please share why this grant is important for your organization in this time.
- **IMAGINATION:** What makes your plan unique? Please share how you would integrate the concept of “Read For Your Rights.”
- **SCHEDULE/ACTION PLAN:** Include key dates, responsibilities, and collaboration with other groups to carry out a creative project.
- **PR PLAN:** What are the ways you will promote your event and who is your intended audience? Do you have a media and social media plan? How will your promotion be creative, unique and eye-catching?
- **BUDGET:** Please detail your proposed budget. Institutions, and other groups they are working with should contribute to the funding of proposed events rather than solely relying on the grant. Do not designate all of these grant funds for the purchase of books, or as an honorarium for one speaker.
- **EVALUATION:** Detail how you will evaluate the success of your program.

To be eligible for a grant, organizations must not have been a recipient of an FTRF grant within the past five years. FTRF Founder Judith F. Krug was a fierce proponent of education and intellectual freedom. During Krug’s lengthy career she worked non-stop to prevent censorship and protect First Amendment rights.

Apply [here](#) or visit the [Freedom to Read Foundation](#) online to apply and learn more about past recipients and their projects through the [Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund](#). Contact Joyce McIntosh at jmcintosh@ala.org or kgianni@ala.org with questions.

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