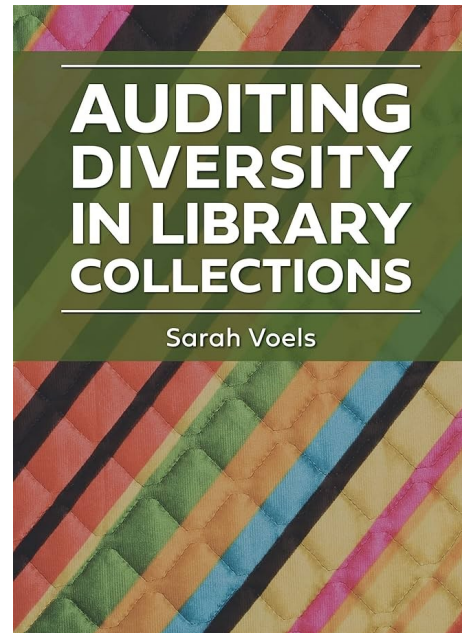




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**NEW BOOK!** Request *Auditing Diversity in Library Collections* by Sarah Voels (**A20519414023**)

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## 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

[Unmasking the Joy of Reading: A School Library Twist on 'The Masked Singer'](#)

[Meet the 2025 I Love My Librarian Award Honorees](#)

[Become a Scholastic Literacy Partner](#)

[OCE Access for All: Accessible Hyperlinks](#)

[8 Inclusive Chapter Books to Kick Off Summer Reading](#)

[ALA welcomes IMLS staff return and select grant reinstatements, cautiously optimistic about national case](#)

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

The New York State legislature passed its State budget of \$254B for 2025-2026 fiscal year on Thursday, May 8, 2025. While a tentative agreement had been reached weeks before, the final vote had been delayed until May 8, so we were initially unsure of our library allocations. A very large thank you to all of our library advocates throughout the State for their continued advocacy efforts so late in this season.

The State budget portions related to libraries resulted in a roughly 2% increase for categorical aid. Here is the budget breakdown:

- **Library Operating Aid: \$106.325M**
  - + \$1.725M from Executive
  - + \$2.473M from last year
- **Public Library Construction Aid: \$44 M**
  - +10M from Executive
  - = same as last year
- **Library Social Worker Pilot Program: \$150,000**
  - New this year
- **Novelny (library databases): \$3M**
  - = same as last year
- **Love Your Library Fund: \$100,000**
  - = amount proposed in Executive
- **Dolly Parton Imagination Library: \$1M**
  - -\$6M from Executive
  - +\$500,000 from last year



No funds were allocated nor were fees increased to help underwrite the Division of Library Development at the State Library. Due to IMLS being threatened at a federal level, a state-wide supplement of money for this division was originally sought to help lessen the loss of federal money to our State Library.

**County Funding** – In terms of county funding, Tompkins County administration held their first budget meeting for county agencies last week. I took part in that meeting, representing the five rural libraires in Tompkins County and FLLS, and Susan Currie, interim director at TCPL took part for TCPL. The County is recommending a flat budget for agencies and our budget documents will be due to County administration on June 20.

**FLLS Holiday Closure** – Finger Lakes Library System will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no deliveries that day. On Tuesday, May 27 there will be both a North Route and South Route delivery and all libraries will be receiving deliveries.

I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing holiday weekend!

Sarah





# MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

## Seneca Falls Library

"The 2025 Children's Book Festival was a fun time! A huge thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the joy of reading with us, especially the amazing author, Josh Funk! It was such a treat to have him here. We were so proud to present our Most Improved Reader Awards to some truly inspiring young bookworms! And how wonderful was it to see every child go home with 2-3 previously loved books to add to their own collections? The creativity was flowing at our craft stations, and the excitement was unmistakable during the prize drawing! Congratulations to the lucky winners who took home prizes based on Josh Funk's delightful books. Of course, no library event is complete without our beloved Trevor! Our furry friend reluctantly shared the spotlight (as you can see in many of the photos.)"

*~ Tara Montoney, Youth Services Coordinator*







## MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

### Kellogg Free Library in Cincinnati

"We had a wonderful time this morning at our Mother/Daughter Princess Tea Party. We enjoyed tea sandwiches, cookies, quick breads, as well as many Princess-themed snacks. The children enjoyed making their own magic wands. Thank you to all who attended and to Beth MacRae for the use of Alice's Dowry for the Arts and her tea service. Thank you also to Princess Jordan and Princess Elsa (Brianna) for their help." ~ Tina Harvey, Children's Library Assistant



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

## Upcoming Webinars

### **Backup: How Coworkers SHOULD Provide Backup During Conflict** (Ryan Dowd)

**June 2-6 | 30 minutes | FREE**

In this training you will learn: the way most people do "backup" (and why it's wrong!), how to backup your coworker without escalating the situation, which staff member should be "lead" and which should be "backup", and how to use backup to train new staff. Various dates and time slots are available. Webinar was recorded July 2023.

### **Supporting Each Other Through Stressful Times: A Conversation on Wellbeing**

**Tuesday, June 10 | 12:00-1:00pm | FREE**

In these challenging times, librarians around the world are feeling the pressure. Join Helen Rimmer, author of *The Kind Librarian*, Beth Montague-Hellen, author of *Practical Tips for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Libraries*, and Bobbi Newman, editor of *Well-Being in the Library Workplace* and author of *Fostering Wellness in the Workplace*, for an open and supportive conversation about how we can navigate these stresses together. We'll explore ways to prioritize well-being, foster inclusive environments, and share practical tips for managing the challenges libraries face today. We welcome your thoughts and questions as we discuss how to create kinder, more resilient workplaces. Let's connect, support one another, and work towards a stronger, more inclusive future for libraries everywhere.

### **Articulating Value: Leveling Up Your Stakeholder Communications** (RRLC)

**Wednesday, June 11 | 2:00-3:00pm | FREE**

This webinar takes a deep dive into stakeholder interests and motivation and the challenges to communicating with different stakeholder groups. We will focus on how to strategically communicate the impact of library services and resources to a variety of stakeholder groups. Attendees will learn how to use stakeholder mapping and targeted activities to assess the needs and priorities of different stakeholder groups, as well as how to use storytelling frameworks to create meaningful stakeholder communications. Presented by Amanda Johnson and Lauren Clossey.

### **From Insight to Action: Trauma-Informed Approaches to Self-Care** (SCRLC)

**Friday, June 13 | 12:00-1:00pm | FREE**

This workshop explores the intersection of trauma-informed care, self-care, and self-regulation, emphasizing their collective role in fostering resilience and well-being. Participants will learn to recognize the signs of trauma, implement self-care strategies, and apply self-regulation techniques to enhance personal and professional well-being. Learning Outcomes: learn the key principles of trauma-informed care and how to apply them; create a mini self-care plan that supports your well-being; practice techniques like mindfulness and grounding to manage stress. Presented by Shasta Savage of HSCTC.

**Looking for more? Check out the [WebJunction Course Catalog!](#)**



# PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH



## Mango Languages

Summer is the perfect time to learn a new language. FLLS patrons can choose from over 70 languages with Mango Languages. Visit <https://www.flls.org/public/> to find Mango and other databases for your patrons to enjoy and explore.

## OverDrive

Our OverDrive Magazines collection is popular, clocking over 41,000 circs since we added the collection in June 2024. (We're renewing our subscription!) Patrons have access to over 5000 titles in several languages as well as up to three years of archives for some publications. There are the usual titles as well as some cool niche ones on topics ranging from astrology to tiny homes.

Visit <https://flls.overdrive.com/collection/1572200> to see all the subjects and titles. We've also curated a youth collection: <https://flls.overdrive.com/collection/1572200>

**Did you know?** You can find monthly OverDrive circulation statistics for your library at: <https://www.flls.org/computer-network-services/web-stats/>



## OverDrive and Sora Sweet Reads

Does your school district use Sora, OverDrive's reading app for students? If so, let your patrons know about [Sweet Reads](#), a free collection that includes more than 100 always available ebooks and select audiobooks for students in grades K-12. They're all available right now, until Aug. 25. With both fiction and non-fiction titles, there's something for everyone in this year's program!

This year's collection is even bigger, with more choices to kick the summer reading slide.



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## AWARDS & GRANTS

### 2025 Family Literacy Grant Recipients



Congratulations to the following members on their awards to support literacy at their libraries:

**Aurora Free Library**

**Berkshire Free Library**

**Candor Free Library**

**Cortland Free Library**

**Southworth Library Association**

**Groton Public Library**

**Phillips Free Library**

**Peck Memorial Library**

**Lamont Memorial Free Library**

**Powers Library**

**Seymour Library**

**Tappan-Spaulling Library**

**Cady Library**

**Hazard Library**

**Seneca Falls Library**

**Tompkins County Public Library**

**Waverly Free Library**

Over \$10,000 was awarded to support projects like Adulting 101, “Color Our World” with Graphic Novels, Learning Backpacks, and a Plant Propagation Swap Station. Thanks for all your creativity and dedication to serving your community’s youth! Congratulations!

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## NYLA Scholarships



Calling all Library Science students!  
NYLA's two scholarships are now open through **June 1, 2025**.

### **NYLA Empire State Academic Scholarship**

Provides financial assistance to students to pursue a Master's Degree in Library Science at an ALA-accredited library school in New York State. The recipients of this award will receive \$1,000.00 to cover tuition costs and related expenses. In addition, the winners will receive free attendance at the first NYLA Annual Conference (not inclusive of travel and lodging) to be held after the awarding of the scholarship.

### **NYLA Lake Placid First Time Conference Stipend**

Created to encourage future librarians to attend NYLA’s Annual Conference by providing a stipend for up to four library school students who have not been to the NYLA Conference before.

For criteria, more information, and to apply visit: <https://www.nyla.org/awards>.

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