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Libraries are for Everyone! Jenny took a trip to NYC recently and wanted to share what NYPL (The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building) looks like during pride month!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLLS will be **CLOSED** for Independence Day on **Friday, July 4.**

Upcoming FLLS Staff Out-of-Office: Sarah—7/3-7/9 & 8/4-8/22; Jenny—7/9-7/10; Diana—7/10, 7/22, 7/30-7/31; Heidi—7/14-7/18, 8/11-8/15, & 8/28-8/29; Eric—7/17-7/22; Deb—7/17-8/4; Tom—7/11, 7/23, 7/28-8/1; Wayne—7/28-8/1 & 8/18-8/22.

Not sure who to contact? View the [FLLS Services Contacts Cheat Sheet!](#)

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[NYCLU Cheers State Legislature Passage of Freedom To Read Act](#)

[Fiber Art Group: Hammer Dyeing with Flowers](#)

[Nature's Best Hope](#)

[Booklist Reader: New & Stellar LGBTQ Reads](#)

[Special Delivery: The 140th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Statue of Liberty](#)

[Carla Hayden on her time as a pioneering librarian of Congress and getting fired by Trump](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Here are some recent updates for you that occurred in the month of June:

Federal Updates – There are two national court cases concerning the closure of IMLS:

- ALA case update – On June 6, a federal judge denied a motion to block the Trump administration's efforts to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This means the case will now proceed on the merits in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. You can read an article from *American Libraries* Magazine: <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/judge-denies-preliminary-injunction-in-impls-lawsuit/>
- The lawsuit involving 21 State Attorney Generals, including NY, is moving forward. Those 21 States can draw down their IMLS federal funding to run their State libraries. NY has been able to draw down their 2025 money since June 1.
- The federal budget ends September 30. The President is still proposing to cut IMLS from the 2026 federal budget. Federal advocacy efforts are underway and the State Librarian is urging us to conduct advocacy visits with our national legislators during the summer.



State updates – The last day of the State legislature was June 12, although the Assembly was called back shortly on June 16 for some final votes. Right before the end of the session, the Freedom to Read Act passed the legislature, thanks to the hard work of library advocates throughout the State and from the sponsorship of Senator May and Assemblymember Simone. This bill would require the Commissioner of Education to develop policies to ensure that school libraries and library staff are empowered to curate and develop collections that provide students with access to the widest array of developmentally appropriate materials available.

Lunch with NYLA – The South Central Regional Library Council will be hosting NYLA President Tim Spindler from the Long Island Library Resources Council at the SCRLC/Finger Lakes Library System offices on Monday, July 21 from 12:30 – 2:30 PM.

This is an opportunity to meet with AnnaLee Dragon (Executive Director) and Tim Spindler (NYLA President) to discuss anything related to NYLA and ask questions about advocacy. Max Prime (Director of Government Relations and Advocacy) will be there if his schedule allows.

Please bring your questions and thoughts on NYLA's mission including:

- What is NYLA doing well?
- What could NYLA do better?
- Is there something specific you would like to see NYLA do?

Lunch will be included for attendees. Please register [here](#) if you would like to attend in person.

FLLS Closed July 4 – The Finger Lakes Library System will be closed Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. There will be no deliveries that day. All libraries in our system will receive deliveries on Thursday, July 3. Have a safe and relaxing holiday weekend!

Sarah



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Hazard Library & Aurora Free Library

"Here are pictures from the Jeff Mack author visit to Emily Howland Elementary School in the Southern Cayuga Central School District on May 16. The visit was sponsored by the Aurora Free Library and Hazard Library thanks to Rosen Grant funding. Jeff Mack did 2 presentations (grades K-2 and grades 3-6) and 2 art workshops (grades 3 and 5). He also spent some time answering questions related to how to get a book published from a high school senior who has interest in pursuing writing." ~ Lisa Semenza, Director @ Hazard Library





MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Cortland Free Library

The library celebrated their Learning Hub Kickoff on Saturday, June 21 with cupcakes, cookies, and a whole lot of learning. Their new decodable books collection is a perfect way for young readers to build confidence and skills. If you'd like to learn more about decodables and libraries, see page 7.



Phillips Free Library

Phillips Free Library held their Summer Reading kickoff earlier in June. *"We invited a local splatter paint room business Splat Sumthin' to bring their splatter tent and spin art. You can see how the splatter tent started and the end result hanging in the library. Looking forward to a fun summer!"*

~ Sarah Bouwens, Assistant to the Director



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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upcoming Webinars

[Intro to Proposal Writing \(NYSL\)](#)

Tuesday, July 8 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | FREE

This program provides participants with an overview of how to write a standard project proposal to a foundation. The class includes the basic elements of a proposal; the “dos” and “don’ts” of writing and submitting a proposal; and how to follow up whether the answer is yes or no. Presented by Tracy Kaufman of [Candid](#).

[Building Psychological Safety and Supportive Cultures in Teams \(SCRLC\)](#)

Thursday, July 17 | 2:00 - 3:00pm | FREE

This workshop focuses on the importance of psychological safety in fostering effective teamwork and creating a culture of care. Participants will learn strategies to build trust, encourage open communication, and support each other's well-being, leading to enhanced collaboration and performance. Learning Outcomes: define psychological safety and its impact on team dynamics and performance, identify behaviors that promote or hinder psychological safety within teams, and implement practices that support individual and collective well-being. Presented by Shasta Savage.

[Meet the NYLA President \(SCRLC\)](#)

Monday, July 21 | 12:30pm - 2:30pm | FREE

This is an opportunity to meet with AnnaLee Dragon (Executive Director) and Tim Spindler (NYLA President) to discuss anything related to NYLA and ask questions about advocacy. Max Prime (Director of Government Relations and Advocacy) will be there if his schedule allows. Please bring your questions and thoughts on NYLA's mission including... What is NYLA doing well? What could NYLA do better? Is there something specific you would like to see NYLA do? Lunch will be included for attendees. Held in-person at the FLLS building!

[The Great Give Back \(STLS\)](#)

Tuesday, August 26 | 1:00-2:00pm | FREE

The mission of The Great Give Back is to provide a day of opportunities for the patrons of the Public Libraries of New York State to participate in meaningful, service-oriented experiences. Learn its history, hear example projects from around the state, and see how easy it is to become a part of the program!



ThriveLib
Reclaiming Joy, Balance, and
Boundaries in Libraries

NEW! [ThriveLib: Reclaiming Joy, Balance, and Boundaries in Libraries](#) is a virtual conference dedicated to the well-being of library workers. Designed for librarians, library staff, and information professionals across all types of libraries, this multi-day event focuses on the emotional and psychological well-being of those who keep libraries running.

Library workers face growing challenges, burnout, compassion fatigue, blurred boundaries, and shrinking support while continuing to serve their communities with dedication and care. ThriveLib creates space to acknowledge these realities and to imagine something better. Together, we'll explore strategies for fostering psychological safety, setting sustainable boundaries, building healthier workplace cultures, and reclaiming the joy that brought so many of us to this profession.

ThriveLib is more than a conference. It's a call to action and a collective commitment to change. Join us to learn, reflect, connect, and take meaningful steps toward thriving in your library work. Change starts small, and it starts with us!

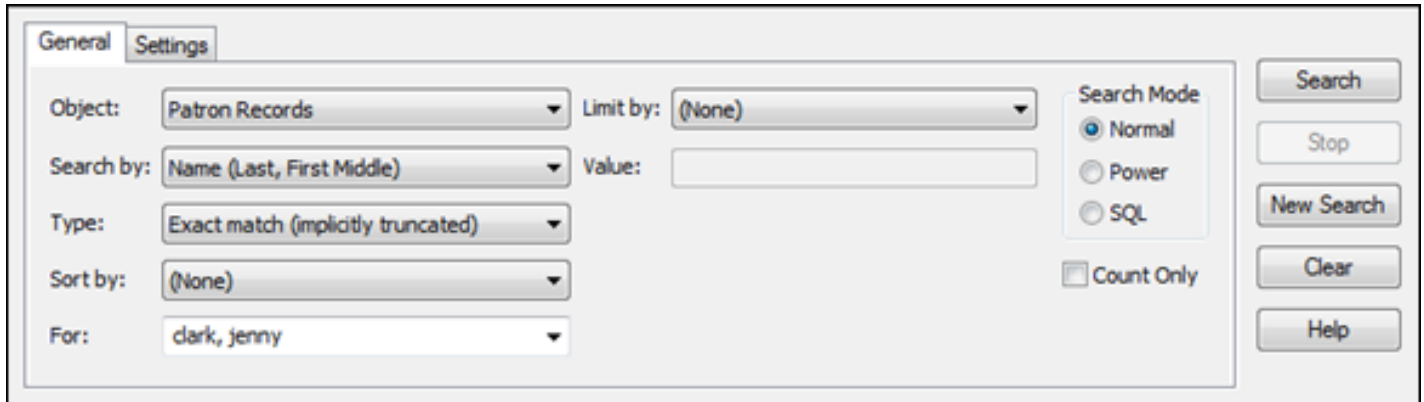
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POLARIS TIP

Duplicating Patron Records

When registering multiple members of a household, it is much quicker to duplicate a patron record and make the required changes than to start from scratch each time!

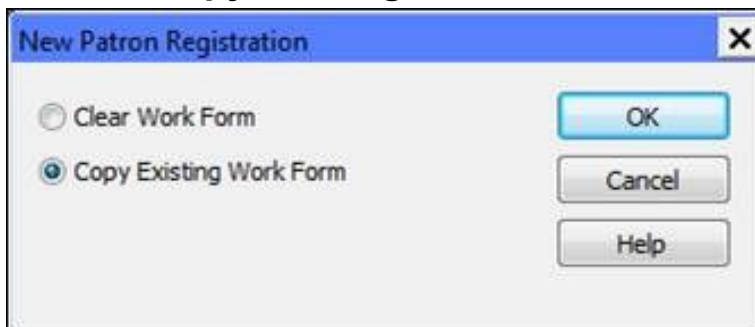
1. Access the Patron Find Tool in **Patron Services > Patron Records** or (F7) and search for the patron. If the patron's registration is already open, skip to step 4. The **For:** box should contain your search criteria, i.e. patron name. Click on **Search**.

The screenshot shows the 'General' tab of the Patron Find Tool. It features several dropdown menus: 'Object' set to 'Patron Records', 'Search by' set to 'Name (Last, First Middle)', 'Type' set to 'Exact match (implicitly truncated)', 'Sort by' set to '(None)', and 'For' set to 'dark, jenny'. There is a 'Limit by' dropdown set to '(None)' and a 'Value' text box. On the right, the 'Search Mode' section has radio buttons for 'Normal' (selected), 'Power', and 'SQL', and a checkbox for 'Count Only'. A vertical column of buttons on the far right includes 'Search', 'Stop', 'New Search', 'Clear', and 'Help'.

2. Double click on the name in the results window to open the record. Click once on the **New** icon in the Menu Bar.



3. Select **Copy Existing Work Form** in the window that pops up and then click **OK**.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled 'New Patron Registration' with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It contains two radio button options: 'Clear Work Form' and 'Copy Existing Work Form', with the latter being selected. To the right of these options are three buttons: 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'Help'.

4. All fields are duplicated except the barcode field and password field. Change the appropriate fields and remember to save the record.

Visit the **Polaris Documentation** page on our website to download Polaris handouts or to watch helpful videos:

<https://www.flls.org/polaris-documentation/>

PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

Literacy Resources

the NYSL held a webinar, *The Importance of Decodable Texts and How to Choose Wisely for Your Library* webinar on June 12. [The recording of this webinar is now available](#) for viewing and will be viewable until August 10. Please note that this has not been captioned. You can find the presentation slides for this webinar here: [The Importance of Decodable Text & How to Select Wisely for the Library \(PDF\)](#)

[Teach My Kid to Read](#) has shared several printable guides bundled into two PDFs, as well as the link to the Saratoga Springs Public Library LibGuide created by Kristine Shultz.

- [The Path to Literacy \(PDF\)](#)
- [2025 NY State Literacy Requirements & Implications for NYS Libraries \(PDF\)](#)
- [LibGuide: Learning to Read with Decodables](#) created by Kristine Schultz, Saratoga Springs Public Library

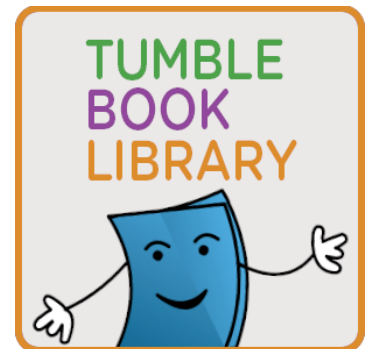
Erie Canal Bicentennial

2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal's Grand Opening! Sections of the canal opened as they were completed, until the entire canal from Buffalo to Albany opened in 1825. Several of our member libraries are located along the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and many celebrations and activities are planned throughout the year—some that may be of interest to your library and your patrons. Learn more at: <https://eriecanalway.org/bicentennial>

[Keith Partington biked the corridor](#) and stopped at the Port Byron, Weedsport and other libraries along the way, donating copies of his book about his Canalway Challenge 360 library tour in 2023.

EContent Spotlight: TumbleBooks

Don't forget about [TumbleBooks](#) this summer! This digital library is a curated database of children's ebooks with over 1,100 titles for grades K-6 and includes unique animated, talking picture books, read-along chapter books, nonfiction books and videos, curated playlists, as well as books in Spanish and French. Plus, the collection features Graphic Novels – a student favorite! Our TumbleBooks subscription doesn't require a library card



Check out their [monthly newsletter](#) for timely storytime topics and ideas.

Find marketing materials here: https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/teacher_downloads.aspx

AWARDS & GRANTS

Ann Gibson Scholarship Award from the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association



This scholarship is given annually to honor the memory of Ann Gibson, a dynamic and dedicated librarian, storyteller, and teacher, in recognition of her many contributions to the field of youth service librarianship. Ann's career in Western New York was spent in public libraries and several colleges and universities. As a founding member of the Genesee Storytellers, Gibson provided in-service training in children's literature for librarians and teachers. She was a guiding force in the University of Rochester's annual storytelling conference. Ann was also an active volunteer for local charities involving children with special needs. The Ann Gibson scholarship is a memorial to Ann's passionate abilities to share her love of children's literature and the art of storytelling with thousands of children and adults.

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to a person who has chosen to pursue graduate studies that will lead to New York State certification as a youth specialist in a public library or school media center.

Deadline: July 31, 2025

Notification: August 10, 2025

Amount: \$1,000

Qualifications:

- Applicant must be a full-time or part-time graduate library student seeking to further their education in services to young people and have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours towards the MLS.
- Applicant must be a regular or student member of NYLA/YSS at the time of submitting the application.
- Applicant must be directing their course of study towards youth services.
- Applicant must NOT be an officer or employee, or relative of an officer or employee, of the New York Library Association, New York Library Association Council, or the Executive Board of the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association.
- Applicant must not have completed their course work prior to December of the year of the award.
- Applicant must be a resident of (or employed in) New York State at the time of the award.

Application link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1445-o4BZNaxlCfZJMfi6e9WJIDcZ0XOjwqFN7eNL-Rw/edit>