

MEMBER LIBRARY MONTHLY BULLETIN

No. 24.12

Friday, September 27, 2024

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Find more fun Libby Marketing images for social media on the [OverDrive Marketing & Outreach](#) page!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Staff Out-of-Office: Jenny—September 30, October 1 (PM), October 8 (PM); Deb—September 30-October 11; Arlene—September 30 (PM); Diana—October 9, October 21-29; Sarah—October 31-November 1.

FLLS will be **CLOSED** on October 14.

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[Work Isn't the Solution to the Loneliness Epidemic](#)

[Spreading Joy at the Public Library](#)



[News from the NYS Library](#)

[Start Your Storytime on the Right Foot](#)

[ALA Issues 1st Revision to Standards for Incarcerated & Detained Individuals in 32 Years](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Banned Books Week!

During Banned Books Week, the American Library Association released its preliminary data documenting attempts to censor books and materials in public, school, and academic libraries during the first eight months of this year.

Here's a look at the numbers tracked by the Office for Intellectual Freedom through August 31:

- ⇒ **414:** Attempts to censor library materials and services.
- ⇒ **1,128:** Unique titles challenged.
- ⇒ **48% of the titles challenged prominently feature BIPOC/LGBTQIA+ representation.**

In the **same reporting period** last year, ALA tracked:

- ⇒ **695:** Attempts to censor library materials and services.
- ⇒ **1,915:** Unique titles challenged.

Though these preliminary numbers suggest a decline from the all-time high of 2023, the number of documented attempts to censor books still **continues to far exceed pre-2020 levels**. Data taken from this [ALA Press Release](#).

Factors ALA believes are behind the decline include:

- **Soft censorship:** Books are purchased but placed in restricted areas or otherwise hidden from view, or they are removed from or not purchased for library collections in the first place due to fear of challenges.
- **Successes in court:** While several states passed legislation placing restrictions on access to library materials, lawsuits based on constitutional grounds have begun to overturn these laws and restore students' and library users' essential freedoms.
- **Advocacy in communities:** Across the country, advocates have banded together to oppose censorship. From letter writing campaigns, to participation in public library and school board meetings, to editorials and more, individuals acting together have made a positive difference in protecting the right to read freely.

Let Freedom Read Day is Saturday, September 28. The American Library Association is asking everyone **to get ready to vote for the freedom to read or to take at least one action** to help defend books from censorship and to stand up for the library staff, educators, writers, publishers, and booksellers who make them available. You can find more information [here](#).

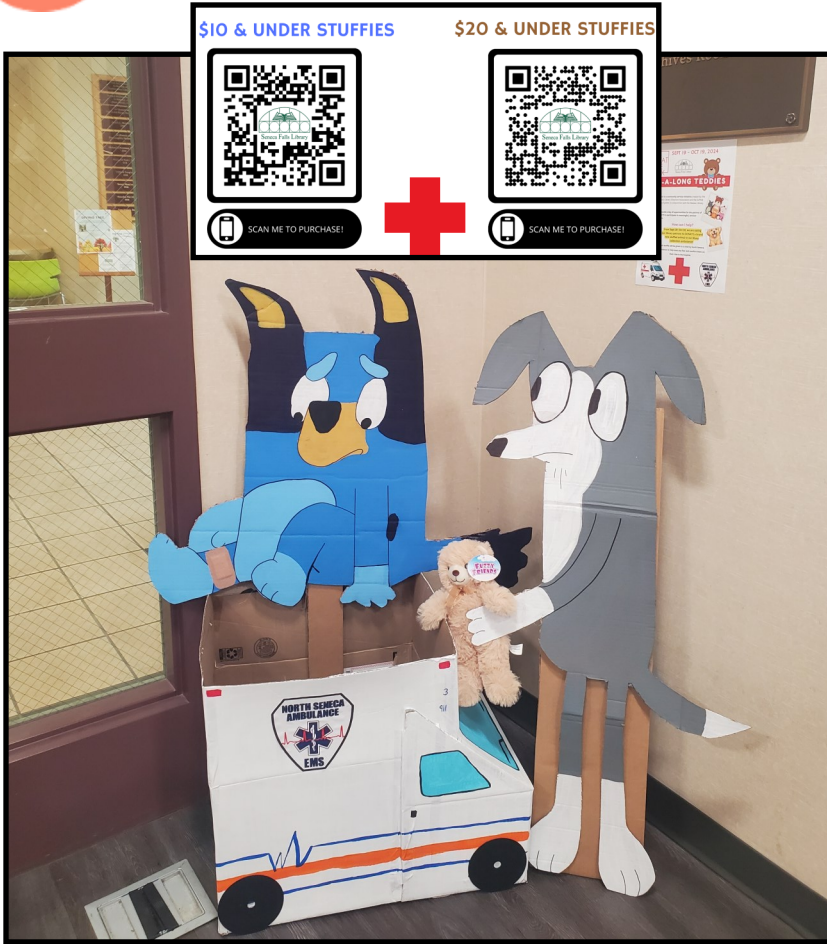
My favorite banned book to read is *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov. While not technically banned in the US, it was banned in France from 1956-1959, England from 1955-1959, Argentina in 1959 and New Zealand in 1960. In the United States, *Lolita* was published in 1958 without major incident, but some local libraries refused to buy it. The book has also been challenged in literature curricula in the United States, including a challenge in 2006 by the Marion County public library in Ocala, Florida.

Sarah





MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS



THE GREAT GIVE BACK **SEPT 19 - OCT 19, 2024**

Seneca Falls Library 

TAG-A-LONG TEDDIES 

What is it?
The Great Give Back is a community service initiative created by the Suffolk County Public Library Directors Association and the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, in conjunction with the Nassau Library System.

The mission is to provide a day of opportunities for the patrons of Public Libraries of NYS to participate in meaningful, service-oriented experiences.

How can I help?
From Sept 19- Oct 19, we are asking our library patrons to **DONATE** a brand new stuffed animal to our Bluey collection ambulance!

Each stuffie will be given to a child by North Seneca Ambulance to help ease any fear and comfort them on their ride to the hospital.




Seneca Falls Library is collecting brand-new stuffies as part of *The Great Give Back*. Shoutout to Ashley for making the adorable life-size Bluey characters! Patrons can drop items off or use QR codes to purchase items on Amazon and ship directly to the library!

Sandy Groth, director at **Aurora Free Library**, met up with our 2 scholarship recipients at the *Association of Rural and Small Libraries* conference in Springfield, Massachusetts!

Donna Schwender, Director of **Candor Free Library**, and Tracy Savard, Director of **Apalachin library**, both reported that they had an excellent time at the conference and very thankful for this opportunity!



Donna, Sandy, & Tracy at ARSL!



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upcoming Webinars

[Holding Our Own: Creating Fertile Ground While Staying True to Our Principles \(FLLS\)](#)

Thursday, October 10 | 10:00am-11:30am | FREE

The acronym “DEI” continues to trigger people. While it is important to manage conflict with customers upset with the library’s mission and founding values, to focus only on the squeaky wheels is at the peril of our principles. Just as if not more important is attending to marginalized voices and identities in these times of fraught public discourse. Attend this webinar if you want to:

- Explore how to promote marginalized voices while also responding to dominant grievance
- Support an upset patron through a questions-based model
- Consider how stories through displays and programming can center the margins while inviting all people to participate
- Better assume another’s perspective

Presented by Mike Bishop, is a trainer and coach who has facilitated dialogues across differences and interactive workshops for 25 years. He is a Freeville resident who organizes against racism in his local communities. He is a doctoral candidate at Cornell where his research focuses on the genesis stories of White anti-racist allies in the North Country of New York.

[Grant Writing for Libraries \(FLLS\)](#)

Wednesday, November 13 | 10:00am-11:30am | FREE

Whether you are new to grant writing or you are a seasoned grant writer, this interactive grant writing session is for you! This session will be discussion-based and will not be recorded; notes and materials will be sent out afterwards. Please bring your grant ideas and questions! *The session will be available in-person and virtually. Facilitated by Jenny Shonk, Heidi Eckerson, and Sarah Glogowski.

- Part 1: Introduction & Overview; grant seeking prep, toolkits, and DEI.
- Part 2: Budgets & Writing; budget creation tutorial, in-kind discussion, and persuasive writing samples.
- Part 3: Evaluation, & Reporting; organization, planning, and data collection.
- Part 4: Grant Opportunities; FLLS-specific grants, idea sharing, resources, and Q&A.



AUTISM-READY LIBRARIES TOOLKIT



The toolkit website contains FREE online training modules and resources for youth-serving librarians and library staff in public libraries who would like to better serve families with autistic children. The [Autism-Ready Libraries Toolkit](#) can also be used by anyone with an interest in autism inclusion and inclusive early literacy practices.



NYLA 2024 Annual Conference & Trade Show

November 6th - 9th | Syracuse, New York



POLARIS TIP

Patron Record Tips



WARNING: *It is important to realize that there is sensitive information in both Patron Registration and Patron Status. **DO NOT** give this information out to anyone other than the patron unless you have their explicit written permission (excludes situations with parent/guardians and children). If a member of law enforcement requests any information regarding a patron's records, they have to submit a warrant to Finger Lakes Library System because the system owns all Polaris records.*

Duplicating Patron Records

- Access the Patron Find Tool in **Patron Services** → **Patron Records** or **F7**.
- The **For** box should contain your search criteria, ex. patron name.
- Double click on the name in the results window to open the record.
- Click once on the **New** icon in the Menu Bar.
- Select **Copy Existing Work Form** in the window and click **OK**.

- All fields are duplicated except the barcode field and password field. Change the appropriate fields and save the record.

Other Tips for Patron Registration

- Try to get an email for notifications as it cuts down on paper notices.
- Include a full birthday, which is important for statistical and reporting purposes. It will not be shared.
- Choose the correct patron code.
- Your library may put special emphasis on PSTAT3 and the Local Use fields.
- Check with your library supervisor for other special procedures.



WARNING: *Never include a Driver License number, EBT number, credit card number, Social Security number, or other sensitive personal information in the patron's record.*

Updating Expired Registrations

- Open the Patron Registration.
- Click on **Tools** → **Update Check Dates**.
- Click **Save**.
- This will update the Expiration and Address Check Dates based on the library the patron is registered at. The Expired Registration block will automatically be removed.



Polaris Documentation, Videos, & More AVAILABLE HERE:

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





PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

Creating Reading Rainbow: Online Panel Discussion on October 10

The NYS Library and the [Office of Educational Television and Public Broadcasting](#) are excited to announce an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the beloved children’s television show Reading Rainbow.

Join an online panel discussion with the authors of the recently published book [Creating Reading Rainbow: The Untold Story of a Beloved Children's Series](#). Panelists will answer audience questions and share stories and video clips detailing the origin and growth of this classic television series for readers.

[Register for Creating Reading Rainbow: The Untold Story of a Beloved Children's Series](#)

Read about Summer Reading Programs for Incarcerated Individuals in New York in the [CSLP September 2024 Newsletter](#)! Sign up for the newsletter [HERE](#)!

Save the Date for the [CSLP Summer Symposium](#). Registration opens on November 6.

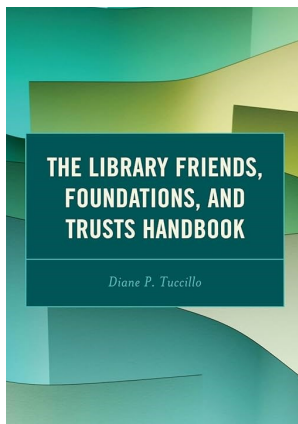
Did you know? While the NYS Library has a CSLP membership that allows libraries to use the manual and images for free, there is another summer reading program you may be interested to know more about: [iREAD](#). Learn more about this organization here: <https://www.ireadprogram.org/about>



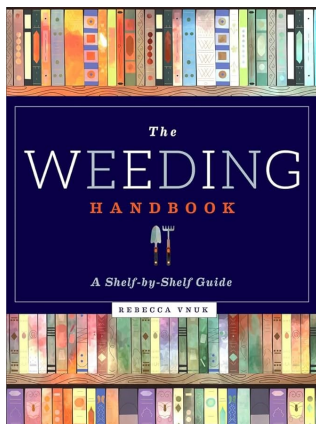
SUMMER SYMPOSIUM
SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 5, 2024
11am - 4:30pm Eastern Time
Registration Opens Nov.6th at <https://cslpreads.org>
Keynote Speaker: Mychal Threets
Sessions:
• From Planning to Palette to Posting: Summer Reading Marketing
• A Rainbow of Opportunities for Creative Programming
• Coloring Our World Green: Sustainability and Summer Reading
Thanks to our Sponsor: **MIDWEST TAPE** | **hoopla** **Free!**

Featured Professional Collection Books

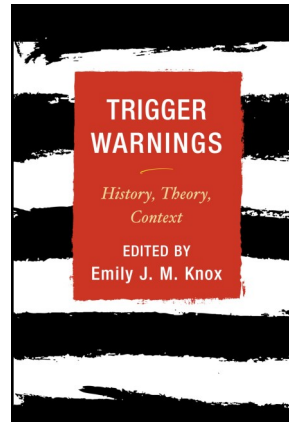
Search Polaris and place a request today!



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AWARDS & GRANTS

[Apply Now: Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities](#)

The American Library Association invites applications from small and rural libraries for the third round of funding of the [Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities](#) grant. The initiative will offer 3.5 million in grants to small and rural libraries to increase the accessibility of facilities, services and programs to better serve people with disabilities. In February 2024, ALA announced it received an additional \$10 million dollars in support of the LTC: Accessible Small and Rural Communities initiative. A substantial portion of the funding – \$7 million – will be distributed in grants of \$10,000 and \$20,000 to small and rural libraries.

[Library workers may now apply online for funding from September 11, 2024, to December 11, 2024. Up to 300 libraries will be awarded in this application period.](#)

Previous awardees from round one and/or two are eligible to apply. Note that prioritization will be given to applicants not previously awarded.

Interested applicants can [register for a pre-application webinar](#) on October 10, 2024 at 12pm CST. [1pm EST]

Libraries selected for round three will receive \$10,000 or \$20,000 to support costs related to their community engagement project; virtual training to assist project directors in developing their community engagement, facilitation, and disability service skills; a suite of online resources developed to support local programs; and technical and project support from the ALA Public Programs Office throughout the grant term.

Libraries chosen to participate in LTC: Accessible Small and Rural Communities will first conduct community input-gathering sessions to assure that their work aligns with local disability community needs. Libraries will be required to identify the primary audience they are hoping to reach (e.g., older adults with mobility disabilities, children with autism, Deaf community members) and facilitate a community conversation with the impacted patron group to guide improvement of the library's services. Grantees will then use the grant funds to create services or improve their facilities based on the needs identified by their audience.

The opportunity is open to libraries serving small and rural communities in the U.S. and U.S. territories. To be eligible, a library must be located in an area that's more than, or equal to, five miles from an urbanized area and with a population of 25,000 or less, in keeping with Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) definitions of small and rural libraries.

Since 2014, ALA has distributed Libraries Transforming Communities funding to foster community engagement skills among library workers and support need-driven projects. Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities is part of ALA's longtime commitment to preparing library workers for the expanding role of libraries. The initiative is offered in partnership with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL). It is supported by a private donor.



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