

MEMBER LIBRARY MONTHLY BULLETIN

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Friday, December 20, 2024

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Congratulations to Groton Public Library Director, Sara Knobel, who was named as a Hometown Hero in Tompkins Weekly! Read the article [HERE](#) or click on the picture above!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLLS will be **CLOSED** on December 24-26 and January 1.

FLLS Staff Out-of-Office: Arlene, Carlos, & Wayne—December 23-27; Heidi & Diana—December 23-31; Tom—December 30-31; Jenny—December 23-January 3.

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[Books and Barks: Library Pet Programs for Everyone](#)



[NYLA Voice: Good Things Small Packages](#)

[Social Library, Winter Reading Edition](#)

[Ask the Lawyer RAQ: Recently Asked Questions](#)

[PEN America Applauds Signing of NJ Freedom To Read Act](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we close out 2024, here are some final items for you:

FLLS Reports – Two important Finger Lakes Library System documents are now available on our website. Our *FLLS Annual Report to the Community for 2023* and *2024 Annual Meeting Summary* are available here: <https://www.flls.org/about-us/>. Filled with member library statistics and highlights of system activities over the past two years, please make sure to take a look at both documents.

2024 FLLS Highlights – 2024 brought some staffing changes to FLLS. Carlos Perez joined our team as our new business manager in February. Aimee Dorward started in April as our newest part-time page in our sorting area. In July, Wayne Stephenson joined FLLS as our Computer Network Specialist.

8 of our member libraries ended up being in the path of total eclipse during the April 8 North American Solar Eclipse, but all of our libraries and communities joined in the nation-wide excitement. FLLS and our member libraries ended up distributing over 9,000 pairs of eclipse glasses and hosted several fun and educational programs on that day.

The summer of 2024 saw our first ever *FLX Road Trip*, which was a promotional event that encouraged people to visit all 33 of our member libraries. We offered free road trip maps, and during library visit our member libraries stamped these maps to track participants' adventures.

On another outreach note, 14 of our member libraries received \$15,035 in 2024-2025 Outreach Mini-Grants through the FLLS Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council (COSAC). The Outreach Mini-Grants help our members provide library services and resources to underserved groups in the FLLS service area; specific populations can be found at the top of the Outreach webpage: www.flls.org/outreach.

FLLS Holiday Closures – FLLS will be open on Monday, December 23 and Friday, December 27, but with limited staff available. Both North and South deliveries will take place on those two days, so everyone will receive two deliveries next week. FLLS will be closed December 24 – December 26, and no deliveries will take place those days.

FLLS will be open regular hours on Monday, December 30 and 31, and our delivery schedule will remain unchanged for those days. North Route will get their delivery on the 30th and South Route on the 31st. FLLS will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 and no delivery will take place. We re-open on Thursday, January 2.

A very large thank you to Tom, Ken, and substitute driver Rex, for working during the holiday time so that our members can continue to have deliveries.

I wish all of our library staff, directors and trustees a safe and joyous holiday time. Please know that all of us at FLLS look forward to helping you in 2025 and beyond. I will be in the office over the remainder of 2024 if you need assistance while many of our staff take some time off.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year,
Sarah





MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS



Do you have something to share?
Please email jshonk@flls.org!

TCPL's Sit, Stay, Read program became so popular they had to move to a bigger room! The adorable Doyle and the other Cornell Canine Companions love visiting the library and listening to stories!





CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upcoming Webinars

[Dinosaur Pizza: Learning Librarianship From Kids \(STLS\)](#)

Monday, January 13 | 1:00-2:00pm | FREE

Is Dinosaur Pizza served at your library? Harness the perspectives of toddlers to ten-year-olds to create spaces, collections and programs that develop reading skills and habits in fresh ways. Presented by: Amy Smith - Director of Dover Plains Library. This session will not be recorded.

[Library Outreach to Plain Communities \(STLS\)](#)

Wednesday, January 15 | 10:00-11:00am | FREE

How do we bring resources and services to people in our community who may never step through our library doors? Discover how you can reach the Plain communities in your area through the first-hand experience of a small, rural, public library in Wisconsin. By building relationships with local Amish and Mennonite communities, obtaining grant funding, and collaborating with other organizations, D.R. Moon Memorial Library Director Elizabeth Miniatt will detail how any library, no matter what size or budget, can start and grow a successful collaborative outreach program to these communities. This workshop will not be recorded. Speaker Elizabeth Miniatt is the Director of the D.R. Moon Memorial Library in Stanley, Wisconsin.

[Hold. Fold? Walk. Run! Dealing with Difficult Conversations \(SCRLC\)](#)

Tuesday, January 28 | 11:00am-12:00pm | FREE

Did you ever get stuck in a surprise(!) contentious conversation? Did someone say something somewhere that put you in the spot? Was the spot in public? We have all had those unexpected conversations that made us uncomfortable. This workshop will show you how to keep the conversation in your favor. Experienced educator, coach & keynote speaker Maurice Coleman will show you practical skills to deal with sudden controversial, & confrontational conversations in this interactive workshop.

SAVE THE DATE! [Annual Report Training \(FLLS\)](#)

Thursday January 30 | 11:00am-12:00pm | FREE

Jenny will walk you through each section of the Annual Report and provide helpful tips along the way. *Please note, the 2024 Annual Report has not yet been released. Jenny will send out an email when the portal is open and materials are available. Registration information coming soon!*

Ask the HR Expert Series

with Stephanie “Cole” Adams

New Laws in the New Year	JANUARY 24, 2025
Innovations in Employee Benefits	FEBRUARY 28, 2025
AI on the (GLAM) Job	MARCH 28, 2025
Open Ask HR	APRIL 25, 2025

FRIDAYS FROM
10 AM - 11:30 AM



Empire State
Library Network

Empire State Library Network (ESLN) presents: A series of webinars that will address your pressing Human Resources questions. They will be presented by Stephanie “Cole” Adams, our Ask The Lawyer representative. Registration: <https://www.senylrc.org/ask-the-hr-expert-webinars/>

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POLARIS TIP

Patron Privacy/Safety in Polaris


Patron Records include personal identification information about the patron; their name, barcode, address, phone number, expiration date, email address, password and statistical information.

 **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 will have to submit a warrant to Finger Lakes Library System because the system owns all Polaris records.

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.

Looking for Assistance with Polaris?

Visit <https://www.flls.org/polaris-documentation/> to view Polaris handouts and videos! The videos are password protected.

If you cannot access Polaris, please contact the CNS Department immediately: 1-607-273-4074 ext. 237

Otherwise, please submit a HelpDesk ticket: <https://flls.samanage.com/login>. You will have to create an account.



PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

Summer Reading Collaborative Workshops Are Back!

Want to color outside the lines this summer? Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and get some fresh ideas at our programming workshops.

Or perhaps you'd like to present something you've done or plan on doing? All presenters are volunteers from libraries around the state. To be considered, please fill out this Google form <https://forms.gle/L9vywviLC34rD6GU8> by December 31, 2024. We'll let you know by mid-January.

COLOR OUR WORLD
Summer Reading Collaborative Workshops

<p>Children's Programs Tuesday February 25 9:30 am-12:30 pm</p> 	<p>Teen Programs Tuesday March 11 9:30 am-12:30 pm</p> 
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Have you bookmarked the FLLS Summer Reading 2025 LibGuide yet <https://scrlc.libguides.com/flls-summer-reading-2025>? It's where all things summer live. Updated as new resources become available.

NYLA Youth Services Section 2025 Spring Conference: All on the Same Page

All on the Same Page
April 4, 2025
HOTEL MTK
MT. KISCO, NEW YORK

Registration is now open for the [YSS Conference](#). The all day event is being held on April 4, 2025 in Mount Kisco in the Hudson Valley. Requests for [proposals to present](#) are open until December 31, 2024.

Early Literacy Resources from the [New York State Library](#)

Be sure to explore the [DayByDayNY Family Literacy Calendar](#), featuring multimedia activities that enhance books, songs, and family health. The [Family Literacy Calendar](#) includes [One More Story](#), an online library of the best of classic and contemporary children's read aloud picture books with two new eBooks each day, as well as unique features that help pre-readers and early readers engage and enjoy literature independently or with family or caregivers. Scan the QR code for more information.

OneMoreStory.com

Watch for [One More Story](#) bookmarks and posters coming in January.



AWARDS & GRANTS

SCRLC Digitization Awards

South Central Regional Library Council's Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the 2025-2026 grant round for regional digitization projects. Funded projects will start after July 1, 2025 and conclude by June 30, 2026.

For 2025-2026, applications are especially encouraged for:

- partnerships increasing representation of and with communities that have been historically and systematically oppressed;
- geographically underrepresented communities in the SCRLC region;
- innovative approaches to availing digitized collections, e.g., holding or co-organizing a Wikipedia edit-a-thon to add links to New York Heritage collections, walking tours, virtual tours through ESIE, or HistoryForge participation.

All proposals received will be presented to a review panel comprised of expert individuals from outside the SCRLC region for evaluation and funding recommendations. Individual applications are limited to \$5,000; partnership applications, to \$8,000.

The application packet is available in Word or PDF format: <https://scrlc.org/grant-information>.

Here are the direct links:

- <https://scrlc.org/data/16108/Digitization%20Grant%20Application%202025-2026.docx>
- <https://scrlc.org/data/16109/Digitization%20Grant%20Application%202025-2026-1.pdf>

Applications must be completed and submitted electronically to Claire Lovell, SCRLC's Digital Services Librarian, at clovell@scrlc.org by **Friday, April 11, 2025**. Please contact Claire 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 2025-2026 grant cycle. \$15,000 is available!

All applications are due March 21, 2025.

Visit the [Outreach Services](#) page to download an application or to view the FAQs and Tips document. *Have a question? Stuck on an idea?* Email Jenny Shonk at jshonk@flls.org.

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