



# Weekly Memo

Serving Member Libraries Since 1959

Grace Riario • Executive Director

Ramapo Catskill Library System • <http://www.rcls.org>

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January 6, 2020

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- ✓ [Library Holidays](#)
- ✓ [RCLS Board Meeting Materials](#)
- ✓ [Member Library Holiday Closings for 2020](#)
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- ✓ [Winter Forthcoming Bestsellers](#)
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## Important Reminder: Library Trustee Oath of Office

Many library trustee terms began on January 1. This is an important reminder that [New York State Public Officer's Law §10](#) requires all public library trustees (but not association library trustees) to take and file an oath of office within 30 days of beginning their term of office. Public library trustees are public officers and the oath of office is required to officially undertake and perform the duties of a public library trustee.



If a public library trustee does not properly complete and file an oath of office, the trustee's position may be deemed vacant. See [Public Officer's Law §30 \(1\)\(h\)](#).

For more information about how and why the oath of office is administered, and where to properly file an oath of office, see the [Oaths of Office FAQ](#) on the New York State Library website.

Questions about the legal requirement for oaths of office or about library types should be directed to Grace Riario, RCLS Executive Director (ext. 233 or [griario@rcls.org](mailto:griario@rcls.org)).

## NYS Minimum Wage Increase

**REMINDER:** The NYS Minimum Wage Increase for workers in New York State north of Westchester County, **increased to \$11.80 per hour effective December 31, 2019.** The minimum wage will reach \$12.50 on December 31, 2020 and increase to \$15 on an indexed schedule to be set by the Director of the Division of Budget in consultation with the Department of Labor. For more information visit the [New York State Department of Labor website](#).



## News Worthy

### Regional

- [Newburgh native pens historical novel](#) | MidHudsonNews.com 12.19.19
- [Plattekill Library welcomes new director](#) | Plattekill Public Library | Southern Ulster Times 12.18.19

### National

- [FY20 Budget Passes Senate, House, Boosts IMLS Funding](#) | Library Journal 12.20.19
- [How Libraries are Dealing with Bedbugs](#) | Book Riot 12.17.19

**#eBooksForAll**  
ALAAmericanLibraryAssociation

### #eBooksForAll

The American Library Association (ALA) continues to coordinate the #ebooksforall campaign in reaction to Macmillan's embargo on selling new titles to libraries.

At the top of the RCLS OverDrive homepage is a message reading, "Macmillan Publishers will soon be limiting their ebook offerings to libraries. [Learn more here.](#)" This links to the ALA petition webpage, giving patrons the opportunity to educate themselves on this issue and sign the petition themselves.

## Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs

To combat the continuing rise in opioid-related deaths in New York State (NYS), laws were amended to allow NYS public libraries to participate in opioid overdose prevention programs by partnering with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)-registered opioid overdose prevention programs. Public libraries that choose to participate and whose personnel are acting reasonably and in good faith, shall not be subject to criminal, civil or administrative liability solely by reason of such action and may maintain on-site, opioid antagonists in adequate supplies and types. Choosing to participate as an opioid antagonist recipient permits employees who volunteer along with volunteer workers, to be trained in accordance with Public Health Law §3309 to administer an opioid antagonist in the event of an emergency without liability. Sample library policies, guidelines, a directory of NYSDOH registered programs and more information can be found on the [New York State Library website](#).



## Lift Every Voice: Why African American Poetry Matters Grants

Lift Every Voice is a Library of America Project funded with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Emerson Collective. Fifty \$1,200 grants will be awarded to libraries, museums, and nonprofit cultural institutions to host a minimum of two public programs. Applications are open to public, academic, and community college libraries; and nonprofit museums and community organizations.



For more information, and to apply, visit the [Lift Every Voice website](#). Application deadline is **Friday, February 21**.

## New Construction Legislation

Last year Governor Cuomo signed into law legislation that provides new opportunities for libraries to take advantage of the State Aid for Library Construction program. Libraries may be able to take advantage of the new 90/10 reduced match program if they can demonstrate: 1) The library service area is equal to or greater than the New York State average poverty rate using Federal Census data and 2) The library lacks the capacity to provide 25% of the project costs. For questions about the State Aid for Library Construction grant, contact Stephen Hofer, RCLS Fiscal Officer (ext. 223 or [shoefers@rcls.org](mailto:shoefers@rcls.org)).



## Photo of the Week



*Pictured from the left, Chuck Thomas, Newburgh Free Library (NFL) Director; Mary Lou Carolan, Assistant Director; and New York State Senator James Skoufis. Senator Skoufis secured \$15,000 in state funding for NFL to purchase interactive digital kiosks. The kiosks will help with the upcoming 2020 Census in obtaining a complete count of the library's underrepresented community.*

*Share a library-related photo! Include a brief caption, your name, position and the library's name. A photo release is required from recognizable individuals in the photo. [Click here](#) for the RCLS photo release. Submit the picture to [rclsmemo@rcls.org](mailto:rclsmemo@rcls.org).*

## YSS Spring Conference Scholarships

Apply today for one of two scholarships to attend the 2020 YSS Spring Conference on **Friday, May 15, 2020** at the 1000 Island Harbor Hotel in Clayton, NY! Each of the scholarships is designed to cover registration fees and up to \$250 reimbursement for hotel charges, meals, and transportation costs for attending the conference. Don't delay – the deadline for the application is **Saturday, February 1.**

The purpose of Spring Conference Scholarships is to encourage Continuing Education in the field of library Youth Services by participating in the annual YSS Spring Conference. The first award is the New Member Spring Conference Scholarship. It is given to a new member of the profession. The second is the Lisa C. Wemett Spring Conference Scholarship. It is given to a highly motivated established librarian who has had a significant impact on youth and youth services in her/his community.

Visit the NYLA website for the [2020 YSS Spring Conference Scholarship Page](#) and [2020 YSS Spring Conference Scholarship Application](#). For information about the Conference, visit the [2020 YSS Spring Conference Page](#).



## 2020 Conference Dates

- [American Library Association \(ALA\) Midwinter](#): January 24-28 in Philadelphia, PA
- [Computers in Libraries 2020](#): March 31-April 2 at Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA
- [Urban Librarians Conference](#): Friday, May 1 in Brooklyn, NY.  
Theme: *Caution: Librarians at Work*
- [Hudson Children's Book Festival](#): Saturday, May 2 in Hudson, NY
- [Youth Services Section \(YSS\) Annual Spring Conference](#): Friday, May 15 at 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel, Clayton, NY.
- [Book Expo America](#): May 27-29 at Javits Center, NYC
- [BookCon](#): May 30-31 at Javits Center, NYC
- [American Library Association \(ALA\) Annual Conference](#): June 25-30 in Chicago, IL
- [Warwick Children's Book Festival](#): Saturday, October 10 in Warwick, NY
- [Fall Into Books](#): Wednesday, October 14 at Crestview Conference Center, West Nyack, NY
- [New York Library Association \(NYLA\) Annual Conference](#): November 4-7 in Saratoga Springs, NY

## Library Holidays

Start planning now for some of the many “library holidays” coming up in 2020! Many of these events are sponsored by the American Library Association or other organizations that provide marketing materials for the event. These can be great programming and PR opportunities in your community:

- [Read Across America](#) –Year Long
- [National Reading Day](#) – Thursday, January 23
- [Library Lovers Month](#) – February
- [Take Your Child to the Library Day](#) – Saturday, February 1
- [World Read Aloud Day](#) – Wednesday, February 5
- [Digital Learning Day](#) – Thursday, February 27
- Return the Borrowed Books Week – First Week of March
- [Freedom of Information Day](#) – Monday, March 16
- [World Storytelling Day](#) – Friday, March 20
- [School Library Month](#) – April
- [National Poetry Month](#) – April
- [Money Smart Week](#)® – April 4-11
- [National D.E.A.R. Day \(Drop Everything and Read Day\)](#) – Friday, April 12
- [National Library Week](#) – April 19-25  
Theme: Find Your Place at the Library
- [National Library Workers Day](#) – Tuesday, April 21
- [World Book Day](#) – April 23
- [Preservation Week](#) – April 26-May 2
- [Children's Day/Book Day - El día de los niños/El día de los libros \(Día\)](#) – Thursday, April 30
- [Choose Privacy Week](#) – May 1-7
- [Free Comic Book Day](#) – May 2
- [Children's Book Week](#) – May 4-10
- [National Library Legislative Day](#) – May 4-5
- [Virtual Library Legislative Day](#) – May 5
- [GLBT Book Month](#)™ – June
- [Library Card Sign-up Month](#) – September
- [International Literacy Day](#) – Tuesday, September 8
- [Banned Books Week](#) – September 27-October 3
- [Banned Websites Awareness Day](#) – Wednesday, September 30
- [TeenTober](#) – October
- [The Great Give Back](#) – October TBA
- [National Friends of Libraries Week](#) – October 18-24
- [Picture Book Month](#) – November
- [Children's Book Week](#) – November 9-15
- [International Games Week](#) – November TBA

## January Workshops — All are Free, unless otherwise noted

### ✓ Mock Caldecott and Newbery Award Discussion

**Monday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m. for Caldecott and 11:00 a.m. for Newbery**

**Location:** RCLS Headquarters

CLOUSC members will discuss new children's books and make their choice for the Caldecott (9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.) and Newbery (11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) Medals.

**Snow Date:** Tuesday, January 7.

This is a Children's Services workshop; participants will received 2 contact hours for attending each session.

**Register:** [RCLS calendar](#)

### ✓ Mock Printz Award Discussion

**Monday, January 6 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** RCLS Headquarters

Teen Services Librarians from RCLS member libraries will discuss a pre-selected group of books in a program designed to emulate the Printz Award process.

**Snow Date:** Tuesday, January 7.

This is a Teen Services workshop; participants will received 2 contact hours for attending.

**Register:** [RCLS calendar](#)

### ✓ LARC-YS Mock Discussion

**Tuesday, January 14 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Location:** Valley Cottage

LARC-Youth Services librarians and guests will discuss a pre-selected group of books in a program designed to emulate the Caldecott (9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.) and Newbery (1:15 p.m. -3:15 p.m.) Award processes.

**Snow Date:** Wednesday, January 15.

This is a Children's Services workshop; participants will received 3 contact hours for attending the Caldecott session and 2 contact hours for attending the Newbery session.

**Register:** [RCLS calendar](#)

### ✓ State Annual Report Workshop

**Friday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Location:** RCLS Headquarters

This session will include an overview of Major Changes, Helpful Hints and online demonstrations for completing the 2019 State Annual Report. Handouts for the Library Collection (Part 2), Library Transactions (Part 4) and System Cash Grants to Member Library (Part 11) will be distributed. Teleconference will not be available due to the on-line demonstration portion. [Click here](#) for flyer.

State Annual Reports are due to RCLS by **Monday, February 3, 2020.**

**Snow Date:** Wednesday, January 22.

**Register:** [RCLS calendar](#)

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## ✓ State Annual Report Workshop—Hands-on

**Friday, January 17 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Location:** RCLS Headquarters

Hands-on Annual Report Training is designed for new directors and staff, but open to all who would like to start working on their library's report with help from RCLS staff. Use the handouts we provide at the morning workshop and bring your own library's information:

- Board members – including their addresses, terms as of February 1, 2020, date of oath, and training dates;
- Library's financial records – including capital budget activity, etc.;
- Your hand-counted circulation statistics to add to report figures provided RCLS;
- Program statistics.

Sixteen RCLS laptops are available on a first-come, first-served basis (request one when registering) or bring your own laptop.

[Click here](#) for flyer.

State Annual Reports are due to RCLS by **Monday, February 3, 2020**.

**Snow Date:** Wednesday, January 22.

**Register:** [RCLS calendar](#)

## January Webinars — All are Free, unless otherwise noted

### ✓ Introduction to the 2020 Census

**Tuesday, January 7 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

The 2020 Census is fast approaching. An accurate count will ensure the fair distribution of political representation and of federal and state resources. These resources enable states to deliver services to children, veterans, senior citizens and families. Learn how you can help ensure that Everyone Counts in 2020.

**Presenter:** [Licett Figueroa Garbe](#), [U.S. Census Bureau](#).

**Register:** [First Tuesday website](#)

### ✓ DIY Escape Rooms and Other Immersive Experiences in the Library

**Tuesday, January 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Escape rooms are immersive, live-action games in which a group of participants enter a room where they must solve puzzles and collect clues in order to “escape” or win the game. These engaging and captivating games can be designed around nearly any theme from zombies to pirates to detective dramas and are being used by libraries in a multitude of ways. They can be employed simply for outreach and to engage library patrons, for incorporating instruction and experiential learning outcomes, as well as for internal staff team-building and training. You too can create this type of captivating programming for your own library for both promotion and education!

**Presenter:** [Ellyssa Kroski](#) is the Director of Information Technology at the New York Law Institute. She is also an award-winning editor and author of 36 books including *Law Librarianship in the Digital Age* for which she won the AALL's 2014 Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award. She is a librarian, an adjunct faculty member at Drexel and San Jose State University, and an international conference speaker.

**Register:** [CLRC website](#)

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## ✓ Responding to All: Managing Relationships with Key Constituencies

**Tuesday, January 14 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Do you know an amazing library director who stumbled into trouble unexpectedly? Are you one? Every library director seeks to be responsible and successful, but sometimes things go wrong. Understanding concepts for responsible leadership and strategies for fostering key relationships will boost your effectiveness and impact as a director, whether you are new to the position or have been around the block a few times. You will identify key relationships that need to be managed well—your governing authority, your staff, your community, your profession, and last but not least, yourself. Embracing these relationships and working out a checklist of behaviors and communications for each audience will lead to more balance in your work. You'll leave this webinar inspired by big ideas and motivated by practical steps that will refine your practice as a successful library leader.

**Presenters:** Jamie LaRue, writer, speaker, teacher, consultant, and former library director; and Sharon Morris, Ph.D., MLIS, Director, Library Development, Colorado State Library

**Register:** [WebJuction website](#)

## ✓ Hooray for Dissent! Moving Beyond a Culture of Conformity

**Wednesday, January 22 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Dissent and conflict are critical components of progress and are catalysts that move individuals, institutions, and communities toward systemic change. Author Cass Sunstein writes, "Behavior that is sensible, prudent, and courteous is likely to lead individuals and societies to blunder." Librarianship, on the whole, is prone to such behavior, choosing conformity over conflict, and inertia over action. Authentic dissent in librarianship can be a catalyst to facilitate positive change against systemic oppression in libraries, and in society at large.

**Presenters:** Margo Gustina, Special Projects Librarian, Rural Library Service and Social Wellbeing; and Eli Guinnee, State Librarian, New Mexico State Library, co-founders of Hooray4.org.

**Register:** [WebJuction website](#)

## ✓ Engaging Families with Nature Based Library Programming

**Tuesday, January 28 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Learn about ways to engage children and their families in nature based library programs as we discuss programs and partnerships that get library patrons outside of traditional library based programs and into the community. Discover how programs like snowshoeing owl prowls and frog watches connect families with nature and how these programs are collaborations with outside organizations. Also learn how to get your library patrons to enjoy the great outdoors with lending items like bird watching backpacks, family outdoor game lending libraries and more.

**Sponsor:** [Youth Services Section](#) (YSS)

**Register:** [NYLA website](#)

Share your library news with the

*RCLS Weekly Memo*

Send your press ready article to

[rclsmemo@rcls.org](mailto:rclsmemo@rcls.org)





## Is My Library Liable for Fake News?

*American Libraries* column, Dec. 13

Tomas A. Lipinski writes, “Legal regulation of *fake news* in public spaces is difficult, if not impossible. As long as the speech is not defamatory, ‘the right to lie’ is constitutionally protected as free speech. Official filings are an exception: You cannot lie on your tax return, on a mortgage loan application, under oath, or otherwise on legal declarations subject to penalty of perjury. In theory, the proper response to false claims is more speech – that is, more open exchange in a free marketplace. Libraries can take a cue from this by offering programming and materials that help patrons discern [truthful news](#) from [fake news](#).”

The message is clear: libraries matter. Their solid presence at the heart of our towns sends the proud signal that everyone— whoever they are, whatever their educational background, whatever their age or their needs—is welcome.  
—Kate Mosse

## System Calendar

For a complete and up-to-date list of events, including links to additional information, see the [RCLS Calendar](#). To add information, contact [Ruth Daubenspeck](#).

### January

#### Monday, 6

[Mock Caldecott and Newberry Award Discussion](#), RCLS – 9:00 a.m. (snow date: Tuesday, January 7)

#### Monday, 6

[Mock Printz Award Discussion](#), RCLS – 2:00 p.m. (snow date: Tuesday, January 7)

#### Wednesday, 8

Directors Association Annual Meeting, RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

#### Friday, 10

Orange County Census Complete Count Committee, RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

#### Tuesday, 14

[LARC-YS Mock Discussion](#), Valley Cottage – 9:30 a.m. (snow date: Wednesday, January 15)

#### Wednesday, 15

CTUG, RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

#### Thursday, 16

MHVSHRM Event, RCLS – 8:00 a.m.

#### Friday, 17

[State Annual Report Workshop](#), RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

#### Friday, 17

[State Annual Report Workshop—Hands-on](#)  
RCLS – 1:00 p.m.

#### Monday, 20

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—RCLS CLOSED  
NO DELIVERIES**

#### Tuesday, 21

RCLS Board Meeting, – 6:30 p.m.

#### Monday, 27

ANSER Committee, RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

## RCLS Headquarters E-mail and Extension Directory (845.243.3747)

<a href="#">Grace Riario</a> .....	Executive Director/Outreach Coordinator.....	233
<a href="#">Chuck Conklin</a> .....	Delivery & Building Maintenance Supervisor .....	226
<a href="#">Dan Donohue</a> .....	ILL/Technical Services Librarian.....	237
<a href="#">Jen Park</a> .....	Community Engagement and Talent Development Specialist ....	286
<a href="#">Jerry Kuntz</a> .....	Electronic Resources Consultant .....	246
<a href="#">Joanna Goldfarb</a> .....	Youth Services Consultant.....	240
<a href="#">John Hurley</a> .....	ANSER Manager and Systems Administrator .....	228
<a href="#">Stephen Hoefler</a> .....	Fiscal Officer.....	223



# NYLA Advocacy Day 2020

YOUR Support Needed @ your library™

## Tuesday, February 25

**CONVENIENT MOTOR COACH LOCATIONS and DEPARTURE TIMES!**  
(PLEASE ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE DEPARTURE - MOTOR COACHES LEAVE ON TIME)

- West Nyack 6:45 a.m. (Palisades Center)
- Newburgh 7:30 a.m. (Newburgh Mall)
- New Paltz 7:45 a.m. (Thruway Exit 18 Park & Ride)
- Kingston 8:15 a.m. (Thruway Exit 19 Park & Ride)
- Catskill 8:40 a.m. (Thruway Exit 21 Park & Ride)

Leaves Albany at 3:30 p.m.

Refreshments, advocacy information and a schedule of appointments provided on the motor coaches.

Register online @ <http://calendar.rcls.org/>

Make checks (\$5 per person – non-refundable) payable to RCLS.  
Thanks to donations from the many Friends Groups, we are able to subsidize the price.  
Send to Ruth Daubenspeck/RCLS • 619 Route 17M • Middletown, NY 10940

**REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

### LET US KNOW IF DRIVING YOURSELF

Use the online registration and check "Driving myself" under  
"What is your preferred pickup location?"  
You will receive an information packet.



### QUESTIONS?

Contact: Dan Hulse @ Ramapo Catskill Library System  
845.243.3747 ext. 245 [dan@rcls.org](mailto:dan@rcls.org)