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Western New York Library Resources Council

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WNYLRC Updates

We have a lot of updates to share with you today, including a round up of local library budget votes and trustee elections! Happy Friday!

Ask Us 24/7: We are excited to share that Ithaca College has joined the Ask Us 24/7 virtual chat reference cooperative! This brings the list of participating members up to 46. You can check the full list out [here on our page](#). If you are interested in joining the service, please contact [Caitlin](#) for more information.

Grants: WNYLRC's High School to College Committee is excited to announce the recipients of the 2022-2023 Diversity in Collections Grant:

- Amy Ozay – *Lafayette High School* (Buffalo Public Schools)
- Kimberly Nobles – *Gowanda High School* (Gowanda Central School District)
- Patricia Lundquist – *Panama Elementary* (Panama Central School District)
- Lee Ann Kostempski – *Mount Saint Mary Academy*
- April Binkley – *Falconer Middle/High School* (Falconer Central School District)

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**This list reflects the names of staff at the time of application*

Congratulations to the recipients and thank you to all who applied! The High School to College Committee plans to offer the grant again next year, so stay tuned!



The Controlled Digital Lending Symposium was a success! Resource Sharing Committee members, presenters, and WNYLRC staff collaborated on this hybrid event held at WNYLRC.

Left to right: Josh Gordon, Reed Jones, Chris Hulsman, Joe Riggie, Barb Biljan, Tom Bruno, Charlie Barlow, Danielle Ptak, Mei Grierson, and Caitlin Kenney.

Local Library Budget Votes

We talk frequently about the importance of increasing funding for libraries in the state budget, but just as important are the local library budget votes that occur around this time of year. Like every other industry, libraries have been affected by inflation and supply chain shortages. These budget votes determine whether your local library will continue to be able to serve your community with their collections, materials, internet access, and programming. It is also important to make your community aware of when these budget votes and trustee elections are occurring, and how they can support your library through the process.

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presented its proposal to make the library into a school district library, which would allow the school to become the tax collector while everything else would remain the same. This would help the library, which is in danger of closing its doors, secure its revenue sources and stabilize funding so it can keep operating. Other libraries in Genesee County have already become school district libraries for similar reasons. Haxton is an important fixture in Oakfield, providing popular programming to including story time, summer reading, technology assistance, and creative activities. They also provide computers with Internet access and workspace services. You can [view more information](#) here, including the proposal slides. More information, including an explanation of what a school district library is, can be found in [The Batavian](#). There will also be two in-person meetings for residents who have questions on April 13 (7-8pm) and April 15 (11am-12pm). **The vote for Haxton will be held May 16.**

Similarly, **Bemus Point Public Library** and **Fluvanna Free Library (Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System)** are seeking sustainable funding during the Bemus Point Central School District vote for the 2023-24 school budget. There is a proposition on the ballot asking for taxes to be collected in support of a library. If approved, the annual taxpayer funds will be split between the two libraries. Library Board President wrote a letter stating: "With costs continuing to go up and the ability to make enough money with fundraising going down, we feel that now is the right time to pursue this opportunity. Now that minimum wage has risen and the cost of materials has gone up, we need more money annually to operate." You can [read more information here](#). You can [view the slides from the presentation here](#). **The vote for both libraries will be held on May 16.**

This particular proposal of allowing the school district to collect taxes for library funds that we're discussing is called a [259 vote](#) in New York State.

Minerva Free Library (Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System) is also seeking a 259 vote. And like Haxton Memorial, Bemus Point Public, and Fluvanna Free, Minerva Free is struggling keep its doors open because it does not have sustainable funds to rely on. Minerva Free Library is currently operating at a cost of \$52,134, but their endowment fund that has allowed them to continue thus far will be exhausted by 2026. The building is also in need of major ADA-compliant renovations. While many libraries, including Minerva, raise funds from the community throughout the year, this type of crowdsourcing

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means of funding that will allow these libraries to continue operating and meeting their communities' needs. You can learn more about [what Minerva Free Library is requesting here](#). Read the [full article here](#). **The vote for Minerva will be held June 1.**

These types of votes have been successful for other local libraries in the past, including Prendergast Library, Woodward Memorial Library, Richmond Memorial Library, and Lakewood Memorial Library.

Lockport Library (Nioga Library System) is proposing an increase from property tax support over 2022/2023 appropriation. If approved, the increase will "be applied to increased operating costs, maintaining library collections and services, computer access, library programs, access to collections, and services via our website." More information about Lockport Library's proposed budget can be [found here](#). **The vote for Lockport will be held April 13.**

Olean Public Library (Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System) is running both their Library Trustee Election and their 2024 Budget Vote. There are two positions open on the Olean Public Library Board of Trustees: one position is a five year term and the other position is a one year term. For the budget, they are proposing a tax increase to support library collections and services. There will be a public hearing on the 2024 Olean budget on April 18 at 6pm. **The Olean Public Trustee Election and the budget vote will be held May 2.**

North Tonawanda Public Library (Nioga Library System) is running [both their Library Trustee Election and Budget Vote](#) on **April 19.**

Hoag Library (Nioga Library System) is running their [Library Trustee election](#) during their Annual Meeting on **May 1.**

If we've missed a vote or election at your library - let us know!

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News from the Region

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Roseanne Butler-Smith has retired from her position of director of the **Audubon Branches (*Buffalo & Erie County Library System*)** after nearly four decades of service. Roseanne has always been a strong advocate of libraries, and has participated not only in WNYLRC but also as a member of the New York Public Library Association, American Library Association, and Public Library Association. She is also officially part of the Congressional Record! This recognition of Roseanne's work from Representative Brian Higgins is available to [read here](#). Congratulations, Roseanne! Kristi Dougherty will be continuing Roseanne's efforts.

[Melissa Dunlap has retired](#) from her position as Executive Director of **Niagara County Historical Society**, after 33 years of service. Melissa has worked tirelessly for the organization, and is responsible for the expansion and renovation of the historical society's buildings, including the Erie Canal Discovery Center - a major project resulting in an interactive museum with an art gallery. She has also worked with community members to organize local history events and highlight lesser known stories in the area. Melissa still plans to dedicate some time to the historical society and participate in various local committees. Congratulations, Melissa! Michelle Harris, [a former director of the Niagara Falls Public Library](#), will be Melissa's successor.

The Board of Trustees of **Haxton Memorial Library (*Nioga Library System*)** presented its proposal to make the library into a school district library, which would allow the school to become the tax collector while everything else would remain the same. This would help the library, which is in danger of closing its doors, secure its revenue sources and stabilize funding so it can keep operating. Other libraries in Genesee County have already become school district libraries for similar reasons. Haxton is an important fixture in Oakfield, providing popular programming to including story time, summer reading, technology assistance, and creative activities. They also provide computers with Internet access and workspace services. The vote will be held on May 16. You can [view more information](#) here, including the proposal slides. More information, including an explanation of what a school district library is, can be found in [The Batavian](#).

The **Buffalo History Museum's** collection of more than 800 local restaurant menus was showcased on Channel 2 - WGRZ. Research Librarian Cynthia Van Ness shared the collection as an important artifact of Buffalo's long history as a

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[collection here.](#)

Channel 2 - WGRZ also shared some history about **Prendergast Library (Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System)** in Jamestown. The library was built in honor of the grandson of the city's namesake. His parents organized community efforts to build the library and it opened in December 1891. [Read more about the Prendergast library's beginnings here.](#)

Come see Pete Ames (**Town of Niagara Historian**) give a virtual tour of the historic Witmer Cemetery at the Niagara County Federation of Historical Societies' Annual Congress on April 29 at the Sanborn Farm Museum. [More information about the Annual Congress here.](#)

A new endowment fund established to provide annual grants to support libraries in both **Cattaraugus** and Allegany counties. The Wagner Family Fund was established by Cindy Wagner, who hopes to give back to libraries and support educational programming for area youth and adults. [Learn more about the fund and how you can donate to it here.](#)

Trocaire College will be acquiring **Medaille University** in July 2023. They will operate as one institution under the name Trocaire College, but Medaille students will not face credit loss or tuition charges as a result of the change. [More information here.](#)

Do you have institutional news you'd like featured here? Email [Caitlin](#).

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News from the State

You can petition to be on the NYLA Council Election Ballot? Although the Nominating Committee has selected their slate and it was approved by NYLA Council, NYLA Members are able to petition for their candidacy up until April 15th!

NYLA Members can petition for the following positions on NYLA Council:

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2024) | President (Nov 2024 - Nov 2025) | Immediate Past President (Nov 2025 - Nov 2026)

- **Treasurer-Elect** - This is a 4 Year Term which goes as follows: Treasurer-Elect (Nov 2023 - Nov 2025) | Treasurer (Nov 2025 - Nov 2027)
- **Councilor-At-Large (Representing School Libraries)** - This is a 3 Year Term which begins Nov 2023 and ends in Nov 2026
- **Councilor-At-Large (Representing Public Libraries)** - This is a 3 Year Term which begins in Nov 2023 and ends in Nov 2026

According to our bylaws, candidates nominated through this process must have signatures totaling 1% of the association's Membership determined by our numbers from January 1st - December 31st, 2022.

Therefore, you need only 30 signatures from active NYLA members submitted to C, Director of Communications and Member Engagement at marketing@nyla.org on or before April 15th to be placed on the ballot.

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Virtual Trainings and Meetings

The 411 on 211: Helping Patrons Connect to Community Resources, Tuesday April 11th, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm: Join us for an overview of 211 nationally and within New York State. You will also learn about additional programming and services available through 211 including free tax assistance programs like VITA and TCE, 211's comprehensive community services databases, and how to leverage 211 to help patrons connect to community resources and services. This is the first in a series of informational webinars about 211 WNY.

[Register here.](#)

Developing Sustainable Impact Through Community Health Work, Thursday April 13th, from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Through the personal journey of navigating through trauma, violence, addiction, and poverty there is hope at the end of the tunnel. These stories, from the block to the board, are often romanticized when in reality it requires daily work and consistency in moving forward and upward. Most importantly it requires the development of a support system. This is where community health models come into play. Community Health Work looks at the whole self and supporting individuals in navigating through social determinants of health. It

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Register here.](#)***The Beautiful, Revolutionary Future, Wednesday, April 26, from 1:30 pm to 3:00***

pm: What would an irresistible future look like to you? What would you be free to do tomorrow if you weren't carrying yesterday's limitations? In this webinar, we'll discuss what can be gained by moving through the initial discomforts of change to step into the beautiful, revolutionary future! This webinar is sponsored by the Empire State Library Network.

[Register here.](#)

To learn about and register for professional development opportunities from other ESLN councils across the state, check out [the shared calendar!](#)

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The WNYLRC collection of the month is from Buffalo Neighborhoods, a collaboration between the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and the Western New York Genealogical Society. This collection highlights the growth of Buffalo from its early days as a small village into the bustling city it is now. The harbor was vital as an early commercial port where many people gathered and did business, contributing to

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that the community began to reinvest in the waterfront. The church that you see to the right in the photo is St. Joseph Cathedral and behind it are the old canal yards, today the site of the Erie Basin Marina.

[Buffalo Neighborhoods, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, "Buffalo Harbor, 1870." *New York Heritage Digital Collections*. 1870. <https://nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VHB001/id/8115/rec/34>].

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Listserv Information

Did you know that you can change your WNYLIB-L subscription to a digest form rather than immediate delivery of list items? This way, you can receive one daily email with all of the information sent to WNYLIB-L instead of receiving each email individually. To enable digest, send an email to: listserv@listserv.buffalo.edu (or just click that link). In the body of the email message write: **SET wnylib-l digests**. Leave the subject area of the message blank and delete any signature file you have at the end of your message. If you click the email link above, the message should be ready for you to send. Please note that you need to be already subscribed to the list in order to change this setting.

For more information about enabling an email digest, [click here](#).



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