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## Western New York Library Resources Council

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## WNYLRC Updates

The WNYLRC Offices will be closed Monday, January 15, in observance of the holiday.

**Advocacy:** Thank you to everyone who attended our advocacy meetings last month! Legislators heard testimonials from library staff, trustees, patrons, and students - these stories make an impact and we appreciate the support in the fight for increased library funding. Advocacy Day is coming a little early this year! It will be Wednesday, February 7th. Let us know if you're coming! [More details here](#)

**Annual Meeting:** Save the date for this year's Annual Meeting of the Membership, which will be held at the **National Comedy Center** in Jamestown. This will be a daytime meeting, held on Tuesday, October 22nd. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Board of Trustees:** Kathy Leacock (**Buffalo Museum of Science**) is now the president of the WNYLRC Board of Trustees, beginning this month. Her presidency will run until December 2024. Officers and all members of the 2024

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**Diverse Collections Grant:** This annual grant supporting the addition of diverse materials to school library collections has opened its 2023-2024 grant cycle. The grant is offered by WNYLRC's High School to College Committee. Applications will be accepted until February 16, 2024. [Learn more here.](#)

**Move:** WNYLRC will be moving to a new office on Lawrence Bell Drive in June 2024. There will be no training offered in Spring-Summer 2024 as staff will need to prepare for the move and acclimate to the new space.



*Senator Ortt, Assembly Member Norris, and Assembly Member Morrinello met with students and staff from Lockport High School, WNYLRC staff, and staff and trustees from libraries in both the Nioga Library System and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System.*

## Virtual Trainings and Meetings

Registration is required for all training. You must register for these programs via the WNYLRC website. You will need to create an account on the website in order to register if you have not already done so.

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**Tuesday February 20, 10:00 am - 11:00 am:** The New York State Archives provides open access to digital collections of primary sources, lesson plans, document-based learning activities, and more to assist educators, students, genealogists, and researchers in uncovering the many facets of New York State history. Learn how to navigate and locate the many resources available through NYSA!

[Register here](#)

***Know the Path, Avoid the Pitfalls: Arranging Contracts for E-Resources,***

**Thursday March 7, 10:00 am - 11:00 am:** This sixty-minute session will review the essential elements and hidden risks of contracts for e-resources. Written materials will include sample RFP language, an assessment checklist, and sample contract language.

[Register here](#)

***The 411 on 211: Reentry Services, Tuesday March 26, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm:***

Learn how to use 211 to identify services available for people returning to your community from a jail or correctional facility. See what guides and guided searches 211 offers for this population as well as opportunities to partner with 211 in your community.

[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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*Leah Halton-Pope, representing Assembly Member and Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, met with library staff from WNYLRC, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, Erie 2 BOCES, and NYLA at A.H. Aaron Library in Buffalo General Medical Center.*

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## News from the Region

### Are you ready for the solar eclipse in April 2024?

Jill Hackenberg and Emilyann Kerr of **University at Buffalo** shared crucial information in a webinar about this year's upcoming solar eclipse event. Be prepared for crowds this April as [Western New York directly falls within the path of the eclipse](#).

As you may already know, all 37 branches of the **Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System** are able to offer a limit of 2 eclipse glasses per person for viewing the eclipse on April 8, 2024. You should call your branch first to confirm the glasses are available before arriving to pick them up.

Additionally, the **Buffalo Museum of Science** also received funding to purchase a limited number of glasses. Again, you should contact the museum to confirm there are still glasses available before arriving to pick them up. [More](#)

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The American Astronomical Association [lists a number of reputable sellers](#) for eclipse glasses.

Sarah Potwin, director of **Niagara Falls Public Library (*Nioga Library System*)**, was published in the Buffalo News this week with an op-ed advocating for increasing library funding. She writes: "While local funding is a factor in how libraries operate, state funding is critical for leveling the playing field, ensuring all New York citizens – even those from the smallest, poorest, most remote areas of the state – get a fair share of library resources. [...] Libraries are empowerment engines. They are essential for healthy, inclusive communities, and should be fully funded in 2024. Let your local legislative representative know of your support for library funding." [Read the full op-ed piece here](#) (note: you may need a subscription to read it).

**James Prendergast Library Association (*Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System*)** received a NYS Construction Grant titled Spotlight on Stem, totalling more than \$46,724. These funds allowed the library to upgrade their Makerspace room with new sound-reducing panels, LED lighting, a new door, and improved storage. The Makerspace, which has Magnatiles, K'Nex, robotics, and stop motion technology, serves small children through young adults in the surrounding Jamestown community. The library also received a grant from the Holmberg Foundation allowing them to increase their offerings for the Makerspace - including creating a mobile Makerspace. They will be offering digital preservation workshops, 3D printing classes, and the ability to circulate science equipment. [Read more here](#)

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

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*Assembly Member Conrad shared insights on the budget process at the legislative meeting held at Kenmore Branch Library.*

## News from the State

NYLA's [new website](#) has launched! Please note that accounts did not carry over. In an attempt to get all members into the system, NYLA is extending "open renewal/join" period for 2024 from January 8th - May 31st. Members and anyone wishing to join should complete the join form during that time. The completion of this form will provide an expiration date of May 31st, 2025. If you had an organizational membership (Library/Library System, Friend Group, Non-Library Organization), the key contact for that account will need to add a profile for you when completing the join form. Otherwise, individual members and key account holders can fill out [the join form](#).

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Pictured here is the original Buffalo Public Library building, a Romanesque structure designed by Cyrus L.W. Eidlitz and dedicated in early 1887. It was built on the grounds of the former Old Erie County Courthouse (razed 1876). This photograph is dated 1936 and depicts the library covered in snow after a spring storm. The building was razed in the 1960s to make way for the new library building that currently stands today. Only one Eidlitz-designed structure in Buffalo still remains - [the Webb Building](#).

*[175th Anniversary of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. "Eidlitz Building in Winter." New York Heritage Digital Collections. April 5, 1936. <https://nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VHB001/id/119/rec/21>].*

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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](mailto: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.

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