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Western New York Library Resources Council

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WNYLRC Updates

Advocacy: Library Advocacy Day in Albany was a success! Nearly 1,000 library workers from across New York State were in attendance meeting with their local legislators to advocate for critical library funding and legislative priorities. At noon, NYLA President Ginger Tebo led the Rally in the Well and we heard from NYS Senator Siela Bynoe, Chair of the [Senate Standing Committee on Libraries](#), and NYS Senator Dean Murray, Ranking Member of the committee. WNYLRC staff and members from Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System, Nioga Library System, and Erie-2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES met with our state senators and assemblymembers. **Thank you to all who attended and please keep advocating for New York libraries!**

WNYLRC is also advocating for libraries to be included in the [Sensitive Location Protection Act](#) proposed by Governor Hochul in the Fiscal 2026-27 Executive Budget. We sent a letter to the Governor with this request, on the basis that families, young adults, senior citizens, immigrants, and even tourists all come to the library to fulfil different needs and thus, all deserve the same level of protection. And - libraries are prized for their commitment to preserving the privacy of their users. In New York, library users' right to privacy is protected

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[Robert Carroll's statement](#) on the act and why libraries should be included. Assemblymember Carroll is the Chair of the [Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology](#).

[Federally, there has been one piece of positive news](#). The fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations bills signed by President Trump on February 3rd included an increase in federal funding for libraries. Congress passed a \$1.4 million increase for library programs run by IMLS through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and level funding of \$30 million for the school library-focused Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program. **This is all due to the work of library advocates like you, who responded to the call for support last spring when IMLS was threatened with closure due to funding cuts approved by Congress and President Trump. Never let up and continue speaking out for libraries and IMLS. Continue contacting your federal legislators. It *does* make a difference.**

Committees: Applications are open to join one of WNYLRC's standing committees for terms beginning **July 1, 2026**. Committee participation offers valuable career benefits—networking, leadership development, and professional visibility—all while contributing to projects that support our region's libraries and archives. Whatever you're interested in, there's a committee for you - [find out more here](#), and [apply today!](#) Have questions? Send them to Michael Green at mgreen@wnylrc.org.

HLSP: Elizabeth Stellrecht, the head of Abbott Health Sciences Library at SUNY Buffalo, interviewed Emily Carlin for her clinical librarianship class. Emily discussed what it's like to be a librarian in a hospital setting, as well as some of the challenges and opportunities facing hospital librarians.

Western New York Rural Library Grant Program: The [Western New York Rural Library Grant Program](#) will provide support for rural public libraries and library systems, tied to the interests of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation (RCWJRF). The Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) and Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) will manage the program in Western New York on behalf of RCWJRF.

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Pictured in a meeting during Library Advocacy Day with Assemblyman Bill Conrad are, from left, Brian Mayer, of the Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES School Library System; Dorinda Darden, of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library; Sheryl Knab, of the Western New York Library Resources Council; Conrad; Nicole Brown, of the Hamburg/Lake Shore Public Library; and Kristine Sutton, of the Newstead Public Library. This was featured in the [Ken-Ton Bee](#).

Trainings and Meetings

Check out [our events and training page](#) for upcoming programs! Registration is required for all WNYLRC training.

A selection of upcoming events:

Tour of Rare Book Room at Buffalo Central Library

****IN PERSON****

Thursday Feb 26 | 6 to 7:30 pm

Join Heather Gring, Rare Book Curator at B&ECPL, for a tour of the Rare Book Room at the Downtown Central Library and learn more about the scope, significance, and stewardship of one of the library's most distinguished collections.

[Register here](#)

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Join Kathy Parker and Kate Hall, authors of The Public Library Director's Toolkit and long-time library directors, for a session exploring effective leadership transitions. Parker and Hall will discuss the role of staffing analyses in assessing and planning for vacancies, staff leadership development, and tools and methods for documentation of knowledge, including special considerations for small or rural institutions.

[Register here](#)

View more upcoming programs in [the training newsletter!](#)

The Preservation Committee is sponsoring memberships for NEDCC programs. WNYLRC members can apply for sponsorship of select live or on-demand [Northeast Document Conservation Center \(NEDCC\) online training programs](#). Sponsorships are considered on a first-come first-served basis. [Application for Sponsorship](#)

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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Sebastian Galbo, Circuit Librarian, poses with materials from the Mercy Hospital Archive. (Photo credit: Melanie Griffis, Public Relations & Communications Manager, Mercy Hospital)

News from the Region

Grace Di Virgilio and Sebastian Galbo received an Archival Supplies Grant from WNYLRC's Preservation Committee in support of the ***Mercy Hospital Archive***. Since Grace's retirement in January, Sebastian has inventoried the institution's archive—which encompasses scrapbooks, patient registers, hospital newsletters, and hundreds of photographs—to determine preservation needs. Sebastian will continue to work closely with Mercy Hospital staff as this collection is transferred to a new storage space. He thanks Michael Green, WNYLRC's Special Collections Librarian, for his knowledgeable assistance.

Dorinda Darden, interim director of the ***Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System***, and Sheryl Knab, executive director of WNYLRC, co-wrote an op-ed for the Buffalo News focusing on the need for increased funds in the state's budget for library operating aid. [Read more](#)

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[fundraising gala](#) to support the upcoming expansion. The state is contributing nearly \$1.7 million in New York State Public Library Construction Aid grants to the \$5.2 million project. In December, Lee-Whedon also received \$25,000 in funding from the Garmin Family Foundation administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. They also received more than \$500,000 in community donations, leaving about \$3M left to be financed for the project. The library will be closed from March 23 to May 4 for their long anticipated construction project that will increase the size of the library through an addition and revamp existing spaces. [Read more](#)

Royalton Hartland Community Library (*Nioga Library System*) announced a programming slate created for adult patrons, including self-sufficiency, paint nights, social hours, digital literacy, and the popular Spice of the Month club.

[Learn more](#)

Olean Public Library (*Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System*) also announced a strong programming slate for February, including showcasing works by patrons who participated in previous arts and crafts programs and a celebration with Race Unity Circle in honor of Black History Month. [Learn more](#)

Lewiston Public Library (*Nioga Library System*) has been dealing with a roof leak for several weeks, which is causing damage to their building. [Read more](#). And here is another [more detailed article](#) about the issue.

Richmond Memorial Library (*Nioga Library System*) is hosting an exhibition of handmade quilts and other fabric creations from Batavia's Museum Quilt Guild. [Read more](#)

The Rare Books Collection at the **University at Buffalo** recently added an interesting new item to their collections: a horoscope by Boston astrologer Thomas Lister to President Andrew Johnson. [Learn more](#)

Congratulations to **Molly Maloney**, pharmacy liaison library at the **University of Buffalo**, who was selected to receive the University at Buffalo HR Pillars of Pride Recognition Award! The award recognizes staff members whose work reflects the university's core values, including excellence, service, inclusion, and innovation. [Learn more](#)

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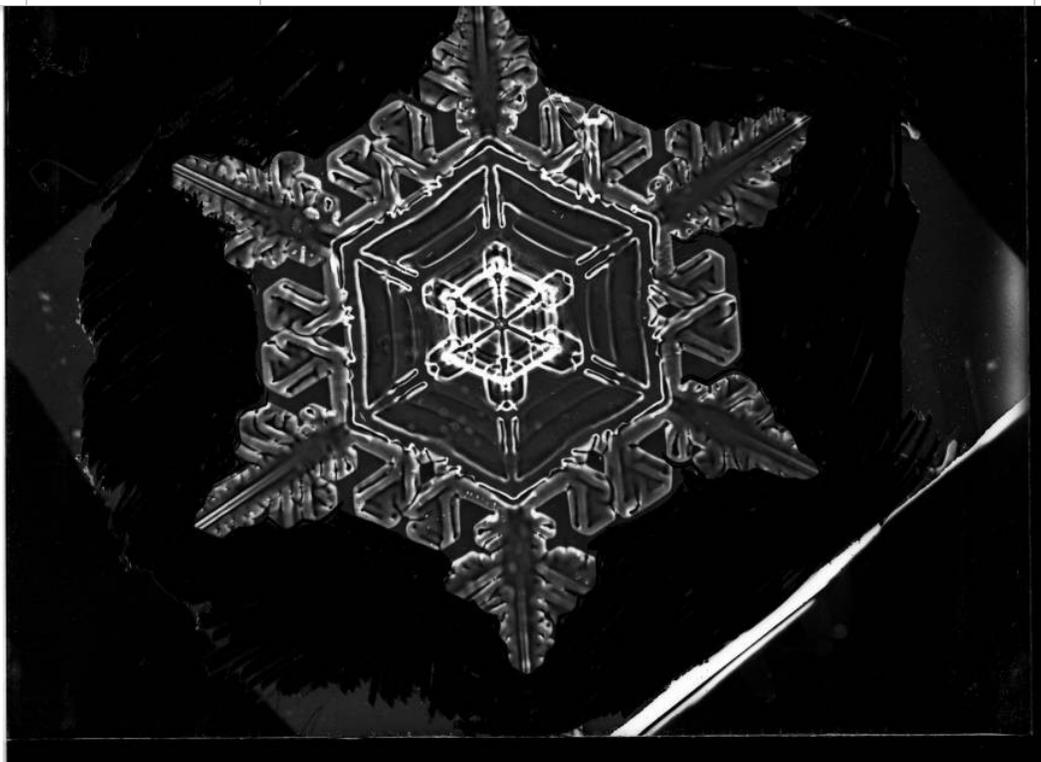
News from the State

NYLA announced this year's Spring On The Hill event, a day of educational programming focused on advocacy. This year's theme is You've Got The Power. The event will be held on Tuesday, May 19th, at Albany Capital Center in Albany. [Registration and more details can be found here.](#)

NYLA is also seeking nominations for open Council positions for the 2026 election cycle. Current openings are: President (Academic/Special Library), Councilor-at-Large (School Libraries), and Councilor-at-Large (Public Libraries). Each position serves a term of three years. The nominations deadline is Friday, February 27th. [Click here for more information and the application.](#)

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

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Tired of winter yet? Us too! But if you need a reminder about the beauty of wintertime, check out the Buffalo Museum of Science's Bentley Snow Crystal Collection on New York Heritage!

[Bentley Snow Crystal collection, Buffalo Museum of Science. "bmsneg_0318." *New York State Heritage*. Late 1800s.

<https://nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/BSM001/id/5186/rec/23>]

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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.