Libraries Because 2026



NYLA Annual Conference and Trade Show

November 4-7 Saratoga Springs, NY

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2026 NYLA Conference and to Saratoga Springs! This year's theme, Libraries Because _____, invites us to think about the many reasons libraries matter to our communities and to each of us personally. Maybe it's books or information or other resources that open the world to our students and patrons. Maybe it's something more abstract, like access, democracy, culture, literacy, belonging, or opportunity. Whatever your reason, I hope you'll find ways to share it, strengthen it, and bring it back home with you to inspire future library goals.

For me, one of the best things about this conference is the opportunity to hear what others are doing, talk about the challenges we share, and learn from the different perspectives represented across New York. These conversations are an important part of what makes our statewide library community strong, and your participation helps all of us better understand the work happening across our profession.

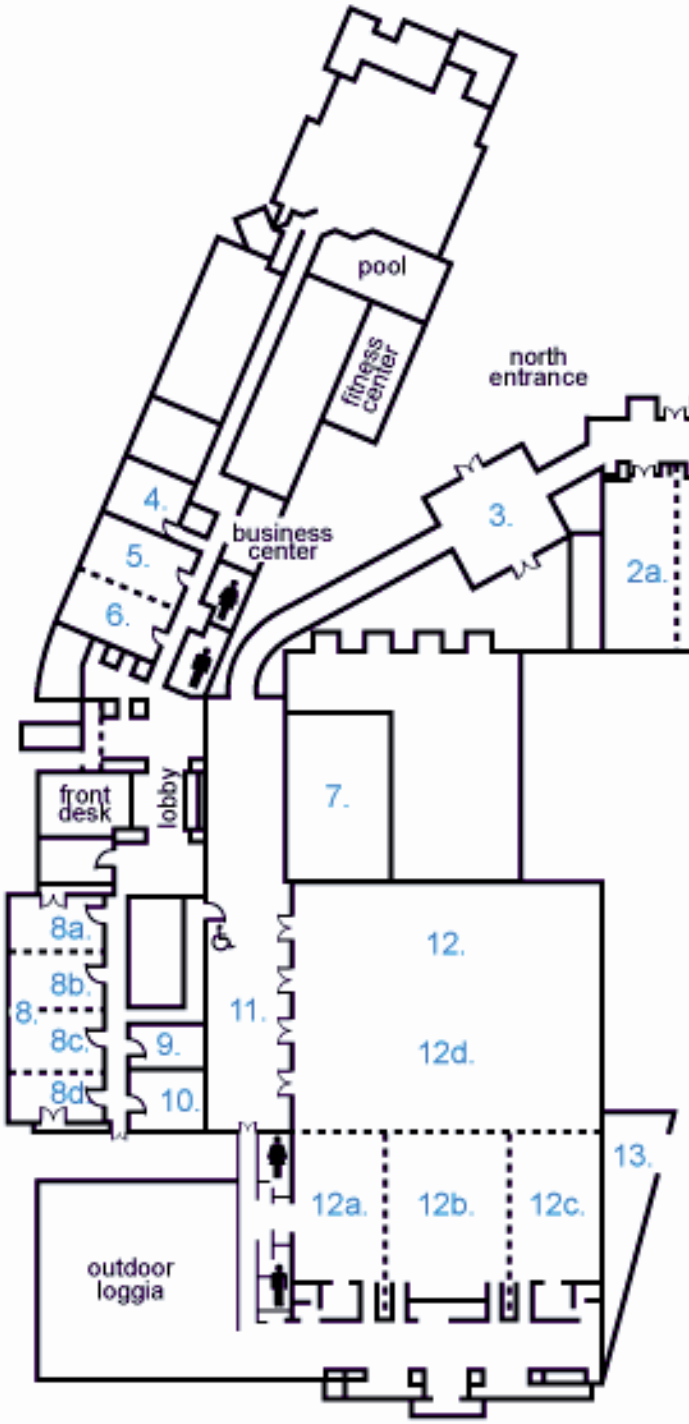
A special thank you to the NYLA Continuing Education Committee and NYLA staff (AnnaLee, Lauren, Becky, Max, and Sara) for their extraordinary efforts to make this the best conference yet. Their continued push for improvement in session programming, conference activities, and keynotes will definitely stand out this year!

I hope you'll make the most of our time together at NYLA's 2026 Conference. Be sure to attend the membership meeting, thoroughly explore the sessions and trade show, connect with colleagues, and join us for the opening keynote with author and journalist Denise Kiernan. Most of all, take a moment to consider the impact of your own powerful statement: Libraries Because _____.



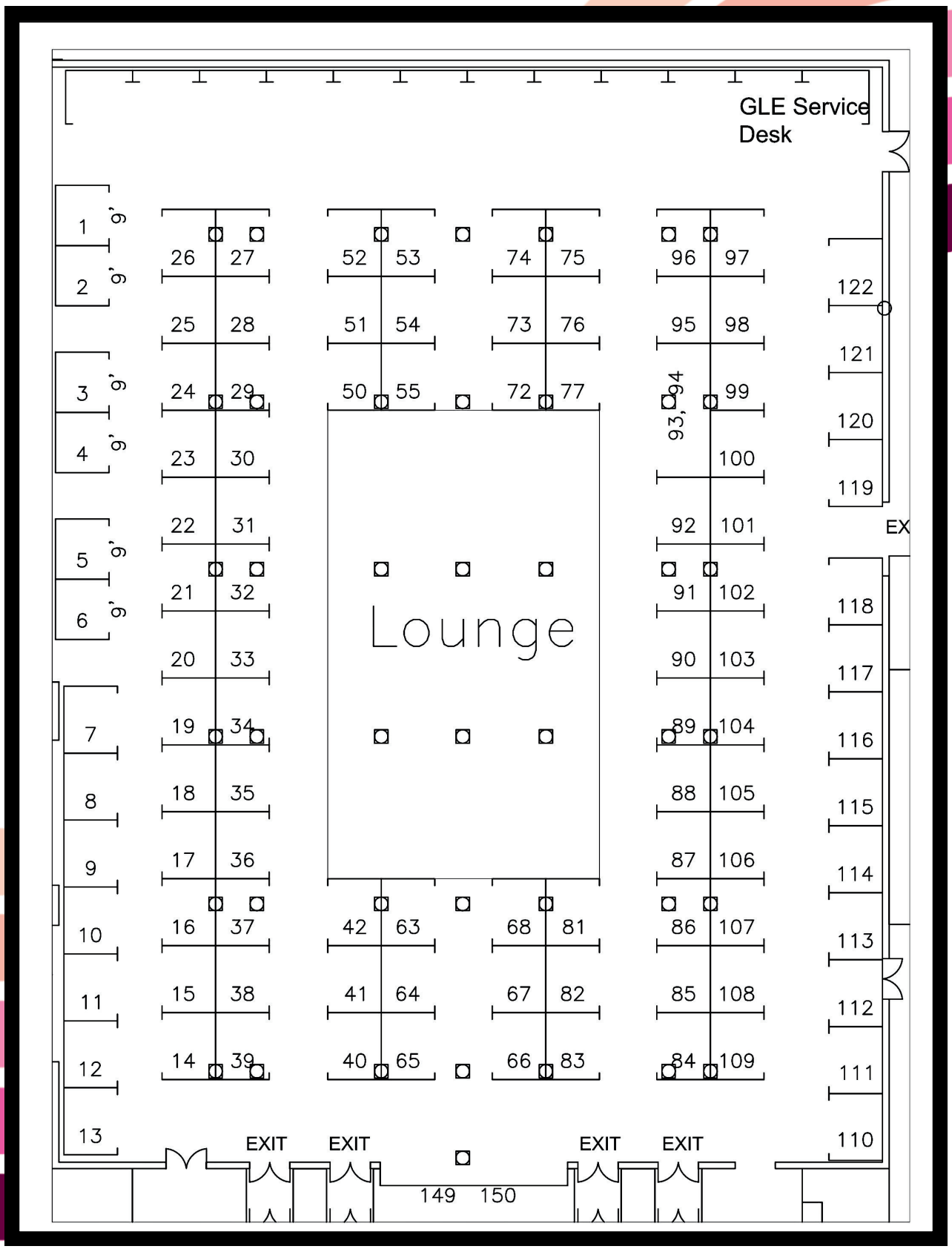
VENUE MAP

SARATOGA HILTON



1. SARATOGA FOYER
2. SARATOGA BALLROOM
   - 2a. SARATOGA ONE
   - 2b. SARATOGA TWO
   - 2c. SARATOGA THREE
3. PAVILION
4. WHITNEY
5. ALABAMA
6. TRAVERS
7. HIGHROCK
8. BROADWAY BALLROOM
   - 8a. BROADWAY ONE
   - 8b. BROADWAY TWO
   - 8c. BROADWAY THREE
   - 8d. BROADWAY FOUR
9. THE BOARDROOM
10. PHILA
11. GALLERY
12. CITY CENTER
    - 12a. CITY CENTER A
    - 12b. CITY CENTER B
    - 12c. CITY CENTER C
    - 12d. CITY CENTER D
13. WEDGE ROOM

Trade show MAP



SARATOGA CITY CENTER

Do I need to check in at registration?

Yes!

Please check in at the registration booth in the lobby of the Hilton.

Here you'll receive your badge and swag!

You can also:

- Purchase onsite registration passes.
- Purchase special event tickets.
- Purchase t-shirts.
- Ask staff any questions or just say hi!

Do I need to check in for a session?

No!

You do NOT need to check in on the app to receive CE credit for the sessions you attend. NYLA programming is first come, first served. Creating a schedule in the app does not guarantee you will be able to attend.

Is there parking validation?

Yes!

If you park in the City Center garage we will validate your parking EVERY DAY! Swing by the registration desk to get your ticket validated.

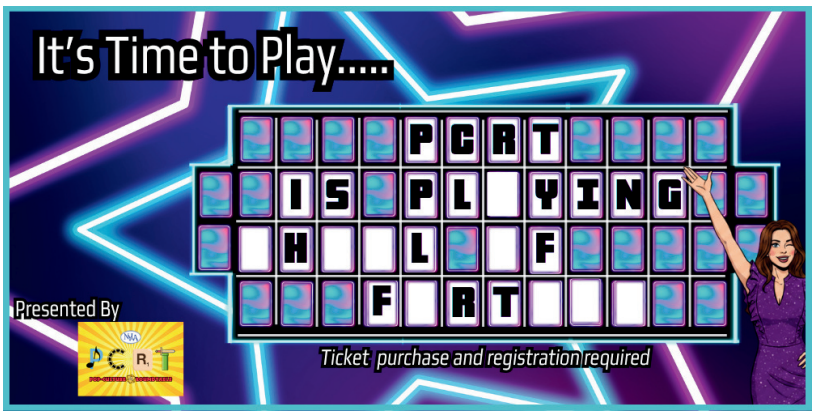


Libraries Because 2026

SCHEDULE

Wednesday 11.4.26

TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION	HILTON LOBBY
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	MORNING PRECONFERENCE PROGRAMS	
	Reframing the Conversation around AI in Libraries	BROADWAY 1
	The Best Library Board Meeting EVER – Basics	BROADWAY 2
	Judged by the Covers: Organize, Advocate, Overcome	BROADWAY 3
	Media and Social Media Training for Libraries	BROADWAY 4
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM	EXHIBITOR MOVE IN	SARATOGA CITY CENTER
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	NYLA COUNCIL MEETING	TRAVERS
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	NYLA COUNCIL LUNCH	WHITNEY
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM	AFTERNOON PRECONFERENCE PROGRAMS	
	Because Staff are Ready: Building Artificial Intelligence Confidence in Practice	BROADWAY 1
	The Best Library Board Meeting EVER – Advanced	BROADWAY 2
	Intentional Outcomes: A Project Planning Session for Accidental Project Managers	BROADWAY 3
	Leadership Crew: Difficult Conversations Done Right	BROADWAY 4
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	SLSA MEETING	PHILA
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM	ESLN MEETING	HIGH ROCK
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	PULISDO MEETING	ALABAMA
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	NYALS MEETING	ALABAMA
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	OUTREACH COORDINATORS MEETING	BROADWAY 4
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	LAMS MEETING	BROADWAY 3
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	PCRT GENERATIONAL TRIVIA	SARATOGA BALLROOM 1



Want the most up to date schedule? Download the app!

Apple Store — SCAN HERE

Google Store — SCAN HERE



Libraries Because 2026

SCHEDULE

Thursday 11.5.26

TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION	HILTON LOBBY
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	TRADE SHOW	CITY CENTER
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	NYLA NETWORKING & MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST	SARATOGA BALLROOM
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	CITY CENTER
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	DESIGNATED TRADE SHOW TIME	CITY CENTER
12:30 PM	TRADE SHOW BOXED LUNCH	CITY CENTER
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	MEAL 'N' DEAL LUNCHEON	SARATOGA BALLROOM
1:45 PM – 3:00 PM	AFTERNOON PROGRAMS	

Afternoon

Collection Development in Correctional Facility Libraries: Similarities, Differences	ALABAMA
Defending Access: Understanding and Applying Freedom to Read Guidance	BROADWAY 1
Anyplace Access: Delivering Legal Information Remotely	BROADWAY 2
Inspiring Creativity @ Your Library: Launch a Successful Literary Magazine	BROADWAY 3
Library Finance: Business Controls, Driving Efficiency, and Leveraging Automation	BROADWAY 4
From Scroll to Story: Helping Caregivers Become Reading Role Models	HIGH ROCK
Libraries Because: Learning Starts with a Question	SARATOGA 1
The Hallucinated Collection: Spotting AI Slop and Why it Matters	SARATOGA 2
Ready or Not: Building Your Library's Emergency Plan	SARATOGA 3
Sustainable Decision Making: Prioritize, Decide, and Thrive at Work	TRAVERS
"Is this real life? Is this fantasy?" Bookmobile Break Down	WHITNEY
Libraries Because Social Engagement Counts	CITY CENTER 1M
Steps to Longevity: A Proactive Book Club Supporting Brain Health	CITY CENTER M2A
Libraries Because Communities Depend on Us: Disaster Planning for Libraries	CITY CENTER M2B

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	DESIGNATED TRADE SHOW TIME	CITY CENTER
4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	LATE AFTERNOON PROGRAMS	

Inclusive Supervision that Sustains Access, Belonging, and Opportunity	ALABAMA
Become an Angry Duck : Advocacy in Small Towns	BROADWAY 1
Good Governance – Effective Board Meetings Using Robert's Rules	BROADWAY 2
The PHI: Preserving Community Stories	BROADWAY 3
LibraryReads Presents: Featuring Horror at Your Library	BROADWAY 4
Don't Make Your Tour a Bore: Crafting Engaging Local History Tours	HIGH ROCK
Book Bike Your Way to Better Community Connections	SARATOGA 1
Training Needs Around Serving Patrons Experiencing Homelessness	SARATOGA 2
Tools for Library Metadata Management	SARATOGA 3
Weeding with a Plan: Developing Weeding Standards	TRAVERS

Libraries Because 2026

SCHEDULE

Thursday 11.5.26

TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	**LATE AFTERNOON PROGRAMS**	
	Stick a Fork in Turnover! Be an Employer of Choice	WHITNEY
	The Worst has Happened – Now What	PHILA
	ESLN Program – The Counterculture of Commitment, with Civic Advocate Pete Davis	CITY CENTER 1M
	Services and Support from the NYS Talking Book and Braille Library	CITY CENTER M2A
	Inclusive Programs for Adults with Disabilities	CITY CENTER M2B
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	SMART Board Meeting	ALABAMA
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	START Board Meeting	BROADWAY 1
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	LTAS Board Meeting	BROADWAY 2
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	IFRT Board Meeting	BROADWAY 3
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	**SCHOLARSHIP BASH! TRIVIA**	**SARATOGA BALLROOM 1**



8:30 PM – 10:30 PM	**NYLA AFTER DARK**	**SARATOGA BALLROOM 2**



Libraries Because 2026

SCHEDULE

Friday 11.6.26

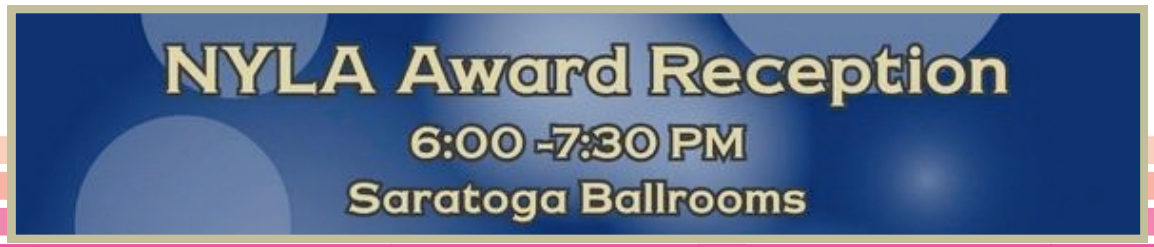
TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION	HILTON LOBBY
8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	TRADE SHOW	CITY CENTER
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	TRADE SHOW CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	CITY CENTER
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	DESIGNATED TRADE SHOW TIME	CITY CENTER
8:30 AM – 9:45 AM	MORNING PROGRAMS	
	How Cooperative Fundraising Saved a Library	ALABAMA
	Diversity Across Genres: Analyzing Your Juvenile Fiction Collection	BROADWAY 1
	Starting Library Podcasts that Engage and Educate Listeners	BROADWAY 2
	Leading When the Work is Heavy: Supporting Staff Through Crisis	BROADWAY 3
	One Island, One Book: The Story of Long Island Read	BROADWAY 4
	Level Up Social Skills with Board Games and RPGs	HIGH ROCK
	Youth DnD Programming: Turning Adventuring Adolescents into Adept Adults	SARATOGA 1
	Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers, Oh My!: Early Literacy Programming 101	SARATOGA 2
	Two-Way Street: Building Community Partnerships that Actually Deliver	SARATOGA 3
	FLS Showcase: Spotlight on Friends!	TRAVERS
	Hot Topics, Test Prep, Legal Forms with NovelNY	WHITNEY
	Future-Ready Children & Teens: How Libraries Can Prepare Our Patrons for the Age of AI	PHILA
	Accountability Matters: The Board's Role in AI Governance, Risk, and Public Trust	CITY CENTER 1M
	What Librarians Wish Leaders Knew: Building Organizational Capacity for Collaboration	CITY CENTER M2A
	Advocacy Through Stories: Talk So They Will Listen and Act	CITY CENTER M2B
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM	MID-MORNING PROGRAMS	
	Selling Nonfiction: Engaging Young People With Factual Reading	ALABAMA
	The Players in the Art Community: Libraries as Cultural Connectors	BROADWAY 1
	Two Librarians in a Trench Coat	BROADWAY 2
	Plot Twist: The Library Comes to You	BROADWAY 3
	The Community as Curriculum: Place-Based Design Justice Programming in Libraries	BROADWAY 4
	Combating Burnout with Collaboration	HIGH ROCK
	Leadership: It's Not About You	SARATOGA 3
	Beyond Books: Linking Job Seekers to Opportunity in the Library	TRAVERS
	Neurodiversity 101 for Professionals: Terminology, Accessibility, and Work Strategies	WHITNEY
	The Work of Art: Exhibiting WPA Prints from Library Archives	PHILA
	Stop Guessing: What We Learned Watching Patrons Use Library Spaces	CITY CENTER 1M
	Stronger Together: Building and Sustaining Community Partnerships in Public Libraries	CITY CENTER M2A
	Intro to AI: The Good, the Bad, and the Weird	CITY CENTER M2B

Libraries Because 2026

SCHEDULE

Friday 11.6.26

TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION	HILTON LOBBY
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	PLS Luncheon Lunch YSS Empire State Award Lunch	SARATOGA BALLROOM 2 SARATOGA BALLROOM 1
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM	AFTERNOON PROGRAMS	
Libraries Evolving Beyond Books: Library as Third Place for Youth		ALABAMA
Building Your Library's RPG (Role–Playing Game) Collection		BROADWAY 1
How Library Work Prepared Us to Become Municipal Leaders		BROADWAY 2
Customer Service in Public Libraries: Help Me Help You		BROADWAY 3
Once Upon a Time: Creating a Magical Children's Library		BROADWAY 4
Creating a Torah Literature Collection at Your Public Library		HIGH ROCK
Summer Reading : Why Should Children Have All the Fun?		TRAVERS
Learning Through Reflection: Turning Library Plans Into Measurable Community Change		WHITNEY
Wild Card with the Friends of the Library		PHILA
LibraryReads Presents: Readers' Advisory as Community Infrastructure		CITY CENTER 1M
How to Develop a Trauma–Informed Adult Department		CITY CENTER M2A
Technology Burnout: When Everyone Becomes the Tech Librarian		CITY CENTER M2B
3:45 PM – 5: 00 PM	LATE AFTERNOON PROGRAMS	
Pressing Issues for Trustees: Sharing Solutions		ALABAMA
Let's Get Graphic!		BROADWAY 1
Supporting Gender Expansive Youth in the Library		BROADWAY 2
"Tip" Social Media in favor of Early Literacy		BROADWAY 3
Disco Fever: Transforming Your Library into a Community Celebration Space		BROADWAY 4
Beyond Beginning Readers: New Tools to Support Early Reading		HIGH ROCK
A Fistful of Discs: Libraries, Physical Media's Last Hope		SARATOGA 3
Children's Outreach from Shoestring to Fully–Funded Budgets		TRAVERS
Directors Handbook Book Club		WHITNEY
Principles to Practice: Applying Library Values in Everyday Work		PHILA
Malcolm Hill Lecture – Powered by Energy: Elevate Curiosity, Courage, and Connection		CITY CENTER 1M
The Balanced Librarian: Navigating Diverse Perspectives in the Modern Library		CITY CENTER M2A
Key Performance Indicators For Library Success		CITY CENTER M2B



Libraries Because 2026

SCHEDULE

Saturday 11.7.26

TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
7:30 AM – 1:00 PM	REGISTRATION	HILTON LOBBY
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM BREAKFAST	SARATOGA 2–3



9:30 AM – 10:45 AM — MORNING PROGRAMS

Empowering Older Adults through Intergenerational Learning	ALABAMA
Fundraising Without Book Sales	BROADWAY 1
Rediscovering Google Earth: Because Even Old Technology Inspires New Discovery	BROADWAY 2
Integrating AI Literacy into K12 Library Instruction	BROADWAY 3
Libraries Because Civil Discourse Matters	BROADWAY 4
School Librarians as Catalysts for Sustainable Change	SARATOGA 2
A Small Library's Fight for an Accurate Vote Count	SARATOGA 3
(Don't) Do All the Things: Delegation at the Library	TRAVERS
Using Little Green Button to Improve Public Computer Reference Services	WHITNEY
Student Newspapers and Championing Community Archives	PHILA

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM — LAST CHANCE!

The New 3 R's in Libraries: Resilience, Regulation, and Relationships	ALABAMA
People Need Systems: Library Toolkits for Unhoused and Low-Income Patrons	BROADWAY 1
Course Reserves & Inclusive Access: An Unexpected Journey	BROADWAY 2
Tell Your Story: Recording Family Legacies	BROADWAY 3
Revitalizing Your Friends Group: Finding What Works!	BROADWAY 4
Fandom Networking at Your Library	SARATOGA 2
5+3=Gr8!: Engaging Five Senses for Enriching Third Spaces	SARATOGA 1
Making Digital Equity More Equitable	TRAVERS
Libraries Because Stories Build Literacy and Empathy	WHITNEY
People Need Systems: Library Toolkits for Unhoused and Low-Income Patrons	PHILA

THE END.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Denise Kiernan

Denise Kiernan is a writer, journalist, and producer renowned for her New York Times-bestselling narrative nonfiction novels, *The Last Castle* and *The Girls of Atomic City*. For more than two decades, Kiernan's work has been featured in The Washington Post, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Rolling Stone, Village Voice, and more. In 2023, W*e Gather Together: Stories of Thanksgiving from Then to Now* (Young Readers Edition) was the latest addition to Kiernan's *We Gather Together* series, joining her adult nonfiction book, *We Gather Together*, and the companion title, the children's picture book *Giving Thanks*. Kiernan's next work, *Obstinate Daughters*, publishing in 2026, is a sweeping chronicle challenging the traditional mythology of the nation's beginnings and championing the unsung women behind the American Revolution. With a knack for making history come to life in front of audiences, Kiernan shares empowering and moving stories of everyday people overcoming hardships and obstacles in her humorous and educational talks.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Meal'N'Deal

You don't want to leave the conference center to grab lunch? Have we got a deal for you! Join vendors and conference attendees for a special networking lunch where you buy your ticket and NYLA provides the fun. Get to know one another, eat a nice meal, and mix and mingle. C'mon down...no whammies here!

PLS Author! Author!

Elle Cosimano is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author, an International Thriller Award winner, a Bram Stoker Award finalist, and an Edgar® Award nominee. Her acclaimed young adult novels include *Nearly Gone*, *Holding Smoke*, *The Suffering Tree*, and *Seasons of the Storm*. Elle's debut novel for adults, *Finlay Donovan Is Killing It*, kicked off a witty, fast-paced contemporary mystery series, which was a PEOPLE Magazine Pick and was named one of New York Public Library's Best Books of 2021. In addition to writing novels for teens and adults, her essays have appeared in The Huffington Post and Time. Elle lives with her husband and two sons in Virginia.

YSS Luncheon

Nick Bruel is the award-winning author and illustrator of the bestselling *Bad Kitty* series. Known for his distinctive illustrations, sharp humor, and wonderfully mischievous characters, Nick has created a beloved series that has entertained generations of young readers. Nick's presentation, "Three Stories and an Anecdote," promises a personal and entertaining look behind the books. The three true stories offer a glimpse into Nick's experiences as an author and illustrator, while his anecdote explores something he recently discovered about AI, with a connection to Nick himself and plenty of relevance for today's library community.

All events require a ticket

SPECIAL EVENTS

Awards Reception

Come join us for a night of food and drink while we celebrate your esteemed colleagues in style! The reception includes time to mingle with peers, hors d'oeurvres and the awards ceremony. Attendees should use their event ticket for one comped drink at the bar.

IFRT BREAKFAST

Please join the Intellectual Freedom Roundtable for our annual breakfast featuring author Jarrett Dapier! Jarrett Dapier is an author, librarian, and lifelong drummer. His debut YA graphic novel, *WAKE NOW IN THE FIRE*, illustrated by AJ Dungo and edited by Ginee Seo, is about teens fighting censorship in Chicago and is based on true events. It was first published by Ten Speed Graphic on February 3, 2026 and is available now.

All events require a ticket

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Northshire Bookstore is a family-owned, independent, community bookstore dedicated to the art of bookselling and the highest standard of service. With locations in Manchester Center, Vermont, and Saratoga Springs, New York, Northshire is proud to offer one of the finest and largest collections of new, used and rare books in New England, with over 300,000 items. Additionally, we offer a curated collection of vinyl records, stationery, gifts and home goods, with a focus on featuring the work of local artisans.

HOURS

Nov. 5th	**9am – 4pm**
Nov. 6th	**10am – 4pm**
Nov. 7th	**7:30am – 9:30am**

2026 NYLA CONFERENCE
Programming Catalog

"Is this Real Life? Is this Fantasy?"

Speaker(s): Amy Smith, Kelley Lobas

The lessons learned and insights gained through three years of bookmobile ownership by a rural public library. Focusing on how to bring library programs, services, and collections "where the people are." Get some inside information on the costs and benefits of that "Bookmobile Life" to help you decide if one could be right for you and your library.

Anyplace Access: Delivering Legal Information Remotely

Speaker(s): Ella Pieterse, Pat Malone, Ellen Frank Bayer

Access to justice depends on access to reliable information. Public libraries across New York regularly assist patrons facing legal problems. By understanding the courts' remote tools, public library staff can more effectively connect patrons to accurate, accessible legal information.

Collection Development in Correctional Facility Libraries

Speaker(s): John H. Faria, Rebecca Luhman, Cara Bradberry, Gregory Harris

Learn about the similarities and differences in collection development between libraries inside the bars and those outside the bars. Incarcerated Individuals still have interest in reading different genres, periodicals, and newspapers, and the specter of tight budgets will also be considered.

Defending Access: Understanding and Applying the State's Freedom to Read Guidance

Speaker(s): Lauren Moore, Daniel Morton-Bentley

Hosted by NYSED's Chief Counsel and the State Librarian, provides an in-depth exploration of the State Education Department's Freedom to Read guidance.

From Scroll to Story: Helping Caregivers Become Reading Role Models

Speaker(s): Joannie Lauria

Provides librarians with a clear framework for supporting caregivers as reading role models in a digitally complex world. Participants will gain insight into current trends in literacy and schools, including understanding the shifts in reading instruction and basics of the Science of Reading.

Inspiring Creativity @ Your Library: Launch a Successful Literary Magazine

Speaker(s): Christine Latham, Sara Neil

We will take you through the process of conceptualizing, creating, and ultimately publishing a magazine at your library. Participants will come away with practical ways to market, assemble, and print a literary magazine, as well as reinforcing the concept of libraries as creative centers for all of our patrons.

Libraries Because Communities Depend on Us: Disaster Planning for Libraries

Speaker: Paulette Roes

A practical, scalable approach to disaster planning designed specifically for smaller libraries. Participants will learn how to identify their most likely risks, implement low-cost preparedness strategies, and develop a clear, actionable disaster plan that staff can confidently follow in an emergency.

Libraries Because Social Engagement Counts

Speaker(s): Allison Midgley, Bijan Kimiagar

A data-driven narrative of how libraries bring people together. Drawing on findings from Westchester Library System's 2024 Member Libraries Annual Statistics Report and a framework for collecting library impact stories, attendees will explore which socially connective services are captured in the DLD annual statistics survey - and which are not.

Libraries Because: Learning Starts With a Question

Speaker(s): Freya Gibbon, Sarah Colwill

Participants will experience problem-solving and interactive activities relevant to creating citations, identifying primary sources, searching strategically, and more. Particularly relevant to academic and school librarians, this session is hosted by a library liaison to First Year Seminar and an Education Librarian who has worked in school libraries.

Library Finance: Strengthening Business Controls, Driving Efficiency, and Leveraging Automation

Speaker(s): Andrew Koblick

A comprehensive overview of financial management practices tailored specifically for library environments. Designed for library administrators, trustees, and finance staff, the session explores how to implement strong business controls, improve operational efficiency, and adopt automation tools to modernize financial processes.

Ready or Not: Building Your Library's Emergency Plan

Speaker(s): Kate Jacus

New York State's updated library minimum standards require all libraries to adopt a board-approved disaster plan by 2027. The session uses the free Council of State Archivists (CoSA) Pocket Response Plan™ as a concrete starting point, a tool attendees can begin filling out immediately and that naturally draws in information from across their organization.

Steps to Longevity: A Proactive Book Club Supporting Brain Health

Speaker(s): Calli Powell, Sharon Berg, Ruth Fish

Learn to launch proactive book clubs that foster connection, promote wellness, and support individuals at risk for dementia and Alzheimer's. Participants learn the core components of the Steps to Longevity model, including its "Trifecta of Brain Health"—social engagement, cognitive stimulation, and physical activity.

Sustainable Decision-Making: Prioritize, Decide, and Thrive at Work

Speaker(s): Arielle Hessler

This practical session discusses common obstacles to our focus and decision-making abilities, especially when dealing with burnout or decision fatigue. Learn practical tools and strategies to better manage your workload, set priorities, distinguish urgency from importance, reserve mental energy, and make decisions with confidence.

The Hallucinated Collection: Spotting AI Slop and Why It Matters

Speaker(s): Lisa Zuena, Nicole Scherer, Grace Palmisano

With the proliferation of AI over the last few years, it has become easier than ever to generate, publish, and buy unvetted content. Join us for a conversation about this shifting, complex, and often frustrating landscape, complete with tips and tricks on spotting AI-generated materials.

Services and Support from the NYS Talking Book and Braille Library

Speaker(s): Laurenne Teachout

Get an inside look at the services offered by the NYS Talking Book and Braille Library - a vital resource serving readers of all ages across New York State who rely on accessible reading materials. This diverse collection includes bestsellers, award winners, and books and magazines for all ages in over 50 languages.

Become an Angry Duck : Advocacy in small towns

Speaker(s): LJ Martin

In this session, we will look behind the curtain at advocacy, explore unique opportunities for rural library communities, and boost your confidence as an advocate for your community. We will also look at how advocacy may look in small communities, how to work efforts onto an already overflowing plate, and everything on a limited (nonexistent) budget.

Book Bike Your Way to Better Community Connection

Speaker(s): Amanda Madigan, Sarah Ngo, Laura Richardson

A practical guide to developing a successful book bike program. Learn how to assess community needs, select and outfit a bike, plan service models, and navigate logistics. Participants will leave with actionable steps, real-world insights, and adaptable tools to implement or enhance a book bike program in their own library.

Don't Make Your Tour a Bore!

Speaker(s): Michele Cayea, Brian Vann, Amber Mercado

Craft Engaging Local History Tours and develop a "tourism team" in your library. Learn the importance of suitable locations and partners for your tourism, and how pairing tours with refreshments at the conclusion is another way to highlight other local establishments and garner more interest.

The Counterculture of Commitment

Speaker(s): Pete Davis

Sponsored by Empire State Library Network: Pete Davis is a writer and civic advocate who drives projects aimed at deepening American democracy and solidarity. Davis argues that purposeful commitment builds the social and civic connections key to a functioning democracy; an assertion that corresponds directly to the long-haul culture-building work of libraries.

Good Governance

Speaker(s): Rob Caluori

Learn the essential elements of Robert's Rules of Order and their application in library governance to drive more effective and efficient board meeting. We will cover terminology, various types of motions to facilitate the meeting's business, how the rules provide for open and equal discussion, role and responsibilities of the presiding officer, and examples, followed by an open discussion of practical applications.

Libraries Are For Everyone!

Speaker(s): Arielle Hessler, Mary McNulty

Inclusive Programs for Adults with Disabilities. This session equips library staff with practical guidance for hosting engaging, accessible programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers. Participants will explore inclusive program ideas and create an environment that fosters dignity, independence, and meaningful participation.

Inclusive Supervision That Sustains Access, Belonging, & Opportunity

Speaker(s): Mary Carmen Nyce

Learn how to strengthen staff development through holistic growth goals and strengths-based coaching. We'll discuss reframing performance challenges using curiosity-based, root-cause supervision and how to implement practical structures that build psychological safety and trust.

Training Needs Around Serving Patrons Experiencing Homelessness

Speaker(s): Dr. Vikki C. Terrile, Sarah E. Goldin, Matt D'Esposito

In a graduate library and information studies course, "Homelessness and Public Libraries," we asked public library workers in NYS what their needs are around training and support in this area. We will share the results of this study, provide opportunities for participants to offer feedback, and discuss recommendations for a continuing education series on serving patrons experiencing housing disruptions.

LibraryReads Presents: Featuring Horror at Your Library

Speaker(s): Kate Federiconi, Trevor Oakley, Konrad Stump

Participants will examine horror through biological, cultural, and economic lenses, and this knowledge will be applied to readers' advisory and successful library programming that are engaging to both horror and non-horror readers.

The PHI: Preserving Community Stories

Speaker(s): Amy Peker, Sarah McFadden

The Personal History Initiative (PHI) at The New York State Library collects and preserves the everyday stories of New Yorkers. We invite people to share personal experiences using photographs, documents, and videos because history is made up of lived experiences. The PHI makes sure those stories are preserved so future generations can connect with New Yorkers' experiences.

The Worst has Happened - Now What?

Speaker(s): Laura Wolven, Richard Morbeth

In 2020, just before the pandemic, Finkelstein Library experienced one of the worst tragedies that could happen - a security aide was murdered by a patron. In the immediate aftermath, we learned a lot about security and trauma in libraries. This session will cover what happened, the aftermath, and what we learned.

Tools for Library Metadata Management

Speaker(s): Julia Corrice

Explore different tools that can be used to edit and transform library metadata to better meet your needs, whether it's to prepare a report for a project or to find and fix problems in your existing metadata. Including a tool overview: OpenRefine, Python, MarcEdit, and generative AI.

2026 NYLA CONFERENCE Programming Catalog

Weeding with a Plan

Speaker(s): Grace Palmisano

Developing Weeding Standards. One System's journey to create a standardized, but purely voluntary, weeding manual designed to help their libraries tackle the challenges of weeding, consider the purpose of libraries as seen through their collections, and legitimize the weeding process.

Advocacy Through Stories

Speaker(s): Jery Huntley

Talk So They Will Listen and Act. Learn how to be your own best advocate through storytelling. OurStoryBridge Listens: Present in the Moment, a non-partisan Partner Project by OurStoryBridge documents, through online short-form oral histories, the current circumstances in the United States that are deeply impacting Americans and others around the world. Make your case more effectively, using stories from others fighting for our libraries as your models.

Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers, Oh My!

Speaker(s): Laura Giunta-O'Donoghue, Barbara Grace

Early Literacy Programming 101. Strategies on creating successful storytimes as well as offering additional early literacy programs for children ages 0-5 that incorporate STEAM activities, music and movement, and reading.

The Board's Role in AI Governance, Risk, and Public Trust

Speaker(s): Randi N. Gray

Designed specifically for board members, directors, and senior library leaders who need to understand their oversight role in AI adoption - without requiring technical expertise. Participants will learn what questions boards should be asking now, where risks are most likely to emerge, and how to implement a practical governance approach that supports innovation while protecting institutional trust.

Diversity Across Genres: Analyzing Your Juvenile Fiction Collection

Speaker(s): Kate Lambert

There are many established methodologies for conducting collection audits, most are highly labor-intensive. The analysis method was developed to be manageable for a single staff member, easily repeatable at any library, and to effectively provide an overview of diversity within the collection.

FLS Showcase: Spotlight on Friends!

Speaker: Lisa C. Wemett, Aaron Lauber, Diane Wilkinson, Bryana Wachowicz

Three short presentations focusing on volunteer support and projects at various libraries, followed by a question and answer session.

Future-Ready Children & Teens

Speaker(s): Nick Tanzi

How Libraries Can Prepare Our Patrons for the Age of AI? Children and teens are often eager adopters of new technology, but access doesn't always mean understanding. How can library professionals empower our patrons to understand and safely navigate this consequential technology?

How Cooperative Fundraising Saved a Library

Speaker(s): Barbara Auerbach, Corinne Tatavitto

Learn how Friends' Group can work collaboratively with Library Administration to brainstorm new ways of fundraising for public libraries.

Leading When the Work Is Heavy

Speaker(s): Elizabeth Portillo

Supporting Staff Through Crisis. What does leadership looks like before, during, and after trauma in a public library. Informed by participation in the Urban Libraries Unite's National Forum on Libraries in Trauma. The session will include time for reflection and discussion, acknowledging that while the specifics of trauma differ, the leadership challenges are widely shared.

Let's Chat: Starting Library Podcasts that engage and educate listeners

Speaker(s): Michael Maggin, Alexander Cranshaw, Sara Fade, Susan Schuler

Whether you are curious about starting a podcast, looking to refine an existing one, or exploring new ways to amplify your library's mission, this session will provide inspiration, guidance, and actionable next steps.

Level Up Social Skills with Board Games and RPGs

Speaker(s): Arielle Hessler

Discover how board games and tabletop role playing games (TTRPGs) help patrons, especially neurodiverse adults and teens, develop social skills, build confidence, and create meaningful community connections. This session shares research, practical tips, and real world examples for libraries to create fun, inclusive, and accessible collaborative gaming programs.

Meeting Real-World Needs: Hot Topics, Test Prep, Legal Forms with Novelny

Speaker(s): Tammi Burke, Amy Heebner

Discover how NOVELny resources from Gale can help libraries meet the real-world needs of students and patrons. Leave ready to connect your community with NOVELny resources that support research, academic success, career goals, and everyday life

One Island, One Book: The Story of Long Island Reads

Speaker(s): Mara Zonderman, Deborah Kinirons and Emily Van Allen

Presenters will discuss the book selection and event planning processes, past selections/authors, and the history of "One Book, One Community" programs. We will highlight our Reader's and Programming Guides as tools to help individual libraries become part of the LI Reads community and answer questions from participants on all aspects of LI Reads.

Two-Way Street: Building Community Partnerships That Actually Deliver

Speaker(s): Andrea Malchiodi, Danielle Minard, Sylvia Maurer, Alexandra Mercado

Discover how partnerships with the right organizations can help libraries and communities thrive in uncertain times. Learn how to choose opportunities, measure impact, and recognize when a collaboration isn't working.

What Librarians Wish Leaders Knew

Speaker(s): Beth Kiernan Ferrigno

Building Organizational Capacity for Collaboration. In this session, you will learn what New York State school librarians say leaders need to understand about building genuine collaborative capacity.

Turning Adventuring Adolescents into Adept Adults

Speaker(s): Beth Wrisley

DnD can be a low-cost, recurring program at your library that introduces young people to the concepts of creative problem solving, diverse community building, peer mediation, inclusion, all while having fun in a fantastical world. You'll leave being able to run a program that emphasizes collaborative story telling and practices real world skills without real world pressure.

Beyond Books: Linking Job Seekers to Opportunity in the Library

Speaker(s): Jacob Rachwal

Whether individuals are searching for a new job, transitioning careers, or looking to enhance their skills, libraries offer essential services to meet their needs. Attendees will hear inspiring success stories, receive expert program guidance, and explore innovative ways to expand career resource offerings within their community.

Combating Burnout with Collaboration

Speaker(s): Laura Giunta-O'Donoghue, Barbara Grace

Embracing the concept of departments working together can help public libraries expand programming and services to the community, allow staff to work on new and different programs and projects rather than being pigeonholed to only the programs and projects within their department.

Intro to AI: The Good, the Bad, and the Weird

Speaker(s): Steve Alcalde, Anthony Giansante, Bob Johnson

A beginner-friendly session with a clear, approachable introduction to what AI is, how it works, and where it appears in everyday tools and services. Explore practical ways AI can support library work, including reference assistance, programming ideas, marketing content, workflow efficiency, and digital literacy instruction.

Leadership: It's not about you

Speaker(s): Tessa Killian, Becky Albitz

Explore how people-centered leadership can foster a supportive, respectful workplace and how this strengthens the library's mission.

Neurodiversity 101 For Professionals

Speaker(s): Jeremy K. Farrell

Develop tools for the understanding of, and interactions with, neurodivergent individuals. We will cover language and terminology, accessibility efforts, and strategies for specific situations.

Plot Twist: The Library Comes to You

Speaker(s): Kameron Morton, Paul Galfano, Carlos Mercado, Patricia Lopez

Explore what bookmobile service looks like in a dense, urban setting, from sidewalk success and lobby stop victories to weather woes and the challenge of cramped spaces. We'll cover our best tips and tricks for building partnerships, mapping your communities, and using bookmobiles as a key part of your outreach strategy.

Selling Nonfiction: Engaging Young People With Factual Reading

Speaker(s): Arianna Grassia

We will talk about ways to promote nonfiction books with young students and patrons; and ways to encourage nonfiction texts to be included in classroom curriculums and book clubs. Discussion of the importance of reader's advisory conversations when promoting nonfiction will round out the presentation.

Stop Guessing: What We Learned Watching Patrons Use Library Spaces

Speaker(s): David Vinjamuri, Eugenia Schatoff

What happened when we stopped guessing and started watching? We will show real examples from UX testing conducted in a busy, diverse urban library, highlighting where patrons struggled, hesitated, or succeeded—and what those moments revealed about how the space was (and wasn't) working.

Building and Sustaining Community Partnerships in Public Libraries

Speaker(s): Suzie Renzi-Falge

This session will focus on three essential components of partnership development. Participants will leave the session with practical tools, strategies, and ideas they can immediately apply in their own libraries to develop partnerships that strengthen both their institutions and the communities they serve.

The Community as Curriculum

Speaker(s): Brianna Brunson

Grounded in Queens Public Library's "Justice by Design: Architectural Design Lab for Teens", a grant-funded program that engaged high school students in an immersive community design project, this presentation introduces a model of place-based Design Justice programming that validates teens' lived experiences as expert knowledge.

2026 NYLA CONFERENCE Programming Catalog

Libraries as Cultural Connectors

Speaker(s): Maya Nicole

Explore the ways Black and Brown artists navigate bias in institutional spaces, and how libraries can counteract those barriers by providing platforms for exhibition, archiving, and education. We'll identify how library systems can champion local creatives through equitable programming, storytelling, and preservation initiatives that transform libraries into cultural sanctuaries for the communities they serve.

The Work of Art: Exhibiting WPA Prints from Library Archives

Speaker(s): Sarah Healy, Isa Dorvillier

We will discuss the history of WPA art as it relates to public libraries, highlight the way libraries can play a role in supporting working artists, and share the process of getting the show off the ground with budget, materials and troubleshooting guidelines.

Two Librarians in a Trench Coat

Speaker(s): Kayleigh Hartnett, Laurie Dreyer

Through stories, reflection, and practical insights, this session explores what it really means to manage in the middle and how library leaders can define their roles, break down silos, and support both staff and themselves.

Building Your Library's RPG Collection

Speaker(s): Rosemary Kiladitis, Andrew Sparling, Jessica DiSibio

Tabletop role-playing games (TTRPGs) have flourished in library spaces, largely thanks to our role as community spaces. Our panelists share games we know and love while highlighting additional game systems that are budget-friendly, easy to learn, and will help you build or enhance your TTRPG collections.

Creating a Torah Literature Collection at your Public Library

Speaker(s): Sarah Clarke, Ashley Gonzalez, Daniel Giovanniello

This presentation will cover the background of the project, as well as the staff and community response, collection development pros and cons, financial aspects and statistics associated with circulation!

How to Develop a Trauma-Informed Adult Department

Speaker(s): Lissetty Thomas-Johnson, Leah Topek-Walker

This workshop will examine why the steps were taken to create the Adult/CARE department, how it is structured to optimally achieve its goals, and the unique services it provides to the library and the community.

Customer Service in Public Libraries: Help Me Help You

Speaker(s): Nicole Marconi, Margaret Andracchi, Michelle Beutel, Allison Robbins

We'll provide you with important tools and skills you can use to implement great customer service in your libraries. In our presentation, we will lay out the details of our toolkit and show you how good customer service starts with consistent training.

How Library Work Prepared us to Become Municipal Leaders

Speaker(s): Carolyn Bennett Glauda, Amy Smith, Jona Favreau

A panel of 3 library professionals put their library skills to work as members of municipal councils and boards. From a large urban community to a small village, the panelists discuss the alignment between their library advocacy values and their service in municipal office.

Learning Through Reflection: Turning Library Plans Into Measurable Community Change

Speaker(s): Amanda Primiano

Reflection can be a powerful tool for growth. Attendees will leave with practical insights on evaluating their own planning processes, adjusting strategies, and building more responsive, realistic plans that better serve their communities.

Library as Third Place for Youth

Speaker(s): Laura Giunta-O'Donoghue, Barbara Grace

For young people, the library can be a third place, or a social environment outside of home and school. Learn to redefine the library beyond books for children and teens.

LibraryReads Presents: Readers' Advisory as Community Infrastructure

Speaker(s): Konrad Stump, Kate Federiconi, Trevor Oakley

This session explores how embedding RA services into programming like panel presentations, interactive experiences, and author events can create measurable community impact.

Once Upon a Time: Creating a Magical Children's Library

Speaker(s): Donna Foote, Tina Winstead, Alex Benjamin, David Kenny

Have you ever imagined creating a unique space that encourages children to read, play, sing, dance, dream, imagine, and believe anything is possible? We did. And now we would like to share our vision and guide you on a path to create a magical space for your community.

Summer reading: Why should children have all the fun?

Speaker(s): Leslie Boedicker

Learn how to create and manage a successful Adult Summer Reading Program at your library.

Technology Burnout: When Everyone Becomes the Tech Librarian

Speaker(s): Steve Alcalde, Anthony Giansante, Dave Jones

This session explores the growing challenge of technology burnout in libraries. Attendees will examine how constant system updates, expanding patron expectations, and rapid technological change can create strain for staff throughout the organization.

Wild Card with the Friends of the Library

Speaker(s): Lisa C. Wemett, Wilma Jozwiak, Lori Farrell

Leaders from a variety of library support groups will share personal insights from their leadership experience and impromptu reactions to questions that all key volunteers in Friends organizations wrestle with as they provide needed support to their libraries.

"Tip" Social Media in favor of Early Literacy

Speaker(s): Michelle Muller

Through videos, library youth services staff will introduce the concept of building neural network by simple everyday activities. This session will include some in session brainstorming, a demonstration of how neural networks are created, and video development advice.

A Fistful of Discs: Libraries, Physical Medias' Last Hope

Speaker(s): Jesse Lemke

Join to explore why physical media still matters, how libraries can lead the way, and creative programing ideas that spotlight your collection, increase engagement and drive circulation.

Beyond Beginning Readers: New Tools to Support Early Reading

Speaker(s): Valerie Watson

A number of libraries now have special programs dedicated to reading to therapy dogs. Children who are looking to become stronger readers spend time reading and cuddling with these furry friends, and it merges reading with fun. One librarian wondered - what if you could check out one of those dogs and bring that experience home?

Children's Outreach from Shoestring to Fully-Funded Budgets

Speaker(s): Sarah D'Amico, Michelle Samuel

Discover how to deepen your connection with your local community through outreach ideas that range from low/no cost programs to larger, grant-funded initiatives.

Directors Handbook Book Club

Speaker(s): Ron Kirsop, Brian Hildreth, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Join the Directors Handbook Book Club team for a live, "Directors Only" version of the Book Club. This session is structured primarily as open Q&A, giving directors the floor to ask all the gnarly questions about working with and managing your board that you were afraid to ask during the statewide online Book Club sessions.

Disco Fever: Transforming Your Library into a Community Celebration Space

Speaker(s): Amanda Primiano, Michael Maggin, Sara Mallory

How our library maximized resources, united staff around a shared vision, and created one of our most successful community events to date. Leave inspired and equipped with practical strategies to plan large-scale events that highlight the unique role libraries play as joyful, inclusive community hubs.

Key Performance Indicators For Library Success

Speaker(s): Matthew Bollerman

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are measurements used to gauge performance. They can help your library know if you are achieving your strategic, financial or other goals. Find out how you can use these measures to better use the limited resources you have.

Let's Get Graphic!

Speaker(s): Rosemary Kiladitis, Barron Angell, Melissa Tidd

Panelists work with children, teens, adults, and English language learners, and use graphic novels to serve their patrons and are ready to share tips and tricks for building, evaluating, and expanding your collections.

Malcolm Hill Lecture Powered by Energy: Elevate Curiosity, Courage, and Connection

Speaker(s): Kristen Brown

Hall of Fame speaker Kristen Brown introduces her 7 Energies framework of Vision, Strategy, Communication, Relationships, Confidence, Creativity, and Motivation as a simple leadership operating system for staying grounded and clear when everything around you feels in motion.

Pressing Issues for Trustees: Sharing Solutions

Speaker(s): Jean Currie, Meghan Huppuch

An opportunity for trustees to talk with each other and share problems and solutions. Participants will rotate around three topic tables and engage in lightly moderated small group conversations with all groups finally coming together to share their discussions.

Principles to Practice: Applying library values in everyday work

Speaker(s): Meghan Harney

Library values have something to say about every area of library service, but it takes effort and resources to take those values from the big picture to actual practice. We will offer perspective, practical applications, and a collection of resources for library staff and trustees.

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Supporting Gender Expansive Youth in the Library

Speaker(s): Jo Macellaro

Presented by a transgender, non-binary school librarian, this conference session will help participants gain an understanding of issues facing gender expansive youth and best practices for supporting and welcoming them into their libraries.

The Balanced Librarian: Navigating Diverse Perspectives in the Modern Library

Speaker(s): Jacob Rachwal

For librarians with a moderate political perspective, working in a public library today can feel like walking a tightrope. We will discuss ways how to provide constructive feedback to staff regarding viewpoint diversity and ways to preserve and restore the library's role as a true marketplace of ideas for everyone in the community.

(Don't) Do All the Things: Delegation at the Library

Speaker(s): Kristi Chadwick

Delegation can create better workflows, balanced responsibilities, and create accountability and buy-in, no matter your position in the library. The purpose of this program is to help build personal and team management skills by understanding delegation and its effective implementation in the library.

Empowering Older Adults through Intergenerational Learning

Speaker: Alexis Lawrence

The Intergenerational Digital Literacy Program addresses the growing need for technology support among older adults, including those who are homebound or have limited access to transportation. Participants will leave with actionable ideas, planning tools, and inspiration to create sustainable programs that strengthen community connections and empower older adults with technology skills.

A Small Library's Fight for an Accurate Vote Count

Speaker(s): Kim Roppolo

This presentation is about a very small library fighting to make sure all votes were counted accurately during the November 2025 elections. The outcome of this fight affected not only the Library but 2 other initiatives on the ballot and shows how even small libraries can have a big impact on the community.

Fundraising Without Book Sales

Speaker(s): Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Julie Ruhren, Mary Service, Julie Ann Price

Our panelists will share their successes with fundraising projects that don't require lifting heavy boxes. Let's take a fresh look at raising funds for the library.

Integrating AI Literacy into K12 Library Instruction

Speaker(s): Angel Y. Ford, Carol Anne Germain

This session provides practical strategies for embedding AI concepts into information literacy across grade levels. Attendees will leave with ready to use activities, discussion prompts, and resources.

Libraries Because Civil Discourse Matters

Speaker(s): Cynthia Hibbert, Meaghan Reilly

In 2025, Liverpool Public Library launched its Civics Initiative, a plan to engage the community in diverse ways around civic issues. Topics have included DEI, Sustainability, Voting, Economic Disparity, and examining the foundational ideals of American democracy.

Rediscovering Google Earth: Because Even Old Technology Inspires New Discovery

Speaker(s): Michael Maggin

Participants will leave with a stronger understanding of the platform's capabilities and practical strategies for integrating it into their own programming. Because in your library, even familiar technology can spark new excitement, discovery, and connection.

Leading the Way: School Librarians as Catalysts for Sustainable Change

Speaker(s): Kelsey LaPort, Meaghan Reilly, Claire Mitchell, Justin Mulvey

Participants will learn how to transition from quiet practitioners to visible advocates who use a sustainable lens to validate student concerns and empower them to enact real-world change. Leave with actionable strategies to position their libraries as the "green heart" of their school.

Student Newspapers and Championing Community Archives

Speaker(s): Sara Vala, Kyle Bredberg

What role do community archives serve in your library, and how can you support student archives? Hear from two journalists on how you can uplift underrepresented voices in your community.

Using Little Green Button to Improve Public Computer Reference Services

Speaker(s): Jason M. Poole, Bradley Day, Bas de Boer

Little Green Button is panic button software that Webster Public Library has adapted as a notification system for assistance requests from patrons at public computers. Patrons press a physical "Big Green Button" that sends a pop-up window to information desk computers to let staff know which specific user needs help.

5+3=Gr8!: Engaging Five Senses for Enriching Third Spaces

Speaker(s): James Richeson

In this hands on experience, attendees will: Take part in three sample programs (to rekindle the joy of social and tactile experience together), then through instructor guidance, compile and assemble their own "program kit."

Course Reserves & Inclusive Access: An Unexpected Journey

Speaker(s): Teddy Scheuerman, Madison Esposito

Learn what an Inclusive Access program is and identify basic challenges for libraries that these programs can introduce. Leave with techniques to foster collaboration between their institution's library & Inclusive Access program.

Fandom Networking at Your Library

Speaker(s): Melissa Tidd

Ever wanted to have a big name do a program at your library? Join us for a fun and informative program on how to recruit and network with high-profile names to make a memorable library program!

Libraries Because Stories Build Literacy and Empathy

Speaker(s): Jermiko Thomas

Libraries play an important role in helping children build literacy, confidence, and empathy through storytelling. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas for using storytelling, literacy programming, and interactive discussion to foster stronger reading engagement in their communities.

Making Digital Equity More Equitable

Speaker(s): Lyndsie Guy, Claire Lovell

Participants will learn the five elements of a robust digital equity program, hear about existing digital equity programs across New York State, and identify how their library may be doing some of this work already!

People Need Systems: Library Toolkits for Unhoused and Low-Income Patrons

Speaker(s): Alexis Lawrence, Michelle Rivas, Alexandra Allie Rappleyea, Emily McCabe

Participants will learn how to assess service gaps, build sustainable partnerships, streamline referrals, and engage individuals affected by poverty or housing instability-all while protecting staff capacity and strengthening the library's mission of access, dignity, and opportunity.

Revitalizing Your Friends Group: Finding What Works!

Speaker(s): Joe Harbeson, Z Baird

Revitalizing a Friends group is hard work and the library needs to find dedicated volunteers to carry out the tasks involved. As difficult as it is to restart a group of volunteers to support the library, the effort is well worth it for your community's library.

Tell Your Story: Recording Family Legacies

Speaker(s): Cathy Kyle

Through a grant, camera supplies were purchased for the library. We wanted to use them for telling family histories. Learn the ups and downs of creating this program and how the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

The New 3 R's in Libraries: Resilience, Regulation, and Relationships

Speaker(s): Dr. Christopher Willard

This workshop introduces The New 3 R's: Resilience, Regulation, and Relationships as foundational to effective student learning in the 21st century. Attendees will learn practical, time-efficient strategies to help students regulate emotions, build resilience, and foster meaningful connections, enhancing not only academic success but the social and emotional skills students need for life.





THE END.

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CE INFORMATION

How do I submit a request for Proof of Attendance?

Proof of Attendance can be downloaded from the conference app.

How do I submit a request for CE credit?

- Submit a program evaluation for each program you wish to receive credit for within the conference app.
- Submit a CE Request Form. A certificate will be emailed to the email address provided and the hours will be saved in your member profile.

Attendees will have approx. 30 business days (Friday, December 11th) following the conference to submit all of their program evaluation forms and CE Request Form. Any requests submitted after the deadline will incur a $10 administrative fee.

save the dates

Developing Leaders Program	Jan. 27, 2027
NYLA Pre-Advocacy Day	Feb. 2, 2027
NYLA Advocacy Day	Feb. 3, 2027
YSS Spring Conference	April 9, 2027
SSL Annual Conference	April 29 - May 1, 2027
Spring on the Hill	May 20, 2027
Library Skills Academy	Early Fall 2027

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Emporia State University (ESU)'s School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) has a long history of preparing students for work in library and information science fields since 1902. SLIM is the oldest library school west of the Mississippi. The Master of Library Science (MLS) program has continued ALA Accreditation. It is a 36-credit-hour graduate degree program that prepares students for professional work in public, academic, school, and special libraries, archives and special collections as well as in corporate, private, and government information services. The curriculum is comprised of theory and practical application courses about how information is created, recorded, acquired, organized, disseminated, diffused, utilized, preserved, and destroyed. You will develop an understanding of the role of social interaction in information-seeking behavior and the importance of a professional philosophy and service ethic. Coursework includes:

Required Courses:

Foundations of Library and Information Science	3 credits
Information-seeking Behavior and Reference Services	3 credits
Organization of Information	3 credits
Management in Information Organizations	3 credits
Research in Library and Information Science	3 credits
Collection Development and Management	3 credits
Capstone Course: Assessing the MLIS Experiences	1 credit
Technology Requirement	3 credits

(Select one: Information Technology; Web Design and Development; Database Design; or an approved technology course)

Plus:

14 credits of electives selected from over 40 elective options including current issues courses in management, technology, and more!

You can also select a concentration within your MLS: Academic Libraries, Archives Studies, Health Information Professionals, Informatics, Instructional Design and Technology, Leadership and Administration, Outreach and Community Engagement, and Youth Services.

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