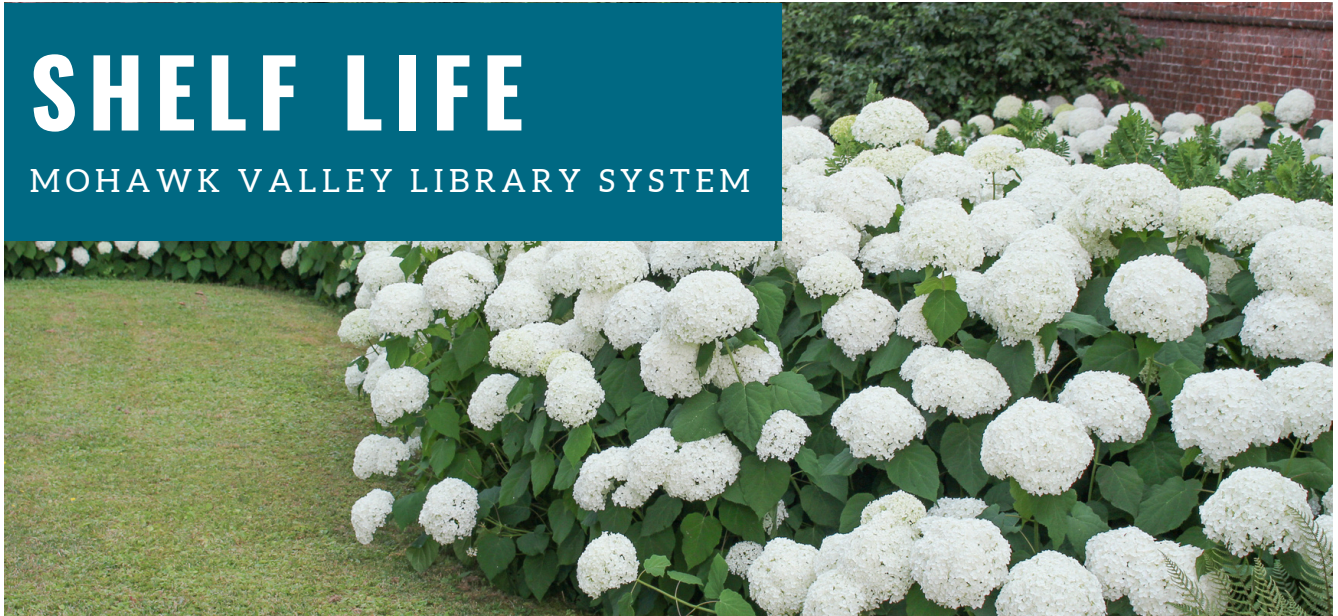


# SHELF LIFE

MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM



## MVLS TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

### *New process developed*

MVLS developed a new process for recruiting and electing MVLS trustees to full terms on the MVLS board. A Governance Structure Review Committee, including representatives from each county, helped develop the new process which begins with identifying and nominating candidates to serve. This also involved the establishment of a Nominating Advisory group with representatives from each county.

Two nominees, Haileab Samuel from Schenectady and April Davies from Cobleskill, both incumbents, will fill five-year terms from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030. *Each member library gets one vote for each of these open seats.* Votes will be cast at a virtual meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 25th at 5:30 pm.

*Continued on page 2*

## UPCOMING GRANTS

Look out for three upcoming grants to be provided by MVLS:

- **NYCON Membership Incentive Grant (funding for the first year)**  
NYCON is the New York Council of Nonprofits which offers a variety of services such as legal, human resources, training, and more. Annual dues, (based on operating budget), will be \$130 or \$160 for most libraries.
- **NYLA Conference Registration** - up to \$500.
- **Dream & Do** - up to \$500 to improve library public services.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

*You Deserve Recognition - Page 2*

*Summer Reading 2025 - Page 3*

*Advocacy Update - Page 5*

*Outreach Mini-Grants- Page 6 & 7*

*Windows 11 Debut - Page 8*

## YOU DESERVE RECOGNITION!



You have worked hard all year long, and here is your chance to recognize staff, volunteers, or your whole library. Start brainstorming and get busy working on your nominations for the following awards:

**Outstanding Library Staff Award**

**Library Recognition Award**

**Harold & Junice Wusterbarth Volunteer Service Award**

Winners will be recognized at the MVLS Annual Meeting on October 8th, awarded a framed certificate, and receive \$500 for the library to spend on materials.

Libraries that win any MVLS annual award should skip a year before re-applying.

*Continued from page 1 - Trustee Elections*

The Nominating Advisory group also put forth a candidate for the vacant trustee seat, which serves until December 31, 2029. Per the MVLS bylaws, partial terms are filled via action by the MVLS board.

The board will be voting to appoint Parish Ogunjana to the open trustee seat at the next MVLS board meeting, after which all MVLS board seats will be filled.



## WHERE DID THE TREES GO?

There are significant changes underway at the property adjacent to the MVLS building. The land next door has been cleared for the construction of a new BJ's Wholesale Club. Hopefully, our friendly neighborhood deer and foxes have found safe places to hide out in the surrounding woods.





# SUMMER READING 2025

## Summer Reading Teams Reading Minutes Tracker

Week ending July 12

WOW!  
Great first  
week!

Keep logging  
your minutes!



2

BUBBLEGUM BANDIT

1,366



1

POPCORN PIRATE

1,523



3

PRINCESS CUPCAKE

527



Camp Curiosity  
Trading cards



Our colorfully creative libraries offered a variety of summer reading challenges and programs for all ages!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**MVLS Award Nominations**  
Due in early September.

**Coding & Robotics Workshop,**  
Tuesday, 9/16, 1-4 pm  
MVLS

**The Science of Reading:  
Perspectives & Possibilities  
for Public Libraries**  
Wednesday, 9/24, 1-4 pm  
Guilderland Public Library

**Power of Play: Understanding  
and Integrating Play into  
Public Library Services**  
Tuesday, 10/7, 2-3 pm, via Zoom

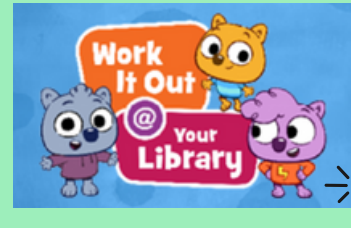
**MVLS Annual Meeting,**  
Wednesday, 10/8, 5:30 pm  
Fort Hunter Free Library

**The Greatest of All Time (GOAT)  
Teen Services Meet-up**  
Wednesday, 10/22, 10 am-3:30 pm  
East Greenbush Community Library



## PROGRAMMING RESOURCES

new



This free **PBS Learning Media** resource was developed with public libraries in mind. Activity plans using simple materials and suggested book lists are included. Host family-centered programs on computational thinking for preschool and early elementary kids!

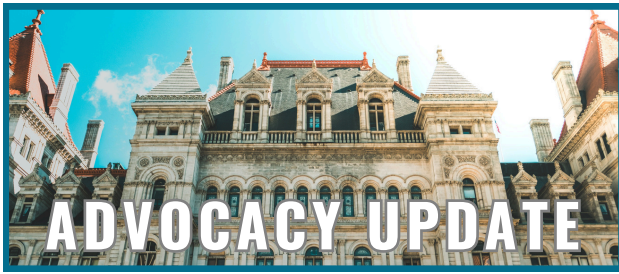


## Introduction to Coding & Robotics Workshop

**September 16, 1-4 pm**

Join us for an overview of the kits and activities MVLS has available to teach computational thinking to support kids with coding and robotics. We will do hands-on activities and talk strategy, with the goal of each library offering an Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week: December 8-14, 2025.





## OFF SEASON ADVOCACY

*More options for local, state, and federal advocacy*

Advocacy initiatives often focus on the State Legislature, especially during legislative sessions which start in January and typically end in June. Usually, the biggest concerns for public libraries and library systems are state funding and library-related legislation.

Opportunities for ongoing advocacy extend beyond the annual Library Advocacy Day visit to the State Capitol and brief meetings at legislative offices.

### Opportunities for Local Advocacy

Local advocacy is very important, especially since most libraries are largely funded at the local level. Attendance at village, town, and county meetings is a great way to stay informed about the community and advocate for the library. Some libraries have established a liaison to provide periodic updates at government or school board meetings. Many libraries also invite officials to attend events, take tours, and participate in library activities such as a special storytime.

### State and Federal Advocacy

Of course, Library Advocacy Day is an important event and an excellent opportunity to meet with state legislators and their staff members. Periodically inviting state and federal leaders to attend or participate in library events is a good practice, as well. There is also value in writing letters or emails to federal and state officials about library-related issues. NYLA and ALA often share information about state and federal advocacy opportunities.

Ultimately, advocacy comes down to making connections and building good working relationships at any level. The results are often very positive.

## STAFF PICKS

*What are you reading?*

Mary: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*  
by Lisa See

Sharon: *Assassins Anonymous*  
by Rob Hart

Beth: *A Murder for Miss Hortense*  
by Mel Pennant

Wade: *Truth, Lies, and O-Rings*  
by Allan J. McDonald



## OUTREACH MINI-GRANTS UPDATE, ONE YEAR LATER

**In Spring 2024, MVLS was pleased to award six of our libraries Outreach Mini-grants!** These grants supported libraries' efforts to reach and serve populations in their communities that New York State has identified as "most in need and often not regular library users."

**The Community Library** used their funds to create a collection of literacy resources for English Language Learners. By sharing rack cards and finding aids with their local school district and Literacy NY, and at outreach events. The Community Library continues to get word out about this new collection and has been adding additional GED and bilingual items for children.

**Frothingham Free Library** ran a technology training program, Future Ready Skills 2025, which focused on addressing the digital literacy gap for their community's seniors. Linda Bell said, "The class attracted participants who were eager to learn and make the most of their technology to stay connected with their adult children. This indicates a strong interest and need for digital literacy skills among this demographic."

**Gloversville Public Library** expanded their collections and services to community members living with memory loss. This included adding fiction and nonfiction titles for all reading levels and ages, as well as purchasing and assembling "interactive kits that circulate" for the Memory Lane Collection. These kits provide "families and friends with structured activities to facilitate quality time with their loved ones," according to Librarian Barb Madonna. "While use of the collection has been less than the Library hoped for, we will continue to promote these resources, as we still believe (them) to be valuable to folks facing this painful and upsetting challenge," said Madonna.

*Aquapaints (reusable paint sets) are just one of the fun activities available in Gloversville's Memory Care Collection.*



**Fort Hunter Free Library** Special Events Coordinator, Letah Graff, worked with Liberty ARC to build a strong relationship, and the library provided increased access to adults with developmental disabilities by hosting a Community Crafting series. A Liberty ARC Administrator said, "For the past several months, we have had the pleasure of participating in Crafting Community Connections. The excitement on the faces of the people I support is a delight to see when I let them know of our upcoming plans to visit the library again!"



*Continued from page 6*



*Crafting Community Connections  
with Liberty ARC  
at Fort Hunter Free Library*

"I asked the participants what it means to them to be able to be a part of the program. 'We get to try new things' was one answer. 'We get to meet new people and be creative' was another."

**Schoharie Free Library** worked with stylist Shataya Scott to host Learn 2 Braid Classes. Program Director, Jennie Mosher said, "Our target population was families who identify as Black, Latinx, and/or mixed race, and foster/adoptive parents or guardians of children in that demographic. The target population is a minority in our service area, which is precisely why we wanted to offer these classes. It's important for Black, Latinx, and mixed race people to know they are seen, and to have something specifically for them. The classes were available to anyone who was interested in learning to braid curly hair. All the participants said they appreciated these classes,



*A young girl practices braiding techniques on a hairstylist mannequin at Schoharie's Learn 2 Braid program.*

enjoyed learning from Ms. Scott, and hoped to have more classes in the future. They said they saw a need for this type of program in the community."

At the **Scotia Branch of the Schenectady County Public Library**, in addition to hosting a Colossal Teen Writing Club that incorporated the role playing game "Colossal," Librarian Diana Hurlburt used grant funds to cover the cost of hosting three published authors: Award-winning young adult author Rebecca Barrow (Bad Things Happen Here, And Don't Look Back); editor, poet, and creator of our narrative game, Kay Marlow Allen; and local teen author Shreya Sharath (The Hidden Realm). Each author shared insights about their work, their creative journeys, and the writing life!

MVLS was delighted to see the impact that our libraries made with small grants to reach new demographics, while partnering with schools, municipalities, and educational/social service providers to increase services.

# WINDOWS 11 DEBUT

*From the Tech Tutor*



Just a reminder, Windows 10 will no longer be supported after October 2025. With this in mind, JA is currently working on updating staff and public PCs to Windows 11. Send an email to [computersupport@sals.edu](mailto:computersupport@sals.edu) to schedule your update.

As you know, when Microsoft updates occur, it takes time to get used to the changes and some customization may be beneficial. Check with your supervisor before making changes, or try these tips at home.

**Turn off the Weather widget, remove Task view (which allows multiple Desktops), and change the look of the Search bar.**

- Right click on the **Start** button (blue Windows logo). Click on **Settings**, click on **Personalization** on the left side. Scroll down and click on **Taskbar**.
- Turn **Task view** and **Widgets** Off.
- Change the look of the **Search bar** using the drop-down arrow to see options.

**Move the Taskbar back to the left:**

- Right click on the **Start** button (blue Windows logo). Click on **Settings**, click on **Personalization** on the left side. Scroll down and click on **Taskbar**. Click on **Taskbar behaviors**.
- Click on the drop-down arrow for **Taskbar alignment**. Change from Center to Left.

**Add icons to the Taskbar:**

- Open an icon, like Word or the Snipping Tool.
- Right click on the icon on the Taskbar. Left click on **Pin to taskbar**. These icons will remain on the taskbar for easy access. Right click on a pinned icon and left click on **Unpin from taskbar** to remove it.

**Remove/Add icons on the Start Menu:**

- Click on the Start button (blue Windows logo). Find the **Pinned** icons.
- Right click on the icon, left click on **Unpin from Start** to remove it.
- To add icons to the Start menu, click on **All** in the top right corner.
- Right click on an icon, left click on **Pin to Start**.

**Change the background on your Desktop:**

- Right click on the Desktop, left click on **Personalize**.
- Click on **Background**. Click on an option provided by Microsoft or click on **Browse photos** to select a picture from your **Pictures** folder.
- Close the window to see the change.

Check out **Accessibility** in **Settings** to change text size, mouse pointer size and color, contrast themes, and more.



# CELEBRATIONS & SHOUT OUTS

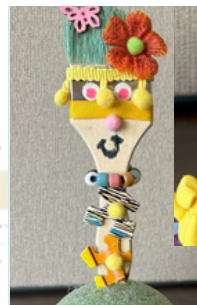
## What a Colorful Summer!



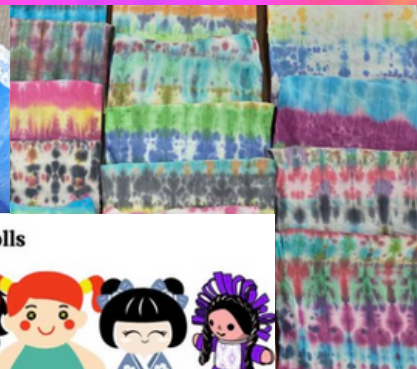
ReadSquared | Reading Programs & Activity Tracker



FREE tie-dye session



Worry Dolls



MESS-TIVAL



## CONTACT US

Email us or call us at 518-355-2010.

- **Eric Trahan:** Executive Director, ext. 223, [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info)
- **Sharon O'Brien:** Assistant Director, Member Services Coordinator, ext. 226, [sobrien@mvls.info](mailto:sobrien@mvls.info)
- **Kate Clingan:** Office Administrator, ext. 221, [kclingan@mvls.info](mailto:kclingan@mvls.info)
- **Beth Rienti:** Public Services Consultant, ext. 225, [brienti@mvls.info](mailto:brienti@mvls.info)
- **Mary Carrier:** Technology & Growth Consultant, ext. 233, [mcarrier@mvls.info](mailto:mcarrier@mvls.info)
- **Wade Abbott:** Community Engagement & Communications Specialist, ext. 230, [wabbott@mvls.info](mailto:wabbott@mvls.info)

Not sure who to contact?  
Check out [MVLS Staff At a Glance](#)

