



**Mohawk Valley Library System
Outstanding Library Staff Award
2025 Nomination Form**

Framed Certificate + \$500 for Library Materials Identified by Bookplate(s)

Please answer the following 3 questions using this form. Make your answers descriptive and concise as you describe the contributions made to foster library services in your community. This written part of the application should be no more than 2 pages total. Please focus on activities that took place over the last 3 years.

You may add up to 2 additional pages of support materials – photos, publicity materials, news stories, etc. The application package may not exceed 4 pages total.

The award is open to any paid employee at an MVLS library. It is awarded to library staff, not library directors.

I nominate **Mary Alexander** affiliated with the **Canajoharie Library** for the MVLS Outstanding Library Staff Award.

Submitted by: **Cory Seymour, Communications Manager, Canajoharie Library & Arkell Museum**

Submit nomination via email to kclingan@mvls.info by Monday, September 8, 2025

1) Please describe this staff member's history at your library.

Mary Alexander has been employed at our organization for the past six years. As Curator of Education and Public Engagement, she is responsible for not only planning events and facilitating programs that bring our small community together, but she also highlights the importance of education by sharing resources with patrons of all ages, both in person, and online.

2) What, specifically, did the nominee do to earn your nomination? Where and when did the activities and services take place?

Rather than giving credit to one specific event, I think it is important to recognize Mary's unwavering support and commitment to not only our Library and MVLS, but to the many members of our community, our friends, and our family. She has earned this nomination because she brings energy, passion, and real personality into everything she does.

To give you a few examples of noteworthy activities and services the Canajoharie Library would not have without Mary Alexander, please see the list below.

- Big Play
- Pre-K Story Time with Mary
- Monthly Take & Make Crafts
- Guided Museum Tours
- In-person performances like Caroga Arts Ensemble and Empire Wild
- Summer Reading programming and prizes
- K-12 School programs covering NYS Learning Standards for the Arts (ADVENTURES IN ART, STORYTELLING THROUGH ART, SENSES AND FINE ART)
- Children, Tween and Teen programs like *Painting with Mary* and *Perler Bead Crafts*
- Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair
- Lego Build Breaks
- Online Let's Talk Art Lectures via Zoom
- Free Artful Zoom Backgrounds
- Cabin Fever Club: Arm Chair Adventures – Get to Know the Winslow Homer Collection
- An active website with a calendar of upcoming events, local history, and free resources for all
- Entertaining and Informative Social Media accounts
- Stuffed Animal Sleepovers

3) How did your library/community benefit from this effort? How was it successful?

Our Library and community have and will continue to benefit from her efforts because she brings art, creativity, and curiosity to life in ways that touch every corner of Canajoharie and beyond. She gives everyone an opportunity to explore, learn, and connect. On more than one occasion, we have had patrons visit and reminisce on the story-times of their youth and how that inspired a lifelong love of reading and in most instances, a lasting career. Mary Alexander is the walking definition of our mission statement by providing these literary, entertainment, and informational resources, and promoting the active use of these resources for recreational, educational, and community-wide engagement.

Supporting Images



Supporting Images



Return via email to Kate Clingan at kclingan@mvlis.info by
Monday, September 8, 2025