

SHELF LIFE

MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM



Schenectady County Public Library

AWARDS SPOTLIGHT

Winners recognized

We had four nominations this year in three categories. Winners were recognized at the MVLS Annual Meeting on October 8th, awarded a framed certificate, and received \$500 for their library to spend on materials.

Harold & Junice Wusterbarth Volunteer Service Award

Congratulations to **Bonnie Myers** from the Frothingham Free Library!

Bonnie Myers' volunteer work for over forty years has focused on providing steady, reliable, and compassionate support at the Frothingham Free Library. She has served behind the circulation desk for decades, repairing books, helping patrons locate materials, teaching new technologies, and supporting staff through transitions in policies, programs, and systems.

Her ability to embrace change such as new technology and evolving community needs has been especially vital, as she continues to guide others. Bonnie's presence has provided continuity and stability, ensuring the library remains welcoming and efficient for our community.

"Bonnie's long service, adaptability, and willingness to share her expertise makes her an irreplaceable part of our library family, and her efforts have directly contributed to the library's ongoing success."



Nomination submitted by
The Frothingham Free Library

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AWARDS SPOTLIGHT

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Library Recognition Award

Congratulations to the **Sharon Springs Free Library!**

For the second summer in a row the Sharon Springs Free Library partnered with the Sharon Youth Commission. Based on the success of the partnership last summer, Director, Meghan Keaney coordinated to provide outreach from the library again.

This summer alone, 432
children participated!



Story Squad addressed community needs by providing access to literacy resources, offering a creative outlet, and encouraging collaboration and connection between kids. This opportunity encourages a love for reading, brings the library into the community, and forms a supportive partnership with the Sharon Youth Commission and Stewart's.

"This cherished summer tradition with so many benefits will continue."

The 6-week Summer Rec Program for children in grades K-6 included the popular Story Squad with Ms. Meg. Once a week, Meghan provided outreach from the library, featuring themed books for read alouds, hands-on crafts, and an ice cream social celebration at the end of the program - ice cream sundae kits donated by their local Stewart's.

Nomination submitted by Meghan Keaney

Outstanding Library Staff Award - Two Winners

Congratulations to **Mary Alexander** from the Canajoharie Library!



For the past six years, Mary has played a very important role in her library as the Curator of Education and Public Engagement. She brings energy, passion, and real personality to everything she does.

Her creativity and programming efforts have introduced Pre-K Story Time, Painting with Mary and craft programs for children, tweens, and teens. Mary has also planned and promoted guided museum tours, K-12 School programs cover NYS Learning Standards for the Arts, Let's Talk Art lectures via Zoom, performances by Caroga Arts Ensemble, Empire Wild, and much more!. These are just a few examples of all of her efforts, including her role as the face of the library for social media.

"Mary is the walking definition of our mission statement."

Nomination submitted by Cory Seymour.

Congratulations also to **Sally Ostrander** from the Gloversville Public Library!



"Sally is an integral part of almost everything we do, every day. She is an unwavering ambassador for the library."

She makes everything she does better: working at the Information Desk, supervising our clerical staff, providing public computer assistance, working in Youth Services, helping train new hires, providing readers advisory and notary public services, conducting all invoicing and ordering, compiling monthly statistics, acting as recording secretary at all Board meetings, helping complete the NYS Annual Report, and, most recently, taking on the task of desk shift scheduling.

All these activities and services take place all the time, everywhere in the library. Sally has a tremendous impact!

Not only is Sally highly valued by our library, she is also sought by patrons. She is our go to for unbiased feedback and ideas. She deserves our recognition!

Nomination submitted by Valerie Venturini.

MVLS Annual Meeting



Our Hosts:
The Fort Hunter
Free Library



How can we secure our library's future?
see page 10 for answers



MVLS Annual Meeting 2025 Winners



Harold & Junice Wusterbarth Volunteer Service Award



Library Recognition Award



Outstanding Library Staff Award - 2 winners





Introducing New Coding & Robotics Kits

Two new kits have been added to myTurn to support and teach coding for elementary school ages. **Meet Botley 2.0**, the screen free (no tablet or app required) programmable robot. This is great for children ages, 5+ to learn basic coding concepts.



Meet Scratch Jr, the free coding app for ages 5-7. Learning concepts include basic block coding, spatial concepts, and sequential logic. This is a very interactive, fun way to allow children to explore coding as they use their creative imagination to make the characters tell a story and come to life.

Look for **Kindle Fire Tablets (for Scratch Jr and mBots)** in myTurn to make a reservation.

PROGRAMMING RESOURCES new

[Available via mvls.myturn.com](https://mvls.myturn.com)

Botley 2.0 coding & robotics kit

Today is Monday storytelling set

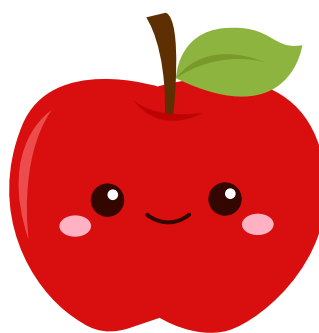
Digital Resources

[Erie Canal Learning Hub](#)



[NYS 250th Anniversary of American Revolution](#)

Apple Day is 10/21!



[Apple Storytime Ideas](#)

Raising Kids in a Digital World

A hands-on workshop at your local library!



www.sesamestreetdigitalworkshop.com



A federal shutdown and plans for state advocacy.

As of publication, the federal government is in the midst of a shutdown. The famous line from *Ghostbusters* comes to mind: "...dogs and cats living together! Mass hysteria!"

In reality, while a government shutdown can have a big impact on many people and organizations, it is not usually a time to panic. On the other hand, it does add more confusion to the future of federal funding for libraries.



MVLS continues to advocate for federal funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and we recently sent letters to our federal legislators requesting that support. On the positive side, it appears that both the Senate and the House of Representatives are generally supportive of funding IMLS.

Another bit of good news is that the New York State Library has already received IMLS funding that will cover all of 2025.

Also on the state level, we expect to hear more information from the New York State Board of Regents about proposals to make funding for the State Library and Museum more sustainable. Additionally, NYLA intends to start the state advocacy season earlier by making advocacy information and materials available at the NYLA Annual Conference. They are also reaching out to the Governor's office with the goal of having a greater impact on the Governor's budget proposal.

Stay tuned!

STAFF PICKS

What are you reading?

Mary: *We Were the Lucky Ones*
by Georgia Hunter

Beth: *The Ladies Road Guide to Utter Ruin*
by Alison Goodman

Wade: *World War II At Sea*
by Craig L. Symonds



Cybersecurity for Kids

Cybersecurity is a topic on everyone's mind in our modern, digitally driven, ever-connected lives. We shouldn't forget it's important for kids to know about cybersecurity, too!



Here are some resources to talk about cybersecurity with children and teens:

KnowBe4's [Kids Interactive Cybersecurity Kit](#)

- covers internet safety, phishing, cyber bullying and more through interactive online games
- provides free posters and a printable coloring/activity book

NetSmartz

- Includes smartphone safety, online safety, cyberbullying, and talking to teens about sexting. Parents guide included

[Cybersmart Challenge](#)

- Adult led activities on cyberbullying, sharing images and protecting personal information

[Kids Safe Online Activity Book](#) via Center for Internet Security

[Free Printable Posters for kids & teens](#) via Center for Internet Security

Dyslexia Awareness

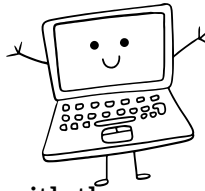
Did you know October is Dyslexia Awareness Month? Dyslexia is thought to impact about 1 in 5 people, roughly 20% of the population. Dyslexia is a neurobiological disorder that makes it hard to accurately spell and decode words. How can libraries help families of children with dyslexia?

1. Offer a wide variety of materials for kids to read and listen to, including audio, digital, hi-lo books, and large print.
2. Offer accessibility tools like speech-to-text software and be aware of learning apps, like these at [University of Michigan's Dyslexia Helps](#) website.
3. Familiarize yourself with the accessibility tools on your library computers and in [Libby](#).
4. Be a dyslexia friendly space by using clear picture based signage, good lighting, and having quiet spaces available.
5. Offer literacy-rich programming like book clubs and early literacy storytimes.
6. Offer low stress book buddies programs where struggling readers can read to an older kid or even a therapy pet!



DIGITAL DECLUTTER

From the Tech Tutor



It is easy to become overwhelmed with the number of email messages that land in our inbox, the piles of files on our computer, and the stream of photos on our phone.

This digital clutter has to stop!

Here are a few handy tips to get you started on your digital declutter journey:

Email

- **Delete it immediately.** If you know you don't need it, trash it right away.
- **Unsubscribe** from distribution lists that email too frequently or no longer interest you. Another option is to **automatically send these to Junk or Spam.**
- Click on the Date column to **find the oldest messages** and delete emails that are no longer needed.

Strategies to Manage Email Messages:

- **Create folders** and organize emails by topic.
- **Flag** important messages and establish a routine to go through these for follow up.
- **Set up rules** to move, flag, or categorize messages based on sender, subject or keywords.
- Use the **Search** feature frequently to find emails by sender or subject. This is a great way to see messages in chronological order.

Files

- Start with the **Downloads folder.** You won't believe how many files end up there! Click on the Date Modified column to see the oldest files at the top.
- Take time to **organize files by folders** and eliminate any unnecessary files you find through this process.
- Move large files or files saved for historical purposes to a **separate USB drive or an external hard drive.**

Photos

- **Start with videos,** these take up the most space. Enjoy them for the moment. If you don't look at them again, it's a good decision to part with them.
- Quickly eliminate photos that are blurry, duplicates, or for a one time purpose.
- Put photos in folders or your computer or albums on your phone so they are easier to find.
- Photos on your phone can be backed up to the cloud. There are many options for free cloud storage including iCloud, Google Photos, and even Amazon Photos, if you have a Prime Account.
- If photos are your passion, invest in an external hard drive. Regularly transfer your photos by connecting your phone (with the cable) to your laptop or computer, then move the images to the external hard drive to keep them safe.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Trustee Training:
Library Finances and Budgets
 Thursday, 10/23, 9:30-10:30 am
 MVLS Office or via Zoom

NYLA Conference
 Saratoga Springs
 Wednesday, 11/5 - Saturday, 11/8

Storytime Bootcamp
 Tuesday, 11/18, 12-4:30 pm
 UHLS Office

Talking Book & Braille Library Overview
 Thursday, 11/20, 2-3 pm
 via Zoom

WELCOME



Mario Andrés Colón has been named
 Executive Director of the Arkell Museum &
 Canajoharie Library

CONTACT US

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

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

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

How Can We Secure Our Library's Future ?

Through Community
 Engagement

Prioritize Fiscal
 Planning, including
 Contingency Plans

Hire and Retain Our
 Amazing Staff

Work with a
 Supportive Board

Work with
 Volunteers & Friends
 of the Library

By Adapting our
 Buildings, Programs,
 and Services