

SHELF LIFE

MOHAWK VALLEY
LIBRARY SYSTEM



MVLS NEEDS YOU!

Every September, MVLS libraries elect trustees to fill expiring terms that begin on January 1, and end five years later on December 31.

In 2026, we have three MVLS board vacancies. Each library board in our system designates a representative to cast their vote. As a reminder, three MVLS trustee positions will be voted on at a special Zoom meeting on **Thursday, September 24 at 5:00 p.m.**

Instructions for voting were sent to all libraries on July 29.

The MVLS Bylaws require that MVLS have a minimum of one and a maximum of three trustees from each county. MVLS currently has three trustees from Schoharie County, two from Schenectady County, and one each from Fulton and Montgomery counties.

We need candidates from Fulton and Montgomery counties!

If you are interested in serving as an MVLS trustee, or know someone who may be interested, please contact us to become a part of the election process.

More information on MVLS trustees can be found at www.mvls.info.

Check out the newly approved [MVLS Trustee Job Description](#). You can contact MVLS by phone (518) 355-2010, via email: mvls@mvls.info, or through your local library.

Mohawk Valley Library System
serves communities by
empowering libraries.

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This summer, we're taking our system-wide collaborative Summer Reading Program online!

Simply scan the QR code to play and follow the directions. When you complete the scavenger hunt successfully, you can enter a raffle for a \$25 gift card to a local bookstore!

**THE SCAVENGER HUNT GOES LIVE
JULY 1 AND CLOSSES AUGUST 31.**

Thank You to the following MVLS member library staff for helping create this project:

Sarah Carbone, Sonny Duross,
Whitney Hubbard, Caroline Metzger,
and Jennie Mosher.

Picture This! The Power of Picture Books with Joyce Laiosa, MLS

All sessions start at 10AM

Session 1: Between the Covers

Tuesday, 9/29 via Zoom

History & structure of picture books

Session 2: What's in a Picture?

Tuesday, 10/13 via Zoom

Understanding the art and artists behind picture books



Session 3: Picture Book Palooza

Tuesday, 11/10 in-person at MVLS

Authors to know, sharing favorite titles and more!

Registration

Staff Picks What are you reading?

Kate: *We Could Be Rats*
by Emily Austin

Beth: *Up a Road Slowly*
by Irene Hunt

Mary: *Buckeye*
by Patrick Ryan

Sharon: *Down with the Shipmans*
by Meg Mitchell Moore



Save the Dates!

Reader's Advisory:

All sessions 2:00-3:30pm
via Zoom

Demystifying Genre
(YA and Adult)

September 16

Horror Reader's Advisory:
How to Help Your
Scariest Patrons

October 14

Recharge Your Book Club
November 18

Reader's Advisory for Everyone!
5 part series – Fill out form

IT'S AWARDS SEASON

NOMINATE YOUR
LIBRARY FOR
AN MVLS AWARD AT
MVLS.INFO/AWARDS
NOMINATIONS DUE 9/1



Storytime Smarts!

click images for inspiration &
resources



Summertime

Pirates



Our first ever SLAM mini-conference will be held on Monday, September 28th 10AM-4PM at the Arkell Museum and Canajoharie Library!

What is SLAM, you ask? It stands for Small Libraries Alliance Meeting, and will include library directors and staff from five library systems (Four County, Mid York, SALS, Upper Hudson, and MVLS) and seventeen counties in our region.

If you are a staff member of a small library (small staff numbers, small budget, small building) but have big ideas, hopes and dreams for your library, please join us!

See the full agenda and register [here](#) for this FREE day of learning. If you think you might need a little help convincing your board to let you attend, see [here](#).

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Beth - brienti@mvls.info

Don't miss an evening of celebration & awards!

SAVE THE DATE!

**MVLS 2026
Annual Meeting
September 30th**

Join us from 5-7 PM at the
Hon. Karen B Johnson central branch of the
Schenectady County Public Library

SAVE THE DATE

**SMALL LIBRARIES
ALLIANCE MEETING
(SLAM)**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
10AM-4PM**

CANAJOHARIE LIBRARY &
ARKELL MUSEUM



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](#)

StoryTime Skills: READING

Did you know there are five interactive practices that experts recommend to make the most of your library storytime's potential and build early literacy skills? Those skills are: Talking, Writing, Reading, Playing, and Singing! In this issue, we're focusing on READING.

Libraries are full of books, which allows young children to explore and choose books about topics that interest them the most.

Storytime programs, in particular, support reading development by exposing children to diverse formats such as picture books, non-fiction, and poetry.

Storytimes practitioners employ interactive reading, which includes intentionally using voices, pacing, props, and conversation/audience participation to bring stories to life.

Storytime practitioners also help children develop print awareness by modeling the proper way to hold a book, demonstrating reading from left to right and top to bottom, turning pages, and emphasizing terms like author and illustrator.

HOW CAN LIBRARIES HELP?

In addition to the practices already mentioned, engaging in dialogic reading is a great way to build skills in your storytime audience! Dialogic Reading, simply put, is an adult reader and the child(ren) being read to having conversations about the book. Adults can prompt children with questions, expand upon what they say, and repeat back to them what they share. For two great, short videos on dialogic reading, see the resources section.

RESOURCES

[Article from Reading Rockets](#)

[Dialogic Reading in Preschool](#)

[What is Dialogic Reading?](#)

[2025 Favorite Storytime Picture Books](#)



AI USE IN LIBRARIES

From the Tech Tutor



AI is a topic that can evoke strong reactions from people as they navigate its usefulness. Like the general public, library staff members have a wide range of perspectives on the use of AI, from 'Yeah, bring it on!' to 'Hey, not so fast!' Regardless of where you land on the topic of AI, we have an obligation to stay informed on how AI can potentially impact the library, our staff, and our patrons.

To assist libraries in developing/revising their AI policies and procedures, the American Library Association (ALA) released their [Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries](#) in June. Click on the link above to access the full guide.

Below is an excerpt from the [General Guidance on AI Use](#) section:

- Consider the environmental and cultural costs when determining whether to use an AI tool, using it only where it serves clear purposes such as improving access, instruction, workflows, or services.
- Help patrons recognize the risks of using AI (misinformation, privacy concerns, etc) so that they can make safe, informed decisions about AI use.
- Provide programming and resources to help increase AI literacy in your community.
- Always disclose how and why the library is using AI.
- Obtain informed consent before implementing patron-facing AI-enabled tools. Explain what data are collected, how data are used, and how the tool may affect patron privacy. Provide examples of appropriate use and clear counterexamples where AI is not a good fit, such as legal or medical advice.
- Avoid entering personally identifiable information, sensitive topics, or non-public records into any AI tools whose data practices are unclear. Make sure to vet all tools that staff may use for privacy and security.
- Bear in mind that due to the vast amount of data used to train AI systems, they can reproduce biases, and are less reliable when it comes to non-English languages.
- Treat AI outputs as drafts requiring human review, not authoritative answers.
- Oppose AI tools that flag, suppress, deprioritize, label, or recommend removal of materials in ways that undermine intellectual freedom, narrow viewpoint diversity, or disproportionately affect marginalized voices.
- Provide a clear path to human assistance and, where available, a non-AI or minimally automated option for public-facing services.

From [Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries](#)

CAUGHT BEING CLEVERLY CREATIVE

~New Program Highlight~
Instrument Petting Zoo at
the Arkell Museum and Canajoharie Library



This clever idea came from staff member Brittany Reeve. Her husband's family owned a violin making business and he was on hand to show participants the violin-building process. His presentation also included various string instruments for people of all ages to touch and explore.

Originally geared toward a homeschool audience, this program can be revised for various age groups. Brittany and Librarian Amanda Marro-Pendergrass provide structured monthly programs for their homeschool group with the intent of creating experiences for these students who may not have access otherwise.

WELL DONE!



"Mary Alexander played the cello for the first time in almost 20 years that day and loved it!"

With collaboration from Sam Zimmerman of the Fort Plain Free Library, percussive instruments, a piano mat, and rhythm making games were also available. Sam was "instrumental" in offering tips on how to lead a music-based program!





Thank you ALL for your dedication
to your library this summer!
Enjoy these highlights!



Summer Reading Sign-up
Frothingham Free Library



Dinosaur Painting
Arkell Museum and
Canajoharie Library



Create Petroglyph Rock Art
with local artist
Fort Hunter Free Library



Dig Up a Story for Kids,
Teens, and Adults
The Community Library





Music Makers and Shakers
Gloversville Public Library



Sign-up for Summer Reading Program
Johnstown Public Library



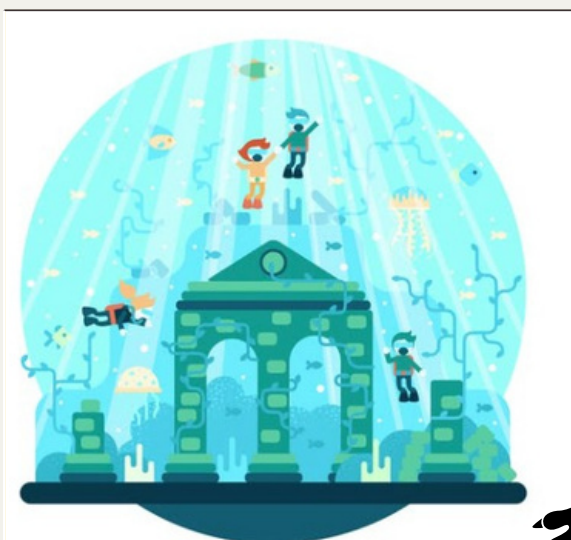
Display your art in the cave!
Fort Plain Free Library



Dino Yoga for 8-10 year olds
& Dino Toddler Dance
Northville Public Library



Learning about fossils with the
Children's Museum at Saratoga
Margaret Reaney Memorial Library



Unearth a Story - Atlantis
Schenectady County Public Library



Summer Reading Programs,
Challenges, & Prizes!
Sharon Springs Free Library



Tea Rex Party Amsterdam
Free Library



Unearth the Secrets of the Sea with an
Environmental Educator
Middleburgh Library

PHEW!!
SRP
EXHALE!





Unearthing Bones

with George Steele

Tuesday, July 21, 10am & 11:30am

@ Schoharie Library

Dig into a box of bones and learn what they are and where they go, just like a paleontologist. All ages are welcome.

Registration is appreciated, but not required:

<https://bit.ly/UnearthingBones10am>

<https://bit.ly/UnearthingBones1130am>

Discovery Tuesday



Unearthing Bones like a paleontologist
Schoharie Free Library