



Weekly Memo

Serving Member Libraries Since 1959

Grace Riario • Executive Director

Ramapo Catskill Library System • <http://www.rcls.org>

619 Route 17M • Middletown, NY 10940-4395 • 845.243.3747

December 9, 2019

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- ✓ [RCLS Weekly Memo Archives](#)
- ✓ [RCLS Member Libraries Board Meetings](#)
- ✓ [RCLS 2020 Holiday Closings](#)

RCLS Board Meeting

The materials for the **Monday, December 16** RCLS Board Meeting are now on the [RCLS Website](#). The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at RCLS.

This is an open meeting and all are invited to attend.



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2020 Voting and Census Timeline

[American Libraries feature, Dec. 2](#)

With the upcoming primary elections and caucuses, the general election in November, and the decennial census officially starting in April, 2020 is going to be a busy year for library outreach efforts. Use this timeline to keep track of upcoming milestones and deadlines for your community.



Be Kind to Your RCLS Delivery Driver

Please be sure to clear ice and snow from library access points on your delivery days so RCLS drivers can make deliveries in a safe and timely manner. The drivers need a path at least 3-feet wide to get in and out of your facility with a loaded hand truck.

Thanks!



RCLS Headquarters Closings

When RCLS headquarters closes due to bad weather, you can find out by:

- Going to cancellations.com.
- Calling RCLS' main number – a message will announce the system's status.
- Checking e-mail – cancellations and early closings are usually indicated with an e-mail to "allrcls" and "closings."



ANSER Staff can be reached for emergency calls at **845.243.3747, ext. 230**

News Worthy

Regional

- [Chuck Thomas reappointed to CAC](#) | Mid-HudsonTimes.com 12.4.19

National

- [Clifford, everybody's favourite big red dog, gets a reboot](#) | FlamboroughReview.com 12.4.19
- [How Libraries are Getting Members to Return: Critical Linking](#) | Book Riot 12.3.19
- [LinkedIn Pauses Changes to Lynda.com After Libraries Raise Privacy Concerns](#) | EdSurge 11.27.19
- ['We Wanted Our Patrons Back' - Public Libraries Scrap Late Fines To Alleviate Inequity](#) | WBHM 11.30.19
- [All the winners from the 70th annual National Book Awards](#) | NY Post 11.21.19

Polar Plunge for Library Dollars

Shelter Island (NY) Reporter, Dec. 1

Susan Carey Dempsey writes, "A hardy crowd of 126 plungers braved an exceptionally cold day to raise funds for the Shelter Island (NY) Public Library on November 30 in what has become a popular community event. The temperature was 36, but the strong wind blowing at 17 mph made it feel



like 26. Numerous entrants decided to stay in their warm cars until just before the starting horn. According to Friends of the Library Treasurer Marian Brownlie, the initial tally of funds raised was about \$9,000, and she said additional donations usually come in after the event."

ALA Libraries Transforming Communities: Facilitation Skills for Small and Rural Libraries

ALA has announced a new opportunity – including funding to attend a workshop at the 2020 Annual Conference – to help small and rural library workers develop the communication skills they need to thrive. Twenty-five library workers will be selected to be part of [Libraries Transforming Communities: Facilitation Skills for Small and Rural Libraries](#). Participants will complete a five-part online course, participate in virtual coaching sessions, and attend an in-person workshop – free of charge and with travel funding provided – specially designed to address the community engagement needs of small and rural libraries.

Learn more and apply online on the [ALA website](#). Deadline to apply is **Monday, January 20**.

Public Libraries Ditching Fines to Fight Inequity

NPR, Nov. 30

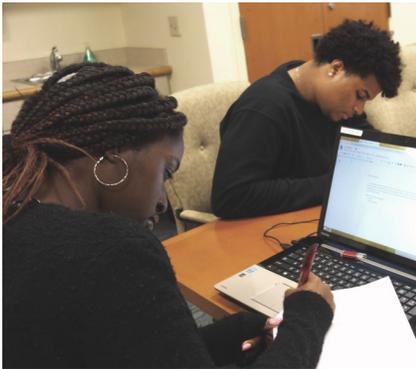
Emma Bowman writes, "For decades, libraries have relied on fines to discourage patrons from returning books late. But a growing number of some of the country's biggest public library systems are ditching overdue fees after finding that the penalties drive away the people who stand to benefit the most from free library resources. From San Diego to [Chicago](#) to Boston, public libraries that have analyzed the effects of late fees on their cardholders have found that they disproportionately deter low-income residents and children."



Photos of the Week



"Reach for Hired Ground" graduates, (l-r) Barney Allen, Michael McCallum, Pedrina Germain, Anthony Gomez and Tristan Davies pose on their last day. Gittel Evangelist, assistant teacher and Joan K. Rosen, teacher, stand proudly behind them.



Above, Pedrina and Anthony apply finishing touches on their work.

Right, At graduation, Pedrina receives her completed portfolio from Ms. Rosen, the instructor.



Joan K. Rosen, of the Haverstraw King's Daughters Public Library ran a pilot program entitled "Reach for Hired Ground" with monies from an RCLS Outreach Grant and the Affinity Credit Union Foundation. Students were coached in writing a resume and a cover letter to enable future employers or college academic committees to get a true sense of who they are and their unique talents. They also honed their interview techniques and learned effective communication skills by completing mock interviews and reviewing and critiquing themselves on tape.



Host an Escape Room at Your Library

[ALSC blog, Oct. 30](#)

Rose Hopkins-LaRocco (above) writes, “Escape rooms: They’re all the rage. You know you want to host one. Go on, do it. It’s not that hard. It’s time-consuming, but it will be one of the most fun and rewarding things you do in your library career. Luckily, I work with amazingly creative and hard-working people, so that made it a breeze. The La Grange Park (IL) Public Library hosted a Harry Potter Escape Room for Harry’s (and J. K.’s) birthday. First, we would be nowhere without [Robin Papaleka’s wonderful guide](#). This helped so much in determining a timeline and budget. We also used a few of her puzzles.”

**Share your library news with the *RCLS Weekly Memo*.
Send your article to rclsmemo@rcls.org**

System Calendar

For a complete and up-to-date list of events, including links to additional information, see the [RCLS Calendar](#). To add information, contact [Ruth Daubenspeck](#).

December

Monday 9—Friday 13

Mock Caldecott Book Review, New City

Tuesday, 10

[Library Cons and Festivals Demystified](#), RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, 12

MHVSHRM Event, RCLS – 8:00 a.m.

Thursday, 12

LARC Teen Librarians, Pearl River – 10:00 a.m.

Friday, 13

SUPLA, Monticello – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, 13

Orange County Census Complete Count Committee, RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

Monday 16—Friday 20

Mock Caldecott Book Review, Valley Cottage

Monday, 16

ANSER Committee, RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

Monday, 16

RCLS Board Meeting, RCLS – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 17

System Services Committee, RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, 18

RCLS Managers Meeting, RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, 24—Wednesday, 25

**Christmas Holiday—RCLS CLOSED
NO DELIVERIES**

RCLS Headquarters E-mail and Extension Directory (845.243.3747)

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----|
| Grace Riario | Executive Director/Outreach Coordinator | 233 |
| Chuck Conklin | Delivery & Building Maintenance Supervisor | 226 |
| Dan Donohue | ILL/Technical Services Librarian | 237 |
| Jerry Kuntz | Electronic Resources Consultant | 246 |
| Joanna Goldfarb | Youth Services Consultant | 240 |
| John Hurley | ANSER Manager and Systems Administrator | 228 |
| Stephen Hoefler | Fiscal Officer | 223 |

LIBRARY CONS AND FESTIVALS...

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
10 a.m. @ RCLS Headquarters



...DEMYSTIFIED

Have you thought about starting a library con or book festival at your library, but become overwhelmed at the thought? Our panelists will break down the process of starting a con, festival, or other large scale program.

Panelists include: Jennifer Daddio, Pearl River Library; Danielle DeLorenzo: Port Jervis Free Library; Lisa Laico, Albert Wisner Public Library; and Cheryl Jones, Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library.

Snow date: Wednesday, December 11

Participants will receive 2 CE hours for Children's Services/Elementary, Young Adult Services



Ramapo Catskill Library System

619 RTE 17M
Middletown, New York 10940 | (845)243-3747
<http://rcls.org>



NYLA Advocacy Day 2020

YOUR Support Needed @ your library™

Tuesday, February 25

CONVENIENT MOTOR COACH LOCATIONS and DEPARTURE TIMES!
(PLEASE ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE DEPARTURE - MOTOR COACHES LEAVE ON TIME)

- West Nyack 6:45 a.m. (Palisades Center)
- Newburgh 7:30 a.m. (Newburgh Mall)
- New Paltz 7:45 a.m. (Thruway Exit 18 Park & Ride)
- Kingston 8:15 a.m. (Thruway Exit 19 Park & Ride)
- Catskill 8:40 a.m. (Thruway Exit 21 Park & Ride)

Leaves Albany at 3:30 p.m.

Refreshments, advocacy information and a schedule of appointments provided on the motor coaches.

Register online @ <http://calendar.rcls.org/>

Make checks (\$5 per person – non-refundable) payable to **RCLS**.
Thanks to donations from the many Friends Groups, we are able to subsidize the price.
Send to Ruth Daubenspeck/RCLS • 619 Route 17M • Middletown, NY 10940

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

LET US KNOW IF DRIVING YOURSELF

Use the online registration and check "Driving myself" under
"What is your preferred pickup location?"
You will receive an information packet.



QUESTIONS?

Contact: Dan Hulse @ Ramapo Catskill Library System
845.243.3747 ext. 245 dan@rcls.org