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Western New York Library Resources Council

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WNYLRC Updates

The WNYLRC Offices will be closed Monday, February 19, in observance of the holiday.

A big thank you to those of you who came to Albany for Library Advocacy Day!

If you didn't already know, the Governor's proposed budget recommends \$102M for Library Operating Aid and \$3M to support NovelNY. The last year NYS libraries received \$102.1M was in 2007 - nearly 20 years ago. While \$102.1M still isn't enough to support libraries across the state, the fact that it's mentioned in the budget book is a big deal and helps set negotiations at a higher level than in the last 20 years. We are still asking for \$147.1M in Library Operating Aid, \$69.4M in Library Construction Aid, and \$11.00/pupil for Library Materials Aid.

Keep advocating for increased funding to your local legislators! We will be sharing below what some of you have already sent to local newspapers in support of libraries. Thank you so much for all of your hard work!

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The view of the "well" early morning on Library Advocacy Day!

Virtual Trainings and Meetings

Registration is required for all training. You must register for these programs via the WNYLRC website. You will need to create an account on the website in order to register if you have not already done so.

Repatriating the Red Jacket Peace Medal and Cultivating Museum

Partnerships, Tuesday February 15, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Learn about how one moment opened a set of doors that has allowed the WNY Indigenous arts and culture community to interact with the Buffalo History Museum, which has broadened how

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New York History Primary Sources & More Through New York State Archives, Tuesday February 20, 10:00 am - 11:00 am: The New York State Archives provides open access to digital collections of primary sources, lesson plans, document-based learning activities, and more to assist educators, students, genealogists, and researchers in uncovering the many facets of New York State history. Learn how to navigate and locate the many resources available through NYSA!

[Register here](#)

Homeschoolers and the Public Library, Thursday February 29, 10:00 am - 11:00 am: Is your library prepared to assist the growing homeschool community? Learn about the laws and requirements in New York State for homeschool students and why more families are choosing this route.

[Register here](#)

Know the Path, Avoid the Pitfalls: Arranging Contracts for E-Resources, Thursday March 7, 10:00 am - 11:00 am: This sixty-minute session will review the essential elements and hidden risks of contracts for e-resources. Written materials will include sample RFP language, an assessment checklist, and sample contract language.

[Register here](#)

The 411 on 211: Reentry Services, Tuesday March 26, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Learn how to use 211 to identify services available for people returning to your community from a jail or correctional facility. See what guides and guided searches 211 offers for this population as well as opportunities to partner with 211 in your community.

[Register here](#)

To learn about and register for professional development opportunities from other ESLN councils across the state, check out [the shared calendar!](#)

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News from the Region

This year, WNYLRC members have been sending editorials to local

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stories as it helps them gauge interest in various issues. These editorials are definitely on their radar.

Please note that you may need subscriptions to access the full version of some of these editorials.

Last month, I highlighted Sarah Potwin's editorial that was published in various Buffalo-Niagara region newspapers, including the Buffalo News. Sarah is the director of **Niagara Falls Public Library (*Nioga Library System*)**. She writes: "While local funding is a factor in how libraries operate, state funding is critical for leveling the playing field, ensuring all New York citizens – even those from the smallest, poorest, most remote areas of the state – get a fair share of library resources. [...] Libraries are empowerment engines. They are essential for healthy, inclusive communities, and should be fully funded in 2024. Let your local legislative representative know of your support for library funding." [Read Sarah's editorial here](#)

Our own Heidi Ziemer also wrote to the Buffalo News on behalf of funding: "Last year, operating aid for libraries was cut by the governor, from \$99.6 million to \$92.1 million. Ultimately, the legislature restored funding and libraries received \$99.6 million. But this "flat funding" over decades is costing libraries many jobs and resources. The impact is felt by seniors, children and families, veterans, job seekers, small business entrepreneurs, college students as well as people seeking help dealing with mental health and general health issues, homelessness, abuse, and addictions." [Read Heidi's editorial here](#)

Melissa Langridge, Coordinator of Public Services and Associate Director of the **Niagara University Library**, writes: "Libraries face the same challenges that are straining their ability to operate like almost any other business sector: rising costs in staffing and materials while trying to respond to changing needs of patrons." She encourages everyone else to speak up and urge the governor and legislators to fully fund library operating and construction aids. [Read Melissa's editorial here](#)

Lucy Waite, Director of Library Services and Instructional Resources at **Villa Maria College**, writes: "Libraries are the last place that doesn't require purchases or admission fees; anyone, regardless of their socioeconomic/ demographic status, can learn and thrive there. But just because libraries are

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[editorial here](#)

Devon Cozad, Research and Instruction Librarian at **Daemen University**, writes in support of funding NOVELny: "As an academic librarian, I know that my incoming freshman with database experience are more confident meeting the rigor of their first semester than those without. This very much affects persistence and graduation rates. But what happens if my future students across New York in elementary, middle, and high school can't do their homework on the weekend because the library had to cut hours? What happens when they don't have strong information literacy tools in school and they reach me unprepared for college-level work?" [Read Devon's editorial here](#)

Additionally, Katherine Pizzuto, Library Media Specialist at **Mount St. Mary Academy**, also wrote in support of library funding to the Amherst Bee. You can [read Katherine's editorial here](#).

Dunkirk City School District recently announced that it will be issuing library cards for Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System for their students. Students aged 14 and up will be able to apply for library cards in their guidance office where their information can be confirmed immediately, instead of going to the library with verification materials. This is part of Dunkirk City School District's literacy initiative. [Read more](#)

Do you have institutional news you'd like featured here? Email [Caitlin](#).

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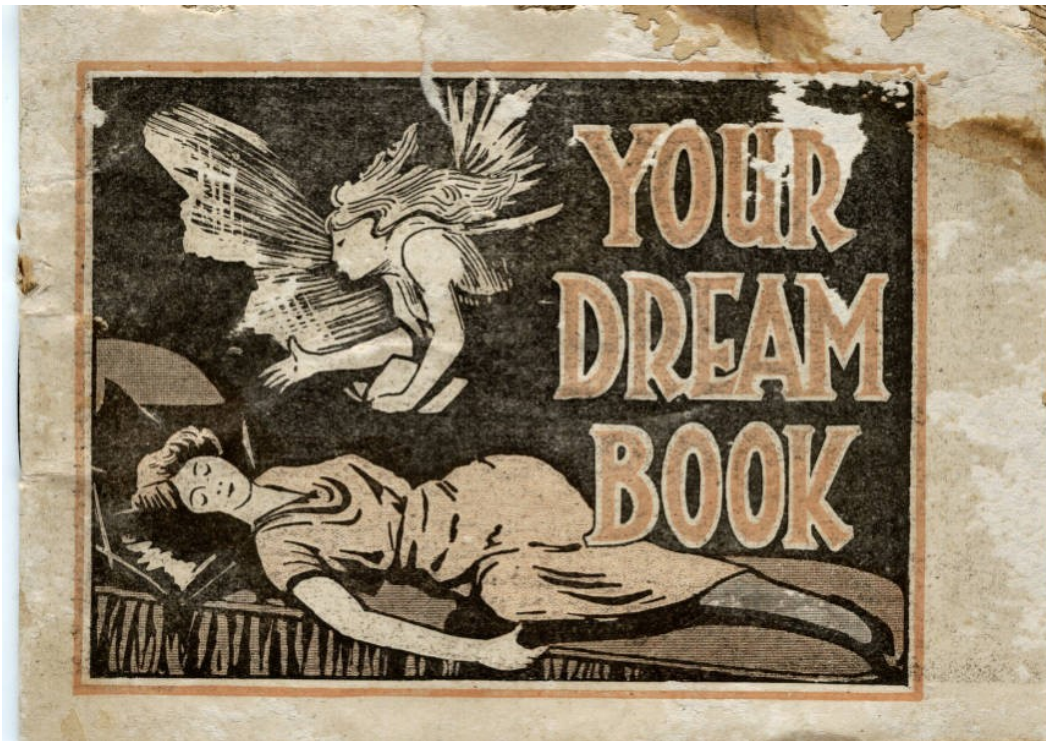
News from the State

Reminder! NYLA's [new website](#) has launched! Please note that accounts did not carry over. In an attempt to get all members into the system, NYLA is extending "open renewal/join" period for 2024 from January 8th - May 31st. Members and anyone wishing to join should complete the join form during that time. The completion of this form will provide an expiration date of May 31st, 2025. If you had an organizational membership (Library/Library System, Friend Group, Non-Library Organization), the key contact for that account will need to

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Do you have statewide news you'd like featured here? Email [Caitlin](#).

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Have you ever had a strange dream and wondered what it all meant? You might want to flip through [this dream book](#) for possible interpretations. For example, if you dreamed of absent friends, that means you'll soon hear from them. But if you dreamed of absent friends standing near your bed, then the news you hear from them will be bad news. This particular dream book appears to have been promoted by Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, located in Buffalo. Dr. R.V. Pierce ran World's Dispensary in the late 1800s, manufacturing many elixirs and potions, some of which contained opium. His son, Dr. V.M. Pierce, also managed the dispensary. Explore their offerings in [this collection](#) from Center for Inquiry Libraries.

[Nickell Collection of Dr. R.V. Pierce Medical Artifacts. "Your Dream Book Advertisement." New York Heritage Digital Collections. Pre-1914. <https://nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/ZCQ001/id/17/rec/10>].

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form rather than immediate delivery of list items? This way, you can receive one daily email with all of the information sent to WNYLIB-L instead of receiving each email individually. To enable digest, send an email to:

listserv@listserv.buffalo.edu (or just click that link). In the body of the email message write: **SET wnylib-l digests**. Leave the subject area of the message blank and delete any signature file you have at the end of your message. If you click the email link above, the message should be ready for you to send. Please note that you need to be already subscribed to the list in order to change this setting.

For more information about enabling an email digest, [click here](#).



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