

April 2025



# SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Suffolk County Library Association has been very active meeting its obligation to support, educate, and advocate for its members. This winter, we hosted a very successful open house style program called Meet SCLA. Our divisions and committees have been hosting world class training and workshops that engage with our members' interest while simultaneously educating them. We continue to offer networking opportunities and are in the process of planning a Spring networking event.

SCLA also launched a merchandise store. Now members, their friends and family, and other library supporters can buy items that reflect their enthusiasm and support for Suffolk County libraries and their workers.

The Suffolk County Library Association Executive Board has been actively advocating for libraries in the face of IMLS funding cuts. We have sent letters to our elected officials, and we encourage our members to visit our website to see those letters and echo those sentiments.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Long Island Library Conference. Passion for educating our colleagues seems almost endless as SCLA's divisions and committees are bringing a variety of programs to the conference and we are excited to see their work and the work of our colleagues from all over Long Island. Also, we are continuously inspired by the work of the Long Island Library Conference Committee – we know organizing such an event is not an easy task and we appreciate all they do.

In the upcoming months, SCLA is participating in multiple charity drives and events that will range from charity runs around Lake Ronkonkoma to literacy walks at the beach. We encourage everyone to join us to support these causes.

SCLA's elections are around the corner and every member is welcome to consider running for a position in SCLA or the divisions.

Please keep an eye out on our events calendar for future networking events and classes!

-Anthony Giansante, SCLA President

## EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**President:**

**Anthony Giansante, John Jermain Memorial Library**

**Vice President:**

**Robert Johnson, Emma S. Clark Memorial Library**

**Secretary:**

**Rachel Cecchini, The Smithtown Library**

**Treasurer:**

**Wonda Miller, John Jermain Library**

**Past President:**

**Colleen Navins, The Smithtown Library**

## DIVISION PRESIDENTS:

**CATS:**

**Steve Alcalde, Rogers Memorial Library**

**DASL:**

**Bruce Seger, Suffolk County Community College**

**RASD:**

**Jessica Brown, Patchogue-Medford Library**

**SSD:**

**Nicole Malley, Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library**

**YASD:**

**Rachel Lupinacci, Half Hollow Hills Community Library**

**Newsletter:**

**Carole Lingg, Hampton Bays Public Library**



## Computer and Technical Services Division

Steve Alcalde, CATS President

As we move forward in 2025, CATS is placing a strong emphasis on professional development, ensuring that technology professionals in libraries have the tools and knowledge they need to succeed. I'm excited to lead this effort as this year's CATS President. For those who may not know me, I am Steve Alcalde, Head of Computers and Technology at Rogers Memorial Library. I have been involved in the library community for many years, even previously serving as SCLA President, and I remain dedicated to advancing technology and professional growth within our field.

We kicked off the year with a fantastic program, *Tech Programming on a Budget*, which was very well attended and provided valuable insights into running impactful tech programs with limited resources. Building on that momentum, we are currently developing two upcoming makerspace programs. One will focus on how to start a makerspace from the ground up, offering guidance and best practices for libraries looking to create or expand their creative spaces. The other is an exciting collaboration with SSD that will highlight the essential role of support staff in running successful makerspaces. Both of these programs will take place in the spring, so be sure to keep an eye out for more details. In addition to our makerspace initiatives, CATS is also working on a collaboration with YASD for the upcoming Maker Faire. Together, we'll be sharing a table to showcase the incredible and innovative technology libraries have available to their communities.

Looking ahead to the Long Island Library Conference, CATS is proud to be hosting two programs this year. *Women and Technology in Libraries* will explore gender representation, leadership, and the evolving role of women in library technology. *Teaching Emerging Tech* will offer strategies for effectively introducing new and evolving technologies to both patrons and staff. And of course, don't forget to stop by the CATS table at the conference—you might just win a great prize! We have an exciting year ahead, filled with opportunities for learning, collaboration, and innovation. I look forward to working alongside all of you to continue advancing technology in libraries and creating meaningful professional development experiences.

## Division of Academic and Special Libraries

Bruce Seger, DASL President

Suffolk County Community College Libraries (the HUBS of our campuses)  
present Did You Know?

by Grant Library Professor Bruce Seger

CELEBRATING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The American Library Association (ALA) sponsors National Library Week in April (this year April 6-12) to celebrate the contributions of libraries, librarians, and library support staff. Of all those that have contributed to the development of libraries, Melvil Dewey stands out. He effectuated so many innovative ideas, but when asked, most remember him for instituting the Dewey Decimal Classification for library cataloging.



He was a visionary regarding library development including the Dewey System. After graduating from Amherst College in 1874, he was asked to oversee their library. While there, realizing the lack of organized cataloging, he devised the classification system which later was named the Dewey Decimal Classification System, (copyrighted in 1876). It basically identifies shelved items by using numbers 000-999 including sub classes to represent subject content, a system that is estimated to be in effect today in over 200,000 libraries around the world. Most academic libraries do not use the Dewey system (including SCCC). Instead the Library of Congress (LOC) classification cataloging system is employed which implements letters A-Z and sub classes resulting in a considerably greater expansive system. The system also lends itself more towards research needs.

A few years later, Dewey was one of the founders of the American Library Association, the organization that supports, and promotes U.S. libraries and librarians and sets standards for them. He then moved to Boston to become an editor of the American Library Journal, a publication that still offers quality library articles and reports regarding academic, public, and institutional libraries, but is now simply titled the Library Journal.

Another of his innovations is the development of library science in the United States which gradually evolved into the field of Library and Information Science. Information Science is the degree most academic librarians attain in which their expertise is in the knowledge of materials in collections of all disciplines, and their organizational, storage, retrieval, interpretation, selection, and use of those materials.

Dewey's library knowledge and innovativeness continued to impress institutions. Columbia College employed him as their librarian which resulted in his establishing the School of Library Economy, the first school in the U.S. to have a course of study for training librarians. His time at Columbia was short lived partly because he was against the administration's opposition to allowing women in the librarianship program. Dewey departed Columbia and accepted a position as secretary of the State University of New York and director of the New York State Library during which time he reorganized the state libraries including establishing a section exclusively for children's media. He also initiated the idea of traveling libraries to serve communities without access to public libraries.

In 1886, Dewey founded the Spelling Reform Association and by 1906 he was a founding member of the Simplified Spelling Board which was funded by Andrew Carnegie. According to a 1906 New York Times article, the initial 30 members of the Board consisted of noted authors, professors, dictionary editors, and even The Times gave its support. The Simplified Spelling Board's suggested revisions involved about 10% of the U.S. lexicon which they believed caused spelling difficulties. Some examples of the Spelling Board's revisions from the section called Phonetic Goal are, head to hed, cough to cof, laugh to laf, sense to sens, alphabet to alfabet, etc. It occurred to me that even though it never materialized, we do see its use in various communications today such as texting.

In 1895 Dewey founded the Lake Placid Club which is considered America's first Club for lodging and outdoor winter recreation. During the other seasons he had events of outstanding musical and theater performances along with outdoor recreation. The sign for the lodge used his simplified spelling Adirondack Loj as did the dinner menu. The Lake Placid New York Club also had a conference center which was a favorite venue for librarians and library conferences. In 1926, Dewey established a southern branch of the Lake Placid Club in Florida. He died there in 1931.



Sadly, there is another narrative concerning Dewey. He is viewed as a racist. The Dewey classification system had some unacceptable cataloging decisions that have since, in most cases, been revised. For example, playwrights were in the 800s by country, but Black playwrights were in 325, the Social Sciences section for International Migration and Colonization. In addition, his Lake Placid, New York Club refused African Americans and Jews.

In 1904, the New York State Board of Regents received a petition demanding Dewey's removal as state librarian because of the Lake Placid Club's policies. While the regents declined to remove Dewey, they did issue a public rebuke. The following year, Dewey resigned.

He was also found guilty on several occasions of sexual harassment including a trip to Alaska sponsored by the American Library Association, during which he made unwelcomed advances toward four prominent librarians. As a result, Dewey was forced to resign from active participation in the ALA. For decades after, he continued to be accused of sexual harassment, some cases resulting in legal settlements.

In spite of his actions, he was invited to be the guest of honor at ALA's 50th anniversary meeting in 1926, and was inducted into the ALA Hall of Fame posthumously in 1951.

However, 68 years later, at the June 2019 conference of the American Library Association, the Council voted to remove Dewey's name from its top honor, the Melvil Dewey Medal. The resolution cited Dewey's history of racism, anti-Semitism, and sexual harassment. At the January 2020 conference, the award was renamed the ALA Medal of Excellence.

Undoubtedly his contributions, astuteness, and insight regarding librarianship are outstanding, but unfortunately, his character flaws detract.





# Reference and Adult Services Division

Jessica Brown, RASD President

We have been off to a great start this year, and it's all because of our team.

Past President and current VP, Patricia Cruz and Jackie Narkiewicz, represented RASD at February's SCLA Meet the Board.

M.O.S.A.I.C. hosted "Know Your Rights Workshop: Resources for Immigrants and Library Staff" led by Sepa Mujer, along with library staff from Mastic Moriches Shirley Community Library, Patchogue-Medford Library, and the Middle Country Public Library at SCLS in February. It was a very informative and timely topic.

The Long Island Reads Committee will be hosting their annual Long Island Reads event honoring Jane L. Rosen for her book *On Fire Island* on Sunday, April 6, 2025 beginning at 2 pm.

Free tickets to the in-person event at the Bay Shore Brightwaters Public Library are available on [TICKETTAILOR](#).

For those who prefer to attend virtually, we will also be holding the event on Zoom. [REGISTER](#) for the online event to receive the link.



RASD is proudly sponsoring two programs at the upcoming Long Island Library Conference in May.

Save the date! M.O.S.A.I.C Annual Breakfast will be on June 11, 2025, and the Long Island

History Committee will be holding their annual library tour and board meeting on June 12, 2025. All are welcome to attend.

If you are interested in joining any of the RASD committees, please contact Jessica Brown at [jbrown@pmlib.org](mailto:jbrown@pmlib.org).





REFERENCE AND ADULT SERVICES DIVISION

# NEW ADULT COMMITTEE

Are you looking for fresh programming ideas for patrons ages 18-30? Join us at our New Adult Committee meeting to collaborate, share ideas, and develop engaging programs for this important and often overlooked age group!

Light refreshments will be served.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH @ 10 AM**

West Islip Public Library, Room D

Contact Kate Regina at [katherine.regina@wyandanchlibrary.org](mailto:katherine.regina@wyandanchlibrary.org) or Michaela Schlosser at [mschlosser@westisliplibary.org](mailto:mschlosser@westisliplibary.org) with any questions.





# Support Services Division

Nicole Malley, SSD President

SSD (Support Staff Division) is making great strides for the first quarter of our 2025 term. We are proud to announce that we have voted on a brand-new logo to represent the SSD Division. We hope you like it as much as we do!



SSD got together during the Meet SCLA program held on February 28th and it was a great time! We also offered our own program, Meet & Greet SSD, held March 24th. This program's aim was to provide an opportunity for members to meet the SSD Board and discuss what programs Support Staff would like to see offered this year. This program also provided an opportunity for SSD to meet our membership. It is so important for us to foster a connection between the board and the membership, as well as serving our members as best we can. We are always looking for feedback on how to best serve SCLA Members. To best accomplish this going forward, we created a Google Group to keep in touch. To request to join our group, please visit this link <https://groups.google.com/g/scla-ssd?pli=1> or scan the QR Code below:



If you would like to make program suggestions, email us as [ssddivisionscla@gmail.com](mailto:ssddivisionscla@gmail.com). We want to make sure that Support Staff is getting the information and training they need; any and all input is welcomed and encouraged.

We look forward to having a great year ahead of us! Thank you for your support, in us, and in your libraries!



(From left to right: Nicole Malley, President; Sandy León, Secretary; Kerri Williams, Treasurer; Alexis Camarda, Vice President.)



# Young Adult Services Division

Rachel Lupinacci, YASD President

YASD had an exciting start to the 2025 year! On January 15th, we hosted a Meet the Board: Vision "Board" Workshop. It was a great opportunity to craft with other Teen Librarians from the county and brainstorm what we'd like to see from YASD in the future. Suffolk YASD also hosted this year's Joint Meeting with Nassau in March. Connecticut State Librarian Kymberlee Powe gave an informative presentation titled "From Diversity to Inclusion: How to audit your collection and why," and discussed why inclusive collections remain as important as ever.

Looking forward, we're excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2025 Fran Romer Memorial Workshop on Thursday, April 10th. This year's theme will be Twisted Tales and feature a talk from author Jen Calonita. Visit the SCLA event website to register!

Lastly, keep an eye out for the next edition of YASD's Teen Talk Newsletter! As always, if you have anything you'd like to be featured, email your submissions to [youngadultsd@gmail.com](mailto:youngadultsd@gmail.com).





# Long Island Library Conference

## 2025 Long Island Library Conference

Featuring Keynote Speaker  
**Tracie D. Hall**

Tracie D. Hall is the Distinguished Practitioner in Residence/Professor of Practice at the University of Washington Information School in Seattle and former American Library Association executive director.

In 2023, Hall was named to TIME Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

**Thursday, May 8, 2025**

**Melville Marriott**

**Please Note:  
Registration Opens December 2**

To register, please visit  
<https://libconference.org/registration>

#### Conference Registration Rates

NCLA/SCLA Members \$85

Non-Members \$110

Current Students \$50

Same Day Registration \$175



<https://libconference.org>





# Long Island Library Resource Council

**Registration is open for LILRC's 2025 Annual Membership Meeting!**

[REGISTER](#)

Join your Long Island Library colleagues for the LILRC Annual Membership Meeting, Tuesday, June 17, 8:00am - 12:30pm, in person at Farmingdale State College, Campus Center.

Our keynote speaker will be Jean Hodges, talking about creating stories. Jean Hodges is the director of the Communications, Marketing, and Media Relations Office. She comes from Gannett, a media company that owns USA Today and hundreds of news publications and digital sites throughout the country. At Gannett, she led digital transformation, newsroom retention, and internal communications for the news division.

Agenda:

8:30am - Check-in and Breakfast

10:00 am - Welcome

10:05 am - Business Meeting

Break

10:35am - Keynote Address

Jean Hodges, Director of the Communications, Marketing, and Media Relations (ALA)

Break

11:45am - 2024 Technology and Innovation Grant Recipients Presentations

12:30pm - Farewell

For questions, please email Eliscia Cirrone, [ecirrone@lilrc.org](mailto:ecirrone@lilrc.org).



**Long Island  
Library** Resources  
Council