



Upcoming Events From NPW Members

1 message

Thu, Mar 14, 2019 at 9:18 AM



MEMBER EVENTS

**Members: Want NPW to promote your events? Send to
newsletter@npwestchester.org**

"Colossus" Film Viewing Thursday, March 14

Told through the eyes of 15-year-old Jamil Sunsin, Colossus offers a rare and timely look into the aftermath of deportation and family separation amid the current backlash against America's immigrants. Q&A with Steven Choi, Executive Director of the NY Immigration Coalition, and the film's subject, Jamil Sunsin at the Jacob Burns Film Center.



Teatown Pancake Brunch Saturday, March 16th

Bring your appetite for a tasty annual tradition, and start your day off with stacks of hotcakes and maple syrup, hot coffee, sausages, and more. Then visit Warren's Sugar House to watch a demonstration about how 'liquid gold' is produced. Join Charlie Roberto for a free half-hour bird walk after you've had your fill of pancakes. Reservations required.



Advocacy Works! Spring Webinars for Parents Through April 30th

Getting Kids on Track to School Success - Become a Better Advocate Webinar Series. Top-notch presenters with information based on unique legally-based, problem-solving approach. Topics: 3/21 - Referring for Special Ed, 4/10 - School Meeting Requested, 4/30 - IEP Basics



featured speaker. Free and open to all.



Advocates for Adults with Autism Awards 2019
Friday, March 29th

Join Yes She Can Inc. to honor three individuals whose work benefits adults on the autism spectrum, their families and our community. Enjoy a buffet breakfast, mingle with friends, learn about our program, meet trainees and hear from the honorees. Girl AGain will have a mini boutique where their trainees will help you select American Girl dolls, accessories and books for someone special.



WJCS 2019 Gala
Tuesday, April 2nd

Join WJCS in celebrating their 2019 annual Gala honoring Neil Sandler and Roy Stillman. By attending, your support helps to make a difference in over 20,000 Westchester residents' lives.



39th Annual Volunteer Spirit Awards
Friday, April 5th

Celebrate & support local volunteerism at this special breakfast event. By attending, you're also getting a seat at one of the most beloved, feel-good events of the year and also hear from exceptional volunteers who are making a difference right here in your own community. Online event registration closes on March 22nd.



Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast
Friday, April 5th

Celebrate Westchester libraries and the launch National Library Week. The 2020 Census is one year away and libraries from around the country are poised to take a role in promoting a complete census count and providing reliable information on its importance. Learn more about how libraries are working to ensure everyone is counted! Featured speaker: **Michelle L. Young**, MLS, NYLA President, 2018-2019, Director of Libraries.



Feeding Westchester Spring Gala
Friday, April 5th

An elegant evening to end hunger in Westchester. As the heart of a network of more than 300 partners, Feeding Westchester sources and distributes food, and other resources, to towns across Westchester helping to ensure that none of our neighbors are hungry. Exclusive VIP Reception | 5:30-6:15 PM, 6-7 PM Cocktails | 7-9 PM Dinner. Festive cocktail attire.



Equal Access to Justice Dinner
Tuesday, April 9th

Join Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for their 2019 Equal Access to Justice Dinner. Honoring: John Flannery, ESQ.- Former LSHV Board Member and Regional Managing



Don't Miss These NPW Events!

1 message



EVENTS



Don't miss out on all the networking and professional development opportunities NPW has planned for you and your staff. See the full calendar of events here.

Please note: Registration for most NPW events is restricted to Members. Each participant must be listed as a contact with the member organization before registering. Email sgardos@npwestchester to be added to your organization's account.

To learn about membership, [click here](#).

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

Multiple Offerings: March 19, March 28, April 12, April 16, May 8, May 21

Westchester Library System | 570 Taxter Road Suite 400 | Elmsford, NY 10523

All NY State employees must be trained in Sexual Harassment Prevention by October 9, 2019. Attend any one workshop session to fulfill this new requirement. You will learn how to prevent harassment and cultivate a safe and respectful work environment. These workshops are made possible through a collaboration between The Westchester Library System and Nonprofit Westchester. There is a \$50 fee for this workshop.

[Register Now](#)

The Journal News

Carol Sue Neale

SCARSDALE, NY - Carol Sue Higgins Neale, born December 21, 1938 in Orange, Virginia and died February 19, 2019 at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, after battling pneumonia complicated by a blood disorder. Sue was a devoted and loving wife, mother, and soon-to-be



grandmother, and had a broad network of friends from her many years of community involvement and public service in Westchester County. Sue lived in Scarsdale, around the corner from Edgewood School, for over 40 years. She attended Radford College in Radford, Virginia and finished her degree at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY. Sue began her career in Washington DC working in the Justice Department from 1961 - 1965, and the West Wing of the White House in the final years of the Lyndon Johnson administration. In 1969 she moved to New York City to work for the Wagner Commission on local government, and soon after met her husband Henry to whom she was married for 47 years. After leaving the workforce to raise her children, she returned to public service and spent the final decade of her career managing the office of New York State Assemblywoman Audrey Hochberg. She was forever giving back to her community and was involved in many volunteer organizations and local political groups, including 25 years of service for the Scarsdale and Westchester public libraries. Although Sue grew up in the country and always had an affinity for rural life, New York was her adopted city, and she was constantly drawn to its arts and culture. Sue loved playing mah jongg, spending time at her country home in the Hudson Valley, the NY Times crossword puzzle, and participation in her book club for over 30 years. Sue was smart, funny, and always had an opinion to share. She is survived by her husband Henry, her son David, her daughter Laura, and five brothers and sisters. Friends will be received at Bennett Funeral in Scarsdale on Friday the 22nd from 4:00 PM - 8:00PM, and a service will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scarsdale at 11:00AM Saturday the 23rd. All who knew Sue are encouraged and welcomed to attend. She loved us all and we miss her so.

Obituaries

Thursday, February 21, 2019

← See All Bedford-Katonah Announcements (<https://patch.com/new-york/bedford/m/announcements>)

Local Announcement

New Library Catalog for Westchester Library System

By Kate Meyer, Patch Poster (<https://patch.com/users/kate-meyer-2>) - February 21, 2019 3:32 pm ET

Like 0 Share

This post was contributed by a community member.



In March, the public libraries in Westchester county will be moving to a new catalog system. For you this means an improved interface with better—and easier—search capabilities, greater control over your notifications, and better access to what’s available through the library.

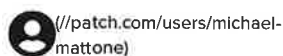
Migrating to a new catalog will not happen overnight. To facilitate the process, the WLS Online Catalog will be offline from March 11- March 13. During this time, expect impacts on most services for which you use your library card. This includes most databases and digital collections, such as Hoopla. We expect the OverDrive eBook collection to remain up and running—but you must register your account before March 11. Visit <https://westchester.overdrive.com> (<https://westchester.overdrive.com/>) and sign in with your library card number and PIN to register.

Libraries will be extending due dates of checkouts so that patrons do not receive late fines while the system is being improved. Thank you in advance for your patience while we make a better library experience for everyone. Be sure to check www.westchesterlibraries.org, or contact your local library, for more information and updates during the week of March 11.

The views expressed in this post are the author's own. Want to post on Patch? Post now! (<https://my.patch.com/start>)

More neighbor posts

Featured Announcement



Michael Mattone ([//patch.com/users/michael-mattone](https://patch.com/users/michael-mattone))

Yorktown-Somers, NY ([/new-york/yorktown-somers](https://patch.com/new-york/yorktown-somers)) 4h (<https://patch.com/new-york/bedford/announcements/a/74992/udson-river-financial-fcu-partners-with-local-schools-for-donation-to-the-pnwrrc>)

New Library Catalog for Westchester Library System

Like

Share

Tweet



Published on Wednesday, 20 February 2019 11:23

Written by John C. Hart Memorial Library,



A New Library Catalog for the Westchester Library System!

Starting March 14, ALL of the public libraries in Westchester County will be moving to a new catalog system

In order for the change to happen, the WLS library catalog at www.westlibs.org will be offline from March 11 through March 13.

Important Information

You will need either your physical library card or a scan of your library card on a phone in order to check anything out at The Hart Library from March 11 through March 13. Reciting a number from memory WILL NOT be accepted. We will not be able to look up your library card with your ID from March 11 through March 13.

No items will be due for the period March 11 through March 18.

There will be a limit of 3 total items per checkout from March 11 through March 13.

Renewals will not be possible from March 11 through March 13.

No holds will be delivered from March 11 to March 13.

Important news about your checkout history

If you are someone who has opted in to the feature which allows your borrowing history to be saved (allowing us to ask you, "do you know you've already checked this book out?"), please be aware that starting March 11, your checkout history will become unavailable. This information will not be migrating to our new computer system. If you would like to receive a printout of your checkout history, please ask a circulation clerk before March 11 and we will provide it to you for your records.

We would be glad to answer any questions about the changes at 914-245-5262.

Thank you in advance for your patience as we move to an improved catalog.

Next article



FREE

BROOKLYN & WESTCHESTER
INAUGURAL ISSUE

THE RE-ENTRY CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 2019

VOL 1 | ISSUE 1

reentrychronicle.com | @ReEntryChron



NEW YORK'S ONLY PUBLICATION LINKING RETURNING CITIZENS TO RELEVANT NEWS, RESOURCES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

P12 RE-ENTRY CHRONICLE

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2019

EDUCATION & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Review Column "Reimagining Prisons"



The last decade has seen the release of many reports, books, and films that seek to shake us awake to the need for change in the criminal justice system. This brief column will call out essential materials that are influencing the conversation.

Our starting point is **Reimagining Prison**, a report released October 2018 from the **Vera Institute of Justice**. This single report weaves together history, current news, and research that address topics such as the impact of incarceration on individuals, families, corrections staff and communities, to the need for judicial reforms and our obligation to address racial injustice.

Bottom line: What would our criminal justice system look like if, instead of a guiding framework of "retribution, incapacitation, and deterrence", the central principle was human dignity? Can we imagine a system that (1) respects the intrinsic worth of each human being; (2) elevates and supports personal relationships; and (3) respects a person's capacity to grow and change? **Vera Institute** proposes this as an alternative and contends that it is possible since similar systems operate with this framework in other countries and in a handful of experimental programs in the U.S.

Their words: "Efforts to reform or improve the experience of incarceration along the margins—for example, a new focus on reentry, evidence-based programs, or expanded educational offerings—will not suffice to shift the weight of this history [of racially motivated incarceration and discriminatory practices], a history that is built into the edifice of the nation's prison facilities. ... We must find a redefining principle to underpin the most severe sanction we have: deprivation of liberty." (p47)

Where to get it: Website at vera.org. You can download the (120-page PDF) or read online and explore their deep library of reports.



Elena Falcone
wls.contrib@reentrychron.com
E: westchesterlibrarysystem

Elena Falcone, Director of Public Innovation and Engagement, leads the Westchester Library Systems' outreach efforts to re-entry individuals and organizations, sharing the power of libraries to help accomplish essential goals including education, job search, and connection to needed resources and services.

FREE

BROOKLYN & WESTCHESTER
INAUGURAL ISSUE

FEBRUARY 2019

VOL 1 | ISSUE 1

reentrychronicle.com | @ReEntryChron



THE RE ENTRY CHRONICLE

NEW YORK'S ONLY PUBLICATION LINKING RETURNING CITIZENS TO RELEVANT NEWS, RESOURCES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GETTING A JOB IS A JOB: WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

Think of finding a job as your new job. You need tools to get started; a notebook, pens and a calendar. Start by writing down what kind of job you are looking for. You can't focus your efforts if your answer is "any job." You can head in the right direction if you write down, "a job where I can work hard, doing heavy work that helps build something, make a product or clean floors and storerooms."

When your plan starts with a focus, it helps keep you on track from the start through the interviews. Use your notebook as a rehearsal space; try out different statements and then feel free to write them down and cross them out until something sounds right.

Find out if the job you are interested in needs a license or certification. When and how can you meet its requirements? If you need a driver's license can you get one? What are the steps?

Does it have to be a CDL? What is a CDL? Find answers on the internet, from the Department of Labor or for this example, call Motor Vehicles. Once you learn the steps for any requirement, write them down. You can check them off and won't miss any along the way.

Make writing everything down, in one place, a habit for your job search. This way when you are looking for a phone number, name, email address, password or login information you will know where to find it. Lots of little slips of paper are easy to lose.

For more job search guidance go to FirstFind.org and "Look for a Job."

FIRSTFIND.ORG
Tools that can change your life

 **westchester**
LIBRARY SYSTEM
Empowering libraries. Empowering communities.



Elena Falcone
E: wls.contrib@reentrychron.com
Facebook: [westchesterlibrariesystem](https://www.facebook.com/westchesterlibrariesystem)

Elena Falcone, Director of Public Innovation and Engagement, leads the Westchester Library Systems' outreach efforts to re-entry individuals and organizations, sharing the power of libraries to help accomplish essential goals including education, job search, and connection to needed resources and services.

REENTRY QUESTIONS?

- Discover local & national resources
- Connect via live chat
- Email connections@wlsmail.org
- Text 914-752-5147

Westchester Connections is a resource guide and information service for persons formerly incarcerated, those working through probation or parole, and others similarly in need.



connections.westchesterlibraries.org

Abinanti Calls on Governor to Sign Library Shared Services Bill

Bill will centralize the library procurement process in New York State

By Andrea Grenadier, Patch Contributor | Dec 6, 2018 4:12 pm ET

This post was contributed by a community member.

TARRYTOWN- "This bill implements for libraries the Governor's call-to-action for more shared services," said Assemblyman Abinanti (D-Greenburgh/ Mt. Pleasant) today as he urged Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to sign the Library Procurement Bill (A.7265A/S6424A). The legislation sponsored in the Senate by Senator Patty Ritchie has been delivered to the Governor for action before the end of this week.

If signed by the Governor, the measure will establish a statewide centralized system for the purchase and delivery of print materials (books, journals etc.) and e-materials (electronic books, audio books and other non-print library materials).

Currently, there is no integrated system in New York for purchase and delivery of print materials and e-materials, requiring libraries, government agencies, and educational institutions to make their purchases individually from vendors at higher prices or work through local library associations and ad-hoc arrangements. Their combined statewide market power will allow the Office of General Services to negotiate with electronic publishers for more favorable contract terms and is expected to result in significant savings for those who choose to participate in this procurement system.

"In today's New York, the use of e-books, audio books, and other e-materials has surged," said Assemblyman Tom Abinanti. "E-materials are more expensive than the print format for libraries putting greater stress on libraries at a time when they are already facing significant financial pressures. A statewide shared service plan is the answer."

###

https://oasc17247realmedia.com/RealMedia/ads/click_lx.ads/ALQ/703122663/Top1/default/empty.gif/6b7555324d6c77483547774141724e6f8x

2018 I Love My Librarian Winners Announced

ALA honors 10 librarians for outstanding service

December 4, 2018

[./#facebook](#) [./#twitter](#) [./#email](#)



Ten librarians have been honored with the 2018 I Love My Librarian Award. Selected from more than 1,000 nominations submitted by library users nationwide, the winning librarians are being recognized for their leadership in transforming lives and communities through education and lifelong learning. This year marks the award's 10-year anniversary. ALA has received thousands of nominations over the last decade, but only 110 librarians have received the honor.

"Our nation's librarians work tirelessly and selflessly to better lives in their communities," American Library Association (ALA) President Loida Garcia-Febo said in a December 3 statement. "I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to this year's I Love My Librarian Award recipients. I stand in awe of their contributions to transforming lives through courage, empathy, and compassion. Thank you for your noble work and civic mindedness."

Each winning librarian receives a \$5,000 prize at an award ceremony and reception cohosted by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, New York Public Library, and *The New York Times*. [Follow the action live via webcast \(http://bit.ly/ilml-2018-livestream\)](http://bit.ly/ilml-2018-livestream) at 4 p.m. Central time on December 4.

This year's recipients include four academic, three public, and three school librarians.



<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/1-blackson.jpg>Ginny Blackson
James E. Brooks Library, Central Washington University
Ellensburg, Washington

Latest Library Links

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/latest-links/>

22h



<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/industry-deals/article/78727-ingram-in-rumored-bid-to-buy-b-t-retail-arm.html>

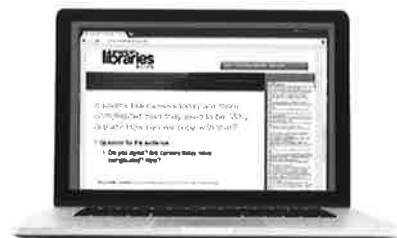
The **Ingram Content Group** has made a **tentative offer** to buy the **retail** wholesaling operation of **Baker & Taylor**, and the Federal Trade Commission has launched what it is calling a "very **preliminary investigation**" of the proposed deal. The Ingram bid was made about a month ago. **Follett bought Baker & Taylor in 2016**.

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/industry-deals/article/70004-follett-corp-buys-baker-taylor.html>but was mainly interested in

AL Live



<http://americanlibrarieslive.org/>



<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/al-live/>

Simmons UNIVERSITY

MS in Library & Information Science

- Online & on-campus offerings
- Fall priority deadline: February 1

PhD in Library & Information Science

- Fall deadline: January 15

APPLY TODAY

https://oasc17247realmedia.com/RealMedia/ads/click_lx.ads/ALQ/13/13/Ad-300x250-Nov-2018-v2.jpg/6b7555324d6c77483547774141724e6f8x

Blackson has spearheaded projects that have moved library services into new areas with a focus on inclusion and diversity. She was instrumental in obtaining a Pride Foundation grant resulting in the acquisition of library materials covering LGBTQ issues. She also successfully acquired funding from the Friends of the Library to purchase materials representing Hispanic history and cultural issues and created a family-friendly space for patrons with young children. Among her other activities, Blackson leads the annual Women's History Month initiative for the campus radio station, recruiting students, staff, and faculty to record information about notable women in US history.

"This award has really affirmed for me that the work my colleagues and I do is important and impactful," Blackson says. "It is especially important for academic librarians to think outside the box to serve 21st-century learners. I believe that everyone can be successful if given the support they need."



[https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2-Bridwell.jpg)

[content/uploads/2018/12/2-Bridwell.jpg](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2-Bridwell.jpg)) Joy Bridwell
Stone Child College Library
Box Elder, Montana

Bridwell works at Stone Child College Library, which also serves as the public library for nearby Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation. At the college, she sits on several committees and has organized events that have brought thousands of patrons into the library. She works closely with students preparing for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium Knowledge Bowl and the consortium's student conference. She also creates Cree Language materials for the college and community and partners with area elders to add materials to the tribal archive. Bridwell recently completed a one-year term as president of the Tribal College and University Library Association, where she worked with tribal colleges to obtain funding for digital media. Her efforts resulted in a \$1,000 grant from the American Indian College Fund, which was used to purchase education media for the library.

"I am honored to be recognized for the work that I do for all of my patrons, the college and the community that I serve," Bridwell says. "I want to change the way that people look and think about libraries.... I want everyone in my community to know that the library is here for them."

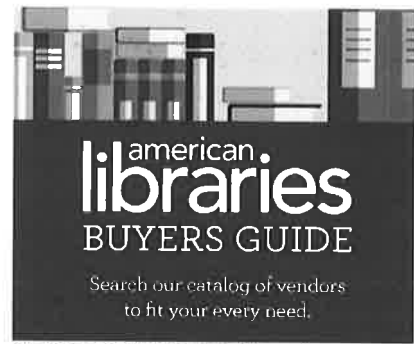


[https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/3-Cox.jpg)
[content/uploads/2018/12/3-Cox.jpg](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/3-Cox.jpg)) Tamara Cox

Wren High School
Piedmont, South Carolina

Cox works tirelessly to ensure that Wren High School library is a welcoming, safe place that supports literacy and fosters academic achievement for all students. Her inclusive attitude has made the library the heart of the school, providing students in need a refuge from poverty, hunger, and stress. Wren High School parents are often pleasantly surprised to hear from Cox, who regularly calls parents to share stories of students' kindness or hard work.

"Being recognized helps me see that my work is making a difference," Cox says. "It is my honor to share stories with my students that will make them think, ask questions, become more empathetic, informed, and aware; stories that will encourage them to take action and make a positive change in this world."



<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com/>

https://oasc17247realmedia.com/RealMedia/ads/click_lx.ads/AIO/111224_2



Where job seekers and employers get results.

JOB SEEKERS

Filter and sort hundreds of job ads by position type, employer, location, job title, and more.

EMPLOYERS

Strengthen your candidate pool—ALA reaches the engaged professionals and students you want to hire.



<https://joblist.ala.org/>



<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2018/12/4-Daniel.jpg](#))Nancy Daniel

Western Piedmont Community College Library

Morganton, North Carolina

Daniel works at Western Piedmont Community College Library in rural Appalachia, which includes the Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. Library and Museum, an art gallery, and the campus's Academic Success Center. She shows her students boundless support, making sure they have a safe environment that facilitates learning. She also works with staff to keep a cart in the library stocked with nonperishable food and toiletries for the college's lower-income community members.

"This award is amazing in itself and such an honor to receive," Daniel says. "I grew up going to my local library and have always found them to be magical places."



<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2018/12/5-Gaither.jpg](#))Jennifer Berg

Gaither

Baltimore (Md.) City College (BCC)

Gaither goes above and beyond what is expected of an instructor: She has driven children with transportation challenges to school, even if it means driving across the city. She spends late nights and early mornings at school with students and sometimes meets them at coffee shops and bookstores to provide extra help. At BCC, Gaither coordinates the extended essay portion of the International Baccalaureate Diploma program and has launched several critical initiatives, including the BCC Extended Essay library—a collection of bound and published student essays—and a video series featuring student advice, student accomplishments, and student-created tutorials in English and Spanish. Since 2014, the number of BCC students who have passed the extended essay requirement has risen from 28 to 109, an increase that community members attribute to Gaither's leadership.



<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2018/12/6-Gallagher.jpg](#))Terri Gallagher

Community College of Beaver County (Pa.) Library (CCBC)

Gallagher plays an active role in library and classroom activities at CCBC. She has conducted 238 classes, ranging from orientations for CCBC high school academies to evidence-based research training for nursing majors. She also cosponsors and supports various student clubs and campus committees and regularly provides training opportunities professional development events for faculty.

"I am humbled by this award," Gallagher says. "Librarianship is service, a rewarding service of the first ilk. Whether you are delivering a book to a shut-in, hugging a student for the A on their paper, or doing a dance to celebrate a graduate's job, being able to serve them through the library is my motivation."

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/7->

[Kelly.jpg](#))Paula Kelly

Whitehall Public Library

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Kelly is an award-winning librarian who is committed to inclusion, partnerships, and collaboration. She is a recognized leader throughout her county's consortium of libraries and readily shares her education, programming, and advocacy strategies with peers. She is known for her support of programs that make the library immigrant-friendly and accessible to diverse populations, including Pittsburgh's substantial population of Bhutanese refugees and those

with special needs. As a volunteer literacy tutor, Kelly has helped enhance literacy rates within local refugee communities and has fostered understanding by organizing multicultural potluck dinners.

"Winning this award is a tremendous personal honor and a reflection of the amazing support that I receive from my staff and board," Kelly says. "Public service is rewarding, and nothing is more rewarding than being a librarian."



<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2018/12/8-Mandella.jpg](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/8-Mandella.jpg)) **Stephanie Hartwell-Mandella**
Katonah (N.Y.) Village Library

Hartwell-Mandella has served as the head of children's services at Katonah Village Library since 2011. She is committed to empowering the community to celebrate its differences by bringing patrons together in a safe, welcoming space to address such divisive issues as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, physical abilities, and religious and political beliefs.



"This award means the world to me because it comes directly from the words of the community. It makes me feel like they really understand what I am trying to do," Hartwell-Mandella says.

"My favorite thing about being a librarian is making connections, whether I am helping a child who is a reluctant reader, helping someone find services they need, or providing programming to support marginalized members of the community."



<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/9-robinson.jpg>) **Linda Robinson**
Mansfield (Conn.) Middle School

Robinson's innovation and dedication has fostered a love of reading among Mansfield Middle School students. Despite a significant decline in enrollment, her literacy programs have resulted in increased circulation—from 17,033 books in 2010 to 27,064 in 2018. Robinson's unique One School, One Read program brings text to life during lunchtime: She works with cafeteria staff to plan a meal that reflects a book's setting; staff members dress up as the characters; and decorations, music, and props round out the spectacle, transforming the lunchroom into a living book.

"Receiving this award and reading the nomination written by so many of my school staff has shown me just how much my community values what I do and the role I play in school culture," Robinson says. "My favorite part of being a librarian is that I can take my strengths and passions to build programs or services for others. No other job could afford me the same wide range of challenges and the positive feedback that I make a difference."

Westmore News

Finding the perfect book for every child

Tee Cotter reflects on 25 years as the public library children's librarian

BY SARAH WOLPOFF

Any child who's walked into the Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library has probably seen Tee Cotter's infectious smile. And if they have visited with any frequency, they've probably discovered her bubbly personality.

That's because the children's librarian thinks of the library as another home. And for the last 25 years she's been dedicated to making it a second home for children, too.

On Sept. 20, Cotter celebrated a quarter century as a librarian at the 1 Haseco Ave. public library, which she can't even believe herself. It flew by in the blink of an eye. Since starting the job, Cotter has helped the library expand during renovations and established popular programs for kids of all ages, all while remaining passionate about getting to know every child individually so she can take comfort in knowing they walk out the door with the perfect book for them.

"I started here when I was 25. A huge part of my adult life has been here with the library," Cotter



Surrounded by her favorite books, Tee Cotter sits on the program room floor in the Children's Department of the Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library on Tuesday, Nov. 27. After the children's librarian reflected on 25 years at the library, she holds up the beloved book her mom used to read to her as a child.

Becoming a librarian was almost happenstance, Cotter said. She feels she just fell into the position and wound up finding the perfect career for her in a community she adores.

Though Cotter was born in the Bronx, her family moved to Las Vegas when she was 10 years old, and she stayed there for many years. After graduating from the University of Nevada Las Vegas,

SARAH WOLPOFF | WESTMORE NEWS consistent, though, Cotter explained, was her love for reading and attraction to libraries.

"I was a kid who struggled with reading, but my mom used to read to me every night. I remember clearly her reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Amelia Bedelia,' and it touched my life," Cotter reminisced. "When I moved, it was hard to make friends at first, so I became a better reader.

"Kids need to be inspired and shown that the world is open to them," she continued. "They have all these unlimited possibilities and it makes me so happy if I can somehow stretch open their world and give them something to look forward to."

In high school, Cotter picked up a part-time job stacking books at a local library, which ultimately turned into a full-time position after college. When she advanced into a children's room circulation desk position at another nearby library, she realized this was the career she wanted to pursue.

Therefore, Cotter started applying to university library programs and ended up returning to her roots to study at St. John's University in Queens. After finishing her year-long program, Cotter faced a conundrum she described with an allusion to Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken."

Previously, Cotter had planned to move back to Las Vegas after school, a life she knew well. But in the back of her mind, something was also urging her to stay.

"I took the road less traveled," Cotter explained. "I took a risk and it was the best decision I ever made."

When Cotter received the children's room librarian position, she saw it as a sign to stay in New York and she never left. She lived

Finding the perfect book for every child

Continued from page 1

community, so it's easy for students of all ages to visit after school. She loves how children have become accustomed to calling her "Ms. Tee" and cherishes how she's watched them grow. There are kids she read to 25 years ago who are now grown up with their own children coming to the library. And some students who have gone off to college still visit her when they come home.

It's the job itself she gets a particular thrill out of, especially when it comes to helping kids pick out books.

"Finding the right book for the right kid is so exciting for me. I try to file away things in my brain that I've liked and then ask the kids what kinds of books they like to read," Cotter said. "Some kids are specific, and know exactly what they want, and there's others who don't have a clue. So, I'll do a reference interview, find out about their hobbies, if they play sports, if they like history, and take it from there."

Over the last 25 years, Cotter has juggled a multitude of tasks and responsibilities, making every day a different adventure. Between

writing grants, press releases, supervising staff and purchasing materials, she reads out loud to children and researches popular trends so she can continue analyz-

their efforts, Cotter has developed and arranged for countless programs for the community. Over the years, there have been animal visits, magicians, Lego Club, fam-

satisfy Cotter because they allow new parents an opportunity to network.

Outreach with the public schools has also been an award-

"Kids need to be inspired and shown that the world is open to them. They have all these unlimited possibilities and it makes me so happy if I can somehow stretch open their world and give them something to look forward to."

—TEE COTTER, CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN, PORT CHESTER-RYE BROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ing and developing the collection.

Understanding that endless rows with stacks of books can be intimidating, especially for novel readers, she designed an easy to use organization system. Walking through and perusing the expansive children's area, it's evident the books have been categorized alphabetically, by theme and reading level.

Praising library Director Robin Lettieri for prioritizing funding for

ily coloring events, rock painting and more.

She particularly enjoyed the Paws to Reading program where kids read stories to a golden retriever and loved the expression on kids' faces when she used to write to celebrities and receive signed photographs in return with encouraging messages about reading. The current weekly sing-a-long and dance events intended for infants and toddlers immensely

ing experience, Cotter explained. She enjoys visiting the elementary schools to connect directly with the kids and collaborating with teachers to coordinate available library supplies with their current curriculum.

While she's always been engaged in school outreach, it's especially important this year since Port Chester elementary school libraries have transitioned into temporary classrooms.

"I think we're definitely seeing more kids coming in for materials," Cotter said. "We actually just started doing a collaborative effort with (John F. Kennedy Elementary School) this year, where fourth- and fifth-grade classes are coming in every week. It's been really successful and it's a great way to foster and promote reading and for them to realize their public library is right here."

More than anything, Cotter said she's thankful for the community she found 25 years ago. She took a chance by taking the job, and as a result she credits Port Chester and Rye Brook for welcoming her with open arms and making this her home.

"Port Chester and Rye Brook are such great communities. It's been so rewarding and fun, and I can just gush about it forever," Cotter laughed. "It's so touching to run into people I know everywhere I go, and everyone here really cares about each other. I like meeting the kids and the families and helping people, knowing maybe somewhere along the line of their lives you've made a difference."