
Executive Director's Report

April 2015

(covering time period of March 20 – April 22, 2015)

Breakfast With Bruni: Celebrating Westchester's Libraries

On April 15th, WLS hosted *Celebrating Westchester Libraries: Breakfast with Frank Bruni* at Tappan Hill Mansion in Tarrytown. The event, part of National Library Week festivities, was attended by 180 library professionals, government officials and business people. New York State Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti [92 AD], chair of the Assembly Library and Education Technology Committee, made brief remarks thanking libraries for their dedication and commitment to providing important resources and information in the community. Also attending were Assemblywoman Sandy Galef [95 AD], Assemblyman Steven Otis [91 AD] and recently appointed New York Regent Judith Johnson. Representing event sponsors were Deborah Fay, WLS Trustee and Entergy, Manager of Government Relations; Jim Lothrop, Lothrop Associates; and Rick Swierat, Executive Director, ARC of Westchester.

Frank Bruni, *The New York Times* Op-Ed columnist, spoke about the value of libraries and learning and shared insights of his own experience and research for his most recent book, *Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania*, to argue for the real purpose of learning and libraries, which is the cultivation of the mind, heart and soul.

At the Breakfast, WLS announced a new initiative, *Unlimited Possibilities* Mini-Grants to support public programming in partner libraries. So far \$45,000 has been raised from Con Edison, Entergy and the H.W. Wilson Foundation to fund a series of Mini-Grants. The first round of Mini-Grants will provide partial funding for a diverse range of STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math)-related programs for youth in nine libraries: Chappaqua Library; Dobbs Ferry Public Library; Eastchester Public Library; The Field Library (Peekskill); Hendrick Hudson Free Library (Montrose); Larchmont Public Library; The Warner Library (Tarrytown); and Yonkers Grinton I. Will Branch Library. In addition, Bedford Free Library; Croton Free Library; The Field Library (Peekskill); Larchmont Public Library; Mount Vernon Public Library; Pound Ridge Library; White Plains Public Library; and Yonkers Public Riverfront Library will participate in a pilot mini-grant program to incorporate fashion, design and technology into makerspace programs. Brother Sewing Machines and Alvanon have agreed to donate equipment with additional support from University of Fashion.

2015 Westchester County Public Health Service Award

Westchester County's 2015 Public Health Award Ceremony was held on April 9th in the Greenburgh Public Library Community Room. WLS received the Distinguished Public Health

Service Award for our health literacy initiatives for older adults. Sarah Ilany received the J.R. Tesone Youth Public Health Service Award for her advocacy for young people with Type 1 diabetes. Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino presented each awardee with a proclamation; Westchester County Commissioner of Health Sherlita Amler, MD, provided an update on public health initiatives in the county; and Westchester County Board of Health President R. Steven Nakashima provided a highlight of each awardee's contributions to public health when presenting the award. The presenters' remarks highlighted the important role that the distribution of clear, objective information plays in promoting health literacy – a role that the member libraries and WLS have actively embraced. These services have been provided to all community members, but especially seniors, through books, magazines and DVDs available from the libraries as well as Westchester Seniors Out Speaking (WSOS), Senior Benefits Information Centers (SBIC), WEBS Career & Educational Services, Creative Aging and other programs available in the libraries.

SirsiDynix ILS and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

A WLS library patron recently expressed frustration that she was experiencing difficulties when searching the SirsiDynix catalog. In particular, the searching process as currently configured by the vendor forces a preset time out for inactivity and does not permit the user to reset a longer period before the time out occurs. I am concerned that this system configuration as it currently functions does not fully support ADA compliance and am working with SirsiDynix to resolve the issue. The SirsiDynix catalog does have an "accessibility mode" option; but that option does not extend the time out period, which is a feature needed for individuals who are not able to enter their search commands into the system within the preset time allotted. SirsiDynix has been strongly urged to make the resolution of this issue a top priority as it affects all users of their product – here in Westchester, throughout the USA and globally.

New York State Budget Advocacy Success

The NYS budget process for FY2015-16 is now complete. The following was included in the enacted budget relating to libraries:

- An additional \$5 Million in library aid over the Governor's Executive Budget, bringing the total Library Aid to \$91.6 Million. This represents a nearly 6% increase in library funding over last year.
- \$1.3 Million reimbursement for MTA Payroll Taxes remitted in FY2014-15.
- Permanent exemption from MTA Payroll Taxes for public libraries and library systems going forward.
- \$14 Million in Library Construction Aid.

A press conference was held on April 6th at the New Rochelle Public Library with NYS Senator George Latimer [37 SD], Assemblywoman Amy Paulin [88 AD], Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti, and Steven Otis to announce the repeal of the MTA Tax for public libraries and library systems. Although this is certainly a wonderful accomplishment, details remain to be finalized regarding the exact timing of when the MTA Tax exemption will take effect.

Upcoming Trustee Events

The next WLS Trustee Institute will be held with Robert J. (Bob) Freeman, Executive Director of the New York State Committee on Open Government, to present *Everything you always wanted to know about Open Meetings Law (but were afraid to ask)*, on June 3rd at 6 p.m. at the Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Road, Elmsford, NY. Mr. Freeman has worked for the Committee on Open Government since its creation in 1974 and will offer a review and update regarding the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Laws—including best email practices!

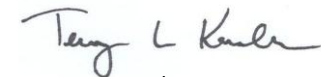
A new date of Wednesday, June 24th, has been set for the cancelled March 10th Trustee Institute, *Renovation or New Construction? Lessons from the Field on making the Right Decision?*. Tarrytown architect Raymond Beeler, principal at Gallin Beeler Design Studio, and Judith Lockman, Public Library Consultant, will be discussing the processes and procedures that Boards can utilize to ensure that their library projects will meet the needs of the community well into the future. All are invited, whether you have a current project in mind or have just finished one, to learn from the real life examples that will be presented. The venue will remain at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY.

Invitations for both events will be going out shortly, and registration can be done via the [WLS Evanced Calendar](#).

Future Events

- | | |
|------------|---|
| May 1-2 | Library Trustees Association of New York State (LTA) Trustee Institute, Double Tree Inn, Syracuse, NY |
| May 8 | Westchester Library Association (WLA) Annual Conference, Tarrytown DoubleTree Hilton |
| May 27-29 | Book Expo America (BEA), Javits Center, New York, NY |
| June 3 | WLS Trustee Institute: <i>Everything you always wanted to know about Open Meetings Law</i> * - Greenburgh Public Library |
| June 24 | WLS Trustee Institute: <i>Renovation or New Construction? Lessons from the Field on making the Right Decision?</i> - Dobbs Ferry Public Library |
| June 26-29 | American Library Association (ALA) Conference – San Francisco, CA |

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director

LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED
March 20 – April 22, 2015

MARCH

- 23 Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Finance Committee Meeting
Chris Gross, Sales Representative, Paylocity Payroll
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 24 NonProfit Westchester (NPW) Annual Q&A with the County Government, Greenburgh Public Library
Webinar: *Legal Services of the Hudson Valley's Access to Justice Initiative*
Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)
Jones Lange Lasalle (JLL) Site Visit of Potential Leasing Property
- 25-28 Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Annual Conference – Portland, OR
- 29-31 Customers of SirsiDynix Users Group, Inc. (COSUGI) Conference – Portland, OR
WLS Board Meeting

APRIL

- 1 NPW Programming Committee Conference Call
- 2 Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)
- 3 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 6 PLDA Executive Committee Meeting
Press Conference to Announce Repeal of MTA Tax for Libraries, New Rochelle Public Library
WLS Audit Committee
- 7 New York Fathering Conference: *The Power of a Father's Presence: Challenges and Victories in Supporting Dads* – White Plains
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
RSVP Volunteer Award Ceremony to honor Miriam Goldstein, WLS Westchester Seniors out Speaking (WSOS) Volunteer, Yonkers City Hall
WLS Multi-Language Book Fair, Ossining Public Library
- 8 Pat Braja, Director of Development
Conference Call re New Yorkers for Better Libraries
- 9 Westchester County Board of Health 2015 Distinguished Public Health Service Award
Presentation to WLS, Greenburgh Public Library
- 10-20 Vacation
- 21 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 22 Conference Call re Creative Aging with Ed Friedman, Executive Director, Lifetime Arts;
Pat Braja, Director of Development, WLS