

January 2026



SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

As I step into the role of President of the Suffolk County Library Association, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement for the journey ahead. It's truly a privilege to be part of an organization that plays such a crucial role for our members and community.

First off, I want to give a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing president, Anthony Giansante. His exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and steady guidance have made a real impact this past year. Thanks to Anthony, we're starting from a strong position, ready to tackle the year ahead with confidence. I also want to recognize the 2025 SCLA Board for their hard work, teamwork, and advocacy over the past year. Their efforts have been vital, helping our association and supporting our members through both challenges and new opportunities. We're all fortunate to benefit from their commitment.

Looking ahead, we'll be focusing on advocacy, fundraising, and sustainability to ensure we continue standing up for libraries. With ongoing concerns about funding, intellectual freedom, and access to information, it's more important than ever that we speak together and clearly. SCLA will continue to advocate for the vital roles libraries play in education, community engagement, and overall well-being, while also equipping our members with the resources they need to be effective advocates at both local and state levels.

I'm looking forward to collaborating with our board, divisions, committees, and all our members as we build on the solid foundation we already have. Together, we can make sure that SCLA stays a strong advocate, a supportive network for professionals, and a forward-thinking organization for all libraries in Suffolk County.

One last thing! Please invite your coworkers and friends to join SCLA and help support our libraries.

Robert Johnson
SCLA President



EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President:

Robert Johnson, Emma S. Clark
Memorial Library

Vice President:

Rebecca Goldstein, Sachem Public
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Sue Kandle, Connetquot Public Library

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Anthony Giansante, John Jermain
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DIVISION PRESIDENTS:

CATS:

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

DASL:

Bruce Seger, Suffolk County Community
College

RASD:

Jacqueline Narkiewicz, Huntington
Public Library

SSD:

Alexis Camarda, Brookhaven Free
Library

YASD:

Amanda Hayman, Half Hollow Hills
Community Library

Newsletter Chair:

Carole Lingg, Hampton Bays Public
Library

Computer and Technical Services Division

Nicole Malley-Romagnolo, CATS President

Happy New Year everyone! My name is Nicole Malley-Romagnolo and I am so grateful for the opportunity to be the President of CATS for the 2026 term. My career in libraries has been primarily focused on technology. When I was a clerk, I was fascinated with learning all the ways we could use Sierra. Eventually I became a Full Time Digital Services Librarian at the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library. My role was primarily technology support and instruction, and I conducted technology programming each month. I am now a Librarian II in the Adult Department at Mastics, but I still continue to provide technology support and programming on a regular basis in my new role.

One of my passions as a Technology Librarian, is to help people who are incredibly intimidated by tech. I enjoy the challenge of helping to resolve the fear and anxiety. It is a great feeling when they walk away feeling more comfortable and confident. Believe it or not, I also enjoy the challenge of troubleshooting technology issues. It may be a result of some stubbornness on my part, but I hardly ever give up until we figure out a solution. The only time I will, is when I know there is nothing I can do for the patron.

CATS has big plans for 2026. We have a handful of programs planned, such as a Women in Tech Panel, a program for Librarians and using AI, a Makerspace equipment and technology program, technology on a budget, and more. We are also looking into "brand refresh," so keep an eye on updates to our marketing material! If you have any suggestions, or would like to participate in program planning, feel free to reach out to me directly at nmalley@communitylibrary.org.

Ultimately, technology is something I am very passionate about. Librarians and Library Staff ought to be informed on how to use technology, and best case they will be able to help others who come into the library. In my term, I hope to provide programming and technology instruction that helps Suffolk County Library Staff increase their knowledge and comfort with using technology.

Reference and Adult Services Division

Jacqueline Narkiewicz, RASD President

Hello and Happy New Year!

There are so many things to look forward to this year.

On January 14, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Intro to AI for Librarians: Back to Basics Workshop via Zoom had over 80 people attend. Josh Varon of Varon Consulting was the presenter and showed us quite a bit about how AI can be used in public libraries.

We also have some terrific programs planned for the Long Island Library Conference in May – more about those in a future edition of Ramblings.

We ended 2025 with a very successful Annual Luncheon at the Huntington Public Library – Station Branch, where we enjoyed delicious savory and dessert crepes. Joannie Lauria of SCLS facilitated an amazing program about the importance of self-care and avoiding burnout, especially during the stressful holiday time.

Be well,
Jackie Narkiewicz

Support Services Division

Alexis Camarda, SSD President

SD closed out 2025 with a bang by partnering with RASD to hold a highly successful Customer Service Roundtable in November. Attendees participated in an engaging discussion about customer service in libraries, which was designed to help bridge the gap between departments while strengthening the way we serve our communities. We shared tips, tricks, and best practices for creating positive patron experiences, as well as strategies for supporting one another and practicing self-care along the way.

As we move forward in 2026, SSD and CATS are going to co-host a Vega Discover program later this winter to help staff acclimate to this new and improved catalog. The upcoming changes to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines will make our old OPAC obsolete, so we are hoping to help staff get more comfortable with this new catalog so that they, in turn, can better serve our patrons.

SSD is also exploring an Employee Assistant Program (EAP) workshop for later this winter/early spring. EAP has a great selection of workshops to help meet the emerging needs in the workplace and to assist employees with their personal and professional development, so keep an eye out for more details! As always, if you have any ideas for programming you would like to see in the future, please contact us at our division email: ssdivisionscla@gmail.com.

Young Adult Services Division

Amanda Hayman, YASD President

Hello! My name is Amanda Hayman and I am so excited to introduce myself as the incoming 2026 YASD President! I have been a teen librarian at the Half Hollow Hills Community Library for the past three years and have served as Vice President of YASD in 2025 and Treasurer in 2024. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such a fantastic board this year and excited for all of the great things to come as we go into 2026!

I wanted to highlight some of the fantastic programming YASD facilitated this fall under Past President Rachel Lupinacci's leadership:

On November 19, we held our Fall YASD Meetup at the Port Jefferson Library's main branch where we crafted, conversed and had a wonderful tour of the library's unique Teen Center located next door in a renovated historical building.

On December 15 we held our Annual Luncheon at Toast Coffee + Kitchen in Patchogue with guest author speakers Veronica Agarwal and Lee Durfey-Lavoie, coauthors of the middle-grade graphic novels *Just Roll with It* and *Sink or Swim* where they discussed the process of creating and publishing a graphic novel. We also announced our 2026 board and the 2025 Teen Librarian Award winners:

- Melissa Somoza of the Half Hollow Hills Community Library for Best Display
- Michaela Schlosser of the West Islip Public Library for the Best Community Service Program
- Katherin Alvarado of the Brentwood Public Library for the Most Creative Program

Looking ahead, I am excited for our first YASD meeting and Vision Board Workshop at SCLS on January 21 and our upcoming Annual Fran Romer Memorial Booktalk in the spring being planned this year by Jennifer Conlon and Michaela Schlosser!



ELSA

Hello everyone! My name is Zachary Sogluizzo, and I am honored to step into the role of Chairperson for the ELSA committee. My journey in libraries began ten years ago and I served in many different roles such as being a page, clerk, and now librarian.

This lifelong passion for library service has led me here, and I couldn't be more excited. I am eager to connect with you all and celebrate the incredible stories of excellence from our library workers around Suffolk County. To nominate someone, please send the form found on the SCLA website along with two letters of recommendation to elsacommittee@gmail.com. Looking forward to another great year!

Library Employees of Color

Introducing SCLA's Library Employees of Color (LEOC) Committee! This committee aims to offer support and encouragement to library employees of color in Suffolk County, as well as providing a forum to exchange ideas about topics relevant to our experiences. LEOC is open to all members of SCLA. While the committee is focused on the experiences of BIPOC library staff, we welcome non-BIPOC members of SCLA who are interested in learning and supporting their colleagues.

Registration is open for two of our upcoming events:

Library Employees of Color Roundtable

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 9:30am - Suffolk Cooperative Library System

Join us for a roundtable conversation with fellow library workers to discuss topics and concerns relevant to our workplace experience.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Microaggressions in the Library

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 10:00am - Zoom

Join Charles Fox, Director of Diversity & Development for the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk, for a solutions-focused conversation about microaggressions. Learn what microaggressions are and how to recognize them, then learn strategies for responding to them from colleagues and patrons alike.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Long Island Library Conference



48th Annual Long Island Library Conference Empower, Engage, and Evolve

Registration is now open for the 2026 Long Island Library Conference! Join colleagues and vendors on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at the Melville Marriott for a full day of learning, networking, and inspiration. This year, we are pleased to welcome Jamar Rahming as our keynote speaker. Rahming is the Chief Executive Officer of the Cuyahoga County Public Library and president-elect of the Public Library Association. With more than 20 years of library leadership experience, he is nationally recognized for innovative, community-centered initiatives and award-winning service, and is a past recipient of Library Journal's Movers & Shakers and the ALA's I Love My Library Award.



Registration will once again be processed through Eventbrite via the Conference website.

Discounted rates are available for NCLA/SCLA members and students, and payment options are available through March 31, 2026. Individual membership is required for the member rate. Visit libconference.org/registration/attendee/ for full registration details, rates, and deadlines, or contact lilcregister@gmail.com with conference questions.



Long Island Library Resource Council

Happy New Year! Please join LILRC for these upcoming Continuing Education programs.

Registration for all programs is at lilrc.org/events

Managing Expectations - Space Planning and Programming for Archives, Libraries and Museums

Wednesday, February 11, 11:00am

Recent Developments in Labor & Employment Law

Friday, February 13, 10:00am

The Martians: The True Story of an Alien Craze that Captured Turn-of-the-Century America

Tuesday, February 24, 1:00pm

Genealogy Resources from the Daughters of the American Revolution Library

Tuesday, March 3, 1:00pm

Guide to Crafting and Promulgating the Library Employee Handbook

Friday, March 13, 10:00am

30th Annual Long Island Archives Conference: Embracing Change

Monday, March 16, 10:00am - 4:00pm

In person at 2350 Broadhollow Rd., Campus Center, SUNY Farmingdale

Found Sound: A Novel, with Authors Meg Wolitzer and Charlie Panek

Thursday, March 19, 2:00pm



**Long Island
Library** Resources
Council