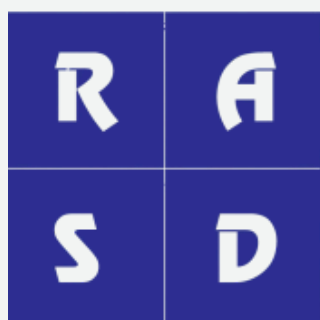




REFERENCE & ADULT SERVICES DIVISION

A DIVISION OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

RASD Newsletter Reference Guide

Emerging Technologies.....	2
Library Marketing.....	2
RASD Luncheon.....	3
Readers' Advisory.....	3

President's Message

Hello and Happy New Year!

I cannot tell you how excited I am to kick off my year as President of RASD! I am looking forward to working with everyone on the amazing RASD Board.

There are so many things to look forward to this year. We have some great programs coming up, following a very successful start to the month.

On January 14, over 80 people joined our Intro to AI for Librarians workshop via Zoom, where Josh Varon led an insightful session on AI's role in modern libraries.

Looking ahead, we have several terrific programs planned for the Long Island Library Conference in May; watch for more details in a future edition of Ramblings

We ended 2025 with an Annual Luncheon at Huntington's Station Branch, where 23 guests enjoyed crepes and a session by Joannie Lauria (SCLS) on holiday self-care and burnout.

If you are interested in learning more about RASD or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at jackie_narkiewicz@huntlib.org.

Be well,
Jackie Narkiewicz

Emerging Technologies

The RASD Emerging Technologies committee recently hosted Intro to AI for Librarians: Back to Basics, presented by tech consultant Josh Varon.

Josh broke down AI fundamentals in an approachable way, providing practical examples of how to use ChatGPT in both everyday life and librarianship. He also addressed critical considerations regarding AI limitations, including accuracy, bias, and privacy. Attendees shared positive feedback, noting the [workshop](#) made the technology feel less intimidating.

Library Marketing

2025 Suffolk Library Marketing Award Winners Announced

The 2025 Suffolk Library Marketing Awards (SLMA) were announced at the SCLA Annual Dinner on October 22. Patchogue-Medford Library took first place for “Knead to Read: A Pizza Reading Program,” a campaign praised for combining nostalgia with a love of food.



Mattituck-Laurel Library earned second place for “Happy 250th, Jane!”, with judges noting its creative graphics and strong social media presence.

We are grateful to our 2025 judges—Sharron McDevitt (Half Hollow Hills), Kathryn Heaviside (Northport-East Northport), and Christopher Collora (EGC Group)—for their expertise. Congratulations to Patchogue-Medford for their second top win and to Mattituck-Laurel for reaching the finals two years running.

RASD Luncheon

This year's RASD's luncheon was entitled *Crepes, Care, and Connection*. It took place from 1-3pm on December 2nd at the Huntington Public Library - Station Branch. Both board members and colleagues were in attendance.

Joannie Lauria (SCLS) led an insightful program on self-care and avoiding burnout. Covering both psychological and physiological fatigue, she explored a wide breadth of techniques. It was a wonderful afternoon and a vital reminder that you can't help others if you don't first help yourself!

Readers' Advisory

Are you looking for a committee to join but are short on time? Then the Reader's Advisory Committee might be the right one for you. We meet three times a year on the last Thursday of the month in January, April, and September to discuss books on a specific theme chosen by the committee. Share your book with the group, write a short review, and submit it for our blog.

Our next meeting is Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 10 am-12 pm at SCLS. Topic: Healing Fiction. If you'd like more information, please contact Azurée Agnello at the West Babylon Public Library by phone, (631-669-5445) or email aagnello@wbpl.us. You can attend a meeting to see what it's like or jump right in and pick a book to share.

Membership

The Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD) of the Suffolk County Library Association (SCLA) supports the professional development of librarians and library staff through a wide range of committees that concentrate on improving patron services. Through the efforts of these committees, we provide professional growth, continuing education programs and networking opportunities to develop and improve our profession.

Whether you are joining for the first time or renewing your membership, be sure to consider becoming a member of RASD.

RASD is a division of [SCLA](#).

Learn more about [membership benefits](#)!

RASD Executive Board

Officers:

President- Jacqueline Narkiewicz

Vice President- Christa Zaros

Secretary- Emma Yohannan

Treasurer- Valerie Harrison

Past President- Jessica Brown

Appointed Positions:

Historian- Georgiana O'Neill

Member-at-Large-

Anastasia Bazilevskaya

Newsletter- Sean Walls

Website Administrator-

Hannah Auer

Committee Chairs:

Career and Business Reference Services-

Nicole Berroyer

Emerging Technologies- Nicole Rambo

Health Concerns- TBD

Library Marketing-

James Garvey, Anastasia Bazilevskaya

Local History- Caren Zatyk, Mary O'Grady

Long Island Reads- Mara Zonderman

M.O.S.A.I.C.-

Amber Gagliardi, Lindsay Davis, Josh Tanski

New Adults- Katherine Regina

Programs- Amber Gagliardi

Readers' Advisory- Azuree Agnello

Mission Statement:

To unite in one division all those who are interested in any phase of reference and adult services. To give those having responsibility for the above services an opportunity to exchange information, develop techniques and improve their professional experience. To have representation on the Board of Directors of the Suffolk County Library Association.

Ramblings, the official newsletter of the Reference & Adult Services Division of the Suffolk County Library Association, is published somewhat quarterly.

Contents © 2026 RASD of SCLA.

All rights reserved.

Find us on Facebook!

