Grace Riario, Public Services Consultant and Outreach Coordinator has been appointed Assistant Director & Outreach Coordinator of RCLS as of Thursday, January 1, 2015. The position, adopted by the RCLS Trustees at their December 2014 meeting, will consolidate the duties of Outreach, advocacy, public services and Assistant Director. Although this title will eliminate the Public Services Consultant, not all the public services tasks will be eliminated.

Grace, who received her Master of Library Science from Queens College, just completed her Master of Public Administration with a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Human Resources Management (Pennsylvania State University). She will be completing the Public Library Administrator’s Certificate Program (Long Island University Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Palmer Institute for Public Library Administration and Management) in May 2015. During her tenure at RCLS as Public Services Consultant and Outreach Coordinator, she has substantially expanded the System’s continuing education program, taken an increasingly larger role in advocacy efforts and promoted the use of LibGuides, a web 2.0 tool.

As Assistant Director, Grace will help RCLS increase its advocacy efforts with member library Trustees, staff and Friends groups, with the business community in our region and with regional and national businesses and with our State and Federal legislators. Advocacy is integral to the success of RCLS’ mission and is a time-consuming endeavor, which
involves developing and executing an advocacy plan, preparing and keeping current advocacy materials that tell the library story and maintaining face-to-face contacts with our advocacy target groups.

Grace will be charged with the responsibility of establishing and maintaining a social media presence for RCLS to help communicate with our member libraries, increase public visibility and support our expanded advocacy and continuing education efforts. This can include a Facebook page and a Twitter feed, as well as other Web 2.0 tools.

All the staff at RCLS headquarters extend their congratulations and support to Grace Riario in her new position.

The newly created position will assure that a person is available to act in the absence of the Executive Director, with the necessary authority to make decisions required for the well-being and proper operation of RCLS.

Annual Report Workshop

It is not too early for libraries to be preparing for the Annual Report to New York State!

Registration, using the RCLS online calendar, is open for the RCLS Annual Report Workshop at RCLS on Friday, January 23 starting at 9:30 a.m. All staff and outside professionals involved in preparing the State Annual Report are invited to attend. The registration deadline is Thursday, January 22 at 8:00 a.m.

The deadline for submitting State Annual Reports to RCLS is Tuesday, February 17.

Further details will be e-mailed to Directors as soon as the DLD posts the report form.

Property Tax Cap and Tax Freeze Information Session

On Thursday, January 15, Stephen Hoefer will present a workshop at RCLS to review the online NYS Tax Cap Filing, the new online Tax Freeze Certification Filing and lead a discussion on the Government Efficiency Plan. He will discuss how RCLS will help with the Government Efficiency Plan and what actions library boards must take for property owners to receive the Freeze Credit in 2015 and 2016.

Tax Cap Filing Online Form:

All libraries that have taxing authority, regardless of the type of library, and has EVER had a public vote on their tax levy amount, is required to submit an online Tax Cap Filing. During the workshop we will complete a library’s Tax Cap Filing together and have a discussion of the factors that affect the tax cap limit. A copy of your 2014 or 2015 Tax Cap Filing will be required in order to participate in the Government Efficiency Plan.

Tax Freeze Online Form:

The new Property Tax Freeze online certification is due January 21, 2015 for 17 libraries that have a calendar Fiscal year. All libraries that file the annual Tax Cap form must also file this form. During the workshop we will complete a library’s online Tax Freeze Certification together. Below are some of the requirements for a library to enable their taxpayers to receive a rebate, known as the “Freeze Credit,” from NYS:

- **Year 1:** Fiscal Year beginning in 2015:
  1. Library must not exceed the tax cap;
  2. Any override resolution that had been passed “just in case” would need to be rescinded by the board;
  3. The Tax Cap filing must be submitted to RCLS; and 
  4. The Tax Freeze Certification must be filed.

- **Year 2:** Fiscal Year beginning in 2016:
  1. Library must not exceed the tax cap;
  2. Any override resolution that had been passed “just in case” would need to be rescinded by the board; and 
  3. Must develop or participate in a “Government Efficiency Plan” that must be approved by the NYS Division of Budget.

Government Efficiency Plans:

Efficiency Plans must demonstrate a savings in each Fiscal Year 2017, 2018 and 2019 that is equivalent to one percent of the property tax levied in 2014. Efficiency Plans are due June 1, 2015. RCLS is developing a System-wide Efficiency Plan so that each library does not have to do their own. However, in order to participate, a copy of the most recent Tax Cap filing is required no later than February 27, 2015.

Use the RCLS online calendar to register for this program.
2014 RCLS Annual Program of the Year Awards

At the RCLS Legislative Breakfast and Annual Meeting held on Friday, September 12 Annual Award presentations were made. The following is a description of a program nominated for the Adult Services Member Library Program of the Year Award.

Program: Commemorating Varna Farms
Creator: Lynne “Asha” Golliker, Community Relations Specialist, with Marion Ehrhardt and Sandy Marsh
Nominating Library: Ellenville Public Library & Museum

The year 2013 marked the 100th anniversary of the opening of Varna Farms, a unique Catskill resort, and Ellenville Public Library & Museum (EPL&M) spearheaded a multi-faceted history program to honor the occasion. We invited local organizations and historical societies to collaborate with us, to foster inter-organizational relationships and to help us educate and inspire our community through the celebration of our collective heritage. “Commemorating Varna Farms” truly brought history alive in our service area. The program had everything – stories, paintings, photographs and postcards, lectures and slide shows and book displays; even a walking tour.

EPL&M's abundant local history museum collections include photographs, ephemera and artifacts from Varna Farms. Our goals were clear: To highlight and showcase the library’s Varna Farms collection; to call attention to all of the history collections at the library’s museum; to use our stature to bring people and organizations together; to recognize and remember an important aspect of our collective history and use it to enhance our cultural identity; to use both modern technology and traditional interpretive methods for the education and enjoyment of this history.

Formally called “Yama no Uchi,” Japanese for “Home in the Mountains,” Yama Farms was established by one of New York City’s original “Mad Men,” Frank Seaman. At its peak, Yama Farms covered hundreds of acres with vegetable and flower gardens, a famous dairy, prize winning chickens, a brewery, and a trout hatchery. This early model of sustainability had a beautiful inn, and outbuildings of local stone and wood designed to blend with their natural setting. The Seamans’ interest in Japanese architecture influenced this design.

Varna Farms hosted captains of industry Henry Ford, George Eastman, and Harvey Firestone; artists Elizabeth Shoumatoff and George Innes; writers Rabindranath Tagore and John Burroughs; and explorer Osa Johnson. Stories are still told about Varna Farms – of a grandfather who caddied for frequent guest Thomas Edison, of adventures playing in the deserted grounds. Varna Farms closed in 1939, following the death of Mr. Seaman, but it still lives on as part of our community’s heritage and pride.

Our collaborative efforts with other organizations resulted in an outstanding series of lectures, an exhibit of photographs from our collection, a walking tour of the grounds, and thematic newsletters. The presentations were filmed by local high school students and broadcast on local cable TV (the DVDs are now archived in our museum). Personal relationships developed that led to the continuing enhancement of EPL&M's Varna Farms collection such as donations of glass plate images (now digitized and preserved), and copies of journals about Varna Farms. SUNY New Paltz loaned books relating to Varna Farms for exhibit in our gallery alongside the photographs and artifacts. The program was multi-dimensional and utilized all aspects of library services.

Presenters at Varna Farms commemorative events included Wawarsing Town Historian Henry “Bucky” Green, renowned architectural historian William Rhoades, the co-author of a book on Varna Farms, Wendy Harris, and descendants of Frank Seaman and John Burroughs, as well as local community members. The programs were well attended by local and area residents. EPL&M’s “A Walk through Varna Farms” photo exhibit has subsequently been displayed at Persen House in Kingston, NY, and in the Ellenville High School Media Center. People continue to be inspired by the remarkable entity that Yama Farms once was, and the vision it manifested, which remains relevant to this day.
Important Delivery Reminder

Please be sure to clear ice and snow from library access points on your delivery days so RCLS drivers can make deliveries in a safe and timely manner.

Thanks!

SAR-AH Winners 2015

Congratulations to Dr. Joyce Conroy, Director of the Roscoe Free Library, for being the first to submit her Annual Highlights (AH). The deadline for submitting highlights of about 200 words to Ruth Daubenspeck is Friday, February 27.

We are still waiting for the release of the State Annual Report (SAR). The first to submit their report will receive the SAR Award. The Annual Report Workshop with Jerry Kuntz and Stephen Hoefer will be held on Friday, January 23 at RCLS. Use the RCLS online calendar to register today.

The SAR-AH Award winners will be receiving prizes compliments of the RCLS staff.

Stewart’s Shops Holiday Match

Stewart’s Shops match individual donations made at their stores between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and distributes funds to local nonprofit agencies. Organizations that benefit children are eligible to apply for funds. An application can be downloaded at the Stewart’s Shops web site. All applications must be submitted by January 31, 2015.

Staying Afloat in a Sea of Change

Our libraries and communities are experiencing the constant motion of changes in technology, demographics and services. The sensation of being afloat in an unpredictable environment can be thrilling as we contemplate the many new possibilities but also a bit scary because of the many unknowns. Join seasoned change manager Debra Westwood, Library Cluster Manager, Bellevue, Lake Hills & Crossroads Libraries, King County Library System (WA), for a walk through the process of change to help us recognize our physiological and emotional responses to change and determine how our current skills and experience can fit into new ways of working. All of us, as library staff members, can get beyond just surviving change and learn to embrace and thrive in new environments.

The free webinar will take place on Thursday, January 15 from 2 to 3 p.m. Learn more and register by visiting the WebJunction website.

One Hundred Books Famous in Children’s Literature

Children’s books with powerful narrative, unforgettable characters, illustration that stirs the imagination and insights that engage the mind and heart often shine for generations, with some achieving landmark fame. A few such books ultimately go on to enter the canon of classics of children’s literature.

In New York City, the Grolier Club’s milestone public exhibition, One Hundred Books Famous in Children’s Literature, showcases one hundred books of this caliber, printed from 1600 to 2000. On view through Saturday, February 7, the classics will bring smiles of enjoyment to adults and children alike.

Displayed along with the one hundred books are over 50 historic artifacts that demonstrate the interrelationships between these famous books and the culture of their era, including original book art and illustration, autograph letters, manuscript drafts, antique toys, early dolls and games, antique horn books, ivory alphabet discs and other children's objects, all of great interest in their own right.

The Grolier Club, founded in 1884, is America’s oldest bibliophile society, with a mission to foster appreciation for the art, history and production of the book and graphic arts. It is located at 47 East 60th Street, between Park and Madison Avenues, NYC. Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10 am to 5 p.m. For more information visit the Grolier Club website.
Library Holidays
Start planning now for some of the many “library holidays” coming up in 2015! Many of these events are sponsored by the American Library Association or other organizations that provide marketing materials for the event. These can be great programming and PR opportunities in your community:

- **Library Lovers Month** – February
- **Take Your Child to the Library Day** – Saturday, February 7
- **Read Across America** – Sunday, March 1
- **Return the Borrowed Books Week** – March 1-7
- **Digital Learning Day** – Friday, March 13
- **Teen Tech Week** – March 8-14
- **Freedom of Information Day** – Monday, March 16
- **School Library Month** – April
- **National Poetry Month** – April
- **National Library Week** – April 12-18 – Theme: “Unlimited Possibilities @ your library®”
- **National D.E.A.R. Day (Drop Everything and Read Day)** – Sunday, April 12
- **National Library Workers Day** – Tuesday, April 14
- **Celebrate Teen Literature Day** – Thursday, April 16
- **Money Smart Week** – April 18-25
- **Preservation Week**: Pass It On – April 26-May 2
- **Children's Day/Book Day - El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día)** – Thursday, April 30
- **Choose Privacy Week** – May 1-7
- **National Library Legislative Day** – May 4-5
- **Children’s Book Week** – May 4-10
- **Book Expo America** – May 28-30
- **Library Card Sign-up Month** – September
- **International Literacy Day** – Tuesday, September 8
- **Banned Books Week** – September 27-October 3
- **Banned Websites Awareness Day** – Wednesday, September 30
- **Teen Read Week** – October 18-24
- **National Friends of Libraries Week** – October 18-24
- **Picture Book Month** – November
- **International Games Day** – Saturday, November 21

2015 Conference Dates

- **Youth Services Section (YSS) Annual Spring Conference**: Friday, March 27 at the Islandia Marriott on Long Island. The theme of the conference is *Inform, Inspire, Ignite*. The Keynote Speaker is Pam-Sandlian Smith Director of Anythink Libraries and Luncheon Speaker is Newbery Award Winner, Matt Phelan. [Early Bird Registration] is open NOW!
- **Urban Librarians Conference**: Friday, March 27 at the Brooklyn Public Library
- **Libraries and Pop Culture Conference**: Thursday, April 16 at St. John's University Oakdale Campus
- **2015 Library Trustees Association of New York (LTA) Trustee Institute**: May 1-2 in Syracuse, NY. Theme: Crucial Connections.
- **Hudson Children's Book Festival**: Saturday, May 2 @ Hudson Junior and Senior High Schools
- **American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference**: June 25-30 in San Francisco, CA
- **Fall Into Books**: Friday, October 9 in Fishkill, NY
- **New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference**: October 21-24 in Lake Placid, NY
Deadlines

★ Wednesday, January 14 @ 8 a.m.
Property Tax Cap and Tax Freeze Information Session (1/15)

★ Wednesday, January 14 @ 4 p.m.
LARC-YS Mock Newbery and Caldecott Discussions (1/20)

★ Thursday, January 22 @ 8 a.m.
State Annual Report Workshop (1/23)

Job Openings
✓ Job Postings
✓ Building Your e-résumé

System Calendar

For a complete and up-to-date list of events, including links to additional information, see the RCLS Calendar.
To add information, contact Ruth Daubenspeck.

January

Wednesday, 14
CLOUSC Mock Caldecott & Newbery Discussions, RCLS – 9:15 a.m.

Thursday, 15
Property Tax Cap and Tax Freeze Information Session
RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, 16
RCLS Teen Librarian’s Mock Printz Award Discussions, RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

Monday, 19
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – RCLS CLOSED

Tuesday, 20
LARC-YS Mock Newbery and Caldecott Discussions, Haverstraw – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 20
RCLS Board Meeting, RCLS – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 22
BOCES Mock Caldecott, Newbery & Printz Discussions, RCLS – 8:00 a.m.

Friday, 23
State Annual Report Workshop, RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

Monday, 26
Direct Access Committee, RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 27
Managers Meeting, RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

RCLS Headquarters E-mail and Extension Directory (845.243.3747)

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