

***CORRESPONDENCE RECOGNIZING STAFF  
FOR MHLS BOARD MEETING OF JULY 13, 2016***

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter to Tom Sloan, from Patricia Placona, Board President Roeliff Jansen Community Library, recognizing Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Sustainability, for helping the library to facilitate its Board Retreat, and for the outstanding enthusiasm, support and knowledge she provided.
- Thank you note to Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director, from Karen DeGennaro at Pawling Library for posting monthly relevant Webinar opportunities for library staff to learn from their desks.
- Thank you note to MLS staff from Steve Almasi, Coxsackie Correctional Facility Library, for arranging and facilitating the Southeastern Regional Correctional Facility Librarians Meeting.
- Thank you note to Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director, from Faith Benson, Trustee Philmont Public Library, thanking MHLS for the receipt of \$526 in grant funds to continue the library's collaborative project with Carapace Farm Puppetry.



May 3, 2016

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**Thomas Sloan**  
**Executive Director**  
**Mid-Hudson Library System**  
**103 Market Street**  
**Poughkeepsie, New York 12601**

Dear Tom:

Last week our Board of Trustees went off site for a Retreat. I asked Rebekkah Smith Aldrich if she would be kind enough to facilitate the day and she agreed. She worked with me on creating the agenda and suggested ways to maximize the time that we had together.

This note is simply to tell you what you already know-- that Rebekkah is an exceptionally talented professional. In describing Rebekkah, the Trustees used words like "exciting", "supportive", "enthusiastic" and of course "exceedingly knowledgeable". The Retreat was successful in large part due to Rebekkah's participation. She is so good at what she does.

As Board President I am personally indebted to Rebekkah. When I took over as president I had no idea how demanding the job would be. Rebekkah assured me that I could call on her, and I did. She is knowledgeable and smart- and she is generous with her time.

The Roeliff Jansen Community Library is deeply grateful to Rebekkah, and we wanted you to know it.

Sincerely,

**PATRICIA A. PLACONA**  
**President**

**From:** Karen DeGennaro [mailto:children@pawlinglibrary.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 07, 2016 7:24 AM  
**To:** MerriBeth Advocate, MHLS <madvocate@midhudson.org>  
**Subject:** Re: [MHLS-Programming] 'Learn from Your Desk' training opportunities in June

Hi MerriBeth,

Thanks for always searching these out for us...and for those of us who are time challenged and seem to read too quickly, thanks for making it clear in the subject heading we can do these from our home libraries. I don't know where you find the time! I've registered for two that are perfect for me right now.

Many thanks...I certainly appreciate all you do!  
Karen

On Mon, Jun 6, 2016 at 11:10 AM, MerriBeth Advocate, MHLS <[madvocate@midhudson.org](mailto:madvocate@midhudson.org)> wrote:

These upcoming webinars in June provide library staff with the opportunity to learn from their desks. No travel time!

- **What's New in the Trustee Handbook?: Tue June 14 from 10am-11:30am**
  - What you need to know now! Join co-author Rebekkah Smith Aldrich as she summarizes the highlights of what is new in the 2015 edition of the Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State. From regulatory issues that every board needs to be on top of planning for the future, the new handbook supports the critical work of library trustees in the 21st century.
  - Register at <http://tinyurl.com/jzmq19g>
- **STEAM Programming in a Diverse Setting: Tue June 14 from 3-4pm**
  - This Infopeople webinar will be of interest to: public library youth & teen services staff and library administrators. STEAM programs that connect youth audiences to science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math—continue to be a particularly hot topic in libraries, with plenty of conference programs and online learning opportunities devoted to the concept. Yet despite the growing number of STEAM resources available, libraries may find themselves wondering:
    - What might STEAM programs look like particularly in libraries serving racially and ethnically diverse communities?
    - How do my staff and I offer meaningful STEAM opportunities for diverse populations without specialized training?
    - How do we help youth build strong foundations in STEAM through programs that are easily accessible
  - Registration and information at <https://infopeople.org/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=556>
- **Outside the Lines – Libraries Reintroduced: Fri June 17 from 11am-12pm**
  - Join Stacie Ledden, Director of Innovations and Brand Strategy at Anythink Libraries & Founder of the Outside the Lines program for this custom one-hour webinar to learn more about how to engage with your community! Libraries are dynamic centers for engagement that help everyone in your local community be their best. To shift perceptions, we need to demonstrate how the library is more relevant than ever before. **Let's not just tell people how libraries have changed; let's show them.**
  - Outside the Lines is a weeklong celebration demonstrating the creativity and innovation happening in libraries. Whether your organization is large or small, a school library or a public library, you can participate by hosting at least one event or campaign that:
    - Gets people thinking – and talking – about libraries in a different way.
    - Showcases the library out in the community as well as in the library.
    - Highlights how your library is relevant to people's lives.
    - Represents your local community.

## **Merribeth Advocate, MHLS**

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**From:** Almasi, Stephen (DOCCS) <Stephen.Almasi@doccs.ny.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2016 8:00 AM  
**To:** 'Merribeth Advocate, MHLS'  
**Subject:** Meeting 4/29; Courier next week

Dear Merribeth:

I wanted to pass along my thanks for our Southeast Systems meeting Friday. The agenda this year allowed for enough networking to feel caught up, with your colleagues and with mine. I was glad to be able to express my Baker & Taylor concerns to Joan Kay, and to get the latest Book in a Bag updates from Kerstin Cruger. There were a number of new and interesting suggestions for correctional library programs. The books which you made available for us were worthwhile; I took three boxes! Perhaps the pleasantest surprise was the Chinese ordering presentation, actually very well geared toward potential correctional needs; this has always been a thorny problem in dealing fairly with our Chinese inmates.

I will be in Chicago for the BEA next week, leaving Tuesday and returning late Friday, and as a result I am also requesting to stop our courier pickup and delivery for two dates, Tuesday May 10 and Thursday May 12, resuming on Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>; I am afraid that at the moment I do not have the exact ILL or delivery addresses, and so I ask that you pass this request along.

I look forward to reporting back to you on the publishing scene in the Windy City (also home to ALA!). I am hopeful of shipping back a good quantity of advance copies of books as well, as with the last several years from BEA NYC.

Steve Almasi  
Coxsackie CF Library

Philmont Public Library  
P.O. Box 816  
Philmont, NY 12565  
June 26, 2016

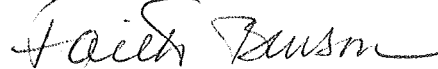
Merribeth Advocate  
Mid-Hudson Library System  
103 Market St.  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear Ms. Advocate:

On behalf of the Librarian, Trustees, and patrons of the Philmont Public Library, I would like to thank the MHLS for our share of its Continuing Collaboration grant in the amount of \$526. Your generous gift is being used for the construction of puppets made by Library patrons in conjunction with Carapace Farm Puppetry. Puppeteers will participate in Philmont's Community Day parade on July 9.

We appreciate your support as we seek to continue providing intellectual and cultural stimulation to our community.

Very truly yours,



Faith Benson  
Library Trustee