

Correspondence Recognizing Staff | December 2023

Thank you



Richard Heyl de Ortiz <rheyl@eltinglibrary.org>

To Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Cc June Wheeler



Mon 5:43 PM

You replied to this message on 11/28/2023 8:47 AM.

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Rebekkah --

I'm writing to say thank you for your counsel during our recent transition. Stephen is officially on board (his first day on site was today) and I think we've turned a corner. I think we're all so appreciative that he was available, interested and known already to many of our staff. Thank you also for encouraging me to get in touch with him.

Richard



MB

Mary De Bellis

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



Thu 11/16/2023 1:18 PM



Hi Rebekkah,

I was so excited to see that the library policies information on the MHLS website was completely revamped and updated with current resources. Great job by all who made this happen!

I have attached our updated Investments Policy to replace the old one listed for LaGrange dated 2008. Thanks for using it and for including our Employee Policy Manual also -

I'm flattered 😊

Best,

Mary

Mary M. De Bellis, Director
LaGrange Association Library
1110 Route 55
Lagrangeville, NY 12540
845-452-3141 ext. 101

Currently Reading *Prom Mom* by Laura Lippman



mhls-directors@googlegroups.com on behalf of Gloria Goverman

To: Director List <mhls-directors@googlegroups.com>



Wed 11/15/2023 5:30 PM

Thanks Mary DeBellis for organizing the luncheon today.

In the past, it was customary to thank the MHLS employees for the work that they do supporting the libraries in the system. I don't think that was done today, so I just wanted to thank you all. We can't do our work without you all doing your work. So many thanks for helping us achieve our goals.

Wishing you all the best in the years to come.

G.

Gloria Goverman
She/Her
Director
East Fishkill Public Library District
845 221-9943 x227
Hopewell Junction NY
eflibrary.org

Thank you



Amy Smith <director@doverplainslibrary.org>

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



Wed 11/15/2023 6:28 PM

Hi Rebekkah -

I realize you're more than MHLS staff, but I couldn't attend the MHLS Staff Appreciation Lunch today because I'm taking the Comptroller's Office Governmental Accounting class that started today. But, me even being in that class attests to how much your work, knowledge and support make working in an MHLS library so much more fulfilling.

I learned so much today and thought several times how grateful I am that you suggested the course. Compared to your advocacy and innovative work on behalf of MHLS, this is minor...

But, thank you for the amazing ways you flex your librarian super powers to direct me to resources and examples that are making myself and the Dover trustees so much more effective in serving this community.

-- Amy



Nina Acosta

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Cc: Ashley Teal



Thu 11/16/2023 8:29 AM

We received this from Amy Smith at Dover:

I couldn't attend the appreciation luncheon today because I was at a Comptroller's Office Governmental Accounting Class... I mention that so you really will know that I would rather have been there to show my appreciation for you all.

I could not do what I do here in Dover, nor could I have done what I was able to do in Red Hook before without your work, support and patience.

Thank you so much.

- Amy

Nina Acosta (she/her)
Data Operations Supervisor
Mid-Hudson Library System
845-471-6060 x252

We Did It



Alexis Tackett <director@pineplainslibrary.c
To ● Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



12:26 PM

Couldn't have done it without your endless support, but cross Pine Plains off your list!

Alexis Tackett, Library Director
Pine Plains Free Library
(518) 398-1927



Re: another 414 question



Ellen Manfredi <clumhill@verizon.net>
To ● Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



3:11 PM

ok, finally..we won 379 to 152..over 70% of the vote ..so I can now stop holding my breath..even the absentee ballots wont change that outcome... and as always thank you for being there for us

Re: Thank You for Supporting Us - Library Vote Results



Elizabeth Potter <director@p
To ● Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Cc ○ PIH Library



9:49 AM

We removed extra line breaks from this message.

Start your reply all with:

Thank you!

You are very welcome!

Thank you for your kind words.

F

Thank you Rebekkah for literally years of strategic, logistical and moral support on these budget votes ❤️

Liz

Re: [MHLS-Notice] Advocacy: Municipal Ballot Petition Signature Re...



library livingston <livingstonlibrary105@gm

To ● Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



Mon 5:41 PM

You are very welcome!

You are welcome, and thank you!

Thank you for your support!

Great news!!!

Thank you, Rebekkah, for all your hard work to get this passed!

Best,
Linda

KL up and running at 61 Crown St.--THANK YOU



Margie Menard <mmenard@

To ● Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Cc ● Tom Finnigan; ● Laurie Shedrick



Mon 1:20 PM

Hi Rebekkah,

We're now up and running at our temporary home at 61 Crown St. and things are running really well. Much of our easy opening is thanks to the efforts of Laurie, who made the whole collection/tech/circ transition incredibly smooth, and Tom, who mapped out the whole courier process for us to best serve our patrons.

I want to say THANK YOU to you, Laurie, Tom, and the rest of your teams for supporting us so well. I know there will be some small bumps in the road as we go forward but I'm thinking the hardest part is behind us (fingers crossed!). You're all fantastic and I'm reminded how lucky we are to be part of MHLS.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Margie

Margie Menard (she/her)
Director, Kingston Library
55 Franklin Street
Kingston, NY 12401
845-331-0507 X1000
www.kingstonlibrary.org

Re: [MHLS-Notice] Advocacy: Municipal Ballot Petition Signature Re...



Gisela Vella <pihlibrary@gm

To Veronica Stork

Cc Rebekkah Smith Aldrich;

mhls-notice@googlegroups.com



11:08 AM

This is amazing, thanks so much Rebekkah, this wouldn't have happened without your hard work!

Gisi Vella

Gisi Vella

Director

Morton Memorial Library (Pine Hill)

(845)254-4222

<http://pinehilllibrary.org>

PIHlibrary@gmail.com

Re: [MHLS-Notice] Advocacy: Municipal Ballot Petition Signature Re...



Julie Kelsall-Dempsey <jkelsall@highlandlib

To Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



10:39 AM

Thank you for the kind words.

Well, thank you!

You are welcome, and thank you!

Feedback

Thank you for all your hard work! You always make the rest of us look good. :)

Julie Kelsall-Dempsey

Library Executive Director

"Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life." RBG

Highland Public Library

[PO.Box 1556](mailto:PO.Box.1556)

[Highland NY 12528](mailto:Highland.NY.12528)

845 691-2275 ext 203

fax 845 691-6302

<http://www.highlandlibrary.org>

Re: [PULISDO1] Municipal Ballot Petition Signature Reduction bill si...

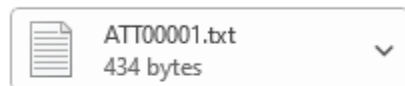


PULISDO1 <pulisdo1-bounces@lists.suffolk

To pulisdo1@lists.suffolknet.org



9:02 AM



Thank you, Rebekkah for your work to make this happen.

Sara

Sara Dallas

Director Southern Adirondack Library System

www.sals.edu

518-584-7300 ext. 205

American Library Association Executive Board July 2022-June 2025

ALA Core Values Task Force – Co-Chair

Albany Public Library (NY) Board of Trustees -Vice President of Finance

Capital District Library Council Board of Trustees

Re: [MHLS-Notice] Advocacy: Municipal Ballot Petition Signature Re...



Elizabeth Potter <director@;

To C Fortier

Cc Rebekkah Smith Aldrich;

mhls-notice@googlegroups.com



Wed 7:40 PM

I'm so happy !! Thank you Rebekkah and all who were a part of this! I can't wait to tell my board.

Liz

Re: [PULISDO1] Municipal Ballot Petition Signature Reduction bill si...



Wanda Bruchis <WBruchis@midyork.org>

To Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



Wed 5:45 PM

Start your reply all with:

Awesome news! I suspect your perseverance on this issue will have a positive impact statewide-not only for MHLS.

All the best,

Wanda

Re: [MHLS-Notice] Advocacy: Municipal Ballot Petition Signature Re...



Carol Donick <cdonick@kentlibrary.org>

To Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



Wed 5:35 PM

You are very welcome!

Happy to help!

Teamwork makes the dream work!

Feedback

Hi Rebekkah,
Hurrah! Thank you so much for all of your hard work on this issue.
Carol

Carol Donick
Director, Kent Public Library
845-306-5537

LOVE the Podcast!



Bob Dandrew <bob@climateactionhv.org>

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Cc: Matthew Stinchcomb <matt@climateactionhv.org>



Sat 10/21/2023 12:35 PM

Rebekkah:

I finally found some time to listen to the podcast you did on the Library of Local program, and I am blown away. You did such a great job in the interview. I think you could have another career in broadcasting. Your description of the program and your obvious enthusiasm were so impressive. You're a great ambassador! And thank you for the plug of partners for ClimateAction. Hope our paths cross soon. Bob.

Reply

Reply all

Forward

I also just wanted to take a moment to say THANK YOU to all of you for everything! I really appreciate all the support I received from Mid-Hudson and all the time each of you took to answer my questions and even give a pep talk when I needed it. It really meant a lot to me and working with MHLS was one of my favorite parts of being in the interim director position.

I really hope to work with you all again someday in another capacity. Be well!!

Warmly,
Chloe

Chloe Higgins
Interim Library Business Manager, D. R. Evarts Library
[80 2nd Street, Athens, NY 12015](https://www.google.com/maps/place/80+2nd+Street,+Athens,+NY+12015)
(518) 945-1417

Susan York to You (Direct... 11:25 AM



Thank you for all the work you do to make libraries better here in Hudson Valley and beyond and these great workshops that you offer to those involved in libraries.

Freddy Garcia



sbarbarisi <sbarbarisi@veriz

To Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Cc Donald Carragher



6:10 PM

Start your reply all with:

You are very welcome!

Thank you for your kind words.

Yes, indeed!



WOW! He is remarkable. I am most profoundly and humbly grateful for his speaking to us.

Thank you, Rebekkah, for making it possible.

Happily, respectfully - Susan

RE: A huge round of applause for Vega!!



Laurie Shedrick

To Addie Smock

Cc Nina Acosta; Kathryn Brew; Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



8:41 AM

From: Addie Smock <asmock@kingstonlibrary.org>

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 12:55 PM

To: Laurie Shedrick <lshedrick@midhudson.org>

Subject: A huge round of applause for Vega!!

Laurie,

I went ahead and used Vega links for our latest book-sharing [book club](#) and it is fantastic!

The interface is clean, modern, and so much more useful. I love having the various item formats for a single title together and the suggestions immediately below the book details.

Patrons and staff alike will get more out of it since it is like the commercial sites everyone is used to.

I know this is a monumental task but oh so worthwhile.

Thanks for all you do,

-addie

Addie Smock (she/her)

Assistant Director

Kingston Library

Re: [MHLS-DIRECTORS] Woodstock vote results



Ivy Gocker <ivy@woodstock.org>

To ● Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



10:51 AM

That is wonderful!

That is great news!

Great news! Thanks for sharing.

Feedback

Thanks Rebekkah! The really great news is that this budget represents an increase in our base pay for clerical workers from \$15.75/hour to \$17.61/hr – which is the living wage index for Ulster County. Thanks so much for sharing that MIT resource – it was a really useful tool in making the argument for better pay for staff.

Ivy Gocker
Library Director

Woodstock Public Library District
[5 Library Lane, Woodstock, NY 12498](#)
845.679.2213
www.woodstock.org



FW: Library of things thoughts



Laurie Shedrick

To ● Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



8:41 AM

From: Tobi Farley <library@philmont.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Laurie Shedrick <lshedrick@midhudson.org>
Subject: Re: Library of things thoughts

Laurie,
Thanks. Anya will be in this afternoon and we will chat about this. We all really enjoyed yesterday's training and are excited to be able to share Vega with our patrons.

Tobi

RE: [Mid-Hudson Library System] "IT" assignment: COX-Static IP add...



Laurie Shedrick

To Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Wed 4:01 PM

Start your reply all with:

[Thank you!](#) [Got it, thanks!](#) [This is perfect, thank you!](#) [Feedback](#)

To: Mid-Hudson Library System [Show more](#)

Thank you for updating our router and for sending me the information for the configuration. Gerry recommended the new router that we purchased for the library and we appreciated Isaac for coming to install it for us. The timing was perfect! The old router started giving us spotty service, with the Internet uploading pages very slowly and only offering sluggish WiFi.

Now, since the installation of the new router, pages load from the Internet lightning fast. Staff and patrons may download or upload information with the computers, or other devices, with ease. We are so grateful!

Thank you to MHLS and their outstanding staff for always being able to assist us and therefore help our community access information more efficiently.


Most sincerely,
Catherine

Catherine Benson, Director
Heermance Memorial Library
1 Ely Street
Coxsackie, NY 12051
518-731-8084
www.heermancelibrary.org

FW: New Director Orientation : MHLS Delivery Operations



Tom Finnigan

To  Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



10:08 AM

Start your reply all with:

[Ok, thanks for the update.](#)

[Thank you!](#)

[Ok, thanks for letting me know.](#)

From: Library Director <director@putnamvalleylibrary.org>

Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2023 10:36 AM

To: Tom Finnigan <tfinnigan@midhudson.org>

Subject: Re: New Director Orientation : MHLS Delivery Operations

Hi Tom,

It was great talking to you and learning more about the operations at Mid-Hudson.

Yes, the information you have for Cole Caulfield and the special code are correct. I verified the code with Cole this morning.

Thank you for all of your hard work in coordinating deliveries! Maybe I'll see you when I'm at MH next week for the New Director's meeting.

- Thank you,
Amina

Amina Chaudhri
Library Director
Putnam Valley Library

Re: Kingston Library's move to a temporary space



Margie Menard <mmenard@kingstonlibrary

To Laurie Shedrick; Rebekkah Smith Aldrich; Tom Finnigan



Thu 9/21

[Suggested Meetings](#)

[+ Get more add-ins](#)

Thank you all—you guys are awesome! We'll make our plan at our end and we'll be in touch soon to coordinate with you.

I appreciate the clear, thorough responses from Tom and Laurie (Tom, I didn't miss the "you've got this" affirmation!) -- I think I have what I need to start planning and I'll reach out if I have questions.

As usual, I'm so grateful to be part of MHLS!

Talk soon,

Margie

Margie Menard (she/her)
Director, Kingston Library
55 Franklin Street

[MHLS-DIRECTORS] Kudos For Transparent Language!



mhls-directors@googlegroups.com on behalf of
To MHLS Directors



12:46 PM

[If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.](#)

Hi Resource Sharing Committee,

Just passing along this positive feedback from one of my trustees:

"I thought I'd put in a positive review for the language learning opportunity on the library website. I am traveling to France next month and have been using Duolingo for about a month. I learned a lot, but it had become very grammar intensive. I felt it wasn't that helpful for a typical trip as a tourist. I started the library's program and it is just what I wanted to help me get by while I'm there."

Thanks!

Mary

Mary M. De Bellis, Director

LaGrange Association Library

1110 Route 55

Lagrangeville, NY 12540



845-452-3141 ext. 101

Currently Reading *Everyone Here Is Lying* by Shari Lapena

RE: [MHLS-Notice] Vega Discover Catalog Introduction



Tom Lawrence <tlawrence@poklib.org>

To  Rebekkah Smith Aldrich;  mhls-notice@googlegroups.com



10:27 AM

Well done, all!

Tom Lawrence, Library Director
Poughkeepsie Public Library District



From: mhls-notice@googlegroups.com <mhls-notice@googlegroups.com> **On Behalf Of** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:40 AM

To: mhls-notice@googlegroups.com

Subject: [MHLS-Notice] Vega Discover Catalog Introduction

Good morning,

Today is a very important day in the history of the Mid-Hudson Library System, our first training event on our next generation Vega Discover catalog.

Before we get too focused on the work of rolling this out, I wanted to acknowledge the phenomenal work of **Laurie Shedrick, MHLS Assistant Director and Technology Operations Manager and our Technology Operations Team here at MHLS** who have not just brought this product to life for our membership, but have also worked tirelessly to ensure the vendor developed this product in a way that works for consortia.

Much of the work at MHLS is often unseen by the majority of our members and this is an example of that. Regular meetings with the vendor (for years), caucusing with other consortia, testing, iteration, introducing pilot libraries to the testing and iteration, introducing more pilot libraries to

[MHLS-Notice] Re: Vega Discover Catalog Introduction



mhls-notice@googlegroups.com on behalf of

To mhls-notice@googlegroups.com



10:32 AM

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

Looking forward to the session this afternoon. Many thanks to all for bringing the new catalog to fruition!

Mary M. De Bellis, Director

LaGrange Association Library

[1110 Route 55](#)

[Lagrangeville, NY 12540](#)

845-452-3141 ext. 101

Currently Reading *Everyone Here Is Lying* by Shari Lapena

Re: Thanks



G Murphy <gmurphy@elting>

To Library Director Hurley

Cc Christina Jennerich; Ulsterdirectors;

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



9:36 AM



UCLAAnnualDinner2023.jpeg
509 KB

[Unsubscribe](#)

+ [Get more add-ins](#)

It was fun! Great message from Rebekkah - that I need to keep hearing! Stole photo from Rebekkah's fb page!

Re: Thanks



Katie Scott-Childress <direct>

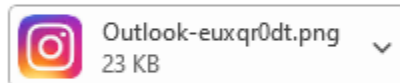
To [Nicole Lane - GAR](#)

Cc [Gillian Murphy](#); [Library Director Hurley](#);
[Christina Jennerich](#); [Ulsterdirectors](#); **+ 1 other**



10:51 AM

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.



Thanks to everyone who showed up, and especially to Gillian and Ivy who organized the delicious dinner, and to Rebekkah for an awesome presentation.

Agreeing with Gillian, this is a message that we need to keep hearing, internalizing, and making our own talking points and marching orders.

Ulster County libraries rock!

Katie

"Hi Tom,

I wanted to pass on this gratitude from a library patron!



Paul said to you:
Hi Courtney,

Sep 06, 2023
06:10PM
[view](#) | [save](#) | [trash](#)

I saw the post with the photo of one of your staff posing with boxes of books to be sent to other libraries. It made a very important point that I don't think of often enough. When I pick up a book request from my library, I rarely think about who was behind it. The people at various libraries who pack up the books and, possibly even more importantly, the people who deliver them, are truly unsung heroes. They deserve our thanks and gratitude.

If you think of it, please give my thanks to everyone at your library who does this important work.

Thanks for bringing that to my attention - and, I hope, to other folk's attention.

Paul

Best,

Courtney Tsahalís

Millbrook Library - Director

[3 Friendly Lane](#)

[PO Box 286](#)

[Millbrook, NY 12545](#)

[\(518\) 677-2644 ext. 2](#)

Thank you



Amy Smith <director@doverplainslibrary.>

To ● Rebekkah Smith Aldrich; ● Laura Crisci



Wed 8:49 PM

You are welcome.

Thanks for the update.

Happy to help!

 Feedback

Rebekkah & Laura -

Thank you very much for coming to speak with the Dover Board tonight and for answering their questions. I'm very appreciative and so are the trustees.

At tonight's Board Meeting, the Finance Committee members were especially enthusiastic about getting to work. They've even scheduled two meetings for this month.

So thank you. I'm confident there will be follow-up questions, but we have a starting point with more authority than before and that's invaluable.

- Amy