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State Education Department Announces \$19 Million In State Aid For 216 Public Library Construction Projects Statewide

The State Education Department today awarded \$19 million in state aid to 216 public libraries statewide for construction and renovation projects, Commissioner MaryEllen Elia announced today.

"Investing in public libraries means investing in our communities," said Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa. "These funds will help libraries make much-needed renovations and upgrades to better meet the needs of the children, families, and adults they serve every day. We must continue to invest wisely in our public libraries."

"These funds provide needed financial support to public libraries across the state," said State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia. "Many libraries in New York lack modern facilities or technology and need to undergo renovation or expansion to better serve the community well into the future. The Board of Regents and I thank Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature for committing these funds."

Awards range from \$2,500 to \$2.4 million. A complete list of funded projects is available here:

http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/construc/19m_pls17.htm. Awards by region are below:

Region	Total Award Amount	Number of Projects Funded
Capital Region	\$1,076,934	21
Central New York	\$885,364	20
Finger Lakes	\$1,863,285	19
Hudson Valley	\$2,407,786	44

Long Island	\$2,374,701	35
Mohawk Valley	\$1,109,947	18
New York City	\$5,919,647	4
North Country	\$954,758	21
Southern Tier	\$893,565	11
Western New York	\$1,514,013	22

"Today, more than ever, we need to support our libraries," said Senator Carl L. Marcellino, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee. "As I talk to my libraries, I am repeatedly reminded how demand for their services is on the rise. Our libraries make our community a better place to live, and we simply must invest to protect and expand their buildings and programs. These funds will allow for much needed construction and technology upgrades statewide."

"It is important that we continue to invest in our neighborhood libraries," said Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee. "I would like to commend Commissioner MaryEllen Elia and the State Education Department for awarding these important grants that will go a long way to making the right investments for our communities around the state."

"Libraries across New York State do an excellent job at connecting people with endless opportunities for learning, growth and culture," said Senator Patty Ritchie, Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Libraries. "I'm pleased that through this funding, libraries across the state—and in the region I represent—will be able to continue to improve their services for patrons."

"New York's public libraries can only thrive with consistent and meaningful investments," said Assemblymember Dan Quart. "As Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Libraries and Education Technology, I understand the challenges our institutions face and the choices they must make to keep their doors open and serve their communities. I'm proud that this year we are able to offer a significant commitment to help our libraries make much needed repairs and upgrades. I'm grateful to my colleagues in the legislature and Governor Cuomo for recognizing the vital role libraries play in our neighborhoods."

Public libraries may apply for an award that could fund up to 75 percent of a project. Project activities eligible for grants include financing construction of new library buildings, construction of additions to existing buildings, and the renovation or rehabilitation of existing space. The projects can include roof replacement, purchase and installation of alternative energy sources and new HVAC systems, windows,

doors, and lighting systems, electrical upgrades, and construction of new or replacement of old walkways and parking lots. New furniture, shelving and equipment, including computer equipment, can be purchased for new or newly renovated space. Broadband infrastructure projects are also eligible. Renovations designed to provide accessibility for patrons with disabilities is a high priority. Priority is also given to projects that will extend library services to people residing in geographically isolated and economically disadvantaged communities.

Construction funds are allocated to New York State's 23 public library systems based on formulas in Education Law. Member libraries within a system apply for the State funds allocated to their public library system. Each library system's governing Board of Trustees then prioritizes the projects and sends approved project applications with recommended project awards to the State Library. After State Library review, applications are then sent to the Dormitory Authority of New York State (DASNY) for final review and approval.

The state funds are from \$19 million in capital funds for State Aid for Library Construction provided in the 2016-17 State Budget. In the 2017-18 State Budget, the Legislature provided \$24 million for projects that will be announced in Spring 2018.

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New York State Board of Regents

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N S R**INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING, INDIES IN THE LIBRARY****INDIE AUTHOR DAY: LIBRARIANS AND AUTHORS SOUND OFF ON THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING**JUNE 8, 2017 | PEYTON STAFFORD | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

In anticipation of Indie Author Day 2017, to take place on October 14, this article will summarize what I found after speaking with several librarians and an author who had participated in **Indie Author Day** last October.

Four themes emerged:

- The Indie Author Day name sends too narrow a message
- Libraries need to do more, and earlier, promotion to bring in readers as well as authors
- The most successful aspect of Indie Author Day was networking among the authors. In one case, this resulted in the founding of a writers group at a library.
- ...and what about paying the authors for the books?

Mel Parish, the author who organized Eastchester Public Library's Indie Author Day 2016 spoke to me at length about her experiences with it.

"It was good to get together with other authors," she said. However, the name of the event conveyed the message that it was a day for authors, and not for readers (and book purchasers).

Calling it Indie Author Day sends the message that it is a day for authors, rather than for readers, so it attracts authors. At Eastchester, several of the people in the audience were actually either writing books or planning to, and they wanted to learn more about how to become an indie author. It wasn't clear that the event was for readers as well as for authors, so people thought that it was especially for authors who hoped to get their books into public libraries, which can be difficult, since librarians see being published by one of the Big Five as the stamp of approval for a book, and they won't buy books from the smaller independent presses or from indie authors.

The same issue came up when I talked with Karen Dettloff of the Lake Jackson Branch of the Brazoria County Library System, in Texas. Libraries will need to do more advance publicity to bring in readers

to meet and listen to the authors. Her event brought in twenty audience members and about eight authors, but some of the audience were would-be authors who had come to learn how to write and self-publish their own books. The Lake Jackson event was listed in the local newspaper's events page and on the library website, but did not receive other advance publicity.

On the up side, Indie Author Day at Lake Jackson helped inspire one of the librarians to form a writers group, and the group is still going strong, so even though attendance was modest, the day did lead to a new service that the library can offer. As with Eastchester, networking among authors was the greatest benefit of the event.

Mel Parish also thought that there needed to be more promotion, and from an earlier date. For next year, she plans to do more and earlier advertising so more readers will be able to fit the event into their schedules. Also, she hopes the library will buy print copies of the indie books and have them face out in a special display, ready to be checked out. This would produce more reading than having the authors try to sell them, and it might lead to subsequent sales to readers. As for ebooks, they are more difficult to work with, so focusing on print first makes sense to her.



Terry Kirchner Executive Director of the Westchester Library System, of which Eastchester is a member, said that he has looked at Indie Author Day, but as a large collaborative serving a population of a million, they would need a program to support the indie books so they did not get lost in the library's massive catalog. He does not want to add a separate ebook platform for indie books, since this would create an information silo that would not work well to promote the books. He needs a way to have vetted (well-reviewed) indie books automatically added to the catalog. I asked him about getting indie authors' books through OverDrive, and he echoed what I had already heard from a Lessa Spitzer, a collection development librarian at San Jose Public Library, in California. Lessa wrote me that:

Overdrive has a completely separate section of their website where they show the self-published or indie titles. If you just do a regular search or are browsing through any of the usual channels, the self-published titles don't show up. You have to actually select a setting to shop specifically for self-published titles (and then none of the regular titles show up – you can only see one thing at a time).

The setting isn't hard to use, but it is sort of hidden and the only reason I even know about it is from a meeting with our Overdrive rep. However, having to change a setting and do an additional search

is enough of a burden that it makes me much less likely to purchase those titles. Most of the time I forgot that it is even an option unless specifically reminded of it.

This verified what I had read in a 2014 article by Nate Hoffelder on The Digital Reader titled **OverDrive Carries Self-Published eBooks, but Don't Worry – They're in a Ghetto**. In other words, getting them from OverDrive is outside the normal workflow of collection development librarians, so it is unlikely to happen.

The last theme that came up was payment to authors.

“If the library is saying we want your book...we think the library will pay for the book. It was a bit of a surprise to find out they expected a donation.”

This was author Mel Parish's comment. She and other authors were surprised to find that libraries want indie authors to donate ebooks, much as they have printed books. She went on to explain that for her, as for other serious indie authors, they have not written books simply for their personal gratification. She has invested in a website, various editorial services, a professional cover designer, etc. She makes money selling her books. Why should she give them to the library for free, when the library pays for other books they acquire?

This is an important issue, particularly when libraries want to acquire books from popular indie authors. Perhaps authors whose books are not selling will gratefully donate a copy to the library, but for authors who are earning their living by selling books, it is a different question.

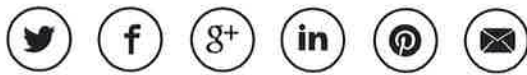


Wednesday, May 31, 2017



Burbio® Launches Amazon Alexa Skill For Use by Libraries, Schools, Non-Profits and Governments

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"Alexa, Ask Burbio What's Happening at Suffern High School?"

PELHAM, NY (PRWEB) MAY 30, 2017

Burbio.com, a community events platform featuring thousands of school, library and community calendars, today announced the launch of an Amazon Alexa Skill that gives users voice access to personalized lists of upcoming events of interest from community organizations and allows any U.S. non-profit organization to be on Alexa instantly at no cost.

Using the Burbio Skill for Amazon Alexa, residents can "Ask Alexa" questions like "Alexa, ask Burbio what's happening at Dobbs Ferry Library tomorrow?" Or "Alexa, ask Burbio what's happening at Town of Lewisboro?" and find out what they need to know about what's going on in their town. The service is linked to the Burbio.com web and iOS app, which allow users to build a custom feed based on their interests that can be read off by the Burbio Alexa Skill.

"Voice search is an incredibly convenient new way to stay on top of local events," said Julie Roche, Burbio co-founder. "It's so much easier to just ask, 'Alexa, ask Burbio what's happening at my kids school tomorrow?' than to poke around websites and emails to find out."

Burbio pulls event feeds from partners and has a self-serve calendar publishing tool. Events update in real time across its web service, iPhone App and Alexa skill and are optimized for local search.

"Voice search is a powerful tool for communicating with residents," said Terry Kirchner, Executive Director of the Westchester Library System. "Services such as Alexa are going to play an important role in everyday life, and libraries are leaders in educating the community about new technology."



"Voice search is a powerful tool for communicating with residents," said Terry Kirchner, Executive Director of the Westchester Library System.

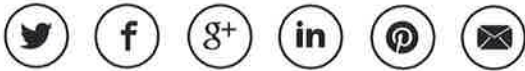
In addition to streaming calendars from sources including Google, Facebook, and various school and library software platforms, Burbio's calendar publishing tool allows any group to get their events on Burbio for Amazon Alexa in minutes.

"Many of our supporters use Alexa, so this is a perfect way to make it more convenient for people to find our events," said Stephen Baumann, Executive Director of the Discovery Museum and Planetarium in Bridgeport, CT which provides dynamic hands-on STEM experiences for visitors of all ages.

Burbio currently features over 10,000 school, library, government and community calendars including the suburbs of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington, DC, and is opening up the platform with this product release to non-profits everywhere. "Our partners are very excited that we have brought their events to the Burbio skill for Alexa – a new and growing communication medium," added Roche, noting the growing use of Alexa by tech savvy and younger consumers that are so critical to the mission of the education and non-profit community. "Many of our partners have been promoting their Burbio presence to members, and we are excited to open up the platform to any group across the country."

To Get Your Group or organization on the Burbio skill for Alexa, visit Burbio.com or email getonalex@burbio.com

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Daily Digest For Tuesday, June 13
(<https://patch.com/new-york/ossining/s/g5hhj/caught-in-social-media-sexting>)



Children and Families Learn about and Create...
(<https://patch.com/new-york/ossining/children>)

Bulletin Board (</new-york/ossining/bulletinboard>)

Ossining Native Dominic Pace hosts upcoming event at Ossining Public Library

Ossining Native/ Actor will return home to host an event July 29th at 6pm at the Budarz Theater in the Ossining Public Library.

By Joy Parris (Patch Poster) - (<https://patch.com/users/dominic-pace-0>) Updated June 13, 2017 3:38 pm ET

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'Mike and Miriam Risko are not only so talented, but their level of enthusiasm and knowledge of music for the community is beyond words' says Pace. 'In my opinion they are the cornerstone for the Arts in Ossining and have truly earned that recognition in so many ways.'

Past recipients of Pace's Grant include OHS students Jesse Rivera, William Zoldessy Gillman, as well as Ossining native Kristen Hester who will screen her short film that evening, Shift.

Pace is no stranger to charity, as he is actively involved in Los Angeles based organizations Shane's Inspiration, Aut2bfit, and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Pace has also made donations to local Ossining Matters Organizer, Jessica Irons. 'The Arts is so important in our community and I'm just so happy Arts members have gone above and beyond to include everyone in their programs. It's really how it needs to be as kids and community can feel the true definition of why Ossining Matters that way. Mike and Miriam Risko have truly exemplified that and it's inspiring to see everyone else on board.'



American Freed; Trump Picks Medal Of Honor Recipient; Send A Troll A Cake: Patch Morning Briefing (<https://patch.com/new-york/ossining/s/g5hpi/american-freed-trump-picks-medal-of-honor-recipient-send-a-troll-a-cake-patch-morning-briefing>)

(<https://patch.com/new-york/ossining/s/g5hpi/american-freed-trump-picks-medal-of-honor-recipient-send-a-troll-a-cake-patch-morning-briefing>) Sessions testified, snakes and gators are not the only things causing problems in Florida, and ice cream beer floats. And Nicolas Cage.

Pace currently has a recurring role on the NBC hit comedy, Superstore, starring America Ferreira and Ben Feldman.

The event will also recognize small business in Ossining, as Pace attributes a lot of his resilience and success to his first employers in Ossining. 'Tony and Chris Parise of the former Parise's Steak House, allowed me to have a flexible schedule while studying with filmmakers at NYU and Columbia when I was younger. The town has always been so supportive in many ways and I consider a lot of the local business owners my friends as well as supporters of career.' Local Businesses sponsoring the event that evening are Kendra Negrón of Dragonfly Wellness Yoga, Julie Johnson of The Peaceful Body, Scott Ryan of Six Degrees of Separation Restaurant, as well as Home Improvement Contracting. Each business has included a special offer in the program for attendees that evening.

Admission is free, and there will also be complimentary wine and appetizers hosted by Dominic's sister, Dina Pace of Pace Productions, Inc.

To RSVP, please visit the Facebook Event Page, Ossining and the Arts, hosted by Dominic Pace.

Originally published June 13, 2017. This post is contributed by a community member. The views expressed in this post are the author's. Registered users are welcome to post on Patch (<https://my.patch.com>).

The Journal News

LOCAL NEWS
Monday, June 12, 2017

Six Westchester libraries receive renovation grants

GABRIEL ROM
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HARRISON - Six public libraries across Westchester will receive state grants totaling more than \$400,000 for various renovation projects.

The grants will be divided between libraries in Harrison, Bedford, White Plains, Bedford Hills, Katonah and North Castle.

State Assemblyman David Buchwald, D-White Plains, and Sen. George Latimer, D-Rye, said in a joint statement the money comes from the 2016-17 state budget.

"Our community libraries are a focal point for gathering and learning," Latimer said.

The six library construction grant awards, totaling more than \$400,000 are:

White Plains Public Library: First-floor renovations, including the com-

munity room, classrooms and a cafe, \$153,807.

Harrison Public Library: Roof replacement, \$123,804.

Bedford Free Library: Roof replacement and fireplace repairs, \$28,804.

Bedford Hills Free Library: Replacement of a 30-year-old HVAC system, \$23,804.

Katonah Village Library: Installation of automatic accessible doors at patron entrances, \$13,804.

North Castle Public Library (North White Plains Branch): New library technology, \$58,805.

"This construction grant helps fund a reinvention of this grand library, creating The Hub for adults with a new community room, new classrooms, expanded technology and even a café," said White Plains Library Director Brian Kenney.

Twitter: @GabrielRom1

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When Mom is in Prison: Chappaqua Librarians Participate in Summer Program Reading to their Kids

JUNE 3, 2017 BY JANIE ROSMAN



Like 79

Learning to read is a joy for children and their parents as a little one's first sentences and their comprehension increase with their vocabularies. Sharing these moments can be challenging from afar, more so when the parent is incarcerated.

Miriam Lang Budin, head of children's services at Chappaqua Library and children's librarian Robbin Friedman, found a way to use books and reading to ease the pain of children who visit their mothers who are behind bars.



(L-R): Chappaqua Librarians Robbin Friedman and Miriam Lang Budin holding books read to kids with moms in prison.

"About four years ago, I was invited to see preview screening of the film *Mothers of Bedford* (2011)," Budin told members of the Rotary Club of Chappaqua during its March luncheon.

The documentary by filmmaker Jenifer McShane details five incarcerated women at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. During the course of several years, McShane spoke with them, their children and families, the children's caregivers, and prison employees and volunteers to understand parenting from a distance.

"It was an extraordinary movie about the women who are incarcerated in this maximum-security prison," Budin shared. "Some of the women are pregnant when they arrive so they give birth at the prison. If they're privileged enough, then they can keep their babies until the babies are two years old."

Moved by the film, she "wondered how the library could help them in their heartbreaking situation and knew books were the perfect answer." Research led her to Hour Children®, which runs family programs at the Bedford Hills facility and at the Taconic Correctional Facility.

This will be the fourth summer she and Friedman will read to children visiting their mothers, one component of the facility's Summer Program. Local families open their homes to inmates' children for one week each during six week-program, allowing them to spend time more time with their mothers as contact is otherwise by telephone or mail.

Rebecca Sussman, Teen Program Coordinator, Hour Children's Center, explained the story time program, one of many for families. "From Sunday through Thursday—six times during July and August—children stay with host families in the area and visit their moms during the day," Sussman explained. "Some of them (children) are siblings, some of them know each other during the years, and some come (to the readings) with their mothers," Friedman said. "We never know how many people will show up when we're there; sometimes up to 36 people (mothers and children) attend."

All programs take place in the visiting room, behind which is a children's area that looks like a nursery, and where Friedman and Budin read to the children.

"The visiting room is open to any child of any age; (however), kids from ages 5 to 17 are eligible to be hosted by families during the summer. Their presence evokes a positive reaction in parents who are reluctant to participate. "That's the goal: to get everyone involved," Friedman emphasized. "Reading is a good way to get everyone engaged."

How do they hold everyone's attention given the vast age range? "We bring picture books or early readers and poetry," Budin said, "as there's not enough time to read chapter books or novels, and one child can read a poem or an older child can read to a younger child."

One favorite is *Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reverso Poems* by Marilyn Singer. The author's poem can be read forward and backward, and the latter will have a different meaning. Another is *We Are in a Book!* from Mo Willems' series.

"The book has lively dialogue and engages the reader," Budin explained. Elephant Gerald and Piggie realize they are characters in a book that's being read, and once they're more at ease with this, they become upset that the book will end.

"Hello. Will you please read us again?" the characters ask whoever's reading the book.

Budin and Friedman agree their efforts are well-received. "We get thank-you letters and lots of positive feedback from the families," Budin said, adding, "sometimes we see families again the next year."

Both are glad they found a way to work with the population and find it "fulfilling to serve people who would not otherwise have had the same opportunity," Budin said. Each child who participates in the reading program goes home with a new, age-appropriate book to reread with another adult or by him/herself.

Those who are interested in offering books can visit <http://hourchildren.org/>. Families interested in hosting children for one week during the summer can contact Deb Rigano, Summer Program Coordinator, at drigano@hourchildren.org.

Like 79

FILED UNDER: COVER STORIES

TAGGED WITH: CHAPPAQUA LIBRARIANS, CHAPPAQUA LIBRARY, CHILDREN OF MOTHERS IN PRISON, FAMILY, MOTHERS, MOTHERS IN PRISON, READING, READING TO CHILDREN, THEINSIDEPRESS.COM

About Janie Rosman

Janie Rosman is a freelance writer and editor whose work appears in local and regional publications. She chronicles the Tappan Zee Bridge replacement project at [Kaleidoscope Eyes](#)

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INDIES IN THE LIBRARY

INDIE AUTHOR DAY: WHAT IT'S ABOUT AND WHAT IT DOES FOR INDIE AUTHORS AND LIBRARIES

JUNE 1, 2017 | PEYTON STAFFORD | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

In last week's article, **The Rise of the Indie Author in Libraries**, we looked at the indie author phenomenon and why it is important to libraries. We found that with the development of the worldwide web and easy access to computing equipment, self-publishing has grown from being a money-maker for vanity presses, but not for authors, to becoming a money-maker for the authors. While one still finds poorly written books being self-published, a new breed of highly professional authors has arisen—writers like John Locke (the current author, not the English philosopher)—who consistently write and publish bestsellers, who outsource to get expert editing, cover creation and book design (just as most traditional publishers now do), and who operate more like mini publishing houses than like the self-published authors many librarians feel cannot produce books that meet good editorial standards.

There are huge financial incentives for authors to self-publish their ebooks, rather than accept the 19th century two-year publishing schedule and Scrooge-like royalties that come with traditional print publishing. As the analysis at **Author Earnings** has demonstrated, authors are already making money by self-publishing in e. Some, such as Hugh Howey, then hand off print editions to a traditional publisher that can distribute printed books through wholesalers to bookstores and other retail outlets. With the new publishing technology and the global digital marketplace, the author gets the best of two worlds instead of the worst of the one traditional world. The effect of this new financial model and the technologies behind it cannot be overestimated.

In time, we will see strong authors—authors confident of the salability and popularity of their works, as well as of their ability to found and operate a publishing business—increasingly choosing to self-publish in e, and then go trad in p by using traditional publishers to handle only what will become the smaller subsidiary right of publishing in print. Traditional publishers may be left behind as specialty distributors serving shrinking offline markets with inexpensive paperback editions, for readers that do not own tablets or smartphones, and expensive hardbacks, the latter for the collector market. Their highly skilled editors, publicists and marketers long-since pushed into freelance status by downsizing, they will have to compete with indie authors for the services of their former employees.

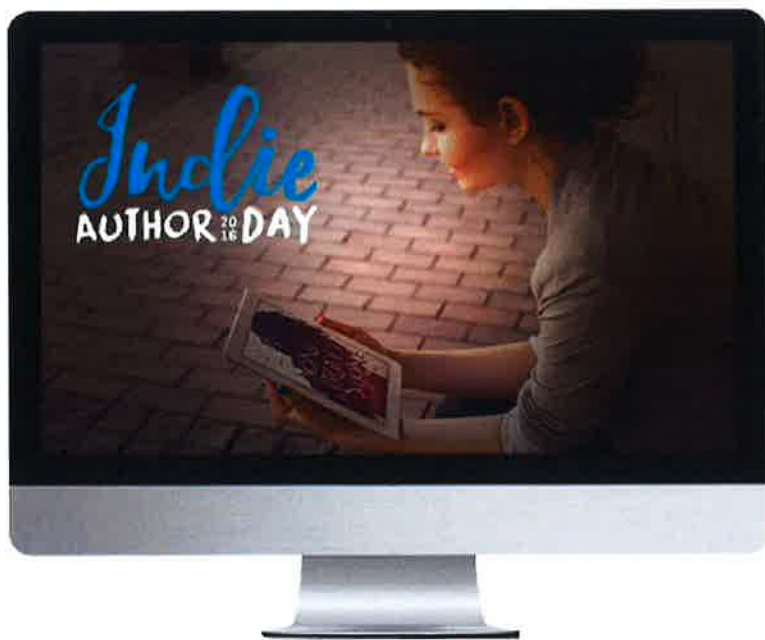
If libraries ignore this trend and continue to rely on print circulation to justify their existence, they will suffer along with the traditional print publishers. Now is the time for libraries to embrace indie authors and to take advantage of this new wave of literary creation.

In this and following articles, we will begin our exploration of Indie Author Day, an annual event in which libraries celebrate indie authors. We will look at what Indie Author Day is, who sponsors it (NSR is a media sponsor, along with LJ, BiblioBoard, PW and many other trusted and committed friends of libraries), and how Indie Author Day helps libraries take the first steps away from their addiction to print books from the Big Five to the freedom of providing the indie books their patrons now want—and will want even more in the future—while maintaining cost controls and high collection development literary standards.

Because Indie Author Day addresses so many of the issues libraries have with indie authors, anyone who understands Indie Author Day will also have a good understanding of indie author issues and related ebook issues in libraries.

A Parallel Universe of Ebook Publishing...

To begin looking at Indie Author Day, let's examine some of the library issues that Indie Author Day addresses, so we understand why libraries participated in it last year, and how it benefited them and their patrons, as well as why it is worth beginning or continuing in libraries.



Indie Author Day comes with a great deal of support for libraries. It is not simply an event to be treated like a program. The sponsors and librarians involved in creating it provide deep expertise in the issues surrounding indie authors, and some of the sponsors offer products designed to help libraries integrate indie authors into their collections. Indie Author Day can be considered as a package that addresses a constellation of indie author issues.

As described above and documented in last week's article, there is a trend toward

more readers reading more indie authors. Likewise, more readers are shifting from print to digital. These major shifts in the world of publishing put the library into a position of needing to provide not only ebooks from traditional publishers, but ebooks from indie authors as well. Otherwise, readers

will look away from the library in their search for their next great read. Traditional publishing continues to thrive, especially in print, but we—publishers, librarians and readers—now have to deal with a parallel universe of ebook publishing and distribution systems that do not easily integrate with libraries, such as Amazon. Currently, over 90% of libraries offer ebooks from traditional publishers through OverDrive, Axis360, Cloud Library and other services, but only 20% of libraries carry self-published ebooks. So, libraries need a practical way to add self-published ebooks to their offerings. If libraries do not find a way to offer these books to their patrons, they will be left behind as the patrons increasingly prefer e to p and indie to trad.

This is essentially a platform issue. Libraries need a platform for indie authors' ebooks. Indie Author Day addresses this with the BiblioBoard platform. We will look more deeply into ebook platforms and indie books, later, since there are other options, but the important point to understand is that this is not an insurmountable problem. Libraries can and do deal with it. If 20% of libraries are able to add indie ebooks to their collections, then the other 80% can follow along.

A second issue is the lack of reliable reviews of indie books. Lack of reliable reviews puts off a lot of librarians. They do not want to buy badly written books. In the past, indie authors did not have ways to get their books reviewed by reliable third party sources, such as Booklist or PW, but this has changed, and is less of a problem. We will explore how this ties into Indie Author Day, later, as well as the resources available.

A third issue has to do with collecting books from local authors and building state-specific collections. Libraries often make a special effort to build such collections, but with indie authors who publish digitally, this has been difficult. Indie Author Day can help with this, both as a way of discovering these authors and as a way to connect with the technology to make this happen.

Along with these internal issues that libraries must face when working with indie authors, there are also community and educational or programming issues. Most libraries try to support local authors, but don't want to be put into the position of acting as indie author publishing consultants and having to master the intricacies of commercially available self-publishing platforms and tools, much less the practicalities of small business marketing and accounting, or book design and illustration. Libraries are well equipped to produce programs that feature local experts and business consultants, but they are not equipped to become experts and consultants in these specialized fields. Libraries don't give tax advice. They should not try to give indie publishing and small business development advice, either. Indie Author Day provides an unparalleled opportunity for libraries to cement relationships with local experts and to put them in front of indie authors for educational panel discussions and presentations.

Lastly, we need to ask what if anything indie authors can do for libraries. Obviously, libraries can help authors, but can indie authors reciprocate by helping libraries?

These are the issues we need to look at in order to understand Indie Author Day and how it fits into libraries' goals and other projects.

Next, let's take a look at the first Indie Author Day, the 2016 event. This was the first Indie Author Day, so the idea and its implementation are both quite new. If you have worked in library marketing, you know that getting anything new off the ground is difficult. If a new program or programming series attracts even a few patrons, that is good news. So, let's keep these realities in mind as we review Indie Author Day 2016. Let's not compare it with the CSLP, which has decades of build-up behind it. Indie Author Day is a new event and will take several years to build a following.

Most libraries held their inaugural Indie Author Day on October 8, 2016, though due to hurricanes and other events, some libraries postponed the event or held it early. Altogether, over 250 libraries participated. They were located in all but five states. Seven-hundred-fifty authors attended, and the total number of participants came to over 3,000. I don't need to do the math for you, but that averages out to 12 participants per library. Not bad for a first try, but obviously there is a lot of room for growth, and room for massive improvement in library marketing to patrons. Authors showed up. Getting them an audience was more difficult.

You can get a quick numerical and pictorial recap of Indie Author Day 2016 on the Indie Author Day website, [**here**](#). You can also see some written accounts of authors' experiences, [**here**](#).

I contacted several librarians and an author who had been in charge of Indie Author Day 2016 at a library to find out their experiences, and here is what they told me. Two of the librarians I contacted had diametrically opposed experiences. Let's look at them and assume that the average experience was probably in the middle. Next week, I will report on results from several other libraries, but I don't think we will see any significant changes.

Martha Iwan, Head of Reference for the Mount Kisco Public Library in New York began planning for Indie Author Day 2016, last June. She brought together a panel of speakers that included a literary agent, a memoir writer, an author of mysteries and love stories, and a business owner whose business supported self-publishing. She also found and brought in twenty local authors, each of whom set up a display table of books, flyers, and other marketing materials around the perimeter of the library's meeting room. The event was a success as far as the authors meeting and networking with each other. Likewise, the panel was knowledgeable and followed by a question and answer period. Unfortunately, in spite of publicity in the local media, only fifteen to twenty non-authors attended. A large audience simply did not materialize, and the authors were disappointed that they did not sell any books. This turnout was better than average, but still poor for this library, and for the amount of work that went into creating the event.

Because of the low level of public interest, Martha does not intend to hold an Indie Author Day in 2017, but if the event takes off so that more public interest develops, she will certainly try it, again.

At the other end of the country, at The Ledding Library of Milwaukie, Oregon, Reference Librarian Robert Lanxon reported:

We did participate, although it was very low key without a lot of promotion. We had a table set up for drop-in... without many people. We also displayed books by indie authors that we had purchased for the event.

This year, we plan on doing much more. I just got the go-ahead to purchase Self-E, so we plan on promoting the event more heavily along with our subscription to Self-E.

Both libraries serve fairly small communities of 10-20,000. Milwaukie did not track attendance stats or provide a panel, but they got enough interest from the community to continue with Indie Author Day 2017 and to expand the project to include more support for authors via a purchase of SELF-e with Pressbooks to support local authors. We will look at SELF-e and Pressbooks in some detail, later, since they can be key elements in a library's plan to support indie authors.

I also contacted an indie author. With five novels published as an indie, Mel Parish writes contemporary fiction with a twist of mystery and psychological suspense, in which small decisions lead to major life changes for her characters. Born in England, she has lived on three continents and is an avid traveler. It's no surprise that after settling in Westchester County, NY, she founded the Westchester Indie Authors group and was the primary organizer of Indie Author Day at her local Eastchester Public Library (and, yes, Eastchester is in Westchester County). Here's what Mel had to say about Indie Author Day 2016:

Indie Author Day at Eastchester Library was a wonderful opportunity to bring local authors together to share their experiences and writing process with each other and members of the local community, and also to learn about the options for indie authors to get their books into libraries. The opening up of libraries to indie authors is a big step forward in the recognition that their work is as worthy of a place on library shelves as traditionally published authors and I feel fortunate to live in an area where the director of my local library, Tracy Wright, has always been supportive of local authors. With the first Indie Author Day behind us, we look forward to working together to use the experience gained to create an even bigger and better event in October 2017.

Larger libraries, with larger budgets, more staff, and access to famous authors also participated in Indie Author Day 2016. Los Angeles Public Library, for instance, integrated it into their LAPL Writes program.

While results varied, many libraries have already signed up to doing Indie Author Day 2017, this October. You can get a list of them, [here](#).

To conclude, Indie Author Day helps libraries address issues vital to their survival by keeping them in step with the developing trends of patrons reading more digitally while reading more indie authors. We have looked at the statistics that track these changes, and we are looking at Indie Author Day not only as an event that pulls together a variety of methods and tools that libraries can use to stay current with these trends, but as a package of tools and ideas that will help libraries plan how they will deal with the indie publishing trend.



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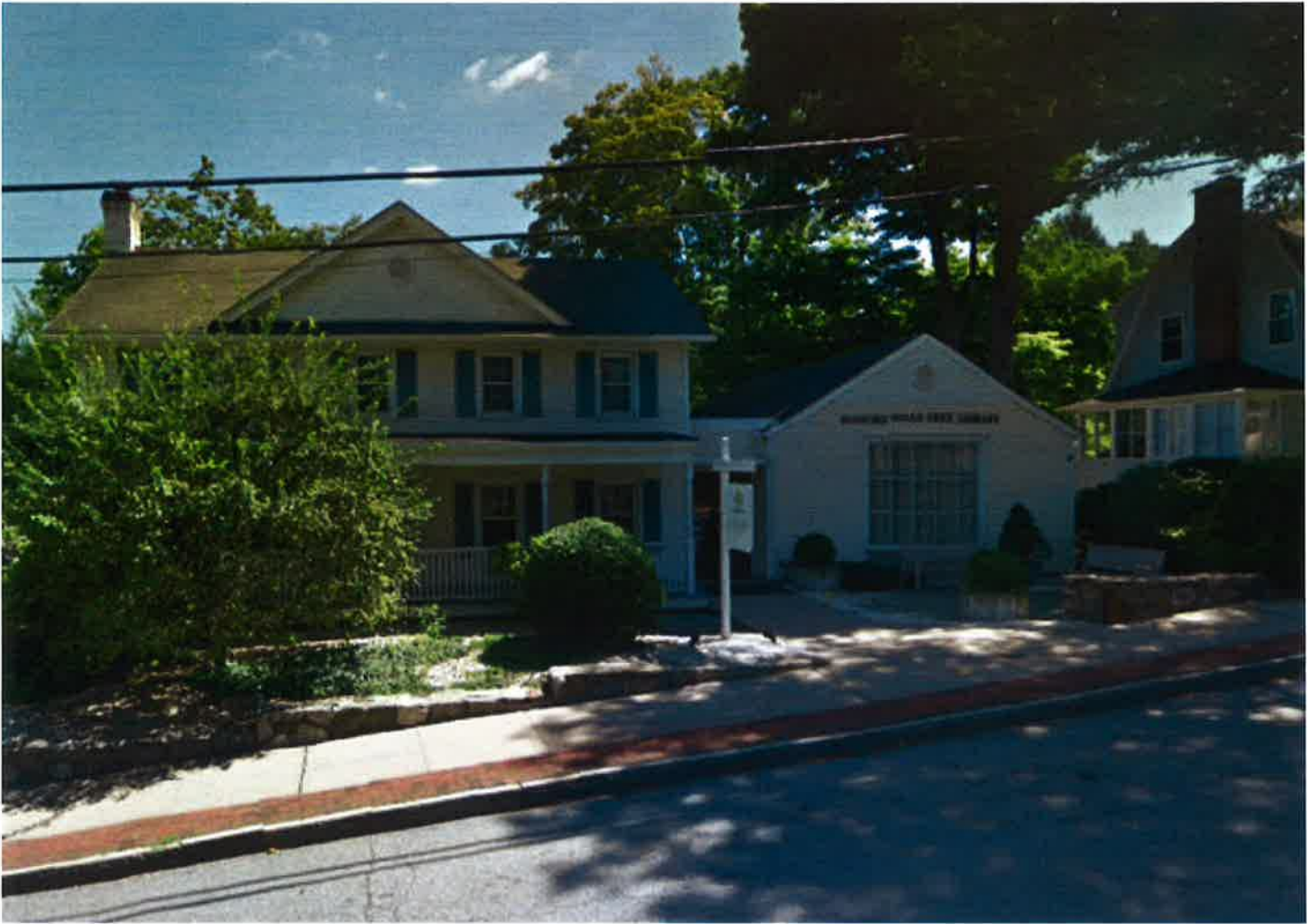
Politics & Government (/new-york/bedford/politics)

Bedford Area Libraries Receive Construction Grants

Libraries in Bedford, Bedford Hills and Katonah were recipients of the funds.

By Michael Woyton (Patch Staff) - (<https://patch.com/users/michael-woyton-2>) June 1, 2017 5:49 pm ET

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BEDFORD, NY — State Assemblyman David Buchwald, D-Bedford, and Senator George Latimer, D-Rye, announced that more than \$400,000 in construction grants are being awarded to improve the infrastructure at six Westchester County libraries. Libraries receiving construction funds include those in Bedford, Bedford Hills, Harrison, Katonah, North Castle and White Plains. The grants support needed improvements like new roofs and air conditioning systems, as well as creating and renovating space for the latest in library technologies. Funding for these public library construction projects was provided in the 2016-2017 State Budget.

“Our community libraries are a focal point for gathering and learning. I am thrilled to join Assemblyman Buchwald and the indefatigable workers and volunteers who keep our libraries running in announcing these grants that will keep our libraries safe and accessible for years to come,” Latimer said.

- Harrison Public Library (Richard E. Halperin Memorial Library Building), for roof replacement, \$123,804
- Katonah Village Library, to install automatic accessible doors at patron entrances, \$13,804



Trump And Climate Change; Trump Appeals; The Word On Eminem: Patch Morning Briefing (<https://patch.com/new-york/bedford/s/g52o2/trump-and-climate-change-trump-appeals-the-word-on-eminem-patch-morning-briefing>)

Ohio sues opioid makers. A Portland man died a hero and then someone stole his wedding ring. Rodney Dangerfield gets some respect.

(<https://patch.com/new->

- North Castle Public Library (North White Plains Branch), to help renovate the building to support new library technologies, \$58,805
- White Plains Public Library, to support extensive first floor renovations that include the community room, classrooms and a cafe, \$153,807

“We are thrilled to be the recipient of a construction grant that was secured for us by Assemblyman Buchwald and Senator Latimer,” said Bedford Free Library Director, Ann Cloonan. “Our cozy village library is an historic building and that makes major projects costly. This was the first time I had applied for a construction grant and we will be using the funds for a new roof and interior fireplace repairs.”

“We are so grateful for the support from Assemblyman Buchwald and Senator Latimer,” said Mary Esbjornson, Director of the Bedford Hills Free Library. “Built in 1860 our library is charming, but our air conditioning system needed to be replaced and our electrical system upgraded. This grant comes at the perfect time as our Summer Reading Program brings in many children and families and we want them to be comfortable and happy in our space.”

“This grant for automatic ADA compliant doors will benefit people with disabilities, seniors, moms with strollers and patrons carrying armloads of books,” said Katonah Village Library Director Mary Kane. “It also improves accessibility for all residents. Assemblyman Buchwald and Senator Latimer’s support for this project is greatly appreciated.”

Assemblyman Buchwald and Senator Latimer are longtime advocates for the region’s libraries supporting their important role in education, and as thriving community centers. The \$402,528 in construction grants announced today re-affirm that commitment.

Photo credit: Google Maps.

Facade work begins at Will branch in

Ernie Garcia, The Journal News Published 7:00 a.m. ET May 10, 2017 | Updated 4 hours ago



(Photo: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

Scaffolding is rising at the Yonkers Public Library's Will branch project.

The Grinton I. Will Library at 1500 Central Park Ave. is undergoing facade work on its windows and facade.

A temporary internal wall will be erected in the main reading area.

The first phase includes \$1.8 million of work by Milcon Construction.

The Will branch needs new windows, insulation and repairs to its concrete, which has cracks and

ADVERTISEMENT



The first phase of the work will focus on the front of the building and part of the southern side where the facade is damaged.

No interior renovations are planned, unless there is money left over from the exterior work.

The library will stay open during all stages of construction and staff.

[Twitter: @ErnieJourno \(https://twitter.com/ErnieJourno\)](https://twitter.com/ErnieJourno)

MORE YONKERS NEWS

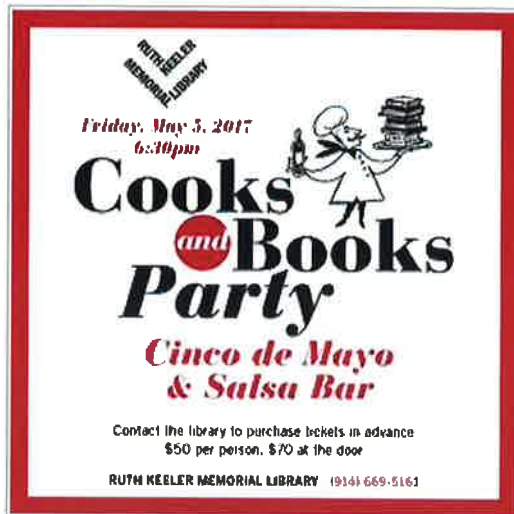
Annual Fair Opening Night Cooks & Books Party in North Salem

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🕒 Published on Friday, 21 April 2017 10:58

✍️ Written by Ruth Keeler Memorial Library



Ruth Keeler Memorial Library Annual Fair - Opening Night - Cooks & Books Party on Friday, May 5, 2017 from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Ruth Keeler Memorial Library in North Salem (276 Titicus Road).

Please join us for the Cooks & Books Party to kick off the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library Annual Fair. The Cooks and Books Party features an open bar with a selection of fine wines, beers and margaritas along with delicious hors d'oeuvres from some of North Salem's best cooks. Get a sneak peak at the variety of books on sale and a chance to buy books before the Book Fair and Plant Sales opens to the public on May 6th. Live music by Chicks Candy

Store jazz duo along with a special treat - a Salsa Bar sponsored by Chef Debbie Rizzo.

Our local cooks for the party include:

- Susie Thompson
- Megan Smith-Ray
- John Lombardo
- Lois Lippman
- Cindy McKean
- Hilary Fox-Mills
- Bernis Frances
- Jackie Holtzer
- Sayan Ray
- Anita Zander
- Lauren Ivanhoe
- Eric Grasinger
- Steve Kinnear
- Renea Dayton
- Cynthia Curtis
- Greg Allen
- Rebecca Evans
- Chef Debbie Rizzo (Salsa Bar)

Tickets are \$50/person.
All proceeds to benefit the Annual Fair fundraising.

RSVP & Purchase Tickets Now!

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Mount Vernon Public Library: Westchester's hub for history, resources

Michael P. McKinney, mmckinney@lohud.com Published 6:07 a.m. ET April 19, 2017 | Updated 11:17 a.m. ET April 19, 2017



(Photo: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

MOUNT VERNON - Larry Spruill, who was the city's longtime historian, remembers how the blue and yellow bookmobile used to pull up in his neighborhood when he was growing up.

Children and adults would climb up the vehicle's steps and, with library card in hand, get some good reading.

But before it fanned out across the city back in the day, the bookmobile came from somewhere. That somewhere was the historic Mount Vernon Public Library, one of the libraries started through an endowment by Andrew Carnegie, many of which are in New York City. The library was chartered in 1896 and built several years later.

"The library itself was the most progressive library outside of the New York," Spruill said. "It was essentially the library of Westchester County until about 20 or 25 years ago."

[SPECIAL REPORT: Presenting Mount Vernon \(http://data.lohud.com/mv-grid/\)](http://data.lohud.com/mv-grid/)

[ABOUT THE MOUNT VERNON PROJECT: A paralyzed city with a rich past \(/story/news/investigations/2017/04/19/mount-vernon-ny-news-project/99695950/\)](/story/news/investigations/2017/04/19/mount-vernon-ny-news-project/99695950/)

[MOUNT VERNON: Signs of change in schools, neighborhoods, film \(/story/news/local/westchester/mount-vernon/2017/04/19/mount-vernon-ny-news-neighborhoods/99249678/\)](/story/news/local/westchester/mount-vernon/2017/04/19/mount-vernon-ny-news-neighborhoods/99249678/)

[KEEPSAKE MAP: Mount Vernon's homegrown talent shapes history \(http://data.lohud.com/embeds/MountVernonMap.jpg\)](http://data.lohud.com/embeds/MountVernonMap.jpg)

For decades, the library has been a key location, where many resources are solely located.

"We are the central library of Westchester County," said Gary Newman, head of reference.

These days, the library features many modern components and offerings that libraries do. There are film screenings in the Grace Greene Baker Community Room on Tuesdays. The building has a cybercorner, a computer lab, a literacy center, the Mills Law Collection, a job information center, among other things. Two floors of the mezzanine contain old and rare materials.

All told, the library has 490,000 cataloged books, 21,000 serials, 17,000 audio and visual recordings and 158,000 other holdings, according to its website.



Gary Newman, senior librarian; Oscar Davis Jr., president of the Board of Trustees; Evanla A. Thompson, the Mount Vernon Public Library. (Photo: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

During a recent tour, Newman pointed out a special area with "an extraordinary archival collection in the county.

[RECREATION: Boys & Girls Club a 'lighthouse' for Denzel and other Mount Vernon youth \(/vernon/2017/04/19/mount-vernon-ny-news-boys-club/99456008/\)](#)

[LANDMARK: St. Paul's Church is key historic site for religious, press freedom \(/story/news-vernon/2017/04/19/mount-vernon-ny-news-st-pauls/98863286/\)](#)

[NOTABLES: Dick Clark, E.B. White and more are famous Mount Vernon High grads \(/story/vernon/2017/04/19/mount-vernon-ny-news-famous/99130650/\)](#)

[SCHOOLS: Nellie Thornton theater sees early signs of renewal \(/story/news/education/201-theater/99207000/\)](#)

Spruill said that for some time, the library had the largest reading collection between New York Cit

The community had its share of great writers, too. Among them was E.B. White, born in Mount Ve Stuart Little, published in the 1940s.