



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

ALBANY, NY – The New York Library Association (NYLA) is proud to announce new leadership serving on the NYLA Board of Directors in the upcoming year.

During the NYLA 2020 Annual Virtual Conference, Claudia Depkin from Haverstraw King’s Daughters Public Library official began her term as NYLA Council President, succeeding the Immediate Past President, Dr. Jen Cannell from St. John Fisher College.

"Managing and working at libraries is more difficult than ever right now," **said Claudia Depkin, NYLA Council President.** "But New York's libraries will still be here at the end of my term, and NYLA will be working to make them stronger. Our institutions will be here in 100 years, centering communities that are stronger for the lessons we are learning today, together."

Ms. Depkin received her B.A. at SUNY Binghamton and her Masters in Library Science at SUNY Albany. Before her 2013 appointment as Director of Haverstraw King’s Daughters Public Library, she directed the public libraries in Tuxedo and Woodbury. During a decade long stint in New York City, she led an archives project at New York Public Library and was archivist at BMG Records.

The New York Library Association also welcomed Beth Merkle from the Strong Museum of Play as the Incoming NYLA Council President. She will begin her presidential term in November 2021. The following new members also joined the NYLA Board of Directors.

- Steven J. Bachman, *Four County Library System*
- Jennifer Byrnes, *Rochester Public Library*
- Jean Currie
- AnnaLee R. Dragon, *Kinderhook Memorial Library*
- Kristina Graves, *Schenectady City School District*
- Lisa Kropp, *Lindenhurst Memorial Library*
- Dawn Pressimone, *Wayne Central School District*
- Todd Schlitt, *Half Hollow Hills Community Library*
- Karen Sperrazza
- James K. Teliha, *Utica College – Gannett Library*

To learn more about the NYLA Council, please visit our website [here](#).

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About New York Library Associations (NYLA):

The New York Library Association (NYLA) is the voice of the library community in New York. NYLA is the oldest state library association in the country and represents school, college, special and public libraries, library staff, trustees, and students from around the state. NYLA is the only statewide organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of all libraries and library staff in Albany and serves as the spokesperson on library matters to the media and public policymakers.