



Mohawk Valley Library System Outstanding Library Staff Award 2022 Nomination Form

Framed Certificate + \$500 for Library Materials Identified by Bookplate(s)

Please answer the following 3 questions using this form. Make your answers descriptive and concise as you describe the contributions made to foster library services in your community. This written part of the application should be no more than 2 pages total. Please focus on activities that took place over the last 3 years.

You may add up to 2 additional pages of support materials – photos, publicity materials, news stories, etc. The application package may not exceed 4 pages total.

The award is open to any paid employee at an MVLS library. It is awarded to library staff, not library directors.

I nominate JoAnn Fralick affiliated with the Sharon Springs Free Library
Library, for the MVLS Outstanding Library Staff Award

Submitted by Jeanne Irwin, President and Regina Gilbert, Vice President – Board of Trustees
Submit nomination via email to kclingan@mvls.info by Friday, September 2, 2022

1. Please describe this staff member's history at your library. –

JoAnn Fralick was hired in early 2018 as an Assistant Librarian and soon exhibited a desire to serve the children of our community with library-related activities. She is a credentialed educator with Elementary Education certification. Also, with a large family of her own, JoAnn delights in children. The little ones at Story Time adore her and the accompanying adults appreciate the opportunity to socialize while their children are so engaged.

JoAnn started with a story hour every Thursday morning which she later expanded to include a story-related craft and snack for the children. Her main audience for these activities is preschool children in the 2 and 3-year old range and an accompanying caregiver.

2. What, specifically, did the nominee do to earn your nomination? Where and when did the activities and services take place?

JoAnn is being nominated by the Board of Trustees because we feel that she far surpasses her job requirements in serving our young patrons and is expanding our patronage and service to the community. Examples include:

- a. JoAnn prepares for each week's story hour by researching the internet (on her personal time) for craft ideas, purchasing the necessary items and following through with the project each week
 - b. JoAnn's story hour also gives the accompanying adults an opportunity to network with each other and word of mouth is helping our programs to grow exponentially. We started with a handful of children each week and now generally have 12-14 children in attendance along with their parent. When you consider that our service area population is 1,850, this is a very high number.
 - c. The weekly story hour has also paid dividends by increasing the number of attendees at our Summer Reading Program. JoAnn has built a fun-packed agenda for this program each year which has included both indoor and outdoor activities such as the Utica Zoomobile, a singing storyteller, a dog-sled team, and this year's NYS fish hatchery visit was very clever and a big hit.
 - d. During the COVID pandemic when the library was forced to close its doors or cancel in-person story hour JoAnn recorded her story-hour and children were able to access it from Facebook. She also put together a weekly craft item in a paper bag which their parents could pick up at the library giving continuity to the program.
3. How did your library/community benefit from this effort? How was it successful?

Story hour introduces our community's pre-school children to our library in a fun manner encouraging them to read. The interaction that their accompanying adult has with other parents offers networking opportunities and these same caregivers are spreading the word that the library is a fun place with opportunities for their children's growth and education. Our patron numbers are growing because young families are the key to our future.

July 14, 2022 - Story time is rocking this morning!



July 16, 2022 - Today the Utica Zoo came to our library! They brought a few friends with them... Leo a 27 year old male leopard tortoise.

Patty, an African hedgehog who is 4 years old. Dooley a female skink who loves fruit salad and sweet potatoes and mangos.

And least, Mango, an everglades rat snake who is 17 years old and loves marshy wet lands. Thank you Utica Zoo!



July 23, 2022 - Today the NYS Fish Hatchery came to our library! Ms Pyra and Mr Kroon taught us some fun things like rainbow trout most enjoy cold water between 44 and 52 degrees! Also an interesting fact is that scientists have learned more about outerspace than our oceans! It truly is Oceans of Possibilities!



Follow this link to our Facebook page to get a glimpse of how beautifully JoAnn works with our young patrons making weekly story hour fun for all. Her love of these children and what she does is very evident.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=601511014498981&external_log_id=d949aefd-ce42-4493-a76a-dfa69565b80e&q=sharon%20springs%20free%20library

Comment from our Facebook page. "How lucky are we to have JoAnne as our children's librarian? Bunches! ♡♡♡♡"

