



Welcome to The Public Periodical!

May 2025

We're excited to welcome you to The Public Periodical—our new monthly newsletter designed to keep you informed on what is happening at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and its 37 locations.

From special events to new services, inspiring stories to important initiatives, this is your direct link to your public library system.

Each month, we'll highlight ways to get involved, resources to explore, and updates on how we're growing alongside our community. We're glad you're here—thanks for reading.

Profoundly PUBLIC.

Profoundly Public: A New Chapter

Our new identity, Profoundly Public, reflects our belief that libraries are not passive buildings—they are powerful, living institutions rooted in free thought, civic engagement, and opportunity. At a time when access to knowledge is under threat, we are proud to reaffirm our nearly 200-year commitment to open access and public service.

Watch our [first ever commercial](#), and visit our completely [overhauled merchandise store](#) — featuring brand-new designs and archival gems. All purchases directly support the Library and its mission (plus, FREE shipping!)



IN CONVERSATION

In Conversation – Featuring Susan Orlean & Margaret Sullivan



Join us on Friday, May 9 at 6 pm for *In Conversation*, a powerful evening celebrating intellectual freedom and the enduring importance of libraries.

Featuring Susan Orlean (Author of *The Library Book*, *New Yorker* contributor) and Margaret Sullivan (*New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Buffalo News*), this one-night-only event will explore how we protect the free exchange of ideas.

Admission includes hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and engaging conversation at the Admiral Room in downtown Buffalo. VIP tickets offer exclusive meet-and-greet access. Space is limited— [get your tickets here](#) and help support our libraries!

What's HAPPENING.

There's always something **Profound** happening at your Library.

What Does It All Mean? Exploring the Dictionary – Rare Book Room at Central Library:

Organized in conjunction with representatives from the Dictionary Society of North America, this exhibition shows how dictionaries have defined our shared world. "What Does It All Mean?" explores the history of English dictionaries and the people who created them. The exhibition is free to the public and open during library hours through fall 2025.

A Reading by Buffalo's first Poet Laureate, Jillian Hanesworth – Thursday, May 29, 6-8 pm, Central Library Auditorium: Buffalo's First Poet Laureate, Jillian Hanesworth, will read selections of some of her work.

Chess Club – Crane Branch Library, Central Library, North Collins Library, Orchard Park Library: Chess clubs & clinics will be held across the library system this May – come check it out, and test out your skills!

Toddler Rave – Tuesday, May 13, 6-7 pm, West Seneca Public Library: Miss Emily will be hosting a toddler-friendly dance party for those ages 2-4 years and their caregivers. Registration required!

Job Fair – Wednesday, May 28, 10 am – 1 pm, Central Library: Looking for your next opportunity? The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is partnering with the NYS Department of Labor to host a job fair. Bring your resume.

Family History Day – Saturday, May 24, 1-3 pm, Central Library: Discover your roots at the Grosvenor Room's 3rd annual Family History Day! Enjoy expert talks, meet local genealogical and cultural groups, and get personalized research help. Whether you're just starting or deep into your family tree, there's something here for everyone.

For all event listings, check out the library system calendar [here](#).

New! Your libraries now offer access to a range of discussions from bestselling authors & thought leaders several times a month. Programs are live or they can be streamed to view at another time. Free! Details here: <https://libraryc.org/buffalolib/upcoming>.

[Visit the Library's website](#) for details about hours of operation, programs and more.

Follow us at:



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