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Editor: Please do not edit out ALA credit in the last paragraph.

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**THE SARAH HULL HALLOCK FREE LIBRARY  
RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES  
*\$3,000 Grant Helps Library Work with Residents on Materials and Programs for Seniors***

APRIL 26, 2021. MILTON, NY — The Sarah Hull Hallock Free Library in Milton, New York has been selected as one of 300 libraries nationally to participate in Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that helps library workers better serve their small and rural communities.

The competitive award comes with a \$3,000 grant that will help the library purchase large print books and produce programs that meet the interests of local senior residents.

“We are proud that ALA chose our library in Milton to be part of this initiative,” said Lois Skelly, director of the Sarah Hull Hallock Free Library. “This grant will allow our library to get to know our residents better, by holding conversations. We want to know the aspirations that the seniors in our area have for our community, and to use that knowledge to best serve the public.”

As part of the grant, the Sarah Hull Hallock Free Library staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff and board members will then host a small gathering in June. The library invites seniors to join the conversation:

Tuesday, June 15, 2:00 p.m.  
at the Cluett Schantz Memorial Park Pavilion  
*This small gathering with refreshments follows safety protocols.*

The Sarah Hull Hallock Free Library’s deep interest in its senior community members is prompted by staff observations of its senior patrons’ fortitude, resilience and resourcefulness in navigating the challenges of family and community life. The gathering at Cluett Schantz Memorial Park is one of six community conversations that the library is hosting, as part of the Mid-Hudson Library System’s Turning Outward Cohort. The June 15 gathering will have an additional senior focus and specifically address this generation’s aspirations and interests.

Reservations are required, as seats are limited. Those interested in participating must call (845-795-2200) or e-mail ([miltonlibraryj@live.com](mailto:miltonlibraryj@live.com)) the library. The library website – [www.miltonlib.org](http://www.miltonlib.org) – lists additional community conversations in May and June.

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Since 2014, ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities initiative has re-imagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types have utilized free dialogue and deliberation training and resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a space for residents to come together and discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees and staff.

*"Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)."*

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