Anticipating the up-coming 29th NYSLAA Conference
Karen Leight

Workshops are filling up, Howard Johnsons’ rooms are full and we are getting ready!

As Ruth Oberg clarified on the NYSLAA list serve, the lunch-on-your-own for Thursday will be really easy. This is a small city, emphasis on small, but there are quite a few eateries! We have all your regular fast food on the outskirts of the city, such as, Kentucky Fried/Taco Bell, Arby’s, Burger King, Subway, Quiznos, Pizza Hut and of course the ever popular McDonald’s. Then we have three Pizzerias in the city, a deli, two cafes, a fine dining, and a few Chinese restaurants. Most of these are in walking distance from either the college or hotel. The city also boasts a few taverns, a movie theatre, grocery store and pharmacies. We are confident the city will accommodate all easily.

Also Guernsey Memorial is a stone’s throw from the hotel so come on and take a walk over to check us out!
I am very proud to announce that Dorothy Morgan has been elected President of the Library Support Staff Interest Roundtable (LSSIRT) for ALA!!! Dorothy received 73% of the votes, which shows the respect she has garnered across the nation for her tireless work on behalf of Library Assistants.

Dorothy has been instrumental in bringing the importance of Library Support Staff to the attention of ALA. They now include support staff in their language, using the term “Library Workers”, instead of Librarians. Just this seemingly small change will begin to elevate the image of Library Support Staff to Librarians and Library Administrators. ALA now includes Support Staff in their Annual Conference this year with the Empowerment Conference. Dorothy’s hard work has directly resulted in these changes.

She has been NYSLAA’s Ambassador for many years, bringing national recognition to our organization. Thank you, Dorothy for all the time and effort you have devoted to the empowerment of Library Support Staff!

Congratulations on your election to President of LSSIRT and much success in your new position.

I’m thankful that Dorothy lives in New York State! And a Thank You to the Liverpool Public Library for allowing Dorothy the time to pursue these endeavors.
Vergie Savage-Branch acknowledged in Library Journal

“We’re so proud -- Vergie Savage-Branch, our serials clerk and a leader in NYSLAA was acknowledged in the latest Library Journal (3/1/2007). Below is the announcement we’re using on our website to promote her achievement.”

Kristine M. Alpi, MLS, MPH, AHIP, Associate Library Director & Lecturer in Public Health, The Samuel J. Wood Library and The C.V. Starr Biomedical Information Center, Weill Cornell Medical College

Vergie Savage-Branch named One to Watch by Library Journal

Library Journal selected Vergie Savage-Branch, Serials Clerk at the Weill Cornell Medical Library, as worthy of special acknowledgment in its Paraprofessional of the Year Award competition. Quoting from the March 1 issue: "Referred to as a motivator, this 22-year veteran in collection development has been a leader through many technological changes during her tenure, most recently the move to e-journals. She's also been dedicated to staff development, as the "inspirational force" behind Library Assistants, Support Staff, and Associates Special Interest Group of the Metropolitan New York Library Council and through involvement in the New York State Library Assistants Association." Congratulations to Vergie!!

MLS Degrees Earned!

NYSLAA President, Joy Piper and NYSLAA’s Western NY Regional Rep, Marie Peterson, both received their Master of Library Science Degrees this May. Both of them have been great workers for the recognition of library assistants. We hope we don’t lose them from NYSLAA too soon, but wish them well on whatever they decide to do next.

Marie Peterson and Joy Piper
2005 Conference, Geneva

[Editor’s Note: Has someone in your library received special recognition? Please forward the information to me, so we can acknowledge the accomplishments of fellow Library Assistants in the Newsletter. Coleen Hopkins, ed.]
Library Assistants’ Day Across the State
Heidi Jensen

New York State Library Assistants’ Day was held on Thursday, April 19, 2007. We are honored every year by the New York State Assembly with our own special day during National Library Week. ALA is now sponsoring National Library Worker’s Day on the Tuesday of National Library Week. For some, it was looked at as two special days for Library Assistants. No matter what state, all Library Assistants or Library Workers should be proud of the hard work and commitment we give our Libraries.

The list-serv was full of excitement during National Library Week. We heard from Scott Goodman, 2007 NYSLAA Conference Chairperson & CAP Review Board Member, At Guernsey Memorial Library, they had a luncheon and the City of Norwich signed a proclamation stating that Thursday was New York State Library Assistants’ Day. Scott sent some great pictures along with his exciting news.

Vergie Savage-Branch wrote to let us know that they were honored with cookies on National Library Worker’s Day and a luncheon for the entire staff on Friday. She also told us that on Library Assistant’s Day, Metro’s LASSA group was going to have a breakfast and five mini workshops for the Library Assistants in the New York City area.

Judith Andrew from Ithaca College wrote to let everyone know that the Ithaca College Library hung their library flag (blue, with the international library symbol in white) in the library from a balcony railing. They also hung posters about the week in a variety of places within their building.

Joanie Haug from the Olean Campus of Jamestown Community College wrote to say that they changed one of their group study rooms into a beverage center. They had free coffee, tea, and hot chocolate for patrons and staff.

Nicki Haupt from the Williamson Free Public Library wrote to say each staff member was given a glass beaded key fob with a silver puzzle piece on the end. They were also instructed to order lunch and their director, Cheryl Gravelle, added all their names to the ALA – Library All Stars page. This was all preplanned since Cheryl was in Florida vacationing during National Library Week.

Joy Piper, NYSLAA President, wrote to say that at the University at Buffalo Libraries, a coffee hour to celebrate Library Assistants’ day was being held. They enjoyed sandwiches, cheese, crackers, and chocolate brownies.

I also posted to the list-serv that the Pioneer Library System honored the Library Assistants’ in our office with a potted plant and wonderful chocolate cake.

Thank you to everyone who posted to the NYSLAA List-serv. It’s great to see all the celebrations that were going on around the State.
New Conference Planning Guidelines
Ruth V. Oberg

Last year at the Town Meeting it was suggested that the very old, out-dated conference guidelines needed to be rewritten. I, as Conference Coordinator, asked for volunteers to help me with this task. Karen Leight from Guernsey Memorial Library graciously offered. While Scott and I were busy beginning the conference planning for this year, Karen started surfing the internet looking for something already published and close to addressing our needs. She found a conference planning guideline created by the Office of Victim’s of Crime (OVC) Training Bureau that very nicely fit the bill. Karen obtained permission from the OVC to use the document, in part, to create our own guidelines. She downloaded it, printed it, spiral bound it, and even burned a CD for me so I could begin working on the document on the computer.

It is long and detailed and needs a lot of editing to turn it into a NYSLAA document that can be used by future conference hosts. But it is a good place to start instead of trying to create it from scratch. I have been working on editing and asking for input and editing help from the Executive Council. We still need to rewrite the appendices as they require the most conversion from OVC to NYSLAA format. I want to add templates to use for letters and contracts for speakers, hotel checklists, etc. My plan is to present the draft at the Conference Planning workshop in Norwich.

Thanks to Karen and the Executive Council for their help. It should be quite a useful document when it is completed.

Membership Update
Donna Hanna

Membership for 2006 closed at 437. So far we have 104 members that have renewed including six new members! Please take a minute to renew your membership if you have not done so.

If you move, please be sure to alert me that you have a new address. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your mail.

Are you on NYSLAA-L? This is a great avenue to share information. It’s not a busy list making email messages very easy to manage. Why not take a minute to sign up? Go to NYSLAA.org, click on NYSLAA-L listserv, and follow the instructions.

As always, if you have a question regarding your membership or if you need a letter verifying your years of NYSLAA membership for the Certificate of Achievement Program please let me know.
Welcome New Members!

Velda Asbury  New York Public Library, Fort Washington Branch
Christina Baker  Poughkeepsie Public Library District, Adriance Memorial Library
Grace Balme  St. John's University
Maurice Baroni  Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Tax Library
Deloris Beschler  Chemung County Library District, Horseheads Free Library
Chandra Best  New York Public Library, Sedgwick Library
Judy Bland  St. John's University, St. Augustine Library
Yolanda Boggs  New York Public Library, Muhlenberg Library
Brett Bondar  Mount Saint Mary College, Curriculum Library and Design Center
Leslie Brown  New York Public Library
Royce Caldwell  New York Public Library, Jefferson Market Library
Sally Cranston  William B. Ogden Free Library
Debra Curry  New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Branch
Shelly Dean  Onondaga County Public Library
Michael Derwood  Syracuse University, H. Douglas Barclay Law Library
Teresa Fenton  Southern Connecticut State University
Pamela Furlong  Wood Library
Nadja Gibson  Queens Borough Public Library, Flushing Community Library
Debbie Goldman  New York College of Health Professions, James and Lenore Jacobson Library
Deborah Grousset  Marcellus Free Library
Kimberly Gunther  Colgate University, Everett Needham Case Library
Holly Hamm  Binghamton University, Glenn G. Bartle Library
Susan Hansen  New York Public Library, South Beach Branch
Randell Herbert  New York Public Library, Countee Cullen
Sheila Koeberle  Palmyra King Daughters Free Library
Bonnie Kupris  Colgate University, Everett Needham Case Library
Bernadette Manderson  Queens Borough Public Library, Flushing Community Library
Chaniquay Mauldin  Mount Saint Mary College, Curtis Memorial Library
Natividad Maxey  New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Branch
Deborah Meissner  Mount Saint Mary College, Curriculum Library and Design Center
Anna Midthun  Syracuse University, H. Douglas Barclay Law Library
Anthony Mojica  New York Public Library, Harlem Branch
Virginia Mullaney  New York Public Library, NY Public Library for the Performing Arts
Marilyn Mullen  Geneseo Community College, Alfred C. O'Connell Library
Anita Myers-Mabra  City College of the City University of New York, Cohen Library
Liz Norton  Geneseo Community College, Alfred C. O'Connell Library
Ashley Owens  New York Public Library, NY Public Library for the Performing Arts
Christina Pensiero  Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
Irene Pietrazewski  New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Library
Valerie Platt  New York State Unified Court System, Charles B. Swartwood Law Library
Luisa Porretta  Fordham University, Walsh Library
Jessica Presutto  Liverpool Public Library
Elaine Provenzano  Manhattanville College
Judith Romero  New York Public Library, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Diane Serrano  New York Public Library
Laura Sidoti  Greece Public Library
Lou/Anne Simons  SUNY Cortland, Memorial Library
Mary Spear  Mount Saint Mary College, Curtis Memorial Library
Louise Stamp  New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Branch
Renee Stevenson  New York Public Library, Parkchester Branch Library
Anne Tabin  Ontario Public Library
Claire Tomkin  Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Tax Library
Serena Torres  New York Public Library
Antony Toussaint  New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
Deborah Wagner  Colgate University, Everett Needham Case Library
Lai-Lam Wong  New York Public Library