

# NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

April-June 2007 Vol.19, no.2

---



Norwich, NY from South Broad St. facing north.

## Anticipating the up-coming 29<sup>th</sup> 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!

---

**INSIDE:** Dorothy Morgan wins election...Vergie Savage-Branch acknowledged in *Library Journal*... Library Assistants' Day...Conference Guidelines Update...

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Dorothy Morgan Wins Election!

Joy Piper



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!



Dorothy addressing the Town Meeting  
2006 Conference, St. John’s

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.



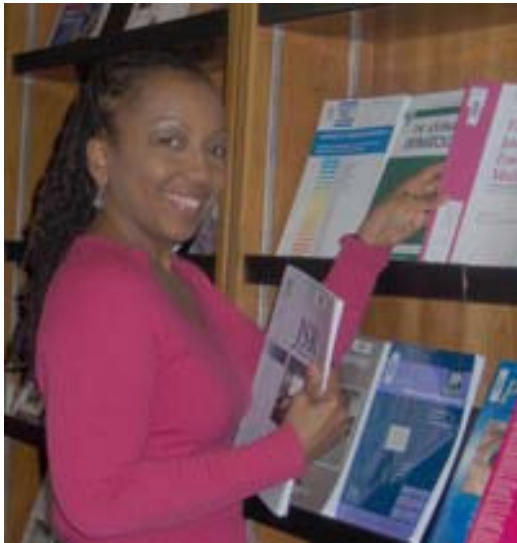
Dorothy on top of the world!  
2003 Conference, Spirit of Plattsburgh boat ride

## 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



**Congratulations to all four of our stars!!!**

*[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](http://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 Boggan	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 Dermody	Syracuse University, H. Douglas Barclay Law Library
Teresa Fenton	Southern Connecticut State University
Pamela Furlong	Wood Library
Nadia 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
Chaniqua Mauldin	Mount Saint Mary College, Curtin Memorial Library
Natividad Maxcy	New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Library
Deborah Meissner	Mount Saint Mary College, Curtin Memorial Library
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	Genesee Community College, Alfred C. O'Connell Library
Anita Myers-Mabra	City College of the City University of New York, Cohen Library
Liz Norton	Genesee 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
LouAnne Simons	SUNY Cortland, Memorial Library
Mary Spear	Mount Saint Mary College, Curtin 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

