

# NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Oct.-Dec. 2009 Vol.21, no.4

## Through the Looking Glass

Sheila Tshudy and Kathy Kapral

The Library Assistants at Rakow Library, The Corning Museum of Glass are very excited to be your hosts for the 2010 New York State Library Assistants' Association's (NYSLAA) 32nd Annual Conference in Corning, New York.

Conference workshops are still being planned and will surely offer some-thing for everyone. We are planning panel discussions dealing with current topics and concerns, technical and public services issues, and workshops dealing with computer skills, choices in continuing education, changes in the workplace, and more. We will be offering tours of some of the focal points of interest in Corning for those who arrive on Wednesday. You will want to be sure to attend the mixer Wednesday evening as we have planned an evening with tasty hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting, and music at Corning Incorporated's Headquarters Building with special guided tours of commissioned sculptures throughout the building. The Thursday night event will be equally inviting with a private "You Design It; We Make It" show at The Corning Museum of Glass. Each of you will have an opportunity to submit your own design for a glass object. The glassblowers will choose at least one



(l. to r.) Seated: Julia Corrice, Kathy Kapral, Tracy Savard  
Standing: Sheila Tshudy, Kelly Bliss, Lorie Fuller, Laurie Derr, Emily Davis  
Missing: Pam Rogers and Vickie Button

design and make the chosen object live on the Hot Glass Stage; and of course, the lucky artist will be able to take the piece with them at the end of the conference! Dinner will follow at the Museum with wonderful food and ambiance, and a DJ will follow dinner with some great music and karaoke.

Corning is centrally located in Western New York in the heart of the

Finger Lakes region and wine country, and is recognized as a world renowned glassmaking center referred to as "The Crystal City". While you are here, we invite you to visit The Corning Museum of Glass to discover the art, history and science of glass, and during your leisure time to stroll through Corning's Gaffer District which offers glass making studios, antique and specialty shops, The Rockwell Museum of American Western and Native American Art, and the many restaurants and pubs that adds to its small town charm!

So mark your calendar and save the dates as we look forward to welcoming you to....



**The Crystal City, Corning, NY  
June 9-11, 2010!**

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2009

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### Donations Chair

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### Conference Coordinator

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### Ambassador and

### Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator

Dorothy Morgan  
Liverpool Public Library  
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dot@lpl.org

“We would like to see a library community in New York State where library assistants have a voice in decisions that affect their future, are valued for their contributions, recognized and rewarded appropriately, and where there is equitable access to professional development opportunities.”

## NYSLAA’S MISSION

“The mission of the New York State Library Assistants’ Association is:

1. To enhance the professional image and status of NY State’s library assistants.
2. To further their professional growth.
3. To provide a network for communication to our members and the profession on library and library assistant issues.
4. To network and cooperate with library organizations on local, state, national, and international levels.”

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CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org)

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## Join NYSLAA-L, NYSLAA’s Electronic Forum

To subscribe, send the following command to [listproc@cornell.edu](mailto:listproc@cornell.edu)  
Subscribe nyslaa-l <first name><last name>. Do not include a subject.

To unsubscribe, send the following command to [listproc@cornell.edu](mailto:listproc@cornell.edu)  
Unsubscribe nyslaa-l <first name><last name>. Do not include a subject.

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Donna Hanna, SUNY Geneseo; Ruth V. Oberg, University at Buffalo*

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# Executive Council Elections

Coleen Hopkins, Election Chair

The annual call for nominations was printed in the July-September, 2009, *Network Connection*.

There were three nominations received and all three nominees ran unopposed. They are:



**President:**  
Sally McMaster,  
Rush Rhees Library,  
University of Rochester



**Treasurer:**  
Dawn Burnett,  
Bureau Veritas,  
Consumer Product Services,  
Buffalo, NY



**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Donna Kuhner,  
Gloversville Public Library,  
Gloversville, NY

Per the NYSLAA By-Laws under Article II: Elections Section B: Election Procedures B.1:

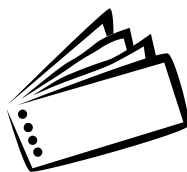
*"In the event of a totally unopposed slate of nominees, the Chair of the Election Committee shall inform the membership before the end of the year, and shall declare those nominees to be the new officers in January."*



**Sally,  
Dawn and  
Donna!**

There were discussions on nyslaa-l regarding virtual meetings or holding them by conference call. The Executive Council has looked into some possibilities and will work with members from around the State who are interested in running for an office where distance would be a concern. The person-to-person meeting is a workable format for the current slate of officers.

In 2009 we have met at Liverpool Public Library, Baldwinsville Public Library and Manlius Public Library. The meetings are posted on nyslaa-l and we hope members will join us when we are near you.



## Lottery Ticket Fundraiser Now in Full Swing!

Sheila Tshudy and the Corning Conference Committee

Lottery tickets based on the NYS evening 3 number draw for the month of February are now available and sell for \$5 each. Winning tickets will be worth \$25 and on February 14<sup>th</sup>, \$50.

The Conference Committee is asking every member for their help in this fundraising activity. Please help support your conference by selling tickets to your co-workers, friends and family. They make great stocking stuffers, but most of all, will help offset conference costs.

**Contact Sheila Tshudy at [TshudySA@cmog.org](mailto:TshudySA@cmog.org) for tickets.**

# Certificate of Achievement UPDATE

Dorothy Morgan, Review Board Coordinator

## THIS IS IT!!! NOW IS THE TIME!!!!



The Certificate of Achievement Review Board wants your packets **unfinished**.

**That's right,  
UNFINISHED!**

This is an opportunity that no one else has ever had before. The Review Board is willing to review your packet *as it stands right now*. We will review and give you feedback on what it will take to finish your packet. You may be surprised to find you are closer than you think! With our guidance, you should be able to complete your packet by **April 30** giving you the opportunity to receive your certificate at the June Conference.

The deadline is set for January 31, 2010.

Please email me at [dot@lpl.org](mailto:dot@lpl.org) and let me know when you are ready to put your packet in the mail. **COPIES ONLY PLEASE.**

Email me and we can discuss the details of shipping your packet.

## Give us a chance to help you!

Taken from Buddhist Philosopher Daisaku Ikeda on Attitude:

"Everything begins with the resolve to take the first step. From that action, wisdom arises and change begins. Without action, nothing changes."



## Conference Reports

### **NYSLAA Conference Report**

Natividad Maxcy, New York Public Library

My first workshop Thursday morning was "Introduction to Photoshop." I chose this workshop because I wanted to learn to use the features that make it popular with professionals in design and image-editing.

That afternoon, I took "Resume Writing." The presenter explained the various types of resumes, resume designs, their principles and resume sections. I learned that each resume is a one-of-a-kind marketing communication and with a little extra effort you can create a resume that makes you stand out as a superior candidate.

Friday morning's workshops started with "Identity Theft" which was very interesting.

My fourth workshop was "There's \$\$ Out There for You" which explained how to apply for grants, awards and scholarships. The presenting team provided a great deal of information including websites to search.

The Thursday night Dinner Cruise was wonderful. I had a great time, the food was delicious and the music was amazing.

The Keynote Speaker on Friday was Anne Bryan Smollin, CSJ, Ph.D. She was hilarious and her material was masterfully delivered as a comedy.

Despite a few transportation issues, this year's conference was enjoyable and a wonderful experience, as usual.

## Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Forum 2009 Annual Conference

Ruth V. Oberg, University at Buffalo

This year the theme was “The Neighborhood Library: Your Connection to the World.” The conference was held just outside Richmond, Virginia from Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank NYSLAA for sending me to this conference. My name was drawn from the many members who selected the option on the membership form. I have attended this conference for 12 straight years and was delighted to have been the winner of a free registration and overnight stay this year. This is a reciprocal arrangement with Virginia and it is a great sharing opportunity. The workshops were wonderful as were the networking opportunities. It was nice to see the friends I have made there again and to make some new ones.

My workshops were: “Easy Steps to Project Confidence, Competence and Credibility”; “Civil War Resources and Services”; “Library Support Staff Certification Program (LSSCP): Is the Profession Ready?” and “Where’s My Desk?”

The wrap-up keynote speaker was author and storyteller Linda Goodman. She had us spellbound.

Thanks again to NYSLAA and the VLA Paraprofessional Forum for this wonderful opportunity.

## NYSLAA Conference Report

Sue Lefebvre

Champlain Valley Educational School Library  
System

This is my second year as a NYSLAA Member. In addition, this past summer was the first time I attended a NYSLAA Conference. I highly encourage new members and members who have never attended the conference to make an effort to attend.

I networked with many nice people and had a wonderful time. The classes I attended were excellent and I learned a lot of valuable information.

I am looking forward to the upcoming NYSLAA Conference this summer in Corning. I hope to see everyone that attended the Troy Conference and meet some new faces as well.

## Capital Area Library Assistants Activities, Fall 2009

Jean Guyon, Chair, CALA Coordinating Committee



**Fall 2009 Lunch and Learn Workshop: *Identity Theft* and *Close the Book on Hunger* Food Drive for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, Sept. 21, 2009.**

Fifteen people attended our Lunch and Learn Workshop on *Identity Theft*, presented by Investigator Chris Hollister, NYS DMV and Inspector Eric Hecker, NYS DMV. Investigators Hollister and Hecker defined the different types of identity theft and how to protect yourself and what you should do if you become a victim. Our *Close the Book on Hunger* Food Drive collected 81 pounds of food

and \$15 in donations for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. Members of the Coordinating Committee are continuing their efforts to donate and volunteer in person at the Food Bank.

**Poestenkill Library  
Market Day  
Sept. 12, 2009**



Members of the CALA Coordinating Committee volunteered their time and contributed baked goods for the Poestenkill Library Market Day on September 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This event, sponsored by the Friends of the

Poestenkill Library, is a major community fundraiser that supports a variety of Library needs. This year's Market Day featured a café hosted on the library's porch, with coffee and a variety of delicious baked goods. CALA volunteers assisted with produce and plants,

puzzles, garage sale merchandise and a huge assortment of books, CDs, DVDs, and VHS tapes. The event rose over \$2,000 for the Poestenkill library and members of the Coordinating Committee hope to volunteer at future Market Day events.



## Heidi Jensen wins Dewey Fellowship Award

Coleen Hopkins



The Dewey Fellowship Award is sponsored by the Lake Placid Education Foundation and the New York Library Association.

The Dewey Fellowship pays for up to \$1000 of the cost of attendance of the NYLA Annual Conference. Additionally, each Dewey Fellow receives a \$100 Gift Certificate for use at the NYLA store.

Jennifer Morris, Executive Director for the Pioneer Library System nominated her and Heidi states "It was an honor to receive this award. I saw two other NYSLAA members from Syracuse. NYLA's conferences are very different from NYSLAA. I enjoyed myself and learned a lot."

## Pioneer Library System's Fall Support Staff Workshop

Heidi Jensen, Pioneer Library System

The Pioneer Library System 2009 Fall Support Staff Workshop was held Friday, October 30th. There were 33 people in attendance for this ½-day workshop and each attendee received a bag of vendor goodies. The morning started off with introductions, as many of us have spoken on the phone but have never actually met. It's fun to put faces with names.

Our first presentation was "Book Repair" by Leah Hamilton, General Collections Conservation Supervisor for the University of Rochester, Rush Rhees Library. This workshop provided cost effective strategies to maintaining book collections with quick and easy to learn techniques.

The second presentation was "Advocacy" by Kathy Miller, Director of the Rochester Regional Library Council and Jennifer Morris, Director of the Pioneer Library System. Their workshop was designed to help develop advocacy skills and learn to promote our libraries on the local and state levels.



Our last workshop of the day was an informal presentation given by Lorraine Lander regarding SUNY Empire State College. Ms. Lander gave people the opportunity to ask questions about this unique college experience.

I welcome suggestions for future Support Staff Workshops and wish to thank everyone who attended.

## Best Wishes Retirees

Coleen Hopkins

### Tracey LaBarge



Tracey LaBarge has retired from the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System after 25 years of service. She has been active in her area as a member of the Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) Library Assistants Committee since 1990.

Tracey retires with 14 years of membership in NYSLAA, where she served on the Certificate of Review Board and as its Coordinator. She has earned her Level III and Level IV Certificates in Automation and was awarded the Craig Koste Award in 2005.

Thank you, Tracey for your service and we look forward to seeing you at future conferences.

### Janet Steiner



On September 28, 2009, Donna Hanna, Joy Piper, Judith Andrew and I travelled to Ithaca, NY, to attend the retirement party for Janet Steiner, Director of the Tompkins County Public Library in Ithaca, NY. Janet was a "founding mother" of NYSLAA and our first Ray Murray Award winner. It was an honor to meet Janet and thank her for all she has done for library assistants. Thanks to Judith for speaking so eloquently on NYSLAA's behalf. A fund is being established at the Tompkins County Public Library to honor Janet. For information, please contact Suzanne Smith Jablonski, Foundation Executive Director, at (607) 272-4557 ext. 231 or [ssmithjablonski@tcpl.org](mailto:ssmithjablonski@tcpl.org).



## Creative Fundraising Event Glen Iris 5K

Sarah Ballinger

Trustee, Cordelia A. Greene Library

The Glen Iris 5k Run/Walk, benefiting the Cordelia A. Greene Library in Castile, NY, runs like a well oiled machine thanks to its organizers and many volunteers.

What began in 1995 as the "Fund Run" to raise money for a library addition has now grown into this year's event with an incredible 333 participants and raised over \$7000. The addition of [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) as a registration and advertising medium two years ago has markedly increased registrations. All runners and walkers are given free entrance to Letchworth State Park, site of the annual run, tickets for lunch catered by the award winning Glen Iris Inn and the first 300 racers are also awarded a t-shirt with the year's logo and sponsors.

Awards range from significant monetary prizes, highly prized pottery from local artists, certificates for sneakers from a local sporting goods store and sunglasses. Even the walkers are awarded pottery pieces.



*Several NYSLAA members participate in this event. Join us September 11, 2010, and help raise money for the library while enjoying our beautiful Letchworth State Park.* Coleen



**Have you contacted  
Sheila Tshudy for your  
lottery tickets, yet? Why  
not do it right now and help  
to keep the cost of this  
year's conference down.**

**[TshudySA@cmog.org](mailto:TshudySA@cmog.org)**



## Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2009 is at 374. Of the 374 there are 45 of our members are new! One last reminder is ready to go out for this year.

Again, if you've renewed for 2010, your membership cards and letters will be included in the February mailing along with the conference brochure.

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. **Other information such as job title, work phone etc. should be updated before December 1<sup>st</sup> of this year to insure accuracy in the directory.**

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 Member!

Martha Strunk - DeWitt Community Library



## Request a NYSLAA Scholarship

Coleen Hopkins

**Two distinct scholarships are offered each year:**

### **The Continuing Education Scholarship**

For members continuing their education in any field and not pursuing a degree at the time. The award is \$250.

### **The Degree Program Scholarship**

For members pursuing a degree in any field. The award is \$350.

Applications must be sent to the President and postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.