

# NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Apr.-June 2010 Vol.22, no.2

## Conference Time Is Here...

Sheila Tshudy, Conference Chair

...and we're excited to welcome you to Corning! As we've mentioned in the past, all conference activities are within walking distance, so bring your walking shoes (and umbrella—just in case.)

During your visit you'll definitely want to take the time to wander through Corning's Gaffer District ([www.gafferdistrict.com](http://www.gafferdistrict.com)) which is only a few steps from the Radisson Hotel. Here you'll find quaint shops, lots of eateries, pharmacies, a movie theater, pubs, art galleries, antique and collectible shops, hot glass studios, and lots more! We'll be including a map with your registration materials so be sure to check it out and patronize local merchants who have generously supported our conference.

### Just a few reminders:

Please wear your conference badge at all times.

You will need it for admittance to *all* conference activities. Also, the GlassMarket Shops at The Corning Museum of Glass are offering you a 10% discount (on non-discounted items only) if you are wearing your conference badge.

Don't forget to bring your lottery tickets for the lottery tree. You will be given 1 ticket for each dollar amount of the ticket.



This year in an attempt to give back to the community, we are asking all conference attendees to bring at least one new children's book to the conference.

We'll reward you with one ticket for each book to be used toward our raffle items. The collection of books will then be given to a local organization on behalf of NYSLAA members.



In case you have some extra time to spend in the area, following are some other points of interest:

- \*Arnot Mall
- \*Benjamin Patterson Inn
- \*Rockwell Museum of Western Art
- \*Corning Museum of Glass
- \*Make Your Own Glass
- \*Finger Lakes Wine Country
- \*Seneca Lake Wine Trail
- \*Watkins Glen State Park

**And... If you are planning to design** an item for the **You Design It, We Make It** event, contact Sheila Tshudy for the forms. [TshudySA@cmog.org](mailto:TshudySA@cmog.org)



**To schedule a one-to-one meeting** with the CAP Review Board, contact Dorothy Morgan. [dot@lpl.org](mailto:dot@lpl.org)

(More information on page 6)

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**INSIDE:** Library Assistants' Day...Retirement...Legislative Report...Membership and New Members

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2010

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### **Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator**

Dorothy Morgan  
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“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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The *NYSLAA Network Connection* is published four times a year by the New York State Library Assistants’ Association. Articles may be reprinted with the permission of the editor.

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

*Next publication date: August 15, 2010*

*Submission deadline: July 31, 2010*

## Library Assistants' Day

There were numerous postings with greetings and celebrations for Library Assistants' Day. Here are a few:

"Happy Library Assistant's Day! Have a great day and be proud of all your accomplishments."

**Sally McMaster, NYSLAA President**

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"Don't forget to celebrate NYS Library Assistant's Day on April 15<sup>th</sup>! We heard the Legislature is about to sign our proclamation."

**Ruth Oberg, NYSLAA Vice President**

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"Greetings from Missouri!

Congratulations to all of you for your accomplishments and dedication to your profession and a very happy Library Assistant's Day to all of you.

I'm very impressed with your organization, NYSLAA, and the support it enjoys from its members. Your certification program, conferences, and workshops are outstanding.

Wish we had something like that here. I'm a bit envious!"

**Laura Bundy, bundyl@umkc.edu  
University of Missouri-Kansas City**

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"Congratulations to all library assistants, support staff, library clerks, etc. etc. etc. We've proven



through time that it doesn't really matter what we call ourselves, or better yet what other people feel like calling us ☺ we are proud of our Association and the people

that make it the greatest.

Each year that passes on Library Assistants' Day just reinforces our dedication and commitment to who we are, and what we do in libraries all over the world. Thank you all."

**Dorothy Morgan, Ambassador for NYSLAA  
& Chair of the Certificate Review Board**

"LASSA-SIG's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Library Assistants' Day Celebration was hosted by Queens Library at the Flushing Branch. Our guest speaker in the morning was LaRoi Lawton, Assistant Professor and Deputy Chief Librarian at Bronx Community College. LaRoi spoke about "Through Challenging Times We Stay Strong" (cut-backs, lay-offs, and displacements) in the libraries across the Metropolitan area and Up State. In the afternoon we presented four workshops: Resume Writing Skills; Gadgets, Gizmos, & Google; Health Information; and Social Networking in Libraries.

Queens Central Library sponsored breakfast and lunch. Many thanks go to Karen Washington, Shevawn V. Anderson, Aisia Robinson, and Edith Capellan from Queens Central Library for their hard work helping LASSA-SIG present another wonderful Library Assistants' Day."

**Louise Smith-Jones, St. Augustine Library**



Attendees at LASSA-SIG's  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual Library Assistants'  
Day Celebration

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"Guernsey Memorial Library in Norwich had the staff get together for a staff meeting when we got there we were surprised with subs, chips, cookies & soda. A few knew about it due to the fact they were in the planning process. We had just bought a Wii game console for programs and we had that set up. It was a nice lunch and I had a good time."

**Scott Goodman, Guernsey Memorial Library**

“I did not learn of Library Assistant's day until that day came, so celebrations were low-key. However, I did send around an email to my coworkers (my fellow library assistants at Touro Law School) letting them know what the special occasion was and thanking them for their hard work throughout the year.”

**Kimberly M. Barbato, Gould Law Library**

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“At Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, instead of Library Assistants Day, we celebrated National Library Workers Day on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Everyone who works in the Rensselaer Libraries was treated to lunch to celebrate. Pizza, tossed salad, fruit salad, ice cream, and beverages were served in the

conference room in the Folsom Library. Our library director saw this as a nice opportunity to thank all of his staff for their efforts and contributions.”

**Adrienne Birchler, Folsom Library. RPI**

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“Here at Ithaca College Library on Library Assistants’ Day our director brought in a big cake for us all.

And for National Library Week: our library flag (blue, with white international library symbol) was hung from our 3rd floor balcony, and we had baskets of lollipops at all the service desks. Yay to us all!!!!!!”

**Judith Andrew, Ithaca College**



## Best Wishes

Coleen Hopkins



NYSLAA is saying Good Bye to two very active members as they retire and move on to other endeavors. They will be greatly missed! Louie (we wouldn’t dream of calling her Louise) and Louisa have always been strong NYSLAA supporters and I always looked forward to seeing them at the Annual Conferences. I am not alone in these sentiments as you can see.

“For me personally, I will greatly miss Louie at NYSLAA conferences. Over the years, she has been a source of inspiration for me. Each year at our Town Meetings, Louie tells about the wonderful things LASSAG and METRO have done. She always seems to encourage library assistants to become more involved, especially with training. Louie has a way about her that makes you want to shout from the roof tops – “Equality for all Library Assistants.” Congratulations to Louie on starting the new chapter in her life! We will all miss her.



The part I will miss the most about Louisa is her smile! I have never seen Louisa without a smile on her face. I always look for her when I get to conferences because of that this warm welcoming glow. I think LASSAG, METRO and St. John's will greatly miss Louisa, as well. I hope you enjoy your retirement to the fullest!”

**Heidi Jensen**

“As unique and individual as they are, it is difficult to talk about Louie without the image of Louisa popping up, or mention Louisa without seeing Louie beside her. Both individually and together they have made absolutely unique contributions to the strength, vitality and reputation of the St. John’s Libraries. Their leadership among the staff has made the critical difference in achieving recognition for library assistants within our University, the New York Metro area, and through NYSLAA state-wide.”

**Theresa Maylone**

Congratulations, Louie and Louisa, we wish you all the best in the future. Hope you will join us at a conference sometime!

# State of our Libraries Spring 2010 NYSLAA Legislative Report

Ove Overmyer

*Assistant Reference Librarian, Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County and Law Library Clerk, NYS  
Appellate Division Law Library, 4th Department*

## New York's libraries are hurting



April 26, 2010-- As you probably know, Governor Paterson proposed a \$2.4 million cut in Library Aid in his 2010-11 Executive Budget. It was the fifth cut in Library Aid in less than two years and would bring Library Aid down to \$84.5 million which is below 1998 levels.

Earlier this month, the Assembly and Senate passed their individual budget resolutions. The Senate proposal called for the full restoration of the \$2.4 million cut and the Assembly proposal included a 40% or \$960,000 restoration. At the time of this report, legislative staff members are still working to resolve the differences between the Assembly and Senate proposals to address the more than \$9 billion state budget deficit. We will update you about the budget (if it ever gets passed) and any legislative happenings in our next newsletter.

In our effort to advocate for appropriate funding this year, the library community created a website and issues campaign titled, protectnylibraries.org. NYLA also sponsored a lobby day in Albany, March 2. Library advocates sent countless emails, faxes and letters to their legislators and state representatives. On Library Lobby Day, nearly 1,000 advocates came to the state capital to meet and greet with lawmakers. Participating New York libraries also posted "A day in the life" photo exhibit on the campaign website. They attached statistics along with stories and facts about their libraries and patrons with the hope of educating legislators about how important libraries are to their communities.

Included in Library Aid are shared operating funds for county library systems like Pioneer Library System and the Monroe County Library System in upstate New York, Suffolk Cooperative Library System on Long Island, the school library systems, 9 Regional Library Councils, CCDA grants for academic libraries, Medical Information Subsidy (MISP) funds, Conservation/Preservation funds, and HLSP funds for the hospital libraries. All of these entities will be affected by the 2010-11 budget, just to what extent is not known as of yet.

As of press time, there is still no inside information as to how this will all play out or when the state budget will be passed. In the final analysis, libraries will be asked to do what they have been doing all along-- *doing more with less*.

## When jobs disappear

It is well documented that Americans turn to their libraries to find information about future employment or educational opportunities. This includes the library community too. This library usage trend and other workplace factors are detailed in the 2010 State of America's Libraries report, released by the American Library Association. The report shows that Americans have turned to their libraries in larger numbers in recent years.

Since the recession took hold in December 2007, the local library, a traditional source of free access to books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs, has become a lifeline, offering technology training and workshops on topics that ranged from résumé-writing to job-interview skills.



The report shows the value of libraries in helping Americans combat the recession. It includes data from a January 2010 Harris Interactive poll that provides compelling evidence that a decade-long trend of increasing library use is continuing—and even accelerating during economic hard times.

This national survey indicates that some 219 million Americans feel the public library improves the quality of life in their community. More than 223 million Americans feel that because it provides free access to materials and resources, the public library plays an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed.

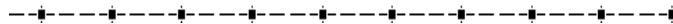
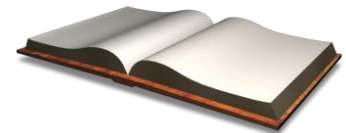
And with more businesses and government agencies requiring applicants to apply on line, job-seeking resources are among the most critical and most in demand among the technology resources available in U.S. public libraries. Two-thirds of public libraries help patrons complete online job applications; provide access to job databases and other online resources (88 percent) and civil service exam materials (75 percent); and offer software or other resources (69 percent) to help patrons create résumés and other employment materials. However, the report also shows that increased library use did not lead to an increase in funding for libraries. Research by the ALA and the Center for Library and Information Innovation at the University of Maryland suggests a “perfect

storm” of growing community demand for library services and shrinking resources to meet that demand. While library use soars, a majority of states are reporting cuts in funding to public libraries and to the state library agencies that support them. New York State is no exception.

### **This means war**

It is important for every member of this organization to take a leading role in advocating for adequate library funding for statewide systems and their community libraries. If you are a union member, talk with your local political action folks and join a committee. If you work for or patronize an independent or community library, sit down with the administrators or the Friends group and strategize and create an action plan. Get to know your state legislators and tell them how important library funding is for you and your family. Personal relationships and testimonies go along way.

In conclusion, if we are going to meet the needs of the 21st century library user, we must encourage and deliver a sustained, consistent effective marketing campaign and advocacy effort to make sure New York libraries stay healthy. Right now, in 2010, we are losing the battle-- but can still win the war.



## **Conference Time Is Here...**

(continued from front page)

Please **email** Sally McMaster if you have items you would like to discuss at the Town Meeting.  
**smcmaster@library.rochester.edu**



### **Conference Etiquette:**

**Please** remember to turn off your cell phone during workshops, the Town Meeting and the Keynote Speaker’s address.

**Please** be respectful of the presenters and the others in your workshop, visit with other attendees at another time.

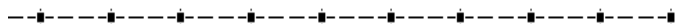
**The Mixer** will be snacks only, be sure to have your dinner beforehand.

**See you in Corning**



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mary Ash	Guernsey Memorial Library
Kimberly Barbato	Tauro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Gould Law Library
Penny Belton	unaffiliated
Candace Berne	Southeast Steuben County Library
Ken Burns	Corning Museum of Glass, The Rakow Research Library
Emily Davis	Corning Museum of Glass, The Rakow Research Library
Sara Edwards	Amherst Public Library
Lindsey Evans	Jamestown Community College, Hultquist Library
Kelly Ferrick	Jamestown Community College, Hultquist Library
Diana Golemb	University of Rochester, Rush Rhees Library
Kathleen Kapral	Corning Museum of Glass, The Rakow Research Library
Stella Karrin	Jamestown Community College, Hultquist Library
Amy Lunn	University of Rochester, Rush Rhees Library
Julie McGowan	SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library
Terry Mulee	Walworth-Seely Public Library
Deborah Murphy	New City Library
Mary-Lou Paoliini	New City Library
Marjorie Paul	Valatie Free Library
Patricia Phetteplace	Guernsey Memorial Library
Raymond Pun	New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
Kathy Rossello	East Greenbush Community Library
Tracy Savard	Corning Museum of Glass, The Rakow Research Library
Tammy Southard	SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library
Judith Viken	University of Rochester, Rush Rhees Library
Lisa Wright	University of Rochester, Rush Rhees Library
Ling Zhang	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Richard Gilman Folsom Library



## Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2010 is at 278. Of the 278 there are 26 of our members are new! We are getting ready to send out a second renewal reminder, so encourage your co-workers to get their membership sent in.

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](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.