

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

July- Sept. 2010 Vol.22, no.3

32nd Annual NYSLAA Conference

SheilaTshudy



With the support of colleagues and friends (Kelly Bliss, Laurie Derr, Kathy Kapral, Lori Fuller, Emily Davis, and Tracy Savard) The Rakow Library Assistants decided to accept the challenge of planning NYSLAA's 32nd Annual Conference. We began the planning process in June, 2009 and soon enlisted the help of our neighbors, Vickie Button and Pam Rogers from Southern Tier Library System. Together we made a great team! From the onset, our committee's goal was to offer you a great selection of workshops, speakers, and activities, and to make your stay in Corning one of the best.

After welcoming you at registration, we were pleased to offer afternoon tours of The Benjamin Patterson Inn and The Corning Museum of Glass--two of Corning's finest treasures. The Mixer that evening was held at Corning Incorporated's Headquarters Building where two local wineries tempted us with some of their spectacular wines. With the support of our Museum's president Marie McKee, we were able to offer special guided tours of Corning's sculpture galleries, generally unavailable to the public.

Thursday morning started with breakfast, welcoming remarks, and the Town Meeting. We were off and running! That evening after a full day of workshops (and shopping on Market Street) we met at The Corning Museum of Glass where we were entertained with a private "You Design It; We Make It!" hot glass show.

Congratulations Rose Flickner for submitting the winning design "Prom Dress Vase,"



made live on stage! We then gathered for dinner and were treated to a special performance of "We are the Library Assistants" (by your hosts), followed by great music and karaoke by DJ Dale.

With the Friday morning workshops behind us, Keynote speaker, Lee Welles, eco-author and Deputy Mayor of Corning, provided a terrific motivational and inspiring presentation during our Awards Luncheon. Congratulations to Susan Morehead, recipient of the Craig Koste Award; and Debra Curry, Kelly Bliss and Kathy Kapral for achieving their Certificates of Achievement, Level 4!

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Ambassador

Position currently vacant
Contact Sally McMaster if interested

“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.”

CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: nyslaa.org

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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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Next publication date: November 15, 2010

Submission deadline: October 31, 2010

Annual Reports from Our Regional Organizations

NYSLAA Regional Reports are always given at the Town Meeting that is held on Thursday morning of the Annual Conference. This year there were only five reports given at the conference. I would like to encourage all nine regions to send a report and let us know what is going on in your area. This report can be delivered by anyone from the region or be sent to the Executive Council to be delivered on your behalf. Get involved in your area, each one of us has something to offer!



Capital Area Library Assistants (CALA)

Jean Guyon

Winter 2010 Workshop

Leadership and Management Skills

Dress for Success Albany Clothing Drive

The winter Lunch and Learn workshop, *Leadership and Management Skills*, was presented by Evelyn Butrico, Director of the East Greenbush Community Library. 23 attended this workshop that focused on the differences between leaders and managers and the skills required to make good leaders and good managers.

The *Dress for Success Albany Clothing Drive* resulted in a large amount of business appropriate attire and monetary donations totaling \$92 to benefit local women seeking to re-enter the workforce in the Albany area.

Spring 2010 Workshop

Web Trends in Libraries

Cell Phone Drive to benefit Equinox Domestic Violence Services

April 26, 2010

Our Lunch and Learn workshop topic was *Web Trends in Libraries*, presented by Geoff Kirkpatrick, Assistant Director, Bethlehem Public Library. 18 people attended this workshop that explored the latest trends in library websites, including content, content management systems, next generation catalogs and

the integration of catalog data into the website, and focusing a library website to better meet customer needs.

Our *Cell Phone Drive* to benefit Equinox Domestic Violence Services netted 12 cell phones and \$55 in cash donations to benefit Equinox in Albany which operates a 30 bed shelter and assists hundreds of women each year in transitioning to a violence-free way of life.

Summer 2010 Workshop

Social Networking Sites for Life and Work

Barn Raiser Fundraising Event for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY

June 21, 2010

This Lunch and Learn workshop on social networking in life and the workplace, was presented by Kathryn Dunn, Technology & Metadata Librarian, Folsom Library, RPI. 18 people attended the workshop, which focused on social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Shefari and Library Thing

The Coordinating Committee conducted a Barn Raiser Fundraising Event for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY. We raised funds for the construction of a barn for the Patroon Land Farm, as part of the collaborative effort to create a sustainable food supply to alleviate hunger in our area.

South Central Research Library Council (SCRLC)

Judith Andrew

SCRLC's Library Assistants' Committee has met several times during the past year via a chat room on the internet. We organized two workshops:

Thriving in Challenging Times: Doing More with Less as a panel discussion on September 23, 2009, and ALA Library Support Staff Certification to be presented by Jenifer Grady as an online lunchtime information session and chat on April 28, 2010. Unfortunately, both had to be cancelled due an extremely small number of registrations.

We were very disappointed as we thought both these topics were timely and would have been of great interest to our colleagues. Perhaps the low

interest was due to libraries' financial constraints and the inability for people to get away, even for an internet chat. Who knows? We'll keep trying!

We will soon be doing a survey of the region's library assistants to ascertain their interests and professional development needs. South Central's Education and Training Committee, however, did offer workshops over the year which proceeded successfully. Many of us also attended the annual Library Assistants Day mini-conference in Syracuse on November 3, 2009.

Our colleagues in Corning have been very busy planning our 2010 conference, as well.



METRO and LASSA SIG

Nina Manning

Once again we had an exciting celebration at our Library Assistants Day celebration. A huge thank you goes out to the Flushing Public Library of Queens, New York for hosting, and to METRO for sponsoring this event. From the breakfast to the lunch, the membership winners, and the NYSLAA 2010 conference, their support and financial assistance are truly appreciated. There were also our annual door prizes, which were all gift cards.

Also, Laroi Lawton returned as the Keynote Speaker. Although faced with difficulties in the current economy, he inspired and encouraged us to always give our best. We thank Mr. Lawton for his continued support of our organization.

We had four awesome workshops: *Resume Writing Skills; Gadget, Gizmos, & Google;*

Health Information; and Social Networking in Libraries. These workshops were well attended and everyone walked away with something new.

It was a pleasure to honor "Louie" Louise Smith-Jones for her dedication and commitment to our group. Congratulations to Louie on her retirement. Her sidekick Luisa Lopez has also retired and was acknowledged, as well.

We were hoping for a bigger turn out for the thirty-second annual NYSLAA conference, but due to budget cuts and threats of layoffs, our NYC attendee numbers were limited.

Along with all Libraries, we are looking forward to a stronger economy and a brighter future as we move through these challenging economic times.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC)

Coleen Hopkins

The RRLC Library Assistants' Group held two half-day workshops since last year's conference. The fall event was *Cataloging Electronic Resources* and the spring workshop was *True Colors*. Both were well attended and had good reviews.

We also sponsored four Monday Night and Pizza events. These are shorter programs but were also well attended.

At Heidi Jensen's urging, we are holding two of our four annual meetings to coordinate with the Monday Night and Pizza series. Our first was in May and we were pleased with its success.

RRLC also partners with CLRC, SCLRC and NYLINK to present an annual Library Assistants' Day in the fall in Syracuse. Several of our members have attended every year and it is an excellent event.

The RRLC Library Assistants' Group continues to volunteer four times a year at the Ronald McDonald House, conduct an annual collection for Grace Urban Ministries and participate in the Glen Iris 5K, a major fundraiser for the Cordelia A. Greene Library in Castile, NY. This event is held the Saturday after Labor Day at the beautiful Letchworth State Park.



Northern New York Library Assistants

Sue Lefebvre

In the spring of 2009, the Library Assistants' Committee of the Northern New York Library Network, nominated students to receive the Award of "Outstanding Student Library Workers". These students exemplify the standards and professionalism that make them role models for all student workers in libraries. The award winners were the following: Mitchell Galli (St. Lawrence University), Mark Simpson (SUNY Canton), Andrea Viscusi (SUNY Oswego), Nara Amirova (SUNY Plattsburgh), Emma Burnell (Paul Smith's College), Leslie Woods (Clarkson University), and Shane Waldron (Canton Free Library).

Northern New York Library Network offered a three-day conference in the fall of 2009. This

conference was attended by Library Assistants representing Public Libraries, School Libraries, Academic Libraries, and Specialized Libraries. Since this was so well attended, Northern New York Library Network has scheduled another three-day conference for fall 2010.

Our "Spring Library Assistants' Conference" for 2010 was also a great success. The conference was held at Saranac Lake Free Library. Topics included the following: Time Management, Genealogy, and Library Displays. The conference ended with Saranac Lake Free Library giving a tour of the library which included Dickert Wildlife Collection and the Adirondack Research Room Collection.



Virginia Library Association Conference Winner's Report

Sally McMaster

Virginia's Paraprofessional Forum "Libraries are Filled with Treasures: Check Them Out," was held in Richmond VA, May 16-18, 2010. As always the members are gracious and the conference was excellent.

The opening Keynote speaker was Edwin S. Clay, director of the Fairfax County Public Library. His words set the tone for the rest of the conference.

My first workshop was by author Emilie Richards, "The Changing Face of Women's Fiction." I did learn that blue covers sell books, green does not. But don't worry sweet romances and erotica still sell, and will be around...

I attended *Customer You Know vs. the Customers You Don't: Internal and External*. The presenters from Virginia Tech said it should really be called: *The Devils We Know and the Devils We Don't*. They used the term social capital as a tool. Basically it is who you know and what can you do for them. And how can they help you.

I attended a network lunch and met with different groups and unfortunately we are all in the same boat, i.e. budget cuts, not replacing staff (in some cases layoffs) and more work.

Monday evening's entertainment was a pirate party. Donna, Ruth and Sheila dressed the part. A good time was had, well at least at my table...

Tuesday's first workshop was *Meet Zotero*. Zotero is an add-on for Firefox. It is free and has easy to use "helps" to collect, manage and cite your research sources. This was presented by Steve Helm, Interim University Librarian at Radford University.

The ever popular *Humor in the Workplace* by Bill Fiege was well received. There was a lot of laughter in that session.

My last session was *Generations at Work*, presented by Rick Holt, George Mason University. He talked about Inter-generational mentoring and their pilot project, matching up Traditionalist and Boomers with Generation X's and Y's. It has helped develop understanding across generations and develop better practices in the proper use of communication technology. It enhanced interaction between co-workers of different generations. The X and Y have helped traditionalists and boomers with organizing data and effective methods to store and retrieve data. The Traditionalists and Boomers were able to mentor them on office politics, including the correct action to take and when not to take action.

The keynote speaker at lunch was Kim Weitkamp, storyteller and author. She made us laugh and cry and is truly a great storyteller. The New Yorkers did not win any raffle prizes... hmm... and we even had space in our vehicles this year!



"We are the Library Assistants!"
(NYSLAA 2010)



Such talent!
(NYSLAA 2010)

NYSLAA Conference Award Winners' Reports

Last year the Executive Council discussed changing the drawing for a NYSLAA Conference Award to a requirement that the award should be based on short essays written by members who wished to win a NYSLAA Annual Conference registration and one-night's accommodations. This award is given to a member who cannot get these expenses paid by their institution. This year we sent out the guidelines and since no award was given last year, we decided to give two awards this year. The winners were Viorella Bryant (Berkeley College) and Peg Pelletier (Newark Public Library). (Pictured right.)



Peg Pelletier

I had a great time, learned many new things, met more NYSLAA members, and strengthened my belief in the value of NYSLAA in my life. Thank you again for that opportunity; the scholarship was a gift that will extend far beyond the conference.

What a wonderful gift it was to be able to attend the NYSLAA 2010 conference in Corning, NY! Having missed out on last year's conference, I felt a surge of relief and pleasure when I was notified of having won a scholarship to attend this year.

NYSLAA is an important part of my life and work in the small-town public library where I have been for the past eighteen years. Many things have changed over that time – moving from the old manual method of checking out books through two automation systems and on to where we are today, smack in the middle of the Information Age – and scrambling to keep up with “everything technology” while we continue to work within constrained budgets and staffing. The ability to network and glean ideas at NYSLAA is a valuable asset in the tool box of library assistantship.

As the rain pours down outside my office window, I am reminded of the session I attended on Thursday morning; *Museum under Water – Creating a Disaster Plan*. Virginia Wright became the salvage expert for the Rakow Research Library when, in 1972, the flood that inundated Corning also swept through her library. While I can certainly hope that my little

village will never suffer such a catastrophe, I am a firm believer in an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure. Leaking roofs, fires, floods, and increasingly, extreme weather conditions are all threats that can become reality in any library at any time. What I learned from Virginia, and from her co-presenter, Michele Brown, is that I can be prepared, both mentally and physically, as well as prepare my library, for a response to any kind of disaster, small or large. While no one wants to imagine that ugly reality swooping in on our libraries, knowing how to best respond is a priceless tool.

It was with trepidation that I signed up for Alec Mutz's *Living History: Surviving the Holocaust*. My father, a proud World War II veteran, died in January, and I knew how wrenching the history of those times could be. This incredibly powerful and moving presentation reached into all of our complacent lives and reminded us that the horrors that were perpetrated by the hands of the Nazis happened in the midst of a people who were, for whatever reason, led astray by the ranting of a lunatic, and an unimaginable price was paid before sanity was restored. I would like to thank Mr. Mutz for having the strength to tell this important story over and over, for we must never lose sight of it, or as Mr. Mutz said, we will be destined to repeat it.

Friday morning, after a fabulous time at the Corning Museum of Glass the night before, found me listening intently to Bob Goodrich in his session, *Strategic Planning for Everyday Life*. While I may not agree with everything Mr.

Goodrich believes in, I can say that he certainly was inspiring in terms of setting goals and working towards them. Having overcome a number of barriers in his own personal life, Mr. Goodrich shared with us methods that we can employ to keep our dreams and goals in focus and our progress towards them moving ever forward. I always enjoy good motivational speakers, even when they may be different from me, because it is up to me to find something valuable to glean from their ideas.

My closing session was *Supporting Non-violence in the Workplace*, with Tim Smith and Alan Speck of Corning, Inc., Corporate Security. While many of the public library employees at the session were all too familiar with the concept of irrational, unpredictable or menacing members of the public coming into their libraries, Tim and Alan gave us some ideas and shared some methods for coping with these abnormal and potentially dangerous behaviors in either the public sector or from within the staff.

No one is isolated from these scenarios, and dangers from an irrational spouse or ex-spouse, a mentally ill patron, or any other unhinged or deranged person. Being prepared to deal with an incident such as this before it happens can be valuable or even life-saving if something unexpected suddenly occurs.

Both a learning experience and a means of personal growth, NYSLAA 2010 was a wonderful event, and I challenge everyone who was fortunate enough to attend to get someone new from your library or elsewhere to attend the NYSLAA conference in 2011. Knowing that there are so many members out there who can offer ideas, support, help and encouragement is one of the most valuable parts of my membership in NYSLAA. Thanks to all of you, especially to Sally McMaster and the selection committee who allowed me to attend through the scholarship, and to Sheila Tshudy and her fantastic support crew for hosting this year's conference. Kudos to all!

Viorela Bryant

History of the City of Corning While attending the NYSLAA conference in Corning New York, I attended four workshops. The first was a historical explanation about the City of Corning New York. There were a number of main things I found interesting about City of Corning. 1st Corning has only one public library. 2nd The whole city was under water in 1972. The streets had a train running down the middle of the street with traffic on each side. Lastly, when Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, he sent the design to a Corning Glass to be made, only to be informed that Corning Glass did not use the cheap glass he requested for the bulbs. I thought that fact was quit comical.

Living History: Surviving the Holocaust The second workshop was presented by a survivor of the Holocaust. Alec Mutz was only 12 years old when his family was captured by the Nazi's. Although his journey was not easy and there was the possibility of sudden death every moment of everyday, he made it, and with courage

he gave us vivid images of what life was like in the Barracks during the Holocaust. When he was liberated he moved to the United States and at 17 years old, served in the United States Army.

Open Discussion: What's New in Technical Services? This workshop discussed different cataloging software. RDA software seems to be cutting edge in searching and browsing. Currently RDA toolkit is allowing a trial session from June – August 2010, you can sign up at www.rdatoolkit.org. RDA it's still new and very expensive. FRBR is software that shows records that are related to each other. Basically, if you're searching OCLC for an item, it will show only one record. Using FRBR, any one search shows not only the records of that item but also, related topics. There was another pretty nifty cataloging term called "outside cataloging" which was digitized records. Digitized records are records that are formulated as slides.

Also one of the attendees mentioned that their library owned a Media Bank. Media Bank is a big red \$1 a day movie rental you may have seen in front of supermarkets and pharmacy's and Liverpool Public Library owns one. The DVD rental system holds 1700 DVDs, and is checked out using the barcode on the back of the patron's library card. The patron can go on the web and view the DVDs in the Media Bank, put a hold on it and go to the machine and check it out. They receive a due date for the DVD rental and a late charge is added to their account for overdue items. If interested in purchasing a media bank, go to www.redbox.com.

Library Automation Systems: Present and Future. In this workshop we discussed two types of cataloging, traditional and next generation. Traditional search is one box for one search with 12 ways of searching. Next generation is one box search and shows relative ranks. ChillieFresh, is software which allows a user to enter book reviews. LibraryThing allows cataloging that is integrated all over the country and tagging which is free from text photographs. This process helps find similarities between items using similar characteristics in the cover description as well as the genre, topic and author.

Craig Koste Award

Compiled by Sally McMaster

The Executive Council is pleased to announce that Sue Morehead from the Guernsey Memorial Library, Norwich, NY is this year's Craig Koste Award winner. Sue was nominated by many staff members from the Guernsey Library. In her nomination letter, Patricia Phetteplace stated that "She has shown Guernsey the utmost dedication in her 36 years of employment." From all of the nominations letters received, it is clear that Sue has the admiration of the staff members at Guernsey.



She has worn many hats, including Acting Director for the Library for 8 months. It was noted that Sue organized the wagon train and guided the Library during their difficult time. "The staff here, all feel, that Sue is the foundation of our Library. She's never too busy or unavailable to answer a question, research to find us answers..." Gail Merian states that Sue is an excellent teacher and a good resource."

Sue has been a member of NYSLAA for 18 years and also has earned her Certificate of Achievement.

Congratulations to Susan Morehead, the 2010 recipient of the Craig Koste Award!

Ray Murray Award

This year we received no nominations for the Ray Murray Award.



Certificates of Achievement Earned

General Services – Level 4

Debra Curry New York Public Library, New York City, NY

Technical Services – Level 4

Kelly Bliss The Rakow Research Library, The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY

Kathleen Kapral The Rakow Research Library, The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY



NYSLAA at NYLA

Donna Kuhner will be at the Poster Session and presenting a workshop on NYSLAA and the Certificate of Achievement at this year's NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. This is a great opportunity to spread the word about our organization, please encourage your co-workers and your directors to see who NYSLAA is and what we offer.

2011 NYSLAA Annual Conference

Next year's Annual Conference will be hosted by Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, NY. Donna Hanna and Coleen Hopkins have teamed up to host this event and the committees are already hard at work. Tim Finnigan is our dynamic Fundraising Committee and he has some terrific ideas...look for his announcements on nyslaa-l and in the newsletter.

32nd Annual NYSLAA Conference *(cont'd from page 1)*

We ended the conference with the raffle drawings. Several of you provided wonderful raffle items this year and we would like to encourage others to do the same next year.

A great deal of appreciation goes out to all who volunteered throughout the entire conference. We couldn't have done it without you! For all who donated a children's book, thank you--we received 155 books! Your generosity is felt throughout our community as the books were given to 3 terrific agencies. The Southern Tier Association for the Visually Impaired and GST BOCES graciously accepted the Braille/print books, and Pro-Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. received the remainder on behalf of their "Red Bookshelf Program." What a great way for NYSLAA to thank the community that helped host your conference! Thank you all!

Call for Nominations

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for three officers. This year we will be holding elections for the offices of **Vice President, Membership Secretary and Recording Secretary**. You will find descriptions of each officer's duties listed below with all officers serving a two-year term. Each officer must attend 6 to 8 meetings a year, attend the Annual Conference and submit a written report to the President in January for the two full years they serve.

The **Vice President** shall: 1) perform the duties of the President in the President's absence; 2) serve as the Association's archivist; 3) perform other such duties as may be required.

The **Membership Secretary** shall: 1) receive and process membership applications; 2) maintain a list of correct names and addresses of active (both regular and associate) members of the Association; 3) supply the Election Committee with a current list of regular members; 4) chair Membership Committee; 5) perform such other duties as required.

The **Recording Secretary** shall: 1) keep and distribute the official record of all general sessions of the Association and of the meetings of the Executive Council; 2) chair the Newsletter Committee; 3) chair the Election Committee in odd years; 4) perform such other duties as may be required.

Nominations must be submitted in writing, and a nominating/acceptance form is on the [web site]. Please include a brief biography to be sent with the ballot to acquaint voters with the candidate.