

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

July-Sept. 2011 Vol.23, no.3

It's A Wrap!

Donna Hanna & Coleen Hopkins, Co-Chairs

The 33rd Annual NYSLAA Conference has come to a close and we hope you had a wonderful time. It was our pleasure to host the event and appreciate all the assistance we had from our staff at Milne Library, the SUNY Geneseo campus community and the residents of the Geneseo area.

After a very rainy spring, we were pleased to have sunny skies, even though Wednesday was a bit on the warm side. Those who attended the Mixer were troupers and we had a wonderful experience on the walking tour of Historic Geneseo. Our hosts were fabulous and the sampling of period food was well received.

On Thursday, our trip to the Geneseo Country Village and Museum was terrific. We toured the grounds briefly and dined in their banquet hall. The evening continued with entertainment by Sky Sands, comedian/magician and he kept us roaring with laughter.

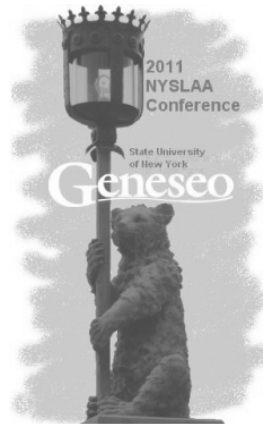
Our committee worked hard to set up workshops to meet the needs of support staff in all types of libraries and we were grateful for the

compliments attendees were giving us. We hope everyone was satisfied with their workshop choices and received valuable information to take with them.

After the Friday luncheon, we were pleased to welcome Kim Weitkamp, Story Teller Extraordinaire, as our Keynote Speaker. Kim is a different kind of story teller in that she explained how to use stories to communication with those around us in order to accomplish our needs. Her sense of humor about life experiences brought home the points she wanted to convey. Kim was followed by our awards ceremony and the drawings for the terrific raffle baskets donated by local businesses and NYSLAA members.

As always, it was great to see friends from previous conferences and meet new ones.

Planning a conference is a lot of work, but it is very rewarding and there is plenty of support and direction from Ruth Oberg, NYSLAA's Conference Coordinator and the rest of the Executive Council. Please consider hosting the event in your area in the future.



INSIDE: Regional Reports...2012 Conference...Conference Reports...Craig Koste and Ray Murray Awards...CAP...New Members...Call for Nominations

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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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Kudos from the 2011 NYSLAA Annual Conference

Kudos to Donna Hanna, the Geneseo community supporters, co-workers and the NYSLAA committee members. Classes were all good and the instructors did a wonderful job. Looking forward to next year!

Debbie Leslie
Law Library, Rochester, NY



It was a great conference - Thank you to all who helped to make it so! The four workshops that I attended were also informative, as well as interesting and useful to me and my library, where I can share the info with those not fortunate enough to attend.

It was good to see old friends again and to make new ones, and our conversations about working in libraries were uplifting, especially in these troubles times.

Thanks SUNY Geneseo!

Peg Pelletier
Newark Public Library



My most sincere thanks to you all for making the 33rd Annual Conference one that has given us all so much inspiration! We are returning to our libraries educated, refreshed and ready....

Your team put in a huge effort and it showed (and the next time we return to Geneseo we'll all have to see if that bear is still standing on the fountain)!

A quick question for you. I am in the process of writing my conference report for our Library Board; they have given Gail and me some financial support and encouragement to be members of NYSLAA and attend conferences. We hope they will continue to do so. Plus, we are trying to encourage co-workers to become members as well...we need new, young, enthusiastic faces!

I was quite alarmed at the drop in attendance this year. Faces I usually see were not there. Since

you both have the opportunity to network with so many NYSLAA members, to what do you attribute this drop?

Thanks again for a memorable and marvelous conference.

Nicki Haupt
Williamson Free Public Library

*Nicki,
So glad to hear you are writing a report to your Library Board letting them know how valuable the conference was to you. I would encourage everyone to do the same.*

Yes, we do NEED new members and NYSLAA Members are our best cheerleaders. Let's not keep it under our hats!

Executive Council has had many discussions on why the membership has dropped and I believe the economy is a big factor, but we can't rest on that. We offer a tremendous value to our members (just check the dues and conference pricing for other organizations.) Also, some libraries are no longer paying the dues for their staff; SUNY Geneseo has always viewed this as our commitment to an organization and does not pay dues for any staff to any organization.

*Thanks for your email.
Coleen*



Yes, I'm proud of NYSLAA and what a great conference we had. Great job to the host committee.

Vergie Savage-Branch
Samuel J. Wood Library
Weill Cornell University Medical College



What a super job you, Donna, and the rest of your committee did on the conference. Loved it!

Adrienne Birchler
Folsom Library
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

I had a great time as well. One thing that I wanted to say is that I think this is the first year that I LOVED all of my workshops! There always seems to be one or two that are so-so, but not this time. Great job!

Scott Goodman
Guernsey Memorial Library
Norwich, NY



It's been over a week since the 2011 NYSLAA conference ended and I'm still excited about all the information I learned, the new friendships I made and the wonderful time I had seeing old friends!



Thank you all for your wonderful compliments. It was a lot of fun getting it all together and it really makes the work worthwhile when we hear these responses. This is a super organization and we are fortunate to be members of NYSLAA. Let's all talk it up and let our colleagues in on the benefits.

Donna and Coleen



Regional Reports

Rochester Regional Library Council

Coleen Hopkins

The Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Library Assistants Group sponsors two half-day workshop and two evening workshops annually. Since our last conference we have offered “Cyber Shopping” with Linette Koren and “Book Repair” with Leah Hamilton as evening workshops and “Time and Stress Management” with Susan Mason as our half-day program. These events are focused on the needs of library assistants but are open to Librarians and Directors, as well.

This year our organization prepared several meals for the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester and did our annual Kathy Martel Honorary Grace Urban Ministries Collection.

We currently hold two of our four annual meetings at 5:30 pm in conjunction with RRLC's Monday Night Pizza Series. The group

Thank you to Donna, Coleen and the rest of the host committee. You all did an amazing job. There were workshops for all different types of Libraries. The walking tour Wednesday night was great. Thursday night's dinner was excellent and Friday's keynote speaker was one of the best I have EVER heard.

I'm proud to say I'm a NYSLAA member and I hope all of you are as well.

Thanks everyone for making NYSLAA what it is today!

Heidi Jensen
Pioneer Library System
Canandaigua, NY

is striving to encourage more people to attend these planning meetings to better meet the needs of library assistants in the RRLC area.

Capital Area

Adrienne Birchler

Capital Area Library Assistants (CALA) is a membership group of the Capital District Library Council (CDLC) for library assistants in the Capital Region, which encompasses Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties.

CALA's Coordinating Committee for 2010—2011 consisted of Chair Michele Giuffre (Bethlehem Public Library), Membership Coordinator and Treasurer Kathy Corbett (CDLC), Secretary Adrienne Birchler (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Folsom Library), Jean Guyon (University at Albany, SUNY), Jason Kibby (College of St. Rose's Neil Hellman Library), Michele Matthews (RPI's

Folsom Library), Archivist Carol Reppard (Troy Public Library), and Kathy Rossello (East Greenbush Community Library). CALA has a total of 155 members, seven of whom are new to the organization this year.

The past year has been a very productive one for CALA. Last summer, the CALA Coordinating Committee hosted a Lunch and Learn workshop called, “Social Networking Site for Life and Work.” It was presented by RPI’s Technology and Metadata Librarian Kathryn Dunn. Twenty-one people attended the workshop, which was held at the CDLC’s headquarters in Albany, as are all of our workshops and meetings. As of last year, CALA partners each of its workshops with a coordinating philanthropic activity. At this workshop, many of the attendees contributed to the Barn Raiser Fund for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. \$175 was raised to go toward the construction of a barn for the Patron Land Farm as part of a collaborative effort to create a sustainable food supply to alleviate hunger in the Capital Region.

In October, CALA hosted a Lunch and Learn workshop entitled, “EBooks—The Future is Now.” A panel of seven speakers discussed the impact of eBooks on libraries and touched on the topics of eBook acquisitions, licensing issues, usage from a public and academic end users’ perspective, and publisher issues. Panel members represented RPI, SUNY Press, University at Albany, Bethlehem Public Library, and Barnes and Noble. Twenty people attended. The charitable group that attendees were invited to support was To Life!, a non-profit organization that relies on financial contributions to perpetuate its free-of-charge programs and services to those dealing with breast cancer in the Capital Region. \$200 was collected.

CALA’s winter Lunch and Learn workshop was held in January. Michele Matthews and Michele Giuffre presented, “NYSLAA’s Certificate of Achievement Program,” which 21 members attended. For our philanthropic endeavor, attendees were asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Regional Food Bank. Forty-four pounds of groceries and \$75 was raised.

Our spring Lunch and Learn program was a special event held in April. It was called, “Focus on your Career: A Series of Workshops to Celebrate Library Assistants’ Day,” and was comprised of four one-hour workshops. These were “Job Security: Pros, Cons, Myths and Realities,” presented by Dr. Thomas Denham, founder of Careers in Transition, LLC; “Resume Writing Using Word 2007,” presented by Lisa Ryan, co-owner of MicroKnowledge, Inc.; “Civil Service 101,” presented by Bethlehem Public Library’s Assistant Director Geoff Kirkpatrick and Personnel Administrator Tracey McShane; and “Your Online Identity and Your Career,” presented by RPI’s Folsom Library’s Technology and Metadata Librarian Kathryn Dunn. Thirty-two people attended and were treated to a celebratory cake and a raffle drawing with prizes that included an e-reader, a flash drive, a year’s membership to NYSLAA, a calculator, book bags, water bottles, mugs, and note cards. The charitable organization that was supported at this event was Camp Under the Woods, a summer program backed by the Under the Woods Foundation whose mission is to provide experiences that are unique, creative and adventurous for children that are ‘differently abled’ (including, but not limited to, autism). \$121 was raised.

In honor of some of its members’ dedicated service to the organization, CALA made monetary contributions to the following libraries: Friends of the Bethlehem Public Library, Troy Public Library, Altamont Free Library, Friends of the Folsom Library at RPI, Watervliet Public Library, and The William K. Sanford Library in Colonie. The CALA Coordinating Committee also assembled and delivered a large fruit basket to Ronald MacDonald House of Albany.

We’re pleased to note that six CALA members received their Certificates of Achievement at the 33rd annual conference held in Geneseo.

Finally, a lot of effort was taken to redesign and update CALA’s presence on the Internet. Check out our cool new website at www.cdlic.org/Programs_And_Services/CALA/cala.shtml

Northern New York

Sue Lefebvre

Thank you Geneseo for a wonderful conference. Donna Hanna and the others have done a fabulous job putting this conference together!!

The Northern New York Library Network Annual Outstanding Student Achievement Awards in our member libraries were Josh Fitzgerald of Paul Smith's College, Harriet Pederson of Saranac Lake Free Library, and Heather Myers of SUNY Plattsburgh.

These students exemplify the standards and professionalism that make them role models for all student workers in libraries.

We held two Library Assistant Conferences in the past year.

October 14th and 15th

“2010: Trends & Technology” This conference was held at St. Lawrence University and was open to all Library Assistants, Librarians and Library Directors.

The October 14th sessions were “Geeks Bearing Gifts” with Gregg Headrick, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, “Book Repair” with Kary Barth, KAPCO and “Greening the Library” with Rebekkah Smith Aldrick, Mid Hudson Library System.

The October 15th sessions were: “Facebook: Hands On” with Jim Crowley, Crowley Computers or a tour of St. Lawrence University Young Library that was built in 1959

April 14, 2011

The Spring Library Assistants' Conference took place at Richard W. Miller Campus Center, SUNY Canton.

The day's events were “Dealing with Difficult People” with Jim Sheppard, Licensed Mental Health Counselor at SUNY Canton, “Technology Round-up” with Jim Crowley, Crowley Computers, “A Panel Discussion: What's Hot! What's Going to Be Hot!” The panelists were Steve Bolton/North Country Library System Executive Director, Allison Wheeler, St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES SLS, Michelle Young, Clarkson University Library Director and John Hammond, Northern New York Library Network Executive Director. The final event was a tour of the SUNY Canton Library

At the end of the Spring Library Assistants Conference, we held a Library Assistants' Committee Meeting to discuss future conference ideas. Since budgets are tight, we are considering opening the Library Assistant Conferences to all library staff members. We are also hoping to increase our membership in the local committee.



2012 Conference



The Executive Council was pleased when Ruth Oberg (accepting the scroll, at left) and a group of library assistants from the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area agreed to host the 2012 Conference. They are busy researching hotels and other venues in the Niagara Falls area. This would be NYSLAA's first conference at one of the Eight Wonders of the World, what a beautiful place to hold an event! Watch for more information in the October-December, 2011 *Network Connection* and at nyslaa.org.

Craig Koste and Ray Murray Awards

Compiled by Sally McMaster, taken from the 2011 NYSLAA Conference Brochure

Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service

In 1992 the Executive Council created "The NYSLAA Award for Outstanding Service" specifically for New York State library assistants who are members of NYSLAA. Recently, its name was changed to honor Craig Koste, a library assistant who passed away in 1995 and bequeathed an endowment to NYSLAA. The award recognizes those library assistants who have distinguished themselves by their service to our organization and to the library assistants of New York on either a state or local level. A stipend of \$100 will be given to the library of the winner for collection development.

Coleen Hopkins

Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo

The Executive Council is pleased to announce that Coleen Hopkins from Milne Library at SUNY Geneseo is this year's Craig Koste Award winner.

Coleen is chairperson for the RRLC Library Assistants Group and Recording Secretary for NYSLAA. Along with her many duties she is Co-Chairperson for this year's conference. She also heads the annual collections of toiletries and clothing for the women in transition at Grace Urban Ministries.

Coleen was nominated by Heidi Jensen, from the Pioneer Library System. In her nomination letter, Heidi writes that "Coleen has had great new ideas and has kept the group active during this difficult economic time." Deborah Emerson, Executive Director, Central NY Library Resources Council states "I have known Coleen for several years and she has always been a leader and a tireless advocate for Library Support Staff."

Coleen has been a NYSLAA member for 10 years. She is currently working on her Certificate of Achievement.

Ray Murray Award

In 1989 the Ray Murray Award was created to honor Ray Murray, a librarian who opened the door for the creating of the annual library assistants' conference, thereby laying the groundwork for NYSLAA. The Ray Murray Award is given to librarians, library directors, trustees, board members or others who have contributed to the recognition and/or professional growth of library assistants.

Geoff Kirkpatrick

Bethlehem Public Library

This year's Ray Murray Award goes to Geoff Kirkpatrick, the Assistant Director of Bethlehem Public Library. Michele Giuffre writes "He has contributed to the professional growth of Library Assistants not only within his own organization, but locally as well as at the statewide level with NYSLAA and NYLA." Geoff has volunteered being a presenter for two workshops at the 2009 NYSLAA Conference and also for 2010 as well. He has also facilitated several of the CALA Lunch n' Learn Workshops.

Geoff promotes professional activities by giving time to the Library Assistants to attend various programs and workshops presented by NYSLAA and the Capital Area Library Assistants' Group (CALA). As Michele Matthews states "...he believes wholeheartedly in the CAP Program and is willing to help staff in achieving their certificate."



Geoff Kirkpatrick accepting the Ray Murray Award from Sally McMaster

Congratulations to Coleen Hopkins and Geoff Kirkpatrick



CAP

Michele Matthews, Coordinator

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board is pleased to announce that they have awarded certificates to ten members since the 2010 NYSLAA Conference. The recipients are:

Administration/Management - Level 4

Adrienne Birchler	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY
Karen Strang	Brunswick Community Library, Troy, NY

Automation – Level 4

Michele Giuffre	Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, NY
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General Services – Level 4

Patricia Riger-Romano	Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County, Rochester, NY
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Public Services – Level 2

Ling Zhang	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY
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Public Services – Level 4

Melissa Cody	Goshen Public Library and Historical Society, Goshen, NY
Susan Costantini	College of Saint Rose, Albany, NY
Susan Flick	Geneva Public Library, Geneva, NY
Nicki Haupt	Williamson Free Public Library, Williamson, NY

Technical Services – Level 4

Kathy Rossello	East Greenbush Community Library, East Greenbush, NY
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The Certificate of Achievement Review Board welcomes Heidi Jensen and Melissa Cody to the Certificate of Achievement Review Board. They will work with present Review Board Members, Michele Matthews, Debra Curry, Michele Giuffre, Karen Ricketson and Sheila Tshudy to review packets and award certificates.

**At this printing, the Executive Council has also approved Kathy Rossello to join the Review Board.*



Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2011 is at 291. Of the 291 there are 26 of our members are new!

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!

Debra Brown-Wilson	Technical Career Institute
Susan Constantini	The College of Saint Rose
Gessy Day	Technical Career Institute
Rosanna McCoy	The City College of New York, Morris Raphael Cohen Library
Alfredia Mealing	Guernsey Memorial Library
Ramel Pearson	The City College of New York, Morris Raphael Cohen Library
Nora Renda	University at Buffalo, Lockwood Library
Kathleen Stempel	Berne Public Library
Rebeca Tavera	Saint John's University, Main Library, St. Augustine Hall
Diane Wasik	University at Buffalo



Nominations are now being accepted for NYSLAA Executive Council Elections

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for three officers. This October we will hold elections for President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. Descriptions of each officer's duties are listed below. NYSLAA officers serve a two-year term and shall submit a written annual report to the President in January.

The **President** shall: 1) prepare an agenda for all general sessions and for meetings of the Executive Council; 2) preside at all general sessions of the Association and at meetings of the Executive Council; 3) fill the vacancies in the Executive Council by appointment; 4) authorize the creation of ad hoc and special committees; 5) act for the Executive Council between meetings of the Council; 6) collect written annual reports from all officers, committee chairs, the Ambassador, and the Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator for publication in the first quarter newsletter; 7) perform other duties as may be required.

The **Treasurer** shall: 1) receive, record, hold, and disburse all monies of the Association at the direction of the Executive Council; 2) receive all membership dues; 3) prepare a written annual statement of accounts for the Association; 4) perform such other duties as may be required.

The **Corresponding Secretary** shall: 1) conduct such correspondence as may be directed by action of the Executive Council or Association and keep an official file of correspondence to be deposited in the archives upon completion of the term of office; 2) liaison the Public Relations Committee; 3) chair the Election Committee in even years; 4) perform such other duties as may be required.



Editor's Note: Dawn Burnett is no longer working in a library, so is unable to run for Treasurer again. We hold about six to eight meetings a year and are experimenting with Skype, etc. to ease the travel burden. This organization is comprised of many talented, capable people and we know there are members who would find an elected office to be a rewarding experience. Step forward and run for a position or nominate a colleague you know would be an asset to the organization. Sometimes a member is just a bit hesitant and all it takes is encouragement from another to get the ball rolling. Get involved, you all have so much to give!