

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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Niagara Falls 2012

By Ruth V. Oberg

The committee is hard at work planning the conference for next year in Niagara Falls. The date is June 6-8, 2012. We have signed the contract with the Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel. Workshops will be held at the hotel along with breakfast on Thursday and Friday as well as Friday's keynote lunch. The Hotel is completely separate from the casino floor. You can go from hotel registration to your rooms to the workshop space to the banquet hall, all without setting foot near the casino if you don't wish to participate in that aspect of the facility. If you care to try your luck, the casino is conveniently connected to the hotel. The committee is working on refining our list of workshops and speakers. We are using suggestions from your evaluations from the Geneseo conference.

We are working on some great workshops about the history of Western NY including: the 200th anniversary of the war of 1812; the underground railroad which was active in this area, as well as the major advances in the development of

electricity including the lighting of the 1901 Pan American Exposition in Buffalo. We are also planning some cutting edge technology workshops and many others.

Thursday night dinner should be a lot of fun as we overlook Niagara Falls with a Buffalo themed menu. Details on the mixer and tours are still being developed and should include a ride on the Maid of the Mist or a tour of the Cave of the Winds.



l-r: Lisa, Carrie, Nora, Ruth, Diane, Joy, Cindy

The committee is comprised of Carrie Oberg Goetz (UB, Library Annex), Diane Hunt (Nioga Library System), Cindy Kloss, Lisa Pano, Joy Piper, Nora Renda (all from - UB, Lockwood Library), and Ruth V. Oberg, chair (UB, Science and Engineering Library).

We realize that budgets are tight and getting tighter. Begin to plan now and start putting away some money here and there to be ready for June. Put in your requests for the time off now.

(Continued on pg. 3)

INSIDE: NYSLAA Elections... Membership Update... NYSLAA Ambassador...CAP...etc.

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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.”

CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: nyslaa.org

Join NYSLAA-L, NYSLAA’s Electronic Forum

To subscribe, send the following command to 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
Unsubscribe nyslaa-l <first name><last name>. Do not include a subject.

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Niagara Falls 2012 *(Con't from pg.1)*

We hope to keep registration under \$120. Overnight rooms are \$114 per room (there is no tax on the rooms) and you can split with one or two others. When you call to reserve your

overnight room at the hotel, ask for the NYSLAA room block – 1-716-299-1100. We hope we see many of you next June.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5OoaJ3ln3M

NYSLAA Elections

Coleen Hopkins, 2011 Elections Chair

NYSLAA's last official election was in the fall of 2005! It was exciting to receive nomination forms from two members who have not run for a NYSLAA office in the past. We received 105 ballots from 255 regular members. I want to encourage members to run for an office, if travel is an issue, we are working to conduct online meetings.

President:



Sally McMaster
Rush Rhees Library
University of
Rochester

Unopposed

I have worked at the University of Rochester in the Interlibrary Loan Office for 31 years and have been an active member of NYSLAA for 17. I am the current President of NYSLAA and participate in the RRLC Library Assistants' Group. My home is in Avon and I volunteer for a local shut-in doing shopping and running errands.

Treasurer:



Kathryn Riedener
Pioneer Library
System

Unopposed

Originally from Bay Shore, Long Island, I am a 5-year NYSLAA member who has worked for 17 years in various libraries performing a wide range of tasks. I hold an A.A.S in Business Administration from Suffolk County Community College and a B.A. in Religious Studies from SUNY at Stony Brook.

From 1989-1999 I worked for the major daily newspaper on Long Island. Starting as an Editorial Aide, promoted to Library Technician and advanced myself through the ranks to become a Library Indexer. I was responsible for ensuring accurate and timely entry of all daily news articles into the in-house database. I was a recipient of a Publisher's Award in 1995 for helping to coordinate the changeover to a publicly accessible database which required a change in workflow and work schedule. I was also part of the team awarded the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Reporting.

I moved to Avon, New York in 1999 and became the Children's Services Coordinator for the Avon Free Library from 2002 to 2005. In September of that year I was hired by the Pioneer Library System as the Reception, Cataloging & Circulation Assistant. Since then I have gained experience working with/creating MARC records and general catalog maintenance which requires a sharp eye for detail. In my current position as Cataloging & ILS Assistant, I have continued to develop my cataloging skills, taken on the responsibility of coordinating ILLs and assisted various librarians with an assortment of tasks and special projects.

My volunteer activities over the years have included working with the Girl Scouts of Suffolk County as a leader, consultant, registrar, and cookie & nut sales coordinator. These

positions required meeting deadlines, completing accurate annual budget reports, tracking and reporting achievements for both girl and adult members, and being accountable to the Service Unit and its members.

I have also served on the executive board of my church in Avon in a number of positions: including Treasurer. As the treasurer I was responsible for keeping track of all income and expenditures for an annual budget of approximately \$140,000. The accounting system was quite elaborate and specific. Annual reports were submitted each year to our Diocese and made available to the membership. During my tenure I was able to provide transparent records to ensure compliance of established book-keeping standards and practices. I believe that making certain all members had accessibility to the organization's financial records was a vital part of being able to move from operating at a deficit to operating with a surplus for the first time in 10 years.

I believe library assistants are the backbone of the library workforce. We are vital for the continued success and existence of the libraries we serve. Self-advocacy is more important than ever as we are asked to assume greater responsibilities within our libraries and communities. NYSLAA is *our* organization and we owe it to ourselves to make it a resource that can provide support, networking, and advocacy for all of its members.

Corresponding Secretary:

Lindsey Kaufman, Hultquist Library, Jamestown Community College and **Donna Kuhner**, Gloversville Public Library were our nominees.

The results:

Donna Kuhner-59 votes

Lindsay Kaufman- 46 votes



Donna Kuhner
Gloversville Public
Library

I have worked at the Gloversville Public Library since 2004. Prior to working at Gloversville I worked for the Southern Tier Library System for 25 years. After leaving Southern Tier Library System I worked for Corning Inc. in the Technical Information Center for 1 ½ years.

I have been a NYSLAA member for 12 years and have served as the Corresponding Secretary since 2008. My other library affiliations include membership in CALA (Capital Area Library Assistants) as well as serving on the JA Operations Committee and the Outreach Advisory Council for the Mohawk Valley Library System.

Congratulations Sally, Kathryn and Donna and thank you Lindsay Kaufman for running for office.

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2011 is at 292 and there are 26 new members! I am accepting renewals for 2012 now. If received in time, your card/letter will be included with your Conference brochure in March.

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.



Don't forget you have until December 31, 2011, to buy back years of membership.

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.

NYSLAA's New Ambassador

Sally McMaster, NYSLAA President

It is the Executive Council's great pleasure to announce the appointment of Heidi Jensen, Pioneer Library System as NYSLAA's Ambassador. Heidi's enthusiasm and energy makes this a perfect fit. The Executive Council is looking forward to working with Heidi, as we know she speaks highly of NYSLAA and will represent us well in the coming months.

Requirements and duties of the NYSLAA Ambassador are:

Article V: NYSLAA Ambassador

Section A: The NYSLAA Ambassador must be a regular member of the Association and shall be appointed for a two-year term by the Executive Council. The term may be renewed.

Section B: The duties of the Ambassador are 1) to act as an advocate of NYSLAA by representing the Association at conferences and other meetings at the request of the Executive Council, 2) to assist in the promotion of the NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement Program, as well as other of the Association's programs and activities, and 3) to submit a written annual report to the President in January.

A Message from Our Ambassador, Heidi Jensen



I was pleased to be appointed NYSLAA Ambassador at the 2011 NYSLAA Annual Conference and am very excited about this new opportunity! I was sorry to see

Dorothy Morgan step down and I truly appreciate all the hard work she has put into this position over the years. I will do my best to fill her shoes. It's a big task but - I'm always up for a good challenge! :-)

Let me tell you a little about myself. I am a mother of two wonderful children ages eleven and thirteen. I love being a mom, mountain biking, camping, crafting and most of allI love libraries! My mother retired from the Marion Public Library after serving over 25 years as a library assistant. Libraries have always been a part of my life.

I've been at the Pioneer Library System in Canandaigua, New York for ten years. About eight years ago I heard about NYSLAA (notice

the two years of employment that I didn't know...very sad to me) and was excited to hear of organization that was for library assistants and not just librarians. I attended my first conference in Rochester in 2004. It was awesome and I was TOTALLY hooked! I was so hooked that I decided to host the 2005 conference in Geneva, NY. It was a BLAST! If you have never hosted a conference, It's a very rewarding experience and I highly recommend it! It is hard work, but something you will smile about for years! I went on to serve several years as NYSLAA's Public Relations Chairperson.

In 2007, I received my Level IV Certificate of Achievement. Receiving my Certificate was a very proud moment for me. I enjoyed putting my paperwork together and reflecting on the work I had done over the years. Did you know we had TEN people receive their Certificate this year? What a GREAT accomplishment!! Congratulations! I hope to see twenty next year! It's not hard and the best part.....you'll be proud of your own accomplishments!

As the NYSLAA Ambassador, I am here to promote this organization. I will attend meetings and conferences as a face for NYSLAA. If you have an event please let me know. I will do my best to attend and to share my knowledge about the organization.

We should all talk about NYSLAA. Encourage your co-workers to become members, get their

Certificate of Achievement and to attend a NYSLAA conference.

If you have suggestions, comments or concerns, email me at hjensen@pls-net.org. I love NYSLAA and personally think this is a great organization! Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve NYSLAA as your Ambassador

Online Meetings

Sally McMaster



NYSLAA's first online meeting was held October 21, 2011. The EC met at Liverpool Public Library and were joined by Michele Matthews, Certificate of Achievement (CAP) Review Board Coordinator.

This was suggested at Town Meetings to enable more involvement from the membership. For this trial period we are using Skype. Our account currently have, has room for ten simultaneous users. Even though we did have technical difficulties, two groups were able to sign on and interact. We hope to have it worked out by our next meeting on December 9th 2011. Please join us for the online portion of this meeting from 10:15 to 11:00. Login in and we'll answer questions, listen to concerns, or if you just want to be present that is great! We will post updates on NYLAA-L.

Skype is a free download at Skype.com. You will need to register and put "Sally.McMaster1" in your contacts. Any questions, please contact me at smcmaster@library.rochester.edu.

If you have recommendations of other online meeting software, please let us know. We are trying to make this as cost effective as possible.

All NYSLAA members are also welcome to attend in person so feel free to join us at the Liverpool Public Library, Liverpool NY.



Photo courtesy of Skype



Certificate of Achievement

Michele Matthews, Review Board Coordinator

The Review Board would like to welcome its three newest members: **Melissa Cody** – Goshen Public Library & Historical Society, **Heidi Jensen** – Pioneer Library System, **Kathy Rossello** – East Greenbush Community Library

your packet will be a nice indoor project. And we are here to help you reach you goal. The Review Board is currently reviewing packets; watch Facebook and NYSLAA-L for an upcoming announcement.

We had 10 people receive their certificates in June 2011 and we would like to award 11 in June 2012. Be a part of the growing number of NYSLAA members that have earned their Certificates of Achievement.

We have eight members on the board, so we are ready, willing and able to review your packets.

Now that the weather is brisk and you won't be spending as much time outdoors, working on

Information is also available at nyslaa.org.



2011 Recipients (l.- r.) Patricia Riger-Romano, Adrienne Birchler, Kathy Rossello, Michele Guiffre, Susan Flick, Karen Strang, Nicki Haupt, Ling Zhang

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Library Disaster Donations

Sally McMaster

There is an effort on the state level requesting donations for libraries in New York State affected by the disasters this year. NYLA has listed the affected libraries on their site and is accepting donations on their behalf at www.nyla.org/page/library-disaster-relief-details-494.html. You can also mail a check/money order made payable to NYLA. Please note "Disaster Relief" on the check. Or if you prefer you can send them to me and I will forward them on to NYLA.

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Guilderland, NY 12084

University of Rochester
Rush Rhees Library
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Rochester, NY 14627
ATTN: Sally McMaster

NYSLAA Photographs

Coleen Hopkins



Kenyon Wells
Melvil Dewey Library
Jefferson Community
College

Photographer

I've been at JCC since 1995 and began my library career at the Mercy Hospital Medical Library in Watertown in 1988. I became a NYSLAA member in 1993 and worked on the planning committee for the 1994 NYSLAA annual conference at Paul Smiths College in 1994. My current job title is Library Automation Coordinator which is just civil service lingo and an upgrade from Senior Library Clerk which was what the position was labeled when I came here. My job is technical services which here at JCC includes cataloging, all phases of acquisitions (from the order to the shelf), managing serials and periodicals, backup ILL, shifts at the Circulation Desk, a smattering of reference as necessary and "other duties as required". And I'm the library photographer!

Most of the photography used in the newsletters is from Kenyon, but I gladly accept them from others. If you see Kenyon trying to snap a picture, smile and share your fun with all of NYSLAA. Who knows, one of Kenyon's

conference pictures may just encourage someone to join us the following year. Thanks Kenyon, your pictures have been invaluable!



Ruth Mason
Public Relations Chair



Genesee Country
Village & Museum,
Mumford, NY



There is always good company and good food at a NYSLAA Conference!

Just for Fun

Coleen Hopkins

While travelling this summer, I stumbled across Carnegie Public Library of Gothenburg, in Nebraska. I had read of the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie in regard to libraries in the past, but was never aware of seeing one. Due to time constraints, I was not able to visit the library but it peaked my curiosity and I had to request a couple books on the subject.

It was interesting to read how a community requested funding and how much each community was awarded. I also found it interesting that the point was to bring reading to everyone, but most of the library architecture is very imposing. Just goes to prove that libraries

were very important in people's lives then, just as they are now. Libraries sure could use Mr. Carnegie today!

So now for the fun...do you work in a Carnegie funded library? In my reading I discovered that our Corresponding Secretary, Donna Kuhner, does! If you are in Gloversville, NY, stop in and learn a bit about the Gloversville Public Library. I would love to hear about and see pictures of Carnegie Libraries out there. I would have liked to include pictures in this article, but as you can all imagine, the copyright issues make it prohibitive. Take a picture of your library and send it to me.

Around Niagara Falls



NYSLAA Scholarships Available

Coleen Hopkins

Two distinct scholarships are offered each year:

- **The Continuing Education Scholarship** is for members continuing their education in any field and not pursuing a degree at the time. The award is \$250.
- **The Degree Program Scholarship** is for members pursuing a degree in any field. The award is \$350. Applications must be sent to the President and postmarked by December 31st of each year.