

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

July-Sept. 2012 Vol.24, no.3

A Successful 2012 Conference Is Over!

Ruth V. Oberg, Local Conference Chair

The 2012 conference is history. So much work and many hours of preparation and it all goes by so fast. It was a wonderful conference. It was great to see so many new faces and to revisit with those we call friends.

The Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel was a great venue, even if you didn't gamble. They treated us well and took care of every issue promptly and with a smile. The food was plentiful and delicious. There were some complaints about the smoke. It was a casino and beyond our control. The banquet rooms and meeting rooms were smoke free. In the early planning stages, hosting at a casino was raised as an issue on the listserv and everyone who responded was in favor.

The tours on Wednesday were awesome. The weather was beautiful. Some toured Lewiston with guides dressed in period clothing giving the history of the town and its role in the War of 1812 and later as the last stop on the Underground Railroad. Others enjoyed a ride on the Maid of the Mist and/or a walk down to the base of the falls through the Cave of the Winds. It was a perfect day for all the tours.

Thursday evening was a pleasant night at the Top of the Falls. Again, it was perfect weather to sit on the patio and view the falls. We were going to be limited to 125 people but attendance kept climbing and they agreed to let us go to 150 by using the patios. The staff was a little overwhelmed. We picked a Buffalo themed menu but it didn't seem to go over as well as we thought. I'm glad that food is not the most important part of the conference as we worked hard to put on a meaningful conference with great workshops.

I received many favorable comments on the workshops. It seemed that everyone was happy with the workshop choices and speakers.

The basket raffle was the largest ever with over 70 items. Rita Gregory won the lottery tree and received \$314 from 310 scratch-off tickets! Thanks to all who contributed tickets to the tree.

I believe it was a very successful conference. It would not have happened without a great committee helping me. Thanks again to: Carrie Oberg Goetz, Diane Hunt, Cindy Kloss, Karen Kuta, Lisa Pano, Joy Piper, Nora Renda, and Karen Ridler.

INSIDE: Save the Date...Regional Reports...Craig Koste and Ray Murray Awards...Membership...CAP...NYSLAA/NYLA...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.”

CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: nyslaa.org

Join NYSLAA’s Electronic Listserv (NYSLAA-L) and follow us on Facebook

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the NYSLAA listserv simply go to nyslaa.org, click on “Join Our Email List” and follow the instructions.

To follow us on Facebook search for New York State Library Assistants’ Association.

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Save the Date June 12-14, 2013

Ruth V. Oberg, Conference Coordinator



Start planning for next year. The 35th NYSLAA Annual Conference will be held at the High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid, NY. I have negotiated a deal and the Executive Council will be travelling for a site visit on August 23 and 24, 2012. Please do not make your reservations yet, but I was able to get a reduction in the overnight room rate from their first offer of \$129.00 to \$99.00. Darlene Stark from SUNY Plattsburgh will be the chair of the local committee. More details as they become available.

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### Regional Reports Presented at the 2012 Conference

#### CALA

Adrienne Birchler, CALA Secretary

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 2011—2012 consisted of Chair Michele Giuffre (Bethlehem Public Library), Membership Coordinator and Treasurer Kathy Corbett (CDLC), Secretary Adrienne Birchler (RPI, Folsom Library), Jean Guyon (University at Albany, SUNY), Jason Kibby (College of St. Rose, Neil Hellman Library), Michele Matthews (RPI, Folsom Library), Archivist Carol Reppard (Troy Public Library), and Kathy Rossello (East Greenbush Community Library). CALA has a total of 155 members, eight of whom are new to the organization this year.

The past year has been a very productive one for CALA. Last September, the CALA Coordinating Committee hosted a Lunch and Learn workshop called, "Have a Heart and DeStress!" It was presented by Sandra Varno, MS, RD, DCN from Cornell Cooperative

Extension of Albany County. Twenty people attended the workshop, which was held at the CDLC's headquarters in Albany. As we've done for the past two years, CALA partners its workshops with a coordinating philanthropic activity. As September is National Heart Month, money collected was given to the American Heart Association. \$115.00 was collected.

In November, CALA held a Lunch and Learn workshop entitled, "Transformational Conversations: The Secret to Successfully Dealing with Change," presented by renowned speaker, author, and consultant Lisa Giruzzi. Twenty-eight people attended. The charitable group that attendees were invited to support was the Albany Damien Center, a community center for individuals and families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Programs and activities offered are designed to improve health, reduce stress, and increase quality of life. A great deal of personal care items and many pairs of gloves, hats, umbrellas, and \$57 was collected.

CALA's January Lunch and Learn workshop was "eReaders and Libraries: Using Your eReader with Library Websites," which was held at the East Greenbush Community Library.

Bethlehem Public Library Adult Services librarians Alissa Jones and Frank Somers demonstrated the iPad, Nook, and Kindle using library websites to download books through OverDrive and Amazon. Thirty-five members attended with one lucky attendee winning a Kindle and another one won a \$10 gift card to Target. For our philanthropic endeavor, attendees were invited to contribute money to help two libraries that suffered severe damage in last August's Hurricane Irene. The Middleburgh Library and the Schoharie Free Library shared the \$230 that was raised.

Our spring Lunch and Learn program was a special event held in April to celebrate Library Assistants' Day. It was called, "Library Assistants: Empowering the Future of Libraries." The event was comprised of three one-hour workshops. These were "Future Trends in Libraries," presented by Geoff Kirkpatrick, Director, Bethlehem Public Library; "Empowering You to Lead: Leadership Skills in Changing Environments," presented by Evelyn Butrico, Director, East Greenbush Community Library; and "Certificate of Achievement Program," presented by our own Michele Matthews. Thirty-six people attended and were treated to refreshments including a celebratory cake and a raffle drawing with prizes that included a gift basket donated by MicroKnowledge, a year's membership to NYSLAA, book bags, water bottles, mugs, and note cards. Each attendee was also given a goodie-filled mug inscribed with the CALA logo. The charitable organization that was supported at this event was Literacy New York, Greater Capital Region. \$116 was raised.

CALA made monetary contributions to several libraries to thank them for allowing members of their staff to give presentations at CALA workshops. These libraries include Bethlehem Public Library, RPI's Folsom Library, and East Greenbush Community Library. CALA also sent money last fall to three libraries that were hard hit by two hurricanes: Altamont Free Library, Middleburgh Library, and Schoharie Free Library.

CALA is pleased to note that:

- \* Kathy Stempl (Berne Public Library) won the Upper Hudson Library System 2010 Program of the Year, Rural Category Award for the Solar Car Program (announcement wasn't made until mid-2011.)
- \* Priscilla Miller (Bethlehem Public Library) received her Certificate of Achievement at the 34th Annual Conference in Niagara Falls.
- \* CALA Coordinating Committee Chair Michele Giuffre (Bethlehem Public Library) is this year's recipient of the Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service.

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NNYLA

Sue Lefebvre

This year, the Northern New York Library Assistants nominated students to receive the award of "Outstanding Student Library Workers". These students were from the following libraries: St. Lawrence University, Paul Smith's College, and Jefferson Community College.

In October (6th and 7th), Northern New York Library Network offered a two-day conference "Progress and Plugging In". This conference included the following sessions: "Digital Project Management", "Technology Service Improvement Grant Program Reports, Licensing and Fair Use", "Managing Email", "Taking the Library Mobile", "Unmediated Interlibrary Loan Panel Discussion", "Frankenbooks", "Intro to Photoshop", "Branding the Library, and EBSCO Wilson Web". The guest speaker was Stephen Abrams who discussed "Mega Trends for Libraries"

This month, (June 14th) the Library Assistants' Conference will be held at Northern New York Library Network. The topic for this year's event is "Supervising Student Assistants and Volunteers" presented by Ben Hogben, Access Services Manager of Ithaca College Library.

RRLC

Debbie Elliotto and Wendy Freier (Co-Chairs)

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 “Relaxation” with Diane Garman, D.C. and “Buying and Selling on eBay” with Laura Osterhout, RRLC, as evening workshops. We offered “Basics of the Reference Interview for Library Support Staff” with Tom Ottaviano, SUNY Geneseo, as our half-day program. These events are focused on the needs of library assistants.

This year our organization prepared three 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 is continuing to encourage more people to attend these planning meetings so that we can better meet the needs of library assistants in the RRLC area.

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## **SCRLC**

Judith Andrew

New York’s South Central Regional Library Council’s Library Assistants Special Interest Group has had a rough time of it during the past two years. The special interest groups’ executive committee planned various workshops, but due to low enrollment, they had to be canceled. We thought perhaps people were having trouble getting away from their libraries so we planned an online chat workshop, but even that failed to materialize due to very low enrollment.

For some years, the executive committee consisted of six people, but last year one person resigned and earlier this year, four more people resigned due to personal and work-related reasons. The two of us left on the committee, Nora Hardy of the SCRLC staff and I, soldiered

on and successfully pulled off a workshop in mid-May of this year!

The workshop was a lunch forum about e-books and e-readers. Three speakers presented fascinating information about these resources and their uses and implementation in various types of libraries.

I would like to encourage those of you in the South Central region to volunteer to join the executive committee. It involves a minimal amount of work, as we meet only a few times a year, sometimes in person, sometimes via online chat room. And Nora Hardy and I are getting lonely! If you’re interested in joining us, email me at [jandrew@ithaca.edu](mailto:jandrew@ithaca.edu). Thank you!

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WNYLA

Sarah DiThomas

Western New York Library Assistants (WNYLA) presented workshops and networking events with the support of the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC). WNYLA planned and held two networking “Getting to Know You” (GTKY) events and two Library Assistants Day events for library support staff in the past year. Each event included a speaker and an educational tour of the host location, a raffle, door prizes and refreshments.

On April 15, 2011, WNYLA held it’s very first annual Library Assistants Day event at the University at Buffalo, Health Sciences Library in appreciation of our collective efforts to provide quality support to all library patrons. A tour of the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection was conducted by Linda Lohr, manager of the collection. It was a fascinating informative tour and Linda’s depth of knowledge and passion for the collection was evident throughout. The 12 attendees enjoyed refreshments and received individual gift bags in acknowledgement of their tireless work.

On September 22, 2011 there was “Getting to Know You” event held at the UB Anderson Art Gallery led by Ginny O’Brien, Curator of Education for the gallery. The tour included an

exhibit by Vietnamese artist, Dinh Q Le, as well as a UB faculty member showcase, and a tour of the world class permanent installation Craven's World: The Human Aesthetic. There were also 12 participants at this GTKY.

This year, in celebration of Library Assistants Day, our 2nd annual event was held at the Buffalo & Erie County Library, Central Branch on April 12, 2012. Early in the day, committee members took the opportunity to work on our outreach efforts. The group was available in the Central Branch staff lounge to provide an informal information session for Central Branch staff about our mission, purpose and activities. We met with many new people and felt it was a successful membership drive and awareness campaign.

In the early afternoon, a group of support staff from all over Western New York toured the library guided by various staff members. Highlights included the Rare Book Room, the Grosvenor Room, the Mark Twain Room. The genealogy area and the local history area were of special interest to the group. After the extensive tour, a presentation was given by Joy Piper, University at Buffalo, a former member of NYSLAA's Executive Council, regarding the upcoming NYSLAA Conference, the Certificate of Achievement Program and general information regarding NYSLAA. (Thanks, Joy!)

In total, whether it was for the entire event that day or just people stopping by to join in the celebration of Library Assistants Day there were over 50 people who attended.

Our most recent GTKY was hosted at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site in Buffalo on May 8, 2012. Through interactive exhibits and beautifully restored rooms at this historic mansion, we were able to gain some insight into the 36th President of the United States and some of the problems plaguing our country at that time. Although the attendance for this event was low those who did attend definitely walked away with a better understanding of that important period in our history

We are currently planning some great workshops and events for the year ahead, including Book Repair, Coping with Stress and Technology workshops, such as e-Readers and Skype. In addition to these events the group is committed to working on outreach to our members and to that end we have set up a listserv and a Facebook page under the name "Western New York Library Assistants". We are in the process of reworking our website and are also planning a survey of our members to get a better idea of their needs and interests.

I just want to take a moment to acknowledge our core committee members over the last year: Patricia Klaybor, Susan Jaworski, Diane Doster, Kathy Urso, Rita Ferri, MaryAnn Buil, Cindy Zubler, and Ronda Turner.

New members to the WNYLA committee, which is a standing committee of WNYLRC, are always welcome. If interested, please contact us through our website www.wnyla.org.

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*I would like to encourage everyone to get involved in your regional group. You can be instrumental in planning workshops that would benefit you and your library. Are you curious about a technology, do you need to update skills? You are probably not alone. These events are held nearby and are generally low-cost or free.*

*Coleen*



**Another networking opportunity at the 2012 Conference.**

## **Craig Koste and Ray Murray Awards**

Compiled by Sally McMaster, excerpts from the 2012 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.

The recipient of the Craig Koste Award for 2012 is Michele Giuffre, Bethlehem Public Library.

Michele Matthews in her nomination letter states, "Michele joined our CALA steering committee and was instrumental in our hosting the conference. She was a driving force on the Conference Committee." Geoffrey Kirkpatrick writes also that "Michele is a tireless advocate for Library Assistants. She has the experience, having held many different positions in the library, to understand the issues of library assistants across the region and State.

### **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.

This year's Ray Murray Award goes to Kathy Metz, Head of Access Services at the University of Rochester.

The Access Services Department writes "Kathy is an inspiration and a role model to us... She is always open to our ideas about how to improve procedures and services... She has fully supported the attendance of the whole staff at NYSLAA Conferences, even when it meant that she had so much more work on the days that we were gone." Katie Clark, Associate Dean, Public Services and Collection Development states "She is a vocal champion of her staff and has been so for her entire career at the River Campus Libraries."

The NYSLAA Executive Council wishes to thank both these individuals for their hard work on behalf of all Library Assistants – Congratulations Michele and Kathy!



## **Membership Update**

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2012 is at 341. Of the 341 there are 71 new members!

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. The Membership Application can also be found at NYSLAA.org.

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!

April Felton  
Diane Daster  
Dianna Kelly  
Kamanie Jialal  
Kelly March  
Natalie Schpano

New York Public Library, Baychester Branch  
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library  
St. John's University, Rittenburg Law Library  
St. John's University, Rittenburg Law Library  
Richmond Memorial Library  
Department of Tax and Finance, OOC Library

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CAP



NYSLAA was pleased to award four Certificates of Achievement at the 2012 Conference and they were all at Level 4. Congratulations!

Automation:

Diane Hunt Nioga Library System, Lockport, NY

Public Services:

Priscilla Miller Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, NY
Susan Hanson New York Public Library, South Beach Branch, Staten Island, NY

Technical Services:

Gail Merrian Guernsey Memorial Library, Norwich, NY

Interested in earning your Certificate of Achievement? Contact Michele Matthews or any of the Review Board for information and/or assistance.



Diane Hunt



Heidi Jensen, Susan Hansen, Sheila Tshudy



Gail Merrian

NYSLAA/NYLA Exploration

By now you should have received the report from the NYSLAA/NYLA Exploratory Committee that was originally presented at the 2012 NYSLAA Conference. For those who were not in attendance, Donna Hanna sent an electronic or hard copy.

Heidi Jensen gathered a diverse group of NYSLAA Members to explore the facts of whether/whether not NYSLAA should become a Section of NYLA. The Committee members are: Heidi Jensen, Chair, Pioneer Library System; Peg Pelliteer, Newark Public Library; Judith Andrew, Ithaca College; Pam Rodgers,

Southern Tier Library System; Debbie Leslie, 7th Judicial Law Library; Sheila Tshudy, Corning Museum of Glass; Michele Matthews, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Lindsay Kaufman, Jamestown Community College; Nina Manning, New York Public Library.

Following the conference there was an active discussion on nyslaa-l. The Exploratory Committee and the Executive Council encourage all members to read the report carefully and ask questions. Please feel free to contact any Exploratory Committee or Executive Council Member with any questions.

Note: The Executive Council is neither supporting nor discouraging becoming a Section of NYLA. Several times NYLA approached NYSLAA regarding becoming a section. Each time we looked into it and provided the information to the membership. To date the membership has not felt it was in the best interest of NYSLAA to become a Section. It is up to the membership to decide what they want to do with this current information. Here is a Timeline of those requests as recorded in the NYSLAA Minutes.

1996/97

Ruth Oberg prepared a document for the membership, showing merger options, after being approached by Ristiina Wigg, NYLA President.

2004/2005

Michael Borges, NYLA Executive Director approached NYSLAA about becoming a section of NYLA at the October 2004 Executive Council meeting. A report was presented at the 2005 Annual Conference. A decision was made to put a question on the 2005 fall ballot.

Line from 2005 Election Ballot: Would you like more information on NYSLAA becoming a Section of NYLA? Yes: 68 votes No: 69 votes (Counted twice)

2009

After discussion on nyslaa-l, Coleen Hopkins did basic research and presented a brief report at the 2009 Annual Conference. After questions from the floor a committee was formed to research further: Heidi Jensen, John Butcher, Michele Giuffre and Donna Kuhner.

2010

No progress due to committee time constraints.

2011

Heidi Jensen reported that the committee discussed the value of joining NYLA and agreed that there was no benefit at that time.

2012

In February, Heidi Jensen requested to re-instate the committee to evaluate a NYSLAA/NYLA relationship after being contacted by NYLA. The Executive Council agreed as long as she formed a diverse group to investigate the positives and negatives and to complete it in time to present their findings at the 2012 Annual Conference. A packet of information was presented at the Town Meeting. The packet was sent to the members not in attendance. If you need a copy, please contact Donna Hanna.

A Few Great Things About NYSLAA



Networking Opportunities



Professional Recognition



Great Workshops

...and terrific conference venues!

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*Special Note:* Kathryn Riedener has resigned the office of Treasurer for personal reasons. Lindsey E. Kaufman of Jamestown Community College volunteered and has been appointed by the President with unanimous approval of the Executive Council. Welcome aboard Lindsey!  
*This is **not** part of the annual nomination process below, but a special appointment to fill a vacancy.*

**Per NYSLAA ByLaws:**

**A.3** Other vacancies in the Executive Council shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by appointment by the President with the majority consent of the Executive Council.

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NYSLAA Executive Council Nominations Now Being Accepted

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 following page. Please include a brief biography to be sent with the ballot to acquaint voters with the candidate.

***New York State Library Assistants' Association
Executive Council Officer Nomination Form***

I nominate _____ for the office of:

_____ Vice President _____ Membership Secretary _____ Recording Secretary

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please be sure to include a brief bio of the nominee with this form.

Candidate Acceptance Form

I accept the above nomination.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return to:

Donna Kuhner
Gloversville Public Library
58 E. Fulton St.
Gloversville, NY 12078-3219
Fax: (518)773-0292

Nominations must be received by September 30, 2012