

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

April-June 2015 Vol.27, No.2

Library Assistants: Towering Within the Library Profession

Sheila Tshudy, 2015 Conference Chair

After months of planning, the 37th annual NYSLAA conference is just around the corner and our committee is excited to welcome all of you to Corning – some I'm sure for the first time!



Our full conference schedule begins at 1:00 on Wednesday when we offer two tours: The Rockwell Museum of Art and The Rakow Library. We are also offering a third tour of the new Contemporary Art & Design Wing at The Corning Museum of Glass. This tour begins at 2:15 in order to allow members an opportunity to attend two of the three tours.

Join us for the Wednesday evening mixer at The Corning Museum of Glass! We'll first be entertained by a private **You Design It; We Make It!** Hot Glass Show on the Innovations Stage where gaffers will make a glass piece from a design submitted by one of you. If you are attending the mixer and want to submit a design for consideration, be sure to email it to me (tshudysa@cmog.org) no later than June 12th (please add "You Design It" in the subject line). Following the hot glass show, we'll meet in the museum's auditorium for a backyard chicken BBQ featuring a hot buffet and cash bar.

After a busy day of workshops on Thursday, we will have a casual buffet dinner held off-site at The Center just a short distance from the hotel. Driving/car-pooling will be necessary. After dinner, feel free to walk around the Park Avenue Sports Center, which offers batting cages, rock-climbing walls, miniature golf, bungee trampoline, and more – charges will apply.

(<https://www.facebook.com/parkavesportscenter>)

During your free time in Corning you'll want to make time to visit Corning's Gaffer District, only a few steps from the Radisson Hotel. There you'll find quaint shops, lots of eateries, pharmacies, a movie theater, pubs, art galleries, antique and collectible shops, hot glass studios, and lots more!

We have a wonderful selection of workshops, so if you haven't registered yet, take another look at the registration brochure and join us at NYSLAA's 37th annual conference in Corning, NY!

As a reminder, bring your walking shoes (and an umbrella just in case)! The Community Outreach Committee will be collecting new or lightly used backpacks/book bags and school supplies and donations for the animal shelter and local food pantry.

INSIDE: Membership...Community Outreach... Public Relations...Hope in Action...Improving Leadership Skills...Member Receives Award...Lincoln Exhibit...Library Assistants' Day, 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’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.



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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: August 15, 2015

Submission deadline: July 31, 2015

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2015 are at 324 and 81 members are new! Seventy-three of our new members are a result of the free NYSLAA membership offer we ran for National Library Week suggested by Nancy Davis, NYSLAA's Public Relations Chair.

If you move, please be sure to alert me that you have a new address. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your membership mailings.

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 via hanna@geneseo.edu.

Community Outreach Report

Nancy Davis

The Community Outreach Committee is dedicated to giving back to the local community that has donated items as well as space and time for our annual conference. This generosity perpetuates NYSLAA's mission: To enhance the professional image and status of New York State's library assistants.

As you know, our conference will be in Corning, NY this year, and the committee has chosen options for you to give back to the community in the way that suits you best.

Throughout the conference, the Registration Desk will accept donations for:

- The Corning Community Food Pantry
- Tanner's P.A.W.S., Animal Rescue & Shelter
- School supplies and back packs for needy children in the area
- Operation Paperback for active duty soldiers from all of our communities

<http://www.operationpaperback.org>

In gratitude to our presenter on Friday, Sharon Marella of Parent to Parent of NYS, Southern Tier Office, we will also be collecting donations. Parent to Parent of New York State builds a supportive network of families in an effort to reduce isolation

and empower those who care for people with developmental disabilities or special healthcare needs to navigate the service systems and make informed decisions.

Financial donations will also be accepted for all of the above throughout the conference.

Valuable community resources can be put into fruition right here. Please take the time now to pack your donations before you pack your nicest dress for the mixer or comfortable sneakers for walking around town. This will ensure that the important things are not forgotten or left behind. Many thanks for your generosity from the Community Outreach Committee.

Public Relations Report

Nancy Davis

As many of you know, we encouraged everyone to hand out applications for NYSLAA membership during National Library Week April 12-18. Many of you helped us out as we offered **Free Membership** to first-time members during this week. We are happy to report that we enlisted 81 new members, and we are thrilled with the success of this adventure. Thank you so much to all of you that participated! Keep an eye out next year, as we will likely do it again.

I have been working with Douglas Rosenthal, the Communications Director for Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, in order to pass our annual resolution making April 16, 2015 NYS Library Assistants' Day and the week of April 12-17 National Library Assistants' Week.

The Committee has sent out hundreds of emails, as well as visited local libraries in order to get the word out about our wonderful association. Keep in mind that you are our best resource for bringing about our association's continued growth and improvement. If you have any ideas to enhance and expand our image to NYS libraries of all varieties, we welcome your suggestions. If there are ideas about specific topics you would like a workshop on or a roundtable about, please send those suggestions to me as well. I will be sure the Executive Board hears from you.

It has been a wonderful year planning and preparing for this year's conference in Corning, NY. We extend many thanks to this year's host, Sheila Tshudy, along with her committee. Sheila's idea to use Schwan's as a way to raise money was a big success. Thank you to all who participated. This year's conference has shaped up into a very exciting one and I am really looking forward

to attending workshops and seeing everyone! Don't forget to bring your lottery scratch-off tickets for our lottery tree and money for the raffle baskets! This is another way we raise money to fund next year's conference. Every dollar raised helps us reduce the cost to attend the conference for all of us.



Welcome New Members!



Here are the results of Nancy Davis' idea of offering a free membership to first time members during National Library Week. We have 81 new members!

Esther Arnold	University of Rochester, River Campus Libraries
Peggy Axel	Dunham Public Library
Joanne Bauer	Greece Public Library, Barnard Crossing Branch
Alison Bedette	Palmyra Community Library
Naciah Bell	University at Buffalo, Lockwood Library
Donna Benjamin	New York Public Library, Belmont Library
Victoria Blaise	Newburgh Free Library
Christine Bugbee	East Greenbush Community Library
Elise Cantwell	Wayne Central School District, Wayne Central High School Library Media Center
Stephanie Cervantes	Greece Public Library
Candice Church	University at Albany, Main Library
Stacey Civello	Sage Colleges, Shea Learning Center
Cameron Comings	Guernsey Memorial Library
Pamela Cora	New York Public Library, Pelham Parkway-Van Nest
Ramon DaSilva	New York Public Library, Highbridge Library
Karen Deisinger	Greece Public Library, Barnard Crossing Branch
Jean DiNapoli	Newburgh Free Library
Jane Donlin	Colgate University, Case Library
James Donohue	New York Public Library, Library Services Center
Steve Dresbach	SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library
Margaret Ehrenberg	Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library
Christel Ellis	New York Public Library, George Bruce Branch
Lisa Fenton	University at Albany, University Libraries
Allison Fiegl	Dunham Public Library
Yolanda Garcia-Meah	Newburgh Free Library
Bridget Godwin	Groton Public Library
Paul Gubesnick	Finkelstein Memorial Library
Corey Ha	SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library
Beverly Haynes	Webster Public Library
Colleen Hernandez	Webster Public Library
Richard Hess	Binghamton University, Glenn G. Bartle Library
Karen Hilton	North Warren Central School Library
Ben Hogben	Ithaca College Library
Joselyn Velasca Hori	New York Public Library, Library Services Center

Alisa Jackson	Rockefeller University, Rita & Markus Fritz Library
Jeff Jeffords	Four County Library System
Althea John	Baruch College, Newman Library
William Jones III	SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library
Lydia Kibler	Jamestown Community College, Hultquist Library
Angelina Knott	New York State Unified Court System, Emory A. Chase Memorial Library
Sharon Kuromiya	New York Chiropractic College, Media Library
Terri Ledbetter	Ithaca College Library
Barbara Leichter	Brewster Public Library
Margaret Liddle	Newark Public Library
Charles Lowery	New York Public Library, Library Services Center
Joan Maldarelli	Newburgh Free Library
Jennifer Maloney	University at Albany, Main Library
Hongyang Mao	Syracuse University, University Libraries
Craig Marasco	Irondequoit Public Library
Mary Marrongelli	University at Albany, Main Library
Paul Mauceri	New York Public Library, Collection Processing Center
Lori Mazzoli	Geneva Public Library
Gail Mcintyre	St. John's University, Main Library, St. Augustine Hall
Synn Lynn McLaughlin	Irondequoit Public Library
Tracey Melville	Rochester Institute of Technology, Wallace Center
Andrew Montreuil	Groton Public Library
Dawn Moran	SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library
Christianne Mullins	New York Public Library, Library Services Center
Aimee Odell	SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library
Karen Osbum	Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Warren Hunting Smith Library
Rebecca Parks	Webster Public Library
Courtney Patterson	Baruch College, William and Anita Newman Library
Michelle Perez	New York Public Library, Library Services Center
Lisa Pritchard	Jervis Library
Andrea Reeder	Saratoga Springs High School, M. Sandra Lewis High School Library
Kevin Roza	St. John Fisher College, Lavery Library
Eric Russell	Guernsey Memorial Library
Madeline Sanchez	New York Public Library, Andrew Heiskell Braille & Talking Book Library
Carol Sandroff	Newburgh Free Library
Shari Schwartz	New York Public Library, Tottenville Library
Julann Schwarz-Cobb	Mount St. Marry College, Kaplan Family Library & Learning Center
Chris Shute	SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library
Megan Sick	Newburgh Free Library
Jessica Skeldon	Utica College, Frank E. Gannett Memorial Library
Diane Stafford	Dunham Public Library
Melisa Swain	Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, School Library System
Dannielle Swart	Four County Library System
Catherine Taylor	SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library
Sandra Trifaro	Guernsey Memorial Library
Mary Ann Whelden	East Greenbush Community Library
Denise Wolfe	University at Buffalo, University Libraries

Read – Hope In Action Project

Terry Berl,
The College at Brockport



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Drake Memorial Library, SUNY Brockport

As a part of the semi-annual READ - Hope in Action project, a number of the College at Brockport's student-athletes, as well Drake Memorial Library staff read to students from the Rochester City School District.

Student-athletes from the various sports teams at the College at Brockport teamed up with Ellsworth the Golden Eagle and Drake Memorial Library to “adopt” a number of second graders in the Rochester City School District's School No. 43. Not only did student-athletes and staff bond with the children, they also helped provide school supplies, which were donated by the library staff and back packs that were donated by the Athletic Department.

The event is also in conjunction with the staff of Drake Memorial Library. This year the athletes and library staff (myself, Kristen Wallis and Shirley West) went to the classrooms first and told the children why we were there. Each child received their knapsack. We then broke in to small groups and the book was read to the children by the athletes, then we had the children take turns to read the book to us. After spending an hour with each class we then proceeded to the gym where the activities began. The biggest hit is always “Ellsworth.” He gets the kids so excited about reading. Then the games begin with the children and athletes. There is a lot of special bonding between them as you can see by the pictures we took. The best part for me is the smiles on the children's faces. It makes it all worthwhile. Shirley and I have been doing this program since 2007.

Improving Leadership Skills

Using NYSLAA's Enrichment Fund Scholarship

Kathy Rossello
Vice President NYSLAA

I have recently attended a class at Hudson Valley Community College. The course was provided by the Community Education Program. The course was two hours for four weeks. The “Improving Leadership Skills” was given by Instructor Richard Edwards. The information in the catalog was as follows: “Leadership skills are critical in today's world. Communities, clubs and businesses all need strong leaders to succeed in our complex and dynamic environments. This course will be interactive discussion on the four foundations of strong leadership and the essential tasks leaders must master to succeed as a leader. In addition, we will explore powers as it relates to leadership.”

The foundations of leadership are character, courage, responsibility and a positive attitude. The one I found to be most helpful was courage. Courage is doing what you are afraid to do. “Leadership is influencing people to do things they might not want to do...or don't know they are capable of.” A positive attitude is very useful. Eliminate the negative. It is also good to have a sense of humor.

Communication is another aspect of leadership. Being able to pay attention and listen, solicit feedback and ask for help are good qualities to have. Believe in yourself, your people and your organization.

I was able to attend this class by using the NYSLAA Enrichment Fund Scholarship. If you would like to benefit from this see nyslaa.org for further information.



St. John Fisher College Last Stop for Traveling Lincoln Exhibit

Jenny Bigenwald



The Lincoln Planning Committee
(from left to right) Cathy Bennett,
Jenny Bigenwald, Britta Stackwick,
Stacy Celata, Kevin Roza, and
Nancy Greco (Chair)

St. John Fisher College Lavery Library in Rochester, NY were thrilled to host the traveling exhibit: **“Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War”** from January 21 - March 13, 2015. This exhibit was developed by the National Constitution Center, in collaboration with the American Library Association. It was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The exhibit, which consists of five large panels, examines how President Abraham Lincoln confronted the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties.

A wide range of events were held in collaboration with the exhibit. During the college’s spring break, students and teachers from area high schools were invited to the library, where the students were allowed to gather information from the exhibit panels and then present in groups whether President Lincoln should have been impeached or not. Other events planned were an opening ceremony complete with refreshments and music from a Civil War reenactment band, a faculty panel discussion and a celebration of Abe Lincoln’s birthday.

Louise Stamp Recipient of Prestigious Award

NYSLAA member **Louise Stamp**, a member of New York Public Library Guild Local 1930, was recently honored for her efforts to help those in need in her community. She was presented with the Carolyn J. Holmes Humanitarian Award from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. "Her work is an inspiration to many others," said Local President Valentin Colon.

Louise helps out at Hour Children, a shelter that helps formerly incarcerated women rejoin the community and hold their families together. She began donating clothes, toiletries, and children's items for the shelter and convinced friends and family to pitch in with even more items. "I don't have a lot, but what you have is what you share," Louise said. She learned this important lesson years ago from her mother, who'd make huge pots of soup to feed hungry people on street corners in their neighborhood. "Back then, I didn't understand why she did that, but I do now," she acknowledged.



In addition to her regular charity work, Louise frequently helps down-on-their-luck people she meets on the street, whether they need a meal or a bus ticket. "When my spirit tells me to give, I give," she said. Through her library job, Louise does even more to help society’s unfortunate and marginalized. She works two-and-a-half days a week at the NYPL's "standing library" in the Riker's Island prison complex. "I'm not there to judge what people did," she said. "My job is to help them by providing the resources we have at the New York Public Library."

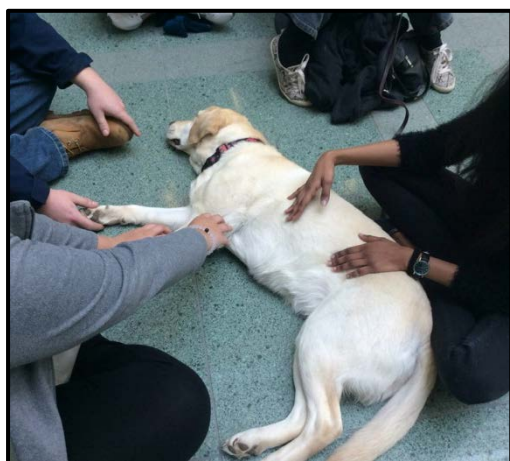
Louise says she was overwhelmed to win the award. "I don't do these things for recognition," she said. "The work I do, I do from my heart." And what a BIG heart it is.

Congratulations, Louise!

Finals Stress Relief Days

Nancy Davis

The University at Albany has been seeking new ways to draw in the students as well as help them through finals week. Our Extended Hours Coordinator has been trying different activities for de-stressing the students. Some have been overwhelming successful, others not so much. This semester's relief activities started with Therapy Dogs from Schenectady which was a big draw.



These events are well advertised in advance to eliminate any surprises. Our extended hours 24/5 begins on May 1st and runs through the end of finals on May 15th. Here are some additional de-stressors happening in our library during finals this year:

- Puzzle Corner (Jigsaw, Word Search, Sudoku and board games)
- Throwback Thursday with cartoon shorts
- Yoga with Christine
- Coffee Break (sponsored by University Auxiliary Services)
- When You Were Young Wednesday: Cookies and Coloring
- Midnight Minute "Shake It Off" Dance Party

University of Albany would love to hear your ideas and what you have tried during this stressful time for students. Feel free to send me a note or post your suggestions on NYSLAA-L.

Happy Finals Everyone!

Retirement News

For those of you who know **Dorothy Morgan**, she recently received her 30 year award from Liverpool Public Library. She was instrumental in the founding of NYSLAA and had been our Ambassador for many years. She is also retired. Thank you for all you did for NYSLAA over the years. **Best of luck to Dorothy in her retirement!**

We Have Volunteers!

Adrienne Birchler

The Executive Council (EC) recently announced that six NYSLAA members answered the call sent out last month for committee volunteers and commend them for stepping up to serve our worthwhile association. The EC appreciates their willingness to make our organization even better than it already is.

Virgilio Pinto from Ithaca College has agreed to join the **Public Relations Committee**. At this point, Virgilio is the sole committee member and would greatly appreciate at least one other person volunteering to assist him. This job entails getting the message out about NYSLAA. It could involve sending information via email to libraries whose assistants may have never heard of our organization or dropping off our tri-fold flyers to libraries.

Tammy Southard is thrilled that three members will contribute to the **Newsletter Committee**. These folks are **Laureen Anthony-Palmer** from Webster Public Library, **Adrienne Birchler** from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Folsom Library, and **Michele Giuffre** from Bethlehem Public Library. From time to time they may send out requests for news from your library, so please consider providing them with information so they can write articles of interest for our organization.

So far no one has come forward to join the **Donations Committee**. Chair **Sheila Tshudy** would love an assist in soliciting donations (money, items, or services) for our annual conferences. We all love the basket raffles and door prizes that are offered every year, but Sheila can't collect these items by herself. The money earned from the raffle not only

helps keep down the cost of our annual conference, but it's also used to fund scholarships NYSLAA awards deserving members. If you sign up for this committee, your involvement could be sending out solicitation letters or asking vendors for contributions in person or via email. Please consider helping out Sheila. Remember—many hands make light work!

The **Conference Committee** is a newly formed committee that presently has no representation. This team needs to be formed to lend a hand in assisting the Executive Council in presenting next year's convention since no chapter has come forward to host for 2016. Committee members could contribute by getting speakers from their libraries to do a workshop, making recommendations for future workshops or places to hold upcoming conferences, or carrying out various assigned tasks at the conventions. I've only been a NYSLAA member for ten years, but I can say that I've been very impressed with the terrific conferences held all over New York state—Corning (this year's conference will be my second one there, thanks to Sheila's bigheartedness because she's worked on holding one there TWICE!), Geneseo, Ithaca, Lake Placid, Liverpool, Norwich, Rochester, Saratoga Springs, Troy, and Queens. I regret I wasn't able to make the one in Niagara Falls, but I heard it was outstanding. Wouldn't it be great to hold a conference in a part of the state where we've never had one? Having worked on the conferences held in Troy in 2009 and last year's in Saratoga Springs, I can say **Conference Planning Chair Ruth Oberg** is awesome at her job at negotiating with venues and caterers and will give guidance and support to those who sign up for the committee. Please consider joining. You'll find that planning a conference takes some work, but it's also very rewarding for you and your fellow NYSLAA members.

Last, but not least, **Dawn Gage** from the James M. Milne Library at SUNY Oneonta has joined the **Certificate of Achievement Program's Review Board**. She'll make a fine addition to the group that works hard to see that library assistants get proper recognition for their library work.

Please consider joining us.

Library Assistants Day

Once again, the Central NY Library Resources Council is taking the lead in planning the annual Library Assistants' Day event. Now in its eighth year, "LA Day" is a joint venture with our partners 3Rs councils, the Capital District Library Council, the Rochester Regional Library Council, the South Central Regional Library Council, the Northern NY Library Network, and the Western NY Library Resources Council.

If you don't already have the date marked on your calendar, do it now! This year's LA Day will be Thursday, October 1 at the Doubletree Inn at Carrier Circle in Syracuse. It's conveniently located right off Exit 35 on the NY State Thruway. The planning team is hard at work to ensure an outstanding program. The planning group includes representatives from each of the partner library councils.

Presentations will include How to be Leader When You're Not in Charge, Safety and Security in the Library, Anatomy of a MARC Record, NY Heritage, Using Social Media to Market Your Library, and more. There will even be a few library vendors on hand for you to chat with.

In other news, CLRC has just unveiled its Little Free Library. This project has been in the works for almost two years and was inspired by a group of Syracuse University students who developed a Little Free Library for an area in downtown Syracuse. The students used an old phone booth to create theirs; CLRC used a former newspaper box donated by the local newspaper, the *Post-Standard*. The CLRC office is located in a light industrial area, and the Little Free Library is located directly across the highway next to a US Mail box, a Fed Ex box and a UPS drop box. When we went around to the area businesses to invite them to our "grand opening" they were very excited to have the little library so conveniently located, and some of them came for our opening. To see a video of CLRC's Little Free Library crossing the highway to its permanent location, visit CLRC's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152717758656951.1073741869.163933096950&type=1>.

The Once and Future Library

The practice of collecting written knowledge in a central repository has been the mark of an advanced civilization for centuries. Whether it be the Great Library of Alexandria, the public collections of Caesar Augustus, medieval monasteries where monks lovingly preserving the works of antiquity, the extensive holdings of Renaissance universities, or the growth of American public libraries, through the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie, there has always been a need to house and preserve knowledge. Today, America's largest libraries are a blend of great university collections (with Harvard at more than 15 million volumes, outpaced only by the Library of Congress) and municipal public libraries

in major cities such as Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.

Libraries and their content have changed over the centuries. Wooden tablets replaced parchment and papyrus. Hand copied texts were made obsolete by Gutenberg's printing press. It is said that electronic tablets will eventually replace books. The media may change, but the need to have a repository of knowledge will remain. The idea of a library will endure.

Herman Miller

(The Once and Future Library Research Summary, 2010)



Photo courtesy of Jason Oberg