

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

July-Sept. 2015 Vol.27, No.3

Library Assistants: Towering Within the Library Profession

Judith Andrew, 2015 Conference Committee Member

The proud, tall white tower, depicted on our conference logo and visible from so many places in Corning, New York, is indeed an appropriate symbol of our profession's aspirations and accomplishments. For three days in June, one hundred twenty-two library assistants from around the state of New York and beyond gathered once again to learn, share, explore, and enjoy each other's company.



masterfully created by the gaffers. We then enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner in the museum.

Our Thursday evening event was at The Center, a recreation and event center just outside of the city. We had a delicious dinner inside and then many of us enjoyed a game of miniature golf on the grounds. It's always so much fun to kick back and do something completely relaxing with our colleagues and friends!

The staffs of the Raddison Hotel and the Corning Museum of Glass were exceptionally helpful and accommodating throughout the planning process and were the perfect hosts during our stay.



Wednesday afternoon tours of the Rakow Library Pyrex Exhibit, the Rockwell Museum, and the new contemporary wing of the Corning Museum of Glass were thoroughly enjoyed by many of us. That evening

we were fascinated and greatly entertained by a hot glass demonstration, during which a giant kraken designed by NYSLAA member Theresa Osborne of the Geneva Public Library was

The workshops during the day on Thursday and Friday included a wide variety of subjects and proved to be enjoyable learning experiences all around. Some topics included were editing in Wikipedia, dealing with challenging colleagues, library internships, oral history programs, cataloging and interlibrary loan roundtable discussions, and the history of books.

Our keynote speaker at the Friday luncheon was Sharon Marrella, the Western New York Regional Program Manager and Southern Tier Regional Coordinator for Parent to Parent of New York State, a not-for-profit organization that supports families with Special Needs individuals. Her talk was fascinating and incredibly inspirational.

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INSIDE: Regional Reports...CAP...NYSLAA Elections...MLA...Membership...2016...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.



Search for: **New York State Library Assistants’ Association**

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Library Assistants

(Continued from p.1)

And of course we always enjoy celebrating the achievements of our fellow members during the awards presentations. The 2015 Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service was awarded to two people this year: our intrepid conference committee chairperson Sheila Tshudy, cataloging specialist at the Rakow Research Library, Corning Museum of Glass, and Adrienne Birchler, coordinator at the Folsom Library, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The 2015 Ray Murray Award was given to Andrea Gerberg, head of access services and assistant director at the James M. Milne Library, SUNY College of Oneonta. Eight people earned their Certificates of Achievement this year and numerous membership awards were presented.

This was a banner year for donations. Many individuals and businesses donated a vast array of items and gift certificates to us for our raffle baskets, and our own members generously donated goods and money to the Painted Post Food Pantry and the United Way.



On behalf of the Conference Planning Committee, thank you so much to Sheila Tshudy for her tireless and inspired leadership; to Ruth Oberg for her invaluable experience and leadership; and to the members of the Executive Council for their unwavering support.

Submitted by **Judith Andrew** on behalf of the 2015 Conference Planning Committee:

Sheila Tshudy, chairperson (Rakow Library, Corning Museum of Glass);
Judith Andrew (Ithaca College);
Vickie Button (Southern Tier Library System);
Sheila Hallahan (retired, Southern Tier Library System);
Coleen Hopkins (retired, SUNY Geneseo);
Pam Rogers (Southern Tier Library System)

Massachusetts Library Association Conference

Michele Matthews

NYSLAA Acting Ambassador

As NYSLAA's acting Ambassador I attended the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) Conference in May 2015. I was fortunate to attend two days of the three-day function.

I met with several members of the Paralibrarian Section of MLA and two members of the New Hampshire Paralibrarian Section. I attended the PARA roundtable and their annual meeting. We had several discussions on getting the word out about our perspective organizations and increasing membership.

Four members of the Paralibrarian Section were awarded the **Paralibrarian Recognition of Achievement (PARA)** Certificate. Massachusetts' certificate is based on our Certificate of Achievement and New Hampshire started a certification process based on Massachusetts'.

I also attended several other workshops on Workplace Bullying, Intellectual Freedom, Stealth Reference and The Future of Free Speech. All of the workshops were well attended and I came away from this conference ready to put what I learned into practice.

At the Monday evening dinner there were four Book Cart Drill Teams that performed for us. I have seen these drill teams on YouTube so it was really nice to see it in person and be able to vote for one of the drill teams.

It was very nice to network with other library workers from nearby states.

Having some good fun with the President at the conference, thanks to the sign from our Virginia attendees!



Regional Reports

Written regional reports are requested from the regional representatives prior to the conference. We also invite the representatives to present a brief summary at the conference.

Rochester Regional Library Council Wendy Freier

The Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Library Assistants Group sponsors two half-day workshops and two evening workshops annually. We also hold four planning sessions in addition to these workshops.

Since our last conference we have offered the following half day sessions:

You Can't Teach Nice: Retail Management Strategies for Enhanced Library Customer Service presented by Amanda Perrine. We had 33 people in attendance.

From A(norexia) to Z(its): Providing Health Information to Teens with Lydia Collins, the Consumer Health Coordinator for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region (NN/LM MAR) 3 MLA credits were given. There were 11 people in attendance.

The two evening sessions included:

Email Etiquette presented by Ron Kirsop.
There were 11 people attending this workshop.

Pizza and Google and Cloud Computing
with Miranda Johnson Stefano.
There were 15 people in attendance.

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

We continued our tradition of community service outreach by preparing meals for the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. This year, due to the generosity of our givers, we were able to prepare four meals. To pay for the dinner supplies we ask for donations from those in our regional library council area. We usually have between three to six volunteers who help with the meal.

Northern New York Library Network Sue Lafebvre

The Northern New York Library Network held their 10th Annual Students Awards for Outstanding Qualities. These students exemplify the standards of service and professionalism that make them role models for all student workers in libraries. Awardees are presented with a token gift as well as a certificate suitable for mention on resumes.

The following workshops/conferences took place this year:

- **6th Annual Archives Conference** – The conference focused on How Genealogy and Libraries/Archives Interact.
- **Northern New York Library Network Fall Conference** – The conference focused on Wikipedia and Libraries.
- **ASKUS 24/7 Workshop** – This workshop focused on providing service update and advanced training for current ASKUS 24/7 participants. Updates to the service and how to utilize the single group function and improve chat interfaces were discussed.
- **New York State Historic Newspaper Workshops** – Multiple in-person and online workshops were held about the New York State Historic Newspapers Platform. These workshops discussed the history of the project, including the transition from Northern New York Historic Newspapers to the current statewide model. Also discussed were the methods of searching/browsing newspaper content, and the overall usage of the projects many features.
- **New York Metadata Workshops** – Multiple in-person workshops were held about CONTENTdm and New York Heritage platforms, including the proper identification, categorization, and entry of metadata historical items.

Northern New York Library Network also offers many different webinars. The webinars that were offered this year were the following:

- Collections and Security
- RFID Technology
- Privacy and Social Networks
- Saving to the Cloud
- Disaster Planning.

**Western New York
Library Resources Council
Ronda Turner**

A two-part workshop was held at WNYLRC on March 20, 2015. There were 17 attendees. The first session, "**Using Your Strengths as a Library Assistant**," was presented by Ed Brodka, Career Services, University at Buffalo. The second session, "**Getting More From Your Kindle or iPad**," was presented by Deb Chiarella and Liz Stellrecht, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo.

Survey results were very positive for both workshops. Committee members also thought it was a successful workshop and were very pleased with the overall participation and positive responses.

This committee's **Getting to Know You (GTKY)** for Fall 2014 was held on December 3, 2014 at the Roycroft Inn. We had a tour of the facility and then a dessert/coffee time for networking.

We have had a hard time recruiting members to serve on the WNYLA Committee, so events have been few.

We have a book preservation and repair workshop scheduled for October 19, 2015 being held in Olean, NY.

Other than that, this committee's biggest hurdle is membership. If you or someone you know who would be interested in serving on this committee, please let me know. **ronda_turner@caboces.org**



End of Regional Reports.

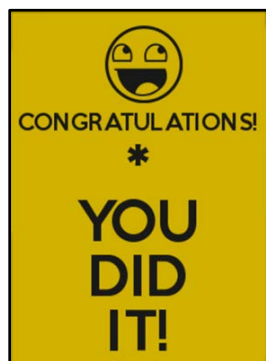


Certificate of Achievement

Michele Matthews

Certificate of Achievement Program Review Board Coordinator

The Certificate of Achievement Program Review Board awarded eight certificates at the 2015 Annual NYSLAA Conference. The recipients are:



Kathryn Barton
Guernsey Memorial Library
Level IV Administration/Management
Cathleen Bennett
St. John Fisher College
Level III General Library Services
Sujatha Bhuvanaraj
Cleveland Chiropractic College
Level IV Technical Services
Sara Edwards
Amherst Public Library
Level IV General Library Services

Laura Mandell
Guernsey Memorial Library
Level IV Public Services
Joyce Neal
Guernsey Memorial Lib & Sidney Memorial Public Lib
Level IV Public Services
Eileen Siranni
University at Buffalo
Level IV Administration/Management
Christine Weidman
Greece Public Library
Level IV Administration/Management

Congratulations to everyone! This brings the total number of certificates awarded to **147**.

Craig Koste 2015 Award Winners

The Executive Council is pleased to announce two winners, Adrienne Birchler and Sheila Tshudy.

Adrienne Birchler, Coordinator
Folsom Library, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

In her nomination letter, Michele Matthews states "Adrienne was very interested in everything NYSLAA offered. She has only missed attending one conference since joining. We served on two conference committees. Here in our library Adrienne is the reason we celebrate Library Assistants' Day. She is very customer service oriented and is willing to help anyone who enters the library. She genuinely cares about people. I am equally proud to be able to call her my colleague, but more importantly, my friend."



Bob Mayo, Director, Rensselaer Libraries states in his letter of support, "Adrienne has a stellar record of service here at the Rensselaer Libraries. Adrienne has a strong track record of going the extra mile in customer service....she is a pillar of customer service." Michele Giuffre states, "Adrienne is the best team mate, always willing to help with any task. She deals with people wonderfully and has very creative ideas. Adrienne is the staunchest of library assistant supporters. She is always looking for new ways to improve the careers and lives of library assistants. She is a truly inspiring individual... is thoughtful, kind, intelligent and is the quintessential professional."



Congratulations, Adrienne and Sheila!

Sheila Tshudy, Cataloging Specialist
Rakow Research Library, Corning Museum of Glass

In her nomination letter, Coleen Hopkins states "I feel that Sheila Tshudy espouses the exact attributes Craig Koste embodied. Sheila is chairing her second NYSLAA Conference. Sheila volunteered to take over the position as Donations Chair for our organization. She has contacted vendors for donations and she arranged a fundraiser."

Supporting comments come from Judith Andrew, Kelly Bliss, Pam Rogers, Vickie Button and Nancy Davis. "I have known Sheila for many years and have admired her dedication to our Association. I have witnessed firsthand her enthusiasm, creativity, and tireless efforts to bring a high quality conference to our members. Sheila is also a member of the Certificate of Achievement Program Review Board and the chair of NYSLAA's Donations Committee. This woman is a whirlwind of energy and goodwill toward our Association and has devoted countless hours of work toward its development and promotion." "In her position at the Rakow Research Library of The Corning Museum of Glass, Sheila is dedicated to providing accurate and complete records. She is tenacious in completing projects and tracking down information. She is frequently asked to work on projects outside of the normal scope of her job responsibilities because she can be counted on to do the job and do it well." "Sheila has a good heart and she succeeds in everything she does, because she is a dedicated person. She loves libraries and understands the hard work to keep them going." "She is a 'Doer' and does not stop until she has it 'Done.'" "To me, Sheila has distinguished herself just by maintaining her smile in the face of adversity. She is always thoughtful of the reputation, professionalism, and duty as a member, to our Association. I would only hope to be more like her."



Ray Murray 2015 Award Winner

The Executive Council is pleased to announce Andrea Gerberg as the Ray Murray Award Winner.

Andrea Gerberg, Head of Access Services and Assistant Director, James M. Milne Library, SUNY College of Oneonta

Dawn Gage states in her nomination letter, "Andrea has been a strong supporter and advocate of the Library Assistants here at our library. She recognizes our role and function in the library and has been a strong advocate. She always encourages us to seek out opportunities for professional development and training. She seeks out our opinion and validates our input concerning library projects or changes. If any of us are doing a special project she will take time to help us in any way, often offering resources that will facilitate the project. She makes sure that one or two Library Assistants are included on any Library Committee that affects our work load."



Tammy Southard writes in her letter of support, "Andrea cares deeply about the James M. Milne Library and all of us that work here. Andrea is usually the first one on hand to help out with any situation that arises. I am grateful for Andrea's leadership and constant support at the SUNY College of Oneonta James M. Milne Library."

Kathy Croft writes in her letter of support, "She supported and encouraged me and two co-workers when we applied for and received the NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement awards last year. She even surprised us at the conference when she unexpectedly appeared at the luncheon with camera in hand to ensure that our accomplishment was well-documented and shared with other library staff. Andrea encourages us to not only learn and grow in our assigned areas but to also branch out and become familiar with other department processes and procedures to gain as much working knowledge as possible."



L-R Tammy Southard, Andrea Gerberg, Kathy Croft, Dawn Gage

Congratulations, Andrea!

NYSLAA Elections

Tammy Southard, 2015 Elections Chair



It is time to be thinking about the NYSLAA Elections and who you would like to nominate for the offices of **President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary.**

Nominations need to be submitted by September 30, 2015. Each nomination needs to contain the signed acceptance form located on our webpage, nyslaa.org, and a biography to be included in the ballot.

Please send your nominations to:

Tammy Southard

Recording Secretary

James M. Milne Library

Ravine Parkway

State University College at Oneonta

Oneonta, NY 13820

You can also submit them electronically to:

Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu

or fax to 607-436-3081.

New York: A Literary Map

Kimberly M. Barbato
Touro Law School

Chapter 1: “New York City through the looking glass.”

“Where should I go?” said Alice. “That depends on where you want to end up.”

When someone mentions New York City, what comes to mind? One may think of towering skyscrapers,



Charles Lutwidge Dodgson,
a.k.a. Lewis Carroll

Central Park, the iconic image of Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, swarms of crowds and canary-yellow taxi cabs. Few people might associate New York City with *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, the classic Victorian-era tale written by English author Lewis Carroll, or Charles

Lutwidge Dodgson as he was known in real life. New York City is a cultural wonderland and upon closer observation we can see where Lewis Carroll's influence seeps into the microcosm of the city.

Our first stop on this literary tour is the Alice in Wonderland sculpture in Central Park's east side at 75th Street. Commissioned in 1959 by philanthropist George Delacorte, this bronze statue is a gift to the

children of New York City and a tribute to George's late wife Margarita, who read *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* to their children. This beautiful bronze landmark was created by Spanish-born American artist Jose de Creeft and depicts Alice sitting on top of a mushroom with the March Hare, the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit and a dormouse by her side. The Mad Hatter is a caricature of George Delacorte himself. The White Rabbit is holding his pocket watch while the dormouse nibbles on a treat at Alice's feet.



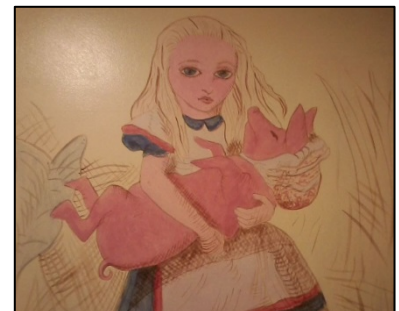
Alice Liddell
as a child

Our next point of interest is Columbia University. Alice Liddell was the inspiration behind Lewis' classic novel and in 1932, at 82 years of age, she received an honorary doctorate from the university for “awaking her childhood's charm the ingenious fancy of a mathematician familiar with imaginary quantities, stirring

him to reveal his complete understanding of the heart of a child.” It was during this visit to America that she was reunited with the original handwritten *Alice* manuscript and also met another literary namesake: Peter Llewelyn-Davies, the inspiration for J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*.

“Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”

If you are looking for a good bite to eat, then look no further than Alice's Tea Cup, “New York City's Most Whimsical Tea House”. There are three “Chapters” (locations) throughout



Alice's Tea Cup, Chapter I

Manhattan. Having personally visited Chapter I on a few occasions, I can say with complete confidence that even though it runs a little on the expensive side, it is definitely worthwhile.



Alice in Wonderland Statue in Central Park

This quaint little tearoom features a delectable variety of baked goods, brunch items, tea sandwiches, deliciously whimsical cakes, and a list of tea flavors that goes on for pages. Quotations and scenes from the book are painted in murals on the walls, and the Victorian-era décor completes the atmosphere.



Alice's Tea Cup, Chapter II

If Alice in Wonderland is not your cup of tea, New York offers many more bookish places to choose from. “The Literary Walk”, located within the Central Park Mall just above the 65th Street Transverse, features statues of writers Fitz-Greene Halleck, Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and the Bard himself, William Shakespeare. Even when the crowds are out, it still maintains a level of tranquility.

You may also want to check out the Library Hotel, a true book lover’s paradise where loaded “bookshelves are tucked everywhere.”



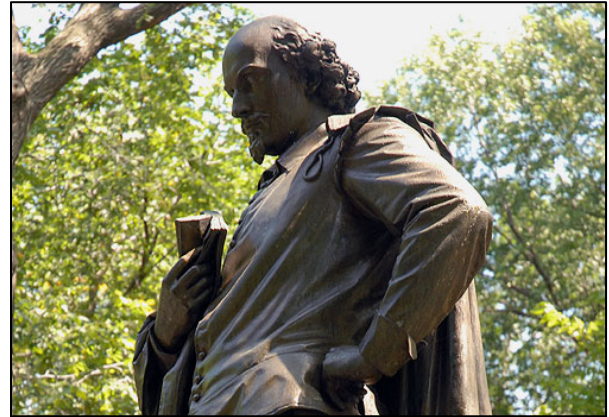
The Library Hotel entrance

Enter its Hogwarts style entrance and you will find over 6,000 books to choose from. You can even enjoy a book in the outdoor rooftop garden terrace overlooking views of Madison Avenue. There is also “Library Way”, a portion of East 41st Street between Park Avenue and Fifth Avenue where the sidewalk has been adorned with bronze

plaques paying homage to literature and poetry with excerpts and quotes.

And of course Library Way leads to the New York Public Library’s world famous Stephen A. Schwarzman Building with its majestic stone lions perched at the entrance. The New York Public Library has approximately 92 locations throughout

New York City and its boroughs. It was founded in 1895 and is the largest public library system in America. NYPL features 88 neighborhood branches and four scholarly research centers, providing its patrons and visitors with an extensive wide variety of information and resources.



Statue of Shakespeare in Central Park

Our literary tour of New York City would not be complete without mentioning The Strand bookstore, located in the East Village of Manhattan at 828 Broadway. This legendary bookstore has been going strong since 1927 when its doors were first opened by Benjamin Bass on what was once known as “Book Row” (so named because the area once housed as many as 48 bookstores). The Strand remains a family owned business with 240 employees. It has been a filming location for movies such as *Julie & Julia* (starring Meryl Streep and Amy Adams) and *Remember Me*, starring Robert Pattinson. The bookstore was also the main setting for Joyce Carol Oates’ short story *Three Girls*.

If you would like more information on these places, please visit:

- New York Public Library: <http://www.nypl.org/>
- Alice’s Tea Cup: <http://alicestecup.com/>
- The Library Hotel: <http://www.libraryhotel.com/>
- Central Park: <http://www.centralparknyc.org/>

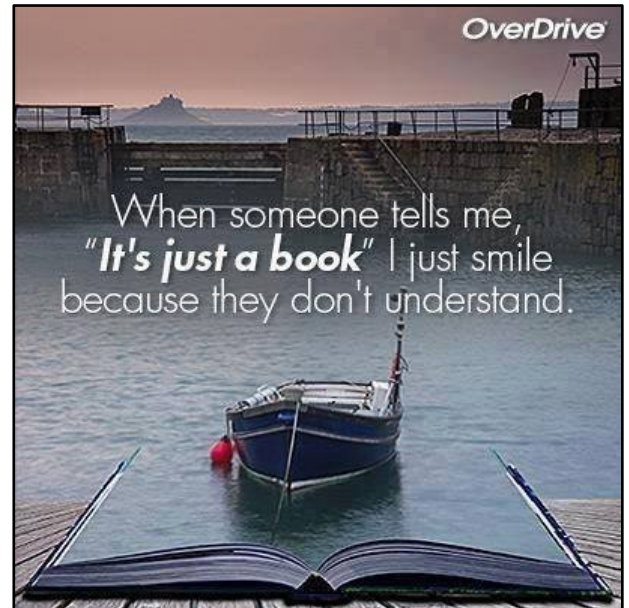
Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2015 are at 354 and 93 of these members are new! I mailed out 85 renewal reminders this week, giving the 2014 members another opportunity to renew for 2015.

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.



Welcome!

Welcome New Members!

Donna Hanna

Julia Gomez

Christine Havens

Beverly Hayes

Charlene V. Martoni

Jennifer McCarthy

Theresa Osborne

Erika Palombo

Mechele Romanchock

Marcia Rossetti

Elizabeth Santobuono

Michael Shillace

Hepburn Library of Madrid

Albany Public Library, Washington Avenue Branch

Albany Public Library, Washington Avenue Branch

SUNY New Paltz, Sojourner Truth Library

University of Rochester, Edward G. Minor Library

Geneva Public Library

Millbrook Free Library

Jamestown Community College, Cattaraugus Campus

East Greenbush Community Library

SUNY College of Technology at Delhi, Resnick Library

Cayuga Community College Library

2016 Conference

Ruth V. Oberg

Conference Coordinator



Plans are underway for the 2016 Annual Conference. It will be held on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institution in the southwestern corner of the state. For information on the Institution go to www.ciweb.org. It will be a unique setting located on beautiful Chautauqua Lake. Plans are in the works for a dinner cruise and a tour at the Lucy and Desi Museum where we will eat dinner in Desi's Tropicana Room. We are just beginning to work on workshops and other events. Watch for more information in the next newsletter.



June 8-10, 2016!

