

# NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Oct.-Dec. 2015 Vol.27, No.4

## 38th Annual NYSLAA Conference Chautauqua Institution

### Library Assistants: Finding Our Strengths Through Change Ruth V. Oberg, Conference Coordinator and Conference Chair

This year we will be making our first visit to the southwest corner of New York State. Chautauqua Institution is a not-for-profit, 750 acre educational center located beside Chautauqua Lake. From their web site: "The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (CLSC) was started in 1878 to provide those who could not afford the time or money to attend college the opportunity of acquiring the skills and essential knowledge of a College education. The four-year, correspondence course was one of the first attempts at distance learning. Besides broadening access to education, the CLSC program was intended to show people how best to use their leisure time and avoid the growing availability of idle pastimes, such as drinking, gambling, dancing and theater-going, that posed a threat both to good morals and to good health." (See ciweb.org for more history.) Chautauqua



was essentially the very first "distance learning" institution! I feel this will be a very unique location for our conference. It will take place before their busy season begins so we will have the grounds to ourselves with the exception of a few hundred year-round residents.

Planning is well underway. Our mixer on Wednesday will be a dinner cruise on Chautauqua Lake.



Our big event on Thursday night will be at the Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz Museum and Center for Comedy! (see [www.lucy-desi.com](http://www.lucy-desi.com)) Lucille Ball was born just



outside of Jamestown, New York and was raised there until she headed to Hollywood. This event will include admission to two museums and dinner in

Desi's Tropicana Room! Both of these events should be lots of fun.

Many of our workshops are already set, including one on the history of Chautauqua. Back by popular demand – Fred Stoss with one of his Green topics; Lisa Wemett and Terry Mulee with another Travelogue; and Michele Matthews with the Certificate of Achievement workshop. Others are: "Getting More from Your Kindle or iPad," "You Can't Teach Nice," "Creating a Safety Team," "Freshen Your Facebook Feed,"

*Cont on p.3*

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**INSIDE: NYSLAA Election Results...Lottery...CAP...Membership...Scholarships...Literary Map...Tail Waggin' Fun**

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2015

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### **Certificate of Achievement**

### **Review Board Coordinator** – and – **Ambassador**

#### **Michele Matthews**

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“We would like to see a library community in New York State where library assistants have a voice in decisions that affect their future, are valued for their contributions, recognized and rewarded appropriately, and where there is equitable access to professional development opportunities.”

## NYSLAA’S MISSION

“The mission of the New York State Library Assistants’ Association is:

1. **To enhance the professional image and status of NY State’s library assistants.**
2. **To further their professional growth.**
3. **To provide a network for communication to our members and the profession on library and library assistant issues.**
4. **To network and cooperate with library organizations on local, state, national, and international levels.”**

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**CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org)**

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**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](http://nyslaa.org), click on “Join Our Email List” and follow the instructions.



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

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**Michele Giuffre**, Bethlehem Public Library  
**Ruth V. Oberg**, University at Buffalo

Next publication date: *February 15, 2016*  
Submission deadline: *January 31, 2016*

*Cont from p.1*

“Scanning Techniques,” “Data Accuracy,” “Online Productivity Tools,” “Bullying,” a “Walking Birding Workshop,” and several others we are still working on.

Overnight arrangements will be a choice of two options. One option is staying on the grounds in a dorm style setting in Bellinger Hall, which is the same building where all the workshops will be held. There will be a choice of a double or single in the same room and sharing a bath or, depending on attendance, you may be able to have your own bath. Or two can each have their own bedroom and share the bath, which connects the two bedrooms. Rooms will include bedding and



towels. There will be many pricing options for this and we will spell it out in the registration information packet that will be mailed out to all members by the end of February, so make sure you renew your membership and update your address so you don't miss out! The other option will be to stay at a hotel that is about five miles up the road. You will need to have your own transportation to stay at the hotel as we will not be able to provide any shuttle service between the hotel and the Institution.

The committee is really looking forward to hosting our conference in this unique location. My committee this year is Carrie Goetz, Cindy Kloss, Karen Kuta, Nora Renda and Karen Ridler, all from the University at Buffalo.



We all hope you will consider attending and sharing information regarding NYSLAA and the conference with your co-workers.

*See you in June!*

## **Election Results!**

**Tammy Southard, 2015 Election Chair**

We have just completed the 2015 Executive Council Elections for the offices of President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

A call for nominations was announced on nyslaa-l, our Facebook page and in the July-September issue of Network Connection. There were two nominations for the office of President, one nomination for Treasurer and none for the office of Corresponding Secretary.

Election ballots were mailed in early October with them all being tallied after the October 31st deadline. Nominees for President were Michele Matthews and Valentin Colon. Michele received the higher number of votes and will continue as the President for another term. Carrie Goetz was unopposed as Treasurer and will continue for another term as well.

As stated in the NYSLAA Bylaws, Article II: Elections Section B: Election Procedures:

B.2 “In the event of a partially unopposed slate of nominees, ballots including the names of all candidates shall be sent to the membership as usual; unopposed nominees shall be listed as such and designated as elected.”

Since the conclusion of the Elections, Dawn Gage from SUNY College at Oneonta volunteered and has been appointed as the Corresponding Secretary of the Executive Council. Thank you, Dawn!

*Please join us in congratulating  
Michele, Carrie and Dawn.*



## It's Lottery Time!

Karen Kuta, 2015 Conference Committee

The 2016 NYSLAA Conference Committee is gearing up for our yearly lottery fundraiser. The proceeds go toward keeping the conference costs affordable. Each year the Executive Council and Conference Committee work together, looking for ways to supplement the costs of running the conference. This has allowed the conference registration fee to remain close to the same for the past few years. As you may have heard, we are hosting the 38th annual NYSLAA conference at the historic Chautauqua Institution on beautiful Lake Chautauqua on June 8 – 10, 2016.

We are offering a daily lottery ticket sale for the month of February. The numbers are based on the New York State Lottery's **EVENING** drawing. That's 29 chances to win! Tickets are \$5.00 each. The daily winnings are \$25.00. On **Valentine's Day (14th)** and **Leap Day (29th)**, the payout will be \$50.00.



Please consider helping us by purchasing or offering to sell some tickets. They make great thank you gifts, stocking stuffers, exchange gifts or a "just because" gift.

Please contact **Cindy Kloss** at [cjkloss@buffalo.edu](mailto:cjkloss@buffalo.edu) or **Ruth Oberg** at [oberg@buffalo.edu](mailto:oberg@buffalo.edu) for tickets.



## Certificate of Achievement

Michele A. Matthews, Review Board Coordinator

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board has been busy since our conference in June. So far this year we have awarded five certificates.

- **Sadisha Edgerton** from the New York Library for the Performing Arts received a Level IV in Administration/Management.
- **Paula Gresen** from The College of St. Rose received a Level IV in Technical Services.
- **Chris Havens** from Albany Public Library received a Level IV in Technical Services.
- **Carole Ray**, retired from Old Dominion University in Virginia, received a Level IV in Administration/Management.
- **Britta Stackwick** from Saint John Fisher College received a Level IV in General Library Services.
- **Ronda Turner** from Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES received a Level IV in Public Services.

Congratulations to the five newest Certificate of Achievement Award recipients! If you are interested in earning your certificate, please contact me at: [prendm@rpi.edu](mailto:prendm@rpi.edu).

## Membership Update

Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary

Membership for 2015 is at 357 and 94 members are new!

If you move, please be sure to alert me that you have a new address. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your membership mailings. A dozen people missed out on being able to vote in our recent election because their envelopes were returned with incorrect addresses.

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](mailto:hanna@geneseo.edu).

## Welcome New Member!

**Paula Gresen**

College of St. Rose, Neil Hellman Library

*Welcome*

# NYSLAA Scholarships

## Continuing Education Scholarship

*NYSLAA will award one scholarship up to \$250.*

continuing  
education

**To qualify** for the NYSLAA Continuing Education Scholarship, you must be:

- A regular member of NYSLAA for at least two years
- Continuing your professional development in a non-matriculated program

**To apply** for a scholarship, submit the following to the NYSLAA President:

- A completed application form found at [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org)
- A written statement of 150 to 300 words explaining your goals and how this scholarship will aid you
- A letter from the Registrar's office or a receipt that you are enrolled
- Course cost verification

**Please note:**

Applications must be sent to [Michele Matthews at \[prendm@rpi.edu\]\(mailto:prendm@rpi.edu\)](mailto:Michele.Matthews@prendm@rpi.edu) and postmarked no later than December 31, 2015.

First consideration will be given to applicants who have not received a NYSLAA scholarship in the past.



## The Degree Program Scholarship

*NYSLAA will award one scholarship in the amount of \$350.*

**To qualify** for the NYSLAA Degree Program Scholarship, you must be:

- A regular member of NYSLAA for at least two years
- Actively pursuing a matriculated degree at an accredited educational institution

**To apply** for a scholarship, submit the following to the NYSLAA President:

- A completed application form found at [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org)
- A written statement of 150 to 300 words explaining your goals and how this scholarship will aid you
- A copy of your transcript or letter from the Registrar's office citing the number of credit hours taken

**Please note:**

Applications must be sent to [Michele Matthews at \[prendm@rpi.edu\]\(mailto:prendm@rpi.edu\)](mailto:Michele.Matthews@prendm@rpi.edu) and postmarked no later than December 31, 2015.

Applicants may receive the Degree Program Scholarship only once. Previous winners may not apply.

## New York: A Literary Map

Kimberly M. Barbato

Touro Law School

### Chapter 2: Got Spirit?

*“To look upon its grass grown yard, where the sunbeams seem to sleep so quietly, one would think that there at least the dead might rest in peace.”*

— Washington Irving

Autumn is a truly wonderful time of year in New York when Mother Nature changes her garb from shades of deep green to brilliant variations of crimson and gold. The days wane and a crisp chill pervades the air. It is a time for crunching leaves, pumpkins, and of course, Halloween. And what more appropriate place could one sense the full spirit of Halloween than in Sleepy Hollow, New York?

This scenic little village in Westchester County lies between the Hudson River and the Pocantico Hills, almost an hour north of New York City. Dating back to the mid-1600’s, it is rich in history and steeped in American folklore. In 1798, Washington Irving came to Tarrytown fleeing an outbreak of yellow fever in New York City. It was during this trip that he visited neighboring Sleepy Hollow and fell in love with the area. He became familiar with its quaint Dutch customs and local ghost stories, all of



Washington Irving

which fascinated his imagination.

Many of Irving’s short stories were inspired by these local legends. His most famous work, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, is based on the tale of the headless horseman, allegedly a Hessian soldier who had been decapitated by a cannonball during “some nameless battle” in the American Revolutionary War.

The story focuses on Ichabod Crane, a lanky and extremely superstitious school teacher who tries to win the hand of a wealthy farmer’s daughter. He proposes to

her at the fall harvest festivities and is rejected, riding home “heavy-hearted and crestfallen.” It is on this ride home through the woods that he encounters the headless horseman. After a brief pursuit, the horseman attacks Crane who mysteriously disappears never to be seen again.

*Rip Van Winkle*, Irving’s other famous work, also uses local folklore as its main premise. Legend has it Henry Hudson, who at the time was exploring the river that would later bear his name, once anchored his ship by the Catskill Mountains near Tarrytown. In the middle of the night, he and his crew went to investigate music coming from on top of the mountains and found a group



Rip Van Winkle statue, located across the street from the fire department in Irvington, NY.

of gnomes partaking of liquor and dancing around a fire. In *Rip Van Winkle* the title character also journeys to the top of the Catskill Mountains and consumes the liquor. He falls asleep and wakes up twenty years later. One could say that this story is a precursor to modern day science fiction.

*“...seek some quiet haunt where we may indulge our reveries and build our air castles undisturbed.”*

— Washington Irving,  
*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

These beloved tales have returned the favor to inspire various Irving-themed places around the Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown areas. There is the Horseman Diner with its iconic otherworldly rider on the sign. The Sleepy Hollow High School features the horseman as its mascot. A bar and grill called Horsefeathers features murals of authors on the walls along with a delicious

menu. For thrill seekers, the Sleepy Hollow cemetery offers a variety of guided walking tours. Feeling brave? Do a lantern-guided night tour or the “Murder and Mayhem” guided tour.

If you visit Sleepy Hollow on Halloween, you will find plenty of tricks and treats. Philipsburg Manor becomes a “terrifying landscape ruled by the undead, the evil,



**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**

and the insane... Those who survive the trail enter the terrifying ruins of Ichabod’s Schoolhouse, where they must endure a twisted maze of horrors too terrible to describe, only to end up in the lair of the Horseman.” Take a spooky tour through the Lyndhurst Mansion in Jay Ghoul’s House of Curiosities. See carved pumpkins set aglow at the Great Jack O’ Lantern Blaze. And of course Halloween in Sleepy Hollow would not be complete without a wandering headless horseman.

For more information, please visit:

<http://visitsleepyhollow.com/>

<http://www.sleepyhollowcemetery.org/>

<http://www.hudsonvalley.org/historic-sites/washington-irvings-sunnyside>

<http://www.hudsonvalley.org/historic-sites/philipsburg-manor>



**Athenaeum Hotel, Chautauqua Institution**

## **Tail Waggin’ Fun at Newburgh Free Library!**

**Bonnie V. Sakow**

Newburgh Free Library

Newburgh Free Library (NFL) has always been a place where children feel comfortable looking at and checking out books, attending programs, using computers and doing research/homework. This being said, children in schools sometimes have difficulties reading or lack confidence in reading out loud in the classroom. Studies have shown how pets can provide comfort to people who struggle in different ways, and this has led Newburgh Free Library to develop a special program using therapy dogs to read with children. I have headed this wonderful program since 2012 and want to tell you all about it!

The Tail Waggin’ Tutors program took off in the summer of 2012 and soon it was held weekly on Saturdays at the Main Library in Newburgh. Parents, grandparents and other caregivers called about or stopped by each of these Saturdays for their children to take a turn reading with a terrific therapy dog. Many children who would stop in were actually afraid of dogs, but our certified and licensed therapy dogs would create a calm, peaceful atmosphere for the children and you could see them immediately react in a way so that they felt comfortable petting the dog, putting their parent’s mind at ease.

Each of our certified and licensed therapy dogs must go through training for them to become part of our Tail Waggin’ Tutors Program. They must have had a yearly



physical, be up-to-date on all shots, and have attended all the necessary training classes in order to participate in this program.

Presently we have 16 dog/handler pairs signed up for the next Newburgh Free Library Tail Waggin' Tutors program. We have expanded to our NFL Town Branch at the Newburgh Mall and have two dogs available for reading at that location every Tuesday evening at 6pm. We have received so many verbal testimonials from parents who realize how very valuable this program is

for their children. I have seen the wonderful results that reading with a therapy dog has had on the children as well as on the parents and caregivers who attend. The dogs, big and small (our smallest dog is Salvatore, a long-haired Chihuahua and our largest is Ella, a Great Dane), young and old, are a testament to the temperaments, the training and the wonderful personalities that these dogs lend to the program at NFL. I am so happy to head this program and to know these wonderful, giving dogs and their handlers!

