

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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Final Notes on this Year's Conference

Ruth V. Oberg, Conference Coordinator

I hope you are all looking forward to the upcoming conference at Chautauqua Institution as much as we are looking forward to having you. The committee is excited and waiting for your arrival. We want to cover some last minute items before you arrive. If you signed up for the workshop Discover Your Strengths as a Library Assistant, you will need to take the assessment online prior to your arrival and bring the results with you to the workshop. Your access codes have been emailed to you. If you have questions regarding your code, contact me at oberg@buffalo.edu or Donna at hanna@geneseo.edu.

We can't wait for the dinner at the Lucy and Desi Museum and Comedy Center. We will be eating in the Tropicana Room and thought it would be fun to wear Hawaiian shirts. Please bring one with you for that night. Reminder, you will need to wear your name badge to the museum as that is your ticket for entrance.

If you are planning to bring a basket to donate to the ever popular basket raffle that wraps up the conference, please email Nora Renda at nlrenda@buffalo.edu to let her know what you are bringing.

NYSLAA wishes to reach out to help the communities where we host our conferences. We will be accepting contributions at the registration desk for the following:

- Handmade blankets for the Linus Project. They must be handmade; i.e., fleece tied, knitted or crocheted and at least 36 inches in length. These will be distributed to children in hospitals.

- Canned or dry foods for the local food pantry
- Pet supplies for the local rescues; e.g. food, treats, blankets, towels, toys, etc.
- Your sample soaps and shampoos from your hotel room from this trip or any other hotel you have visited during your travels. These go to a women's shelter to help them get back on their feet. (Also, unopened makeup or lipsticks, hairbrushes, small makeup bags, etc.)
- Cash or checks also appreciated for the food pantry or the rescues.

I am particularly hoping that this conference is one of the best for you as it will be my last one as Conference Coordinator. I have been doing this for over 20 years and it is time to step down. Rose Flickner from the University at Rochester has agreed to take on this very intense but rewarding job. I wish her the best. It really has been an honor to work with this Association. I know I have grown through my participation. I have met so many wonderful people and especially all that have come and gone on the Executive Council during my long tenure. I will miss that camaraderie the most, along with all the great times at conferences. NYSLAA needs people to step up and carry on. Please consider helping out this great organization. It has been my pleasure to serve.



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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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Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2016 are at 286 and 44 members are new.

As you probably know, for the past two years NYSLAA has offered free membership during National Library Week to people who have never had a NYSLAA Membership. This year there were 36 people who took advantage of this offer.

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

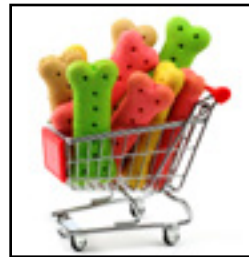
Nancy Davis

Our goal is to ensure that we are giving back to the community that hosts our conferences. Many of you have repeatedly contributed to this goal by supporting our charities at each event, and again I want to thank you. Your generosity is very overwhelming!

Sometimes we are able to reach out statewide with your help. This year we have included the Project Linus campaign. We will be distributing any homemade (they won't accept store bought) blankets you donate between the Buffalo region and the Capital region. These must be a minimum of 36" square, but that is the ONLY rule. They can be knitted, crocheted, quilted, tied or sewn. These donations are very valued by the people who get them. They will go to infants in neo-natal wards or newborns. They also go to foster children. How can you say no to that? I look forward to seeing all the contributions!



We will again have the food goods, toiletries and pet contributions strictly for the local venue. So just a heads up, thank you for your generosity!



Remember, every contribution is appreciated. If you feel like you can't do all of them, pick ONE! Every little bit helps!

I just want to mention that many of you have graciously contributed baskets for the raffle, too. These are really appreciated. All proceeds go toward reducing the price of the conference for you! If you notice, many of these baskets are made by the executive board, and even myself and other committee members. I am donating two Kindles this year to be raffled off, as well as several baskets. So the quality and monetary value of the baskets can vary. You don't have to spend a fortune to make one, unless you want to. Remember that these baskets are fun to win, and they reduce the cost of next year's conference for you too! Please check the listserv and Facebook page to find the details as to whom you should let know that you will be making a contribution. We want to be sure to give each contributor recognition for their basket.



Thanks again all! You're the best!



Welcome New Members!

Tami Attwell	St. Bonaventure University, Friedsam Memorial Library
Diane Bauer	Horseheads Central School District, Horseheads Middle School Library
Amber Beazer	New York Public Library, Pelham Parkway-Van Nest
Sharon Bello	Dunham Public Library
Maureen Bernas	St. Bonaventure University, Friedsam Memorial Library
Bruce Conrad-Reingold	SUNY Brockport, Drake Memorial Library
Rebecca Cultrara	Myers Memorial Library
Sergei Domashenko	Colgate University, Case Library
Christopher Ely	New City Library
Timothy Furgal	Albany Public Library, John A. Howe Branch
Shanta Gee	Queens Borough Library, Ridgewood Community Library
Beth Hadley	Sinclairville Free Library
Merrie Hanmann	Ahira Hall Memorial Library
George Harris	New York Public Library, Library Service Center
Marcia Johnson	Chili Public Library
Dana Laird	SUNY Brockport, Drake Memorial Library
Harley Lawrence	Nioga Library System
Craig Loudon	SUNY Oneonta, James Milne Library
Melanie Mabee	Albany Law School, Schaffer Law Library
Joanne Malecki	Alexander Findley Lake Community Library
Jose Martinez	New York Public Library, Columbus Branch
Rebecca Martinez	New York Public Library, Hudson Park Library
Sandra May	Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine & Pharmacy, Siroto Memorial Library
Simone McKenzie	New York Public Library
Karen Meritt	NIOGA Library System
Sheila Nichols	New York Public Library, Hudson Park
Cynthia Pagano	Sinclairville Free Library
Christal Pickett	New York Public Library, Hamilton Grange Library
Sandra Priore	Poughkeepsie Public Library District, Adriance Memorial Library
Jenean Roth	Ahira Hall Memorial Library
Declan Ryan	University of Rochester, Rush Rhees Library
M. Elizabeth Schmitz	Mayville Library
Nancy Schultz	St. Bonaventure University, Friedsam Memorial Library
LeAnn Standish	SUNY Oneonta, James Milne Library
Lynn Steele	Myers Memorial Library
Andrey Syroyezhkin	New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
Dorothy Teasley	New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Library
Francesca Testi	Guernsey Memorial Library
Alexis Wallace	New York Public Library, Countee Cullen Branch
Chandra Weaver	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Gustave L. and Janet W. Levy Library
Mary Wepasnick	St. Bonaventure University, Friedsam Memorial Library
Tamika Young	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Gustave L. and Janet W. Levy Library

Public Relations Report

Nancy Davis

Although this is merely my fifth year with NYSLAA, I am blessed to have been able to become an active member. It just shows, it is never too early to become involved. It has been a very gratifying experience working with the Executive Board and helping with each conference. I can only say I wish I had heard of you sooner! I really appreciate the goals and mission of NYSLAA. Our conference is now something I work towards all year and really look forward to.

I have the honor of representing you as the Chair of the Public Relations Committee. I am looking forward to creating new ways to increase our membership and conference attendance. Just getting the word out as much as possible, visiting libraries wherever I go and handing out the tri-fold brochures to be made available to staff in the libraries has helped. If anyone is interested in helping, please see me. We could always use new ideas to meet our goals.

This year I sent out emails to all of the regional officers and tried to reach out to their membership individually as well. I sent out hundreds of emails in an effort to get the word out about our Association. We have enlisted many new members with your help. Our second year of free membership for first time members during National Library Week has seen continued growth in our memberships! I believe it was your doing, as much as mine, and I want to ask you all to keep it up! I also want to thank you for your help in spreading the word about NYSLAA. Getting more members improves our ability to network with each other and share valuable information. It also improves our ability to provide valuable workshops, and it improves our ability to help libraries across New York State work more effectively to meet our patrons' needs.

This year I again had the honor of working with Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti to get our resolution passed. This went through the Senate and Assembly and was passed on April 11, 2016. Our resolution recognizes New York State Library Assistants' Day on April 14, 2016, as well as National Library Week from April 10 through April 16, 2016. Assemblyman Abinanti is the Chair of the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology. He was very interested in the needs of library workers across New York State.

We had a good discussion about the life of ebooks and the future ability to obtain material through interlibrary loan. He has invited us to his office on May 25, and I would like to extend this invitation to anyone in the area of the Capital that would like to join us. Please contact me directly as he has limited space and would need to authorize each persons attendance.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Chautauqua Institute. The workshops look phenomenal and the events are not to be missed.

Celebration of Library Assistants' Day

Adrienne Birchler

The Rensselaer Libraries at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute celebrated Library Workers'Day so we could include all workers in our two libraries (Folsom and Architecture). We held a luncheon in our staff lounge. It was catered by a popular local Italian restaurant, and boy was it a big hit. We feasted on antipasto, chicken parmesan, meatballs and sausage in marinara sauce, baked ziti, and Italian bread. Library managers supplied scrumptious homemade desserts. Our acting director, Jeff Miner, thanked us all for our dedication and hard work.

Paralibrarian of the Year 2016

Lauren Anthony-Palmer

The Paralibrarian of the Year Award recognizes the essential role of paralibrarians in providing excellent library services. The award is sponsored by DEMCO, Inc., of Madison, Wisconsin, which underwrites the \$1,500 cash prize and a reception to honor the winner at the American Library Association annual conference in Orlando, Florida this June. To read about this year's winner Brown Biggers from University of North Carolina, Greensboro, see:



http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/03/awards/paralibrarian-of-the-year-2016-brown-biggers/#_