

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

July-Sept. 2016 Vol.28, No.3

2016 is a Wrap

Ruth V. Oberg

As promised, the 2016 Annual NYSLAA Conference was held in a unique location within the gated Chautauqua Institution community on Chautauqua Lake. Being off season, we had the 750 acre educational institution mostly to ourselves. The evaluations have been reviewed and almost everything was positive! There are always items we can't control. The upper deck on the Wednesday boat ride was a bit chilly, but the food and views were excellent. The dorms were dorms and from what we heard, were better than some expected. Thursday and Friday workshops were good with just a few minor technology glitches which were solved. A big thank you goes out to all our speakers, some who travelled long distances with no compensation, to present workshops.

For the first time we had a Thursday lunch speaker, Greg Peterson, who spoke on Robert Jackson, a Jamestown native who became a Supreme Court Justice. Greg was very interesting and received good comments. Since it was off season, the library was not open on Thursdays but the director, Scott Ekstrom, made arrangements for a special opening for our group from 12-2 which many took advantage of after lunch. A great evening was had by all when we took a guided tour of the Lucy and Desi Museum and Comedy Center. Dinner was served in the Tropicana Room while watching episodes of I Love Lucy.

Jason Van Gardner was our keynote speaker on Friday. He really energized and motivated the group by addressing our theme, Library Assistants: Finding Our Strengths Through Change. He gave us five "A's" to help us deal with change: Accept, Apply, Appreciate, Applaud, Again. (Because there will always be more change.)

This was followed by our awards ceremony. Many received their longevity awards for 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of membership. Six members earned their Certificates of Achievement.

Our Ray Murray Award, for support for library assistants from a librarian, was awarded to Sheryl Knab, the Executive Director of Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC).

We had two winners for the Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service by a NYSLAA member. Dawn Gage from SUNY College at Oneonta and Nancy Davis from University at Albany.

Congratulations to all of the above!

There were over 100 baskets to raffle off. Many NYSLAA committee members made swift work of it. Thank you to all who donated baskets and purchased tickets for the raffle and the 50/50. These things made a big difference in keeping the conference in the black.

Cont on p.3

INSIDE: Regional Reports... VA Conference...Proclamation...Committee Reports...CAP...New Members...Membership Update... NYSLAA Elections... Craig Koste and Ray Murray Award Winners...etc.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2016

Michele Matthews

President
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
(518) 276-8330
prendm@rpi.edu

Kathy Rosello

Vice-President
East Greenbush Community Library
(518) 477-7476 ext. 108
rossek@eastgreenbushlibrary.org

Carrie Goetz

Treasurer
University at Buffalo
(716) 645-5113
ceoberg@buffalo.edu

Tammy Southard

Recording Secretary
SUNY Oneonta
(607) 436-2727
Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu

Dawn Gage

Corresponding Secretary
SUNY Oneonta
(607) 436-2008
Dawn.Gage@oneonta.edu

Donna Hanna

Membership Secretary
SUNY Geneseo
(585) 245-5508
hanna@geneseo.edu

Rose Flickner

Conference Coordinator
University of Rochester
(585) 375-4454
rflickner@library.rochester.edu

Standing Committees

Public Relations Chair – and – **Community Outreach Chair**

Nancy Davis
University at Albany
(518) 442-3616
ndavis@albany.edu

Donations Chair

Sheila Tshudy
Corning Museum of Glass
(607) 438-5337
tshudysa@cmog.org

Certificate of Achievement

Review Board Coordinator – and – **Ambassador**

Michele Matthews
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
(518) 276- 8330
prendm@rpi.edu

“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**

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.

Editor: Tammy Southard

SUNY Oneonta, Milne Library
Email: Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu

Newsletter Committee: **Chair, Tammy Southard**, SUNY Oneonta
Laureen Anthony-Palmer, Webster Public Library
Adrienne Birchler, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Michele Giuffre, Bethlehem Public Library
Ruth V. Oberg, University at Buffalo

Next publication date: *November 15, 2016*
Submission deadline: *October 31, 2016*

Virginia Conference

Chaniqua Mauldin

I would like to start by saying what an honor it was to have been selected as the representative for NYSLAA to attend the 2016 Virginia Library Association Professional Associates Forum Conference. I would like to give a very special thank you to Dawn Gage and Lisa Varga for all of their assistance. The conference, entitled “You Make Libraries Happen,” offered an array of workshops that included marketing your library, technical workshops and personal development. The conference was a great resource that allowed me to network with my peers from academic libraries as well as public libraries.

Attendance at the Virginia Conference offered me invaluable skills and tools to enhance my abilities to serve users at my academic library. Learning from experts in the field allowed me to implement new ideas and share them with my peers at Mount Saint Mary College. For example, I attended a workshop entitled, “Marketing YOUR Academic Library.” This workshop was designed to illustrate the difficulties one’s library may have with marketing on a limited budget. The presenters offered various low-cost marketing solutions.

Additionally, innovative ideas, strategies, and technology that you learn at sessions and from colleagues will serve your users and help you manage your time more efficiently. During the afternoon session I attended a workshop geared toward personal development. The workshop was entitled, “It’s All About YOU!” This workshop proved very useful. The workshop’s aim was to demonstrate the importance of personal well-being. The workshop suggested that in order to serve our populations to the fullest, we must reflect, rejuvenate, and replenish ourselves.

Attending the Virginia Conference allowed me the chance to give back to my library community. This opportunity was vital to my professional development. As a library paraprofessional, I need to stay abreast of library trends and make contributions to the profession through research and service. This conference was a major opportunity for monitoring developments and best practices in libraries. I appeal to you all to take advantage of the opportunities your NYSLAA membership affords you.

2016 Wrap

(Continued from p.1)

Thank you to my committee members, Carrie Goetz, Cindy Kloss, Karen Kuta, Nora Renda and Karen Ridler, all from the University at Buffalo Libraries, for all their help to make this a successful conference.

As you now know, this was my last as Conference Coordinator.

I would like to thank the current and past members of the Executive Council during my tenure for their friendship and leadership. It has made the journey rewarding and enjoyable.



Thank you Rose Flickner, University of Rochester for stepping up and taking over this position. Good luck!

Library Assistants’ Day Proclamation!

NYSLAA’s Public Relations Chairperson, Nancy Davis, worked with State Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti’s office again this year to pursue our resolution which recognizes New York State Library Assistants’ Day on April 14, 2016, as well as National Library Week from April 10 through April 16, 2016. Thank you Nancy for doing this every year.



Nancy Davis accepting the proclamation from Assemblyman Abinanti’s office.

Regional Reports



Written regional reports are requested from the regional representatives prior to the conference. We also invited 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:

- **Freshen Your Facebook Feed** presented by Tracy L. Paradis, Instruction and Reference Librarian and Exhibits and Programming Coordinator, SUNY Geneseo
- **Making the Making: Developing Maker Programs, Services and Spaces at Your Library** presented by Leah Kraus, Director of Community Engagement & Experience, and Mike Cimino, Technology Integration Specialist, both from the Fayetteville Free Library, Fayetteville, N.Y.

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

- **Pizza & Productivity in the Library** presented by Ron Kirsop, Assistant Director for the Pioneer Library System.
- **Pizza & Who Do You Think You Are** (Apologies to the TV Show!) presented by Larry Naukam, the retired Director of Historical Services (Local History, Genealogy, and Digitizing) at the Rochester NY Public Library. He writes regularly for genealogy publications, catalogs items for NY Heritage, and yes, has had his DNA tested and contacted relatives.

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

Metropolitan New York Library Council

Nina Manning

This year on April 14th, we held our 18th Annual Library Assistant's Day at SUNY Downstate Medical Research Library. Emphasizing our theme on "Reinventing Yourself in the 21st Century." We had over 125 registered participants. Our guest speaker was Mrs. Violet O. Price, MLS and the head of Technical Services at SUNY Downstate Medical Research Library. Mrs. Price's discussion focused on positioning and valuing one's potential. She challenged the participants to create something new – revisit ideas that were created but never came to fruition or fell off. To Develop your skills / Enhance your knowledge / Expand in thought process.

The day's program assisted the beginning of this journey by offering several workshops; **Customer Service, Finding The Courage To Write Your Memoirs, LinkedIn, Social Security: What Every Library Assistant Needs to Know, Career Opportunities, Retirement and Yoga**. The program was designed to direct the participants to "invest in" themselves. The theme throughout the workshops was that "life lessons are not journeys traveled in straight lines; but are crossroads formed years and miles apart." The importance of respect is that it extends beyond the workplace. Life planning and goal setting are processes that we should continue to work on.

During 2015, we also participated in the "Back to School Bash, Feed the Community" outreach events headed by the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Bronx. Frederick Crawford is the Pastor.

We are looking forward to offering additional workshops throughout the year.

Western New York Library Resources Council

Ronda Turner

The Western New York Library Assistants (WNYLA) sponsored a very successful workshop called **You Can't Teach Nice - Retail Strategies for Enhanced Library Customer Service** that was presented by Amanda Perrine from Syracuse University. We had 34 attendees. Amanda offered some great customer service advice through the perspective of her past experience in retail management. This was an area that the committee knew was of interest to the attendees that come to our activities. We have seen customer service skills as a suggestion on our surveys for quite a while now and finally managed to find a presenter that could do a quality workshop for us.

A book repair workshop was held at the Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES SLS offices in Olean. Kari Barth from Kapco taught our 19 participants how to do simple mending and covering of books.

The committee sponsored two Getting To Know You (GTKY) events this past year. Our first was at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Kathy Leacock, the librarian and also one of the curators took us through the library and the museum itself. There were 22 people in attendance.

Our second GTKY event was at the UB History of Medicine and the History of Radiology Collections. Linda Lohr, the curator of the History of Medicine Collection, hosted our group. There were 12 people in attendance. Both collections we toured contained fascinating material. After the tours we met for some networking opportunities and a small celebration of Library Assistants Day. We had a cake to celebrate and one of our committee members made beautiful roses from the pages of books to give to each participant as a remembrance and a thank you for the contributions that library assistants make.

We were fortunate this year to have NYLA's Library Assistant Training Program held at WNYLRC in May 2016. This training consisted of three full days on consecutive weeks on various topics.

We are tentatively planning a Fall 2016 Safety Workshop for the end of October or beginning of November. Presently we are planning various portions of this half

day event on safety and security, self defense, safe practices, fire safety, and diffusing potentially unsafe interactions with patrons.

Also for GTKY's, we were planning on doing a Historic Buffalo River Cruise, but all the dates we were considering are booked. We will need to try earlier next summer, if we decide on this event for 2017. We will plan our fall GTKY at the next committee meeting.

We are still working on membership. Our numbers are increasing. One new member that will be attending the new member orientation and one that attended the NYLA workshops at WNYLRC have decided to join WNYLA. That brings our committee members number up to nine.

Central Library Resources Council (CLRC)

Region

Anna Dobkowski

CLRC received a grant to pilot a hotspot loan program and it is in full swing. Two Onondaga County library branches and the Jordanville Public Library are loaning Chromebooks and wi-fi hotspots to patrons for a two-week period. The feedback on this program is very positive.

CLRC also received a grant from Mozilla Foundation to pilot web literacy skills training with staff in five rural libraries - Lafayette Public Library, Tully Free Library, Clayville Library Association, Morrisville Public Library and Weller Library. The pilot program will run from June to December 2016.

Matthew Kopel, CLRC's Research and Development Librarian, has initiated an opioid task force that meets monthly. They are working on guidelines for staff training, creating resources, community outreach goals and policy recommendations.

For the third year, New York libraries will be represented at a booth at the State Fair. Anna Dobkowski, CLRC's Outreach Coordinator, is organizing the event and is looking for volunteers to staff the booth for a two-hour shift. The Fair runs for 12 days and 144 volunteers are needed. Free admission, but travel and parking are on your own. See clrc.org.

Capital Area Library Assistants (CALA)

Jean Guyon

This year the Capital Area Library Assistants Coordinating Committee worked to further the goals of our organization, our members and our community in a variety of ways:

- We continued to offer a variety of professional development workshops for our members.
- We continued to make use of email surveys and printed evaluation forms to solicit feedback from our members on topics of interest to them.
- We focused our attention on giving back to our community through fundraising efforts for our designated charity, the American Cancer Society. Our members donated \$220 to the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany (NABA).

Here is a summary of our workshops:

Lunch and Learn Workshop, November 2015

Creative Library Programming, a presentation by Carol Anne Germain, Information Literacy Librarian, University at Albany and Laurie Dreyer, SISPL, University at Albany. 15 people attended this workshop.

Spring Workshop, April 2016

When You Can't Just Run and Hide, a presentation by Chrissie Morrison, former Tween & Teen Librarian at East Greenbush Community Library. To honor New York State Library Assistants' Day. 27 people attended this workshop.

End of Submitted Regional Reports

2016 Conference



Keynote Jason Van Gardner engaging the group.



Wednesday evening dinner cruise.



Sheila Tshudy, Terry Berl, Nancy Davis Fun at dinner in the Tropicana Room.



One of our many interesting workshop speakers.

Community Outreach Committee

Nancy Davis

A big thanks to all who brought in blankets for Project Linus, we collected forty seven blankets and distributed them between the Albany Chapter and the Buffalo Chapter of Project Linus. Way to go NYSLAA! The collected donations for the Food Pantry and the Humane Society were delivered by Lindsey Kaufman. I am so pleased to be a part of such a generous kind hearted group. Thanks so much to all who donated! I look forward to working with you all again next year. We will continue all three of these charities for the local venues next year. So plan ahead!

I want to say that nothing gives me more pleasure than working at the library and working with books, besides NYSLAA of course. As library assistants we often put our heart and soul into our jobs. With the changing environment, with retirements and new hires of “professionals,” it has become a real challenge to maintain that relationship. We should always be proud of the work we do, be grateful, and be proud to be Library Assistants! Our resolution through the Senate and Assembly recognizes our contributions and shows that they appreciate what we do! Don't forget that!

Certificate of Achievement

Michele Matthews

Certificate of Achievement has had another productive year. The committee awarded six certificate to the following people:

Paula Gresen, College of St. Rose

Level IV Technical Services

Sadisha Edgerton, NY Library for the Performing Arts

Level IV Administration/Management

Christine Havens, Albany Public Library

Level IV Technical Services

Carole Ray, Retired, Old Dominion University, VA

Level IV Administration/Management

Britta Stackwick, Saint John Fisher College

Level IV General Library Services

Ronda Turner, Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES

Level IV Public Services

This brings the number of certificates awarded to 152 since its inception. If you are interested in earning your certificate please contact me via prendm@rpi.edu.

Donations Committee

Sheila Tshudy

First, we closed out two of our fundraisers that began in 2015 and ended in 2016. Schwan's Home Service (food delivery) fundraiser ran from March 2015 to February 2016. A total of \$1093.11 was earned. The Yankee Candle fundraiser ran from October 2015 to February 2016. A total of \$1010.80 was earned.

Both Schwan's and Yankee Candle approached NYSLAA asking if we would like to open new campaigns for Spring 2016 and we did. The Schwan's campaign earned \$392 and Yankee Candle earned \$274.80.

Other donations for the conference were the GlassMarket at The Corning Museum of Glass who generously offered several giveaways, the Corning Museum of Glass who donated a beautiful vase and two adult passes to the Museum, Yankee Candle provided us with some of their products, SCRLC sponsored a 'color station' with coloring pages and colored pencils, Brodart contributed giveaways in your conference bags which were donated by the University at Buffalo Libraries.

NYSLAA also sold lottery tickets for the month of February. The sale of the lottery tickets is handled by the conference committee. This year, \$1170 was generated before payouts.

As NYSLAA's Donations Committee Chair I would like to offer my personal thoughts: NYSLAA operates on a budget earned through membership dues which have remained constant at only \$15/year for a regular membership for many years. Currently NYSLAA has 300 members – if all were regular members, membership fees would generate \$4,500/year. This money is used to support the organization with mailings, awards, scholarships, postage, additional conference expenses and much more. Having to raise membership fees could potentially cost all members. Even with the increasing costs of venues, food, and other expenses NYSLAA conferences have remained around \$115 for several years – raising the price to attend the conference would most definitely affect the number of attendees. Lastly, I believe we are our own destiny. We should no longer rely on businesses and organizations to help carry our organization with their donations as fewer and fewer are willing or able to do so; or they fund only those with a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. I believe we need to become self-sufficient in raising funds in order to maintain current membership fees and to be able to offer an affordable annual conference.

Welcome New Members!

Donna Hanna

Beatriz Arrendel	New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Library
Crystal Chen	New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
Anna Dobkowski	Central New York Library Resources Council, Syracuse
Sandra Francis	New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
Amber Moore	Mary F. Seymour Memorial Free Library
Sheila Nicholas	New York Public Library, Muhlenberg Library



Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2016 is currently at 301 and 50 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 any mailings. As another new initiative to go green we are now sending membership cards and letters out electronically. Please let us know what you think of this effort.

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 contact me via hanna@geneseo.edu.



NYSLAA Elections

Dawn Gage

2016 Elections Chair

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for officers. This October we will hold elections for Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary and Conference Coordinator. NYSLAA officers serve a two-year term. You can find the duties for each of these positions in the bylaws on the NYSLAA website.

Please go to our website nyslaa.org for the nomination form. Nominations need to be submitted by September 30, 2016. Each nomination needs to contain the signed acceptance/nomination form and a biography.

Please send your nominations to:

Dawn Gage

NYSLAA Corresponding Secretary

James M. Milne Library

Ravine Parkway

SUNY College at Oneonta

Oneonta, NY 13820

Or submit electronically to:

Dawn.Gage@oneonta.edu or fax to 607-436-3081.

Public Relations Chair

Nancy Davis

We were well represented at the Town Forum by several regions. I hope we were inspired from the reports that were given. There are so many opportunities out there for each of us, not only to attend but to initiate at your own libraries. I know many of you have been involved in such events, drawing the community to your libraries. The summer seems like the ideal time to get the school children to come in and get them inspired about libraries. We can strive to create fond memories, to encourage the possibility of working in libraries, and the love of reading. Libraries are special places and are pillars of the community. The government acknowledges our efforts by writing a yearly resolution proclaiming our worth. As Public Relations Chair, I had the opportunity to work with Assemblymen Thomas Abinanti again this year to ask him to have our resolution signed by the house assembly and the senate.

Thank you for all you do, every day, to make someone's life a little better with a book. Remember: No two persons, ever reads the same book. – Edmund Wilson – **Anyone who says they have only one life to live must not know how to read a book.**

Craig Koste 2016 Award Winners

The Executive Council is pleased to announce two winners, Nancy Davis and Dawn Gage.

Nancy Davis, Library Clerk III, Head of Collection Management, University at Albany

In her nomination letter, Adrienne Birchler states, “To say that Nancy exceeds the expectations of members in NYSLAA would be an understatement. She has only been a member since 2012, but she’s been a very active one. She worked on the planning committee for the 2014 conference in Saratoga Springs and was responsible for soliciting conference bags, raffle items, door prizes, gift cards, and for selling \$300 worth of lottery tickets. She also sold candy in her library to help offset the price of the conference. As Chair of Public Relations, she works every year to have a day in April designated National Library Assistants’ Day, and she constantly promotes our organization throughout the state. And as Chair of the Community Outreach Committee, Nancy leads the effort in soliciting money and goods that benefit the communities where our conferences are held. Nancy best characterizes what we stand for as an organization: professionalism, selfless involvement and superior performance.”

Sheila Tshudy, states in her letter of support, “Nancy became a member in 2012 and has become an essential and integral part of our organization. Almost immediately, Nancy wanted to become more involved and did she ever. She hit the ground running and hasn’t stopped. I am humbled by her quiet demeanor and passion and proud to know her as one of the best ambassadors NYSLAA could have, and so very fortunate to call her ‘friend’. Her commitment and dedication to NYSLAA does not go unnoticed.”



**Craig Koste
Winners**
Nancy Davis

Dawn Gage

Dawn Gage, Library Clerk III
James M. Milne Library, SUNY College at Oneonta

In her nomination letter, Tammy Southard states, “Dawn has been a member for eight years. Dawn has been very supportive and committed to NYSLAA. She volunteered this year to fill the vacant Corresponding Secretary position on the Executive Council. Dawn completed the NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement Program in 2014 and she takes great pride in her accomplishment. Dawn believes in helping others achieve their certificates as well and has since joined the Certificate of Achievement Review Board. Dawn advocates for all of the library assistants in our library. I simply can’t say enough good things about Dawn as she is such an amazing role model and mentor here in the library.”

Andrea Gerberg states in her letter of support, “Dawn takes her leadership role very seriously and works hard to promote the library and its staff on campus, in the community and beyond. Dawn’s work ethic, outgoing personality and sense of humor make it possible for her coworkers to get work done efficiently while having a comfortable work environment that also allows for a bit of fun!”

Charles O’Bryan, Library Director states, “To say that she is an independent worker with the highest professional standards would be to gloss over so many of the day-to-day things that she does so well. Whether she is accessioning materials or balancing ledgers there is never a question as to procedures followed or accuracy. The depth of knowledge and experience that Dawn has in all things having to do with the behind the scenes piece of acquisitions and budgets provides all of us with a resource of inestimable value.”

Co-worker Aimee Odell states, “The dedication and giving nature that Dawn has for supporting and training new employees and informing them of any helpful information is second to none.”



Ray Murray 2016 Award Winner

The Executive Council is please to announce Sheryl Knab as the Ray Murray Award Winner.

Sheryl Knab, Director
Western New York Library Resources Council,
Buffalo, NY

Ruth Oberg states in her nomination letter, “As part of the Western New York Library Assistants (WNYLA) that operated under the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC), we planned many workshops and activities starting in the early 1990s. When Sheryl started at WNYLRC in 1999, she became our contact. She advised and supported us. She suggested speakers and gave us financial support for those speakers. Sheryl became Director of WNYLRC in 2006. WNYLA came up with an idea to visit and tour different libraries in the area to see what they do, how they run, and to go behind the scenes to see their special collections which are unique from other libraries. We called it Getting To Know You. We hold two of these events each year. Sheryl has always been there to offer suggestions and to be supportive of our efforts running the library assistants group. There are so few outlets in Western New York for library support staff to network or attend workshops other than what NYSLAA and WNYLA provide. It is helpful to have WNYLRC supporting efforts to bring library staff together. This has given many library assistants opportunities that they would not have had otherwise.”

Pat Klaybor states in her supporting letter, “The WNYLA members, with Sheryl’s guidance, applied to WNYLRC to become a subcommittee of the Continuing Education Committee. Sheryl felt that was the best fit for this new fledgling committee. At that time, I was named the liaison to the committee. Sheryl guided me every step of the way. It was through her mentoring that I learned how to guide this committee through those early phases. In 2009, again with Sheryl’s guidance, the committee applied to the WNYLRC Board of Trustees to become a full standing committee and we have been ever since. Our committee membership last year had shrunk to four members and there were discussions among our Board of Trustees to disband the committee. Sheryl again proved her support of the library assistants in general, and this committee, in particular, by recommending that

this committee be allowed to continue. She feels this committee serves an important part in offering library assistants training that is unique to their skill sets and also offers networking opportunities that wouldn’t be possible if this committee ceased to exist. Again, as for me personally, Sheryl has always encouraged me to participate in any workshops or CE opportunities that I feel are appropriate.”

Rita Ferri states, “Sheryl has been supportive over the years by speaking at WNYLRC and other groups about the importance of the Library Assistants Committee and stressing the importance of recognizing and acknowledging library assistants for the work they do. She has encouraged higher management to provide release time for assistants so they could attend staff development workshops and events to further their personal and professional growth.”

Ronda Turner states, “Sheryl has been a strong supporter for the professional growth and opportunities for the library assistants in the Western New York area. I experienced the great support Sheryl has for this committee while I was serving as committee chair for the past two years.”



Ray Murray Winner
Sheryl Knab

Giant Read 2016

Terry Berl

Friday morning, March 4, 2016, 34 student-athletes and four librarians travelled to Rochester City School No. 43 as part of the READ program. Originally started in 2011, local colleges collaborated with the Rochester City School District to bring collegiate student-athletes together with elementary school children. The program was initially funded by a grant that has since been eliminated but the impact this program has on all those involved was too valuable not continue on Brockport's campus.

Library staff members Terry Berl, Holley Laudico, Laura Emerson and Jennifer Kegler graciously donated a copy of **Pete the Cat: Scuba-Cat** for each student in the second grade. They received a drawstring backpack that included a composition notebook and writing utensils. A local dentist office also donated toothbrushes and toothpaste for the children. The morning started off in four classrooms where the Brockport student-athletes were grouped with the children and read **Pete the Cat: Scuba-Cat** together.

"Seeing the kids' faces when we gave them the books was what made this all worth it," said freshman women's lacrosse player Jillian Babinsky. "It was really rewarding to be able to meet them today."

Later, all the classes assembled in the gym for physical activity. The children got to play basketball, climb the rock wall, jump rope, and have scooter rides with their new friends. The highlight of the morning was when Ellsworth arrived and competed against the school's principal in a dance-off.

"It was definitely something special to be their role models," said junior women's lacrosse player Meg LeGro, who has participated in the event for the past two years. "I might be biased but I think Ellsworth won that dance-off."

"The entire week has made a lasting impression on everyone involved," remarked Associate Director of Athletics Susan Hoffman, who helped coordinate both events. "To be able to lend a hand to the children in our community is something that we enjoy doing each year."

Thank You!

Nancy Davis

As winner of the 2016 Craig Koste award I would like to say a few words of thanks. I am very honored and proud to receive this award. I have it on my desk for everyone to see. Thanks so much for the nomination by Adrienne and Sheila, whom without their kindness and generosity this wouldn't be possible. And many thanks to our President, Michele, for her inspiration to get involved and to do my best. Michele knows how shy I am, and how NYSLAA has helped me to grow. She was a constant encouragement to get my Certificate of Achievement, which I wouldn't have done if left to my own devices. When you love an organization and you feel drawn to the people involved including all of the Executive Council and committee members, it is easier to reach "outside your comfort zone" to be a part of it. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming to me since I joined, even when I made mistakes. I hope you will consider taking part, even if at first, it is a minor, behind the scenes role. Please consider getting involved and becoming the person you know you can be. Sincere thanks again to the Executive Council, the committee members and all of you, without whom there would be no association.

Save the Date for 2017!

Rose Flickner

Conference Coordinator

Hi everyone. For those that do not know me, I have been working for the University of Rochester for 20 years in the Interlibrary Loan department and have been a member of NYSLAA for 18 years.

This past year, I had been shadowing Ruth as a co-conference coordinator. She was and is still a great mentor. The Executive Council and I have been in contact with the Central Library Resources Council (CLRC) in Syracuse and we are happy to announce that our 39th Annual NYSLAA Conference will be held on June 7-9 in Syracuse NY. We will be posting more information in the next newsletter.

New York: A Literary Map

Kimberly M. Barbato

Chapter 4: Taking ‘Stock’ of Change

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead, American cultural anthropologist, author and speaker

It’s summertime here in New York, and you know what that means - beautiful sunshine, fun outdoor activities, warm weather, longer days and warm summer evenings filled with music from outdoor concerts! This brings us to our next chapter in Literary New York: Woodstock and the 1960’s.

You might wonder which Woodstock I am referring to: Woodstock, NY, which is located in Ulster county, or the original Woodstock music festival of 1969, the site of which is located in Bethel, NY in Sullivan county. Well today folks, you’re getting two for the price of one! The Woodstock Music Festival of 1969 was supposed

to take place in Woodstock, NY (hence its name). Due to the understandable protest from the local townsfolk, the festival was removed from Woodstock and for a while the festival promoters had a



Woodstock Music Festival 1969

hard time of finding a venue to accommodate the event. They finally found a suitable venue on a dairy farm owned by Max Yasgur.

There are quite a few versions of how the Woodstock Festival came to be. One particular version was given by a man named Elliot Tiber in his memoir *Taking Woodstock: A True Story of a Riot, a Concert and a Life*. Tiber was the president of the Bethel Chamber of Commerce. During this position, he became friends with a local farmer who owned the largest dairy farm in Sullivan County, Max Yasgur. Upon hearing that the Woodstock festival was in search of a venue, Tiber telephoned the organizer of the festival Michael Lang. The rest is history. The festival became a historical event, a sort of pinnacle of the Sixties. It was the largest crowd ever assembled for a concert at that time.

But Woodstock was more than just a large music festival. It epitomized everything that the Sixties was about: love, creativity, and freedom. It was an era of change in just about every way: the Vietnam War, civil rights movements, and advances in science, technology and medicine. Art and culture reflected these changes. Music evolved from simpler forms of rock and roll to full orchestrations and more elaborate pieces that incorporated everything from sound effects to foreign instruments. The literature of this time also greatly changed, and with it the rest of American culture as we know it.

Writer’s Define a New Generation

The Beat Movement of the 1950’s established and set the course for the entire counterculture of the 60’s. But why talk about the Beatniks of the 1950’s? This is about Woodstock! The Beat Generation was the precursor to the counterculture of the Sixties. Some might say they were the founders. Writer Herbert Huncke called them the Beat Generation because they were “beat down to their socks” with little job prospects. The term ‘beatnik’ was coined by writer Herbert Caen as a portmanteau on the Russian satellite Sputnik, suggesting that Beatniks were “far out of the mainstream” as they did not conform to society’s standards, values and expectations.

The Beatnik writers- Herbert Huncke, Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, Lucien Carr, Jack Kerouac, etc. - opened up the floodgates of anti-censorship, creativity, challenges to authority and self-expression that became the main feature of the Sixties. Topics that were previously considered too taboo and controversial to print suddenly became the featured subject matter in thousands of poems and novels; from the war in Vietnam, sexuality, religion, politics, anti-government sentiment, life, culture and everything in between. Suddenly, no topic was out of bounds. Such artistic expression was unprecedented in the history of the United States, and quite possibly the whole world.

There was an author from Texas in the 1920’s called Edna Gertrude Beasley who wrote about her life growing up as part of a poor Southern white trash family. In her autobiography *My First Thirty Years*, she graphically discusses everything from sexuality, bestiality, racism, various acts of violence, alcoholism, divorce, religion, birth control and crimes against women. As a result, her book was instantly banned and destroyed upon its release in 1925, save for a few rare copies. Beasley herself was locked up in a mental institution in Central Islip, NY on grounds of censorship and “distribution of obscene material.” Fast forward forty years into the Sixties and

we have authors discussing these very same subjects in just as much graphic detail. Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* gives readers a chilling account of a quadruple murder in Kansas in 1959. It was banned for being too "macabre" for those less than 18 years of age. Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* set off censors everywhere upon its release, with some calling it a "degrading, profane and racist work that promotes white supremacy." *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller was banned on grounds of "objectionable language." Popular children's book author Maurice Sendak was banned and challenged for incorporating dark themes in his children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*. These very books that shock us serve to start a conversation within our society. It's almost as if these authors- Capote, Lee, Ginsberg, Heller, Beasley, Kerouac, etc. – were holding up a mirror to America and asking us if we like what we see, is it time for a change. And change we did.

"We've got to get ourselves back to the garden..."
-Joni Mitchell

The Sixties may long be over, but "the beat goes on" in Bethel, NY at the site of the original festival and a wonderful museum called the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. Opened on July 1st, 2006, this 2,000 acre campus includes a 15,000-capacity outdoor performing arts venue, a 400-seat gallery, a theater, two classrooms, a museum dedicated to the history of the Sixties and Woodstock, and the field where the original 1969 festival was held. This is a wonderful venue to not only learn about the Sixties, but to feel the spirit of the era as well. Gazing over the serene hill with a peace sign mowed into the center, it is hard to imagine that at one point over 400,000 people gathered here to attend this historic festival. If standing at the "Woodstock marker" monument, the stage area would be to your left. It is amazing to think how many musical legends stood there and performed in the most epic of rock concerts: The Who, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Santana, Joe Cocker, Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead and so many others. Entering the museum is like stepping into a time warp: you can find everything from vintage clothing that you can actually try on to a hippie bus that you can really step into. Nearly all of the exhibits are interactive; even the theater where

the screen curves around the audience who happens to be sitting on bean bags. No rolling stone was left unturned in the making of this museum. I highly recommend the Bethel Center for the Performing Arts. It's a real trip!



Woodstock field today

The village of Woodstock, NY is also a great place to visit. This small but mighty rural community centers on a thriving local art scene bursting with all sorts of creativity. The Woodstock Writers' Festival is held every spring and features a wide variety of activities including workshops, author meet and greets, poetry and story slams, panels, raffles and lunch/dinner events. If you are a writer and can attend, this is surely not to be missed. If you are a fan of the Bard himself, there is the Woodstock Shakespeare festival. And let us not forget the famous Annual Woodstock Film Festival. For the artistically-inclined, there is the Byrdcliffe Guild, a nonprofit organization that features classes, workshops, performances, exhibitions, artistic residencies, symposia, artist housing and programs for the creative mind.



The Woodstock Artists Association & Museum, or WAAM, further adds to the artistic vein of the village. This museum offers a wide variety of artistic talent: group exhibitions, solo shows, from contemporary to traditional art, works created by youth and adults alike.

If you're looking for a cool place to stay, try Hotel Dylan. This newly renovated hotel offers its guests style and comfort in "true bohemian nature."

Of course I cannot conclude this article without mentioning that Woodstock, NY was both the setting and filming location for the movie *Peace, Love and Misunderstanding*, starring Elizabeth Olsen in her breakout role, and Jane Fonda.

For more information, please visit:

- <http://www.the60sofficialsite.com/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beat_Generation
- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/25/woodstock-trivia_n_4334870.html
- <http://www.woodstockwriters.com/>
- <http://www.woodstockguild.org/>
- [woodstockfilmfestival.com](http://www.woodstockfilmfestival.com)
- [woodstockart.org](http://www.woodstockart.org)
- [bethelwoodscenter.org](http://www.bethelwoodscenter.org)

Recommended Reading:

- Woodstock: Three Days That Changed the World*
By: Mike Evans, Paul Kingsbury & Martin Scorsese
In conjunction with Bethel Woods Performing Arts Center
- The Essential Ginsberg*, edited by Michael Schumacher
- Taking Woodstock: A True Story of a Riot, a Concert and a Life*
by Elliot Tiber
- The Birth of the Beat Generation* by Steve Watson

Employee Wellness

Mindfulness on the Move

The Mindful Awareness Research Center has opened at UCLA. It shows how mindfulness as an approach to health and wellness is quickly moving into health care. Mindful awareness is paying attention to the present moment, staying centered, and improving self-awareness to manage stress by stopping, breathing, observing, and connecting with one's inner experience. It's a powerful concept largely influenced by meditation and the research supporting meditation's health benefits. Adding energy to the mindfulness movement is the need to manage stress in our modern age. Mastering this stress is not simply about taking a pill to manage anxiety and tension. It's about learning to use the body's and the mind's abilities to intervene and heal. Mindfulness is finding its way into cancer treatment, addiction treatment, and other programs that can benefit from a whole-person approach.

Plug in to Peaks of Productivity

Try this productivity booster: Draw a time-line and identify when you experience your high- and low-energy periods during the day. These normal cycles are based upon diet, exercise, and other factors. Do you experience an energy peak about two hours after arrival at work? What about a slowdown after lunch? How about a small peak in the afternoon? This is valuable data. Divide your work tasks according to these energy levels. Perform difficult tasks when energy is high and less difficult tasks when energy is low. These are A, B, and C activities. Assign them to the right energy slots and you will work more efficiently and get more done!

How Emotionally Intelligent Are You?

By now you have probably heard about emotional intelligence, or EI. EI is your aptitude for perceiving others' emotions accurately, responding to your emotions in a reasoned way, understanding what other people's emotions mean, and controlling how you will respond to emotions as you interact with others. People who do these things well are said to have good "people skills." Many social scientists believe EI is at least as important as, and perhaps more important than IQ as a predictor of success. Be careful about online tests to grade your EI. Many are not authority-based, and others seek to market products to web visitors. One of the most rigorous research-oriented EI organizations is the Emotional Intelligence Research Consortium, which includes many prominent EI experts as members.

Preventing Repetitive Strain Injury

With the advent of the computer, more people experience repetitive strain injuries in the workplace. In the past, these injuries were mostly focused on employees doing such fixed-position activities like assembly line work, long-distance driving, pipe-setting, and any overhead work. Office workers now fall into the mix.

How do you prevent such injuries to the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, and back as you spend your day at the computer typing away? Check out these resources to discover how to ergonomically set up your workspace to help prevent such injuries from occurring. You'll also learn a few stretches to do throughout the day to keep you limber!

Harvard Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) Action - This website offers some exercises to do during your day to stretch. Prevent RSI—This website has a short video outlining the correct usage of your computer station provided by an ergonomist.

Avoid Academic Summer Slump

"Summer slump" describes loss of interest by children in academics during summer vacation. Laura May, associate professor in Georgia State University's College of Education, offers these tips for parents:

- Plug into the library, and let children pick their own books. A weekly short trip can accelerate lifelong learning and help children retain reading skills.
- Incorporate reading by following recipes to make cookies, keeping a journal, writing a shopping list, and reading to younger siblings.
- Have a child calculate miles per gallon of gas on trips.

Any practical use of academics and attempts to make connections to real life will reinforce lessons learned and ward off summer slump.

The Science of Taking a Nap

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) say that naps do increase your ability to be alert and that they are useful. Instructions for taking a nap: Take into account that sleep becomes deeper the longer you sleep, reaching the deepest level in about one hour. If you wake up from a nap after 20 minutes (before going into deep sleep) or at 90 minutes (after the deep cycle has passed), grogginess from "sleep inertia" may be less, thereby making your nap more effective. Nap for no more than about 20 minutes on a busy schedule, or if you have the time, no less than 90 minutes.

Resource for Articles: Frontline—Employee Wellness, Productivity & You! Frontline newsletter is courtesy of the New York State Employee Assistance Program.