

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Oct.-Dec. 2016 Vol.28, No.4

2017 Conference

Rose Flickner, Conference Coordinator

The 39th annual conference will take place June 7-9, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Syracuse-Liverpool at Electronics Pkwy, Liverpool NY. Our local host is the CLRC/Central New York Library Resource Council.

Wednesday evening we will be having a gathering on the patio at the hotel. We are encouraging everyone to wear a shirt from your own institution for this evening event. What a great way to mix and mingle!

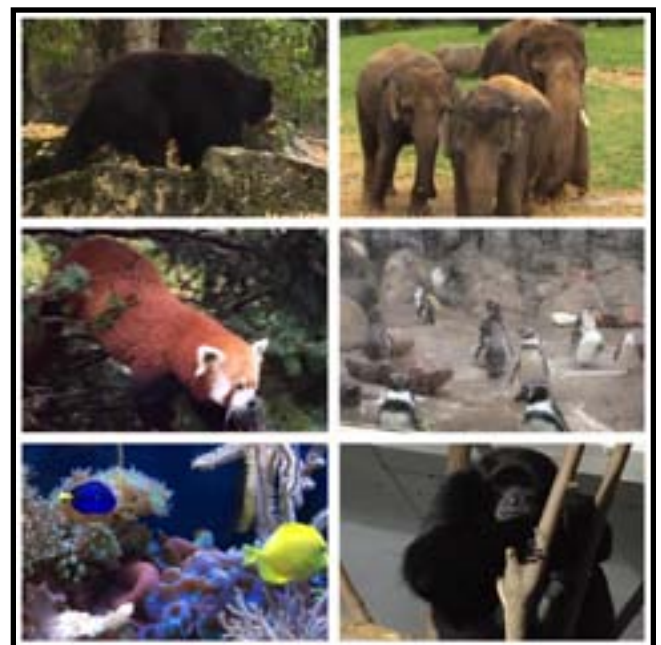
On Thursday evening an event will be held at the beautiful Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Minutes from downtown Syracuse, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is filled with beauty and inhabited by some of the most intriguing and delightful animals you could ever meet.

Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

We will be dining in the Hiscock & Barclay Banquet Room and will have full access to walk around the indoor and outdoor sections of the zoo.

The committee is hard at work on selecting interesting workshop topics and speakers, planning meals and logistics, contracting with a keynote speaker and finalizing tours.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in June.



INSIDE: NYSLAA Election results... Yankee Candle Fundraiser... Membership Update...CAP... Scholarships and more...

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**

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

Next publication date: *February 15, 2017*

Submission deadline: *January 31, 2017*



Executive Council Elections

Dawn Gage
2016 Election Chair

2016 NYSLAA Election results

Elections were held for the following offices:

Vice President
Recording Secretary
Membership Secretary
Conference Coordinator

The incumbant officers nominated, ran unopposed. According to our bylaws, Article II, Section B.1:

“In the event of a totally unopposed slate of nominees, the Chair of the Election Committee shall inform the membership before the end of the year, and shall declare those nominees to be the new officers in January.”

NYSLAA officers serve a two-year term starting January 2017.

Vice President – Kathy Rossello
Recording Secretary – Tammy Southard
Membership Secretary – Donna Hanna
Conference Coordinator – Rose Flickner

Congratulations one and all.



Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Sheila Tshudy
Donations Chair

The month of November is in full-swing and we're anxious to get the Yankee Candle Fundraiser under motion! This year we need your support more than ever as NYSLAA will not be doing their annual lottery ticket sales this year! I understand that this year it is Yankee Candle, and next year we will go back to the lottery ticket sales. We will really need to make up the loss the lottery ticket sales generates, so please show your support with a purchase from Yankee Candle. The holidays are coming fast and Yankee Candle has some great decorations as well as gifts. Your support is greatly encouraged and appreciated – remember, NYSLAA earns 40% of all sales through this campaign. Last year we made \$1000 with this sale and we're setting our goals higher this year - \$2000!

Log onto www.yankeecandlefundraising.com, scroll down the page to the **Start Shopping** box, enter our group's sale number: **990088376** and start shopping! Please feel free to share this information with your family, friends, colleagues – anyone who might be interested in the products and supporting a great cause!

This year, we're going to add a few incentives for everyone who supports this campaign by having a drawing at the end of November and again in December. Three names will be drawn each time:

First name drawn:

1st Prize – \$25.00 gift card from Amazon

Second name drawn:

2nd Prize – NYSLAA membership or NYSLAA bag

Third name drawn:

3rd Prize – \$10.00 in conference raffle tickets

Each time you make a purchase, send your name and total amount to me – I'll verify your sale online and add your name to the drawing. What if you order multiple times in a month? We'll add your name multiple times.

Thank you again NYSLAA members – you're the best!
Sheila, Terry, Holley
2016 NYSLAA Donations Committee

Cancer and Blankets...

I am now 57 years old, yes admitting to my age. I never thought I would be using my own name and the word "cancer" in the same sentence. Each of us has known someone who has had cancer and I believe these instances increase the older we get. It was shocking to me when I was diagnosed with Kidney Cancer (more specifically, Renal Cell Carcinoma) in September of 2012. I was then scheduled for many tests and scans and given a surgery date of September 24, 2012. My mind



was reeling with all of the vocabulary and medical lingo I was now hearing... all related to me and my health. It was frightening and overwhelming. I went into St. Lukes Cornwall Hospital for my pre-op testing and was wheeled all over the hospital meeting techs and nursing staff in every area I went.

After one particular challenging (I am very claustrophobic...) full body scan, I met a lovely nurse. She asked me if I was cold, I had been shaking a bit. She brought me over a blanket and told me that this blanket was special and she wanted to give it to me to take home for after my hospital stay. I realized, after really looking at this blanket, that it was for a young person...it was a High School Musical themed blanket. I was amused and grateful but told her that this was for a young child who may need this more than myself. She insisted that I keep this and told me the hospital had many more to give to ill children. I was hesitant but realized that for right now, it served me well, I was still shaking. After my surgery, my wonderful surgeon took out my right kidney and some lymph nodes for testing, I kept that blanket and brought it home.

I am now cancer-free and have been on a clinical trial for stage 3 kidney cancer patients with Memorial Sloan Kettering in NYC. The drug I was given for this trial was only given to me for that first year out and so far, no cancer has returned, thank God! Speaking of God, my faith in Him grew during this time. I depended on Him. My colleagues at Newburgh Free Library, my friends and neighbors, my pup Peanut and my family

all helped me through this time (my husband lost his job just months before my diagnosis and was able to be with me through every step of this journey). I am blessed and one of the symbols of this blessing in my life is the blanket I received during the most stressful time of my life.

I encourage all out there in Library Land who will, to keep making blankets...blankets of ALL styles and handiwork. You never know what kind of an impact you can make in someone's life during the most stressful and even lonely periods in their lives. You can bring peace, love and comfort to someone who really needs that. I may never know WHO made my own blanket but can tell you that I still am loving this gift that I received in my life. Thank you all for listening and keep up the good work!

Bonnie Sakow
Youth Services Library Assistant
Newburgh Free Library
Newburgh, NY 12550

Editor's note: 50 blankets were donated at the conference in June by you, our wonderful members. 25 were donated to Albany and 25 to Buffalo. Please consider helping us top this for 2017!



Certificate of Achievement

Michele Matthews

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board has awarded two certificates since our conference in June.

Jeff Jeffords, Four County Library System, has earned a Level IV in Administration/Management.
Angela Taylor, Guernsey Memorial Library, has earned a Level III in Public Services.

Please join us in congratulating Jeff and Angela. If you are interested in the Certificate of Achievement Program please contact me (see pg.2).

John Fisher & Thomas More ~ Martyrs of Religious Freedom

Jenny Bigenwald

What began as a severed head turned into a compelling history lesson on Thomas More, John Fisher, and the tumultuous times of Tudor England.

In March 2016, Irish actor Bosco Hogan, who is best known for his portrayal of John Fisher on the Showtime series, “The Tudors,” spent a week at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY. Hogan, invited to campus by Philosophy professor, Dr. Tim Madigan, performed his one-man show, “I am Ireland: An Entertainment of W.B. Yeats” and shared his experiences playing Bishop Fisher.

At the conclusion of his visit, Bosco Hogan presented Professor Madigan with a unique gift – the authentic prop



head used to film the beheading scene. The head is now an artifact in the permanent collection of the St. John Fisher College Archives. The head, with all its lovely gore, became an inspiration for a display.

In 1534, both Sir Thomas More & Bishop John Fisher refused to sign the oath in the Act of Succession. The Act required all those asked to take the oath to recognize Anne Boleyn as King Henry VIII’s lawful wife and their children legitimate heirs to the throne. Anyone refusing to take the oath was guilty of treason.

They were convicted of treason and imprisoned in the Tower of London. In June and July of 1535, they were both executed by beheading. Four hundred years after their deaths, they were canonized by Pope Pius XI, May 19, 1935.

I was the winner of the lottery tree at Conference and I wanted to let everyone know that my winnings were \$214.00. Thank you for the many hours of fun!

*Debbie Elliotto
Geneva Public Library*



The exhibit, “John Fisher & Thomas More: Martyrs of Religious Freedom” is on display now until the end of fall semester at St. John Fisher College’s Lavery Library.

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2016 are still holding at 301 and 50 members are new.

One last reminder will be mailed out shortly affording 2015 members one more opportunity to renew for 2016.

As a reminder we are sending membership cards and letters out electronically. Please let us know what you think of this effort to go green.

If you move, please be sure to alert me that you have a new address. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving any snail mailings. Also, if your email address changes it would be helpful to pass that information along as well in lieu of the fact that we’re sending your membership card electronically.

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.

NYSLAA Scholarships

Continuing Education Scholarship

NYSLAA will award one scholarship up to \$250

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 form found at 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 and postmarked no later than December 31, 2016.

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
- 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 and postmarked no later than December 31, 2016.

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