

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

July-Sept. 2017 Vol.29, No.3

Library Assistants: Central to Libraries Wrap Up

Rose Flickner, Conference Coordinator

Library Assistants: Central to Libraries, our 39th Annual NYSLAA Conference, held in June was a success with 124 attendees! The Holiday Inn Syracuse-Liverpool was very accommodating and met our every need for the conference. This year we received the highest response rate with 78 responses to the online evaluation, many of which were very positive. To start off the conference, we all enjoyed the mixer on the patio at the Holiday Inn. The food, music and beautiful weather had us all in great spirits. Having everyone in their home shirts was a great way to mingle and show your pride for your library. We also got to view the mobile Northern Onondaga Pop-Up Library and all they had to offer.

A few of the well-received workshops on Thursday and Friday included Google Tools, Death Café, Statue of Liberty and the Oakwood Cemetery workshop. A big thank you to all of our speakers!

Our Thursday night dinner was held at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse. We all enjoyed seeing the many different animals followed by a wonderful meal in the conference center at the zoo.

Nate Hill, Executive Director of the Metropolitan New York Library Council, was our keynote presenter at our lunch on Friday. He spoke of his inspirational projects and library spaces.

The keynote was followed by our awards ceremony and our ever popular basket raffle with numerous baskets again this year. Our Ray Murray Award, for support for library assistants from a librarian, was awarded to **Mary Ann Mavrinc**, Dean of River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester. **Tammy Southard** of SUNY College at Oneonta was awarded the Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service by a NYSLAA member.

Thank you to the Executive Council who served as the conference committee this year; to **Anna Dobkowski** who joined the conference committee and served as the liaison to CLRC; and to the many volunteers who made this year's conference so successful.

Looking forward to our 40th conference next year!



**Dennis Heaphy's workshop:
How the Statue of Liberty was Built**

INSIDE: VA Conference...Proclamation...Scholarship Winners... CAP... Public Relations Chair needed... NYSLAA Elections... Membership Update... Regional Reports...New Committee Members...Craig Koste & Ray Murray Award Winners

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Certificate of Achievement

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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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Laureen Anthony-Palmer, Webster Public Library
Michele Giuffre, Bethlehem Public Library
Ruth V. Oberg, Unaffiliated

Next publication date: *November 15, 2017*

Submission deadline: *October 31, 2017*

Virginia Conference

Mildred Graham

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

On May 22, 2017, I was honored to represent New York at the Virginia Library Association Professional Associates Forum (VLAPAF). I enjoyed meeting and greeting colleagues from various libraries at the Cove Tavern. The following morning, I was welcomed by colleagues from Virginia and looking forward to a motivational experience.

I was inspired by the keynote speaker Heather Sadowski. She presented The N.A.M.E of the Game. (N=New, A=Achievement, M=Mindfulness, E=Everyday) Upon the conclusion of her presentation, I was encouraged to concentrate on becoming more present and focused. As a mom and a new grandma, I spend most of my time attending to the needs of family members. I seldom take advantage of “me” time. I welcome the benefits of actively practicing mindfulness-based skills. I am looking forward to a lifetime of stress reduction, sleep enhancement, and improving overall quality of life.

I was pleased with the selections of the concurrent sessions. I was especially interested in Resources for African American Genealogy Research presented by Jean L. Cooper, University of Virginia. This workshop provided me with the confidence and resources to start my own journey.

I was delighted by the encouraging closing remarks and proud of my colleagues who received scholarships. Great job, VLAPAF with the raffle baskets!

I am pleased that I was given this opportunity to attend. I have shared my experience and knowledge gained with my colleagues. I will continue to encourage my team to attend upcoming events.



New York Public Library group at the zoo!

NYSLAA Resolution

Michele Matthews

Nancy Davis was our Public Relations Chair and back in February 2017, she contacted Assemblyman Dan Quart, about Library Assistants’ Day, which would be taking place on April 13, 2017. Assemblyman Quart’s assistant then took over and asked Nancy to come to Albany to receive the completed Resolution from Mr. Quart. Nancy went to Albany on the given date and time and waited over two hours. It was a very busy day in the Assembly and unfortunately, Nancy was unable to receive the Resolution. Mr. Quart’s assistant then emailed Nancy a copy of the Resolution. As luck would have it, Nancy retired and was on a long distance vacation and unable to retrieve it from her email prior to the conference.

After the conference, I emailed the assistant and his email was no longer in service. I emailed Assemblyman Quart about my dilemma and that we needed the Resolution for our Archives. His new assistant emailed me back and stated that the Assembly did not give out anything and she had no idea what I was asking for. Luckily, I had a two-year old proclamation in my office (NYSLAA has received one every year since 1999), I took a picture of it with my phone and emailed the picture to her.

We finally received the Resolution in the second week of July and it will be added to our Archives.

Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship

Winner- Karen Strang

I found myself in a precarious situation this year when filling out my conference attendance form. Costs were adding up while my hours at work were being cut back. If I had not received the scholarship, I would not have been able to afford attendance at this year’s conference. Instead, lodging was provided along with attendance at the mixer and the tour at the Salt Museum. Attendance at the conference afforded me the opportunity to participate in seminars in which I learned a great deal as well as the opportunity to visit some of the sites that Liverpool has to offer. I met new people and learned important skills that I would have missed out on, self-defense moves in particular. Thank you for affording me this opportunity.

Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship **Winner- Bonnie Sakow**

I can say that I am sooooo grateful for the Conference Scholarship that I received. Honestly, it was a breath of fresh air to be with others who serve in all they do for their libraries and patrons. I found it all to be so well-organized. I enjoyed myself immensely and learned a lot during each of my conference workshops. Also, the food and the zoo were fantastic and all of this brought me back to my growing-up years in Liverpool. I would absolutely do this again! Thank you from my heart for the opportunity to attend.

Certificate of Achievement **Michele A. Matthews**

Four NYSLAA members were awarded their certificates in 2017. They are:

Jeff Jeffords – Four County Library System
Level IV Administration/Management

Aimee Odell – James M. Milne Library,
SUNY Oneonta
Level IV Public Services

Jenean Roth – Ahira Hall Memorial Library
Level IV General Library Services

Angela Taylor – Guernsey Memorial Library
Level III Public Services

The Review Board said goodbye to **Dawn Gage** (James M. Milne Library, SUNY Oneonta) who retired. Thank you Dawn for all of your hard work and enjoy your retirement.

We would also like to welcome **Terry Berl** (SUNY-Brockport), **Sergei Domanshenko** (Colgate University) and **Chris Havens** (Albany Public Library), thank you for volunteering to be on the review board.

I would also like to thank volunteers **Michele Giuffre** (Bethlehem Public Library), **Carrie Goetz** (University at Buffalo), **Kathy Rossello** (East Greenbush Community Library) and **Melissa Tidd** (Goshen Public Library & Historical Society) for continuing to serve on the review board with professionalism and efficiency.

NYSLAA Needs You! **Michele Matthews**

NYSLAA is currently looking for a member who would like to step up for **Public Relations Chair**. The duties of the Public Relation Chair are as follows:

- Publicize NYSLAA across New York State
- Contact NYS Legislature concerning proclamation of Library Assistants Day in February and obtain copy for Archives
- Promote Library Assistants Day
- Publicize Annual Conference on:
NYSLAA-L
NYSLAA Network Connection
Associates by February
- Submit written report and/or committee minutes for each Executive Council meeting
- Preapproval from Executive Council for activities
- Financial documentation to Treasurer
- Annual report to NYSLAA President
- Two year appointment

Contact **Michele Matthews** at prendm@rpi.edu

A big note of *thanks* goes out to **Laureen Anthony-Palmer** who will be our new **Community Outreach Chair**. (See page 2 for contact information.)



Welcome New Members!

Janine Ellis
The Salvation Army College for Officer Training,
The Brengle Library

Kara Greene
Onondaga County Public Library

Jacqueline Holness
New York Public Library, Belmont Branch

Christina LaShomb
Massena Public Library

Qua-Asia Wilson
New York Public Library, Bronx Library Center

Note From Our Virginia Representative at the Conference

Bonnie Shaw, our representative from Norfolk, Virginia, wrote these comments “I want to thank all of the NYSLAA staff for welcoming me to your conference. It was so nice to meet everyone that I’ve been emailing with over the past few months, and the rest of the crew. I had a great time at the conference and I enjoyed all of the sessions I attended. I especially enjoyed the Host Your Own Death Cafe workshop. I have already spoken with our branch manager about starting our own Death Cafe at our library and even doing my own session presentation at our conference next year.”

Membership Update Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2017 is at 263 and 44 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 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.

Regional Reports Kathy Rossello

Written regional reports are requested from the regional representatives prior to the conference and they are also invited to give a brief presentation at the Town Meeting. This is one of the duties of the **Public Relations Chairperson**, but since we do not have one at this current time, I was asked to contact our regional representatives by the NYSLAA president.

This was a difficult task because several regions do not have any representation. We have nine regions in New York and four do not have a representative. They are:

- Region 1: Capital District Library Council
- Region 3: Long Island Library Resources Council
- Region 5: Northern New York Library Network
- Region 8: Southeastern New York Library Council

If you know who your representative is please contact me rossek@eastgreenbushlibrary.org.

Reports that were submitted are printed on the following pages.

NYSLAA Elections

Tammy Southard
2017 Elections Chair

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for officers. This October we will hold elections for:

President
Treasurer
Corresponding Secretary.



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/acceptance form. The signed form and a biography need to be submitted by September 30, 2017.

Please send your nominations to:

Tammy Southard
NYSLAA Recording Secretary
James M. Milne Library
Ravine Parkway
SUNY College at Oneonta
Oneonta, NY 13820

Or submit electronically to:

Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu or
fax to 607-436-3081.

Regional Reports

Central New York Library Resources Council

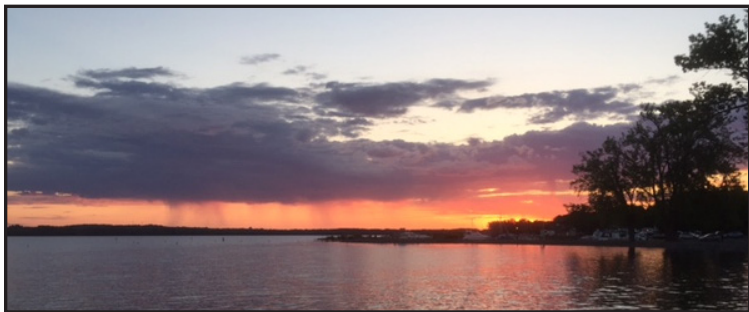
Anna Dobkowski

The Central New York Library Resources Council (CLRC) has been working with a skeleton crew since March. Executive Director, **Debby Emerson**, has taken a position as the new director of the Wadsworth Library in Geneseo. **Déirdre Joyce**, Assistant Director, moved on to Syracuse University as their Metadata Librarian. **Marc Wildman**, current Assistant Director at the Dewitt Community Library, was appointed the new director at CLRC. He will begin at the Council on September 11. Welcome Marc!

CLRC moved their office in April to a new location. Commons Park in East Syracuse is surrounded by lovely landscaping and geese families and is just a stone's throw away from the Erie Canal walking path.

The big event of the summer is the **New York State Fair**. CLRC coordinates 156 volunteers to staff the New York State Libraries' exhibit booth. The booth draws fairgoers to a spinning trivia wheel and information on the services and resources available to them from multi-type libraries - academic, public, school, hospital and other special libraries. This year, the Fair runs from August 23 to September 4. The booth is located in the Science and Industry building. Stop by and say hello or better yet, volunteer for a three hour shift. You'll get free admission and a cool purple tee shirt. Contact Anna at adobkowski@clrc.org.

CLRC was happy to work with NYSLAA on this year's conference and gives two thumbs up to all library support staff who are *central* to all libraries.



Sunset on Onondaga Lake, Thursday after the zoo.

South Central Library Research Council

Judith Andrew

Thirty years ago, the library assistants in the South Central New York region decided it would be a good idea to create a state-wide library assistants association. After lots and lots of careful, hard work and lots of hope, the **New York State Library Assistants' Association** was born! It was the first state-wide organization for library assistants in the country.

The SCRLC group continued to be active for many years but for the past several years it has been dormant. This was due to a waning interest in the region as well as life circumstances with the core members. I am very pleased to report that I am now working with **Jessica Philippe**, an SCRLC staff member, to revive the group. She and I had a productive meeting last month where we shared ideas and optimism. During her annual visits to regional libraries this summer she will be taking our questions to the library staff members so that she and I can gather information about what the library assistants would like to see their group accomplish and offer. Workshops will be planned for the region, both online and in-person gatherings, and we would also like to unify the library assistants with a community service project.

Although library assistants are always welcome to participate in South Central's general continuing education offerings and their member meetings, it is very good to see the Library Assistants Special Interest Group come back to life. If any of you are interested in helping with the planning, please contact me (jandrew@ithaca.edu; (607) 274-3882).



Lisa Wemett and Terry Mulee
presenting Life in the Past Lane workshop

Regional Reports

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:

October 19th Finding Reliable Health Information

This program offered suggestions on how to best evaluate internet health information, pointing to reliable consumer health websites and resources available through Rochester area libraries and organizations, the New York State Library, the National Network/Libraries of Medicine, and the National Library of Medicine.

Presenters:

Mary Ann Howie, Wellness Librarian, Werner Medical Library, Rochester Regional Health

Jennifer Raynor, Pediatric Liaison Librarian

Daniel Castillo, Liaison Librarian University of Rochester, Edward G. Miner Library, "Ask a Librarian"

Sarah J. Bishopp Velez, Consumer Health Librarian, Science & History Division, Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County, Project: Consumer Health Information Center (CHIC)

Barbara Ciambor, Outreach Librarian, Rochester Regional Library Council

May 24th Hooray for Social Justice!

We believe that true social justice is necessary for a functional democracy. As libraries are in the democracy business, social justice is part of our core mission. We've heard from library people that while they believe in social justice, they don't think that they should be public activists nor should the library take an explicit stand on issues of race, sexuality, gender, religion, nation of origin, or class discrimination. They are concerned that the community will perceive the library as a politically partisan entity. In Hooray for Social Justice! we will dive into the difference between partisanship and speaking for our core values. We will try out actions and practices in every library, regardless of geography or size, to build a culture of social justice in the library every day.

Presenters:

Margo Gustina, Trustee Development Consultant at the Southern Tier Library System. She loves making complicated things clear and actionable.

Eli Guinnee, Executive Director of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library. He believes that library core values, like intellectual freedom and social justice, aren't something extra that we do, but must be a part of the culture of every library, no matter how small.

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

September 12th - Confidentiality & Libraries program

Society's concept of privacy has changed in the Google and Facebook era. Libraries operate under a different standard, but why? And should libraries change their philosophy of maintaining strict patron privacy? Learn the ethics behind our current policies and participate in hands on activities to think through your own approach to library patron confidentiality and privacy issues.

Presenters:

Kate Ross, Head of Technical Services, St. John Fisher College Lavery Library

Nancy Greco, Instruction and Archives Librarian, St. John Fisher College Lavery Library.

May 15th, Legal Research for All – Using Free Legal Resources

The presentation focused on freely available sources of legal information, which allow for basic legal research to be conducted without access to a subscription-based database. Free sources of statutes, case law and legal forms were discussed, along with some tips for assisting patrons with the process.

Presenter:

Andrew Kloc is a Senior Law Librarian at the Appellate Division, Fourth Department Law Library in Rochester, NY.

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 between 3-6 volunteers who help **Donna Hanna** serve the meal.

Regional Reports

Western New York Library Resources

Council

Pat Klaybor

The Western New York Library Assistants Committee (WNYLA) presents workshops and networking events with the support of the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC), and is a standing committee of that council.

WNYLA usually holds one or two networking events that we call **GTKY** (Getting to Know You) a year and usually a workshop, geared toward the interests of library assistants, staff and clerks.

In May of 2016, NYLA held their L ATP (Library Assistants Training Program) in Buffalo in the WNYLRC Training Center. The training consisted of three full day workshops on consecutive weeks. The program was very successful with 18 attendees from various types of libraries including public, academic and some from the administrative portions of systems (Nioga Library System). The committee felt that some of their committee members could possibly be attending, as well as other library assistants who may want to attend. This would greatly diminish our pool of attendees if we tried to sponsor a spring event, so it was decided that a Spring 2016 GTKY would not be held.

Our Fall 2016 Safety Workshop, titled "Safe and Secure", was held on 10/25/16. It was a half day workshop, with portions on library safety and security, self defense, safe practices, fire safety, use of fire extinguishers and diffusing potentially unsafe interactions with patrons. We had four speakers slated to present including **April McCloud** (Nazareth College), **Lt Jeanie Rak** (Buffalo Police Dept) and **Lynda Burey** and **Dan Hartman** (both from the UB Dept of Public Safety). There were 17 attendees. This was the first time the committee presented a half day workshop.

We have two GTKY's planned for the spring of 2017. The first will be a tour of the Forest Lawn Cemetery including the archives. That will be held on 6/21/17. The second one will be held on 8/2/17 and will be a Buffalo River Historical Tour. This is a boat tour featuring the history of the Buffalo River, the Erie Canal and the grain elevators that are found all along the river front.

Each of our networking events usually includes a wonderful speaker/tour guide, a tour of the libraries/art gallery or historical site. If there is adequate space on site, we have refreshments, and basket raffles. These events have always been very successful and well-attended. Our workshop for this year is still in the planning stages, but we would like to present something health related.

Metropolitan New York Library Council

Anthony Wyche

Our 19th Annual Library Assistants Day Celebration was held on Thursday, 4/13/17, at the Langston Hughes Community Library in Corona, Queens, NYC.

Our theme was: # It's All About U. Welcoming remarks were made by the Queens Public Library President & CEO, **Dennis Walcott**.

Keynote Speaker - **Anthony Harmon**, Director of Community & Parent Outreach, United Federation of Teachers

Our workshops included: "Customer Service", "Stress Management", and "Social Media in the Library".

We wrapped up with an engaging, open format panel discussion on "Staff Empowerment", led by four members of the Executive Council of the NYC LASSA Special Interest Group.

End of submitted Regional Reports

Community Outreach at Conference

A big thanks to all who brought in blankets for **Project Linus**. We collected **52 blankets** which were distributed between the Albany and Buffalo chapters of Project Linus by **Nancy Davis** and **Ruth Oberg**.



Project Linus rep and Nancy Davis

The **Food Bank of CNY** received four plastic bins of canned and boxed goods. Pet donations filled four boxes of items for **CNYSPCA**. Three huge boxes of toys for the **Golisano Children's Hospital** were also collected. **Anna Dobkowski** delivered these items.

Thank you all for your generosity!



Buffalo at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Ruth Oberg delivered the toiletries that were donated and this was her email to NYSLAA-L:

*I dropped off the toiletries that were collected at the conference. Everything is so needed and appreciated. **Thank you all for your donations.** Many contributed larger than just hotel size items and those are very welcome too! Start collecting for next year. Think about it when you shop and items are buy one get one free. If you can tuck away the free one to donate next year it goes to a very good cause. One group teaches young girls about proper hygiene that they are not getting taught at home.*

Ruth received this in response to the donation:

*Ruth, I just opened and began to do a general sort of all the donations. I'm just stunned by all that you collected -- SO many products that will be greatly appreciated by those in need!! I'm going to thoroughly enjoy sorting and bagging all of it. **Please let your colleagues know that they're generous contributions are so very welcome.** I'm excited and a bit teary, to tell the truth. Should they wish to know more about where these donations will go, it's to two extraordinary organizations in Buffalo:*

Friends of the Night People

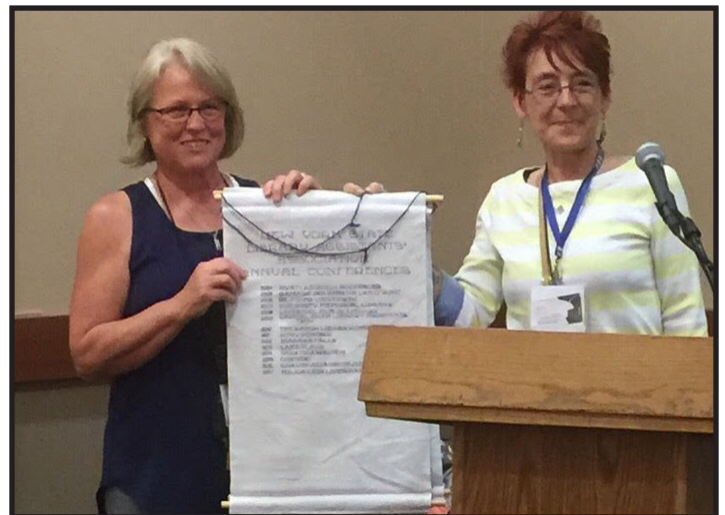
<http://friendsofnightpeople.org>

Family Help Center

<http://familyhelpcenter.net>

Save the Date - June 6-8, 2018!

Sheila Tshudy has once again stepped up and offered to host our conference next year! We will be in Corning again and at the Radisson. Sheila and her committee promise new experiences.



Sheila Tshudy accepting the scroll from Rose Flickner to host the conference in 2018

Craig Koste 2017 Award Winner

The Executive Council is pleased to announce the Craig Koste winner.

Tammy Southard, Library Clerk II
James M. Milne Library, SUNY College at Oneonta

In her nomination letter, **Dawn Gage** states, “Tammy has worked for the James M. Milne Library as a Library Clerk at SUNY Oneonta for 8 years. She has been an active member of NYSLAA for 8. For the past 2 years, she has served as Recording Secretary for the NYSLAA Executive Council. Tammy has always been very clear about her love of libraries and working in one has been her number one career choice. I will never forget her excellent interview in which her love of libraries shown through. She brought with her a wealth of knowledge, as she had worked for a school library previous to her employment at Oneonta. Tammy attends any educational opportunities offered to further her knowledge. For two years she volunteered to work at the Central New York Library Resources Council State Fair booth. As her supervisor, one of the first things I noted about her, was her capacity to learn quickly and ability to apply theory into practice. She is efficient and forward thinking.

Tammy always has the department and the library’s best interest at heart and has been a good representative for the college, library and NYSLAA.”

James Coan, Head of Bibliographic Services, writes, “Tammy does an excellent job here in this department and has shown herself to be an intelligent, dedicated, and conscientious member of the staff. Tammy’s work in all areas is accurate, careful and efficient. She is cooperative and helpful, is an excellent team player and contributes to the library in many ways beyond just her job performance. In general, she performs her job here at a very high level, is well liked and respected by everyone who works with her, and I believe she is eminently qualified for the Award for Outstanding Service.”

Andrea F. Gerberg, Assistant Director and Head of Access Services at SUNY Oneonta states, “Tammy volunteers for departmental and library-wide special projects and events. She sees tasks that need to be done

and does them without fanfare. She is pleasant and easy to work with which makes me appreciate working with her as I have done over the years. She completes tasks promptly and accurately making her a staff member that I can count on. Tammy maneuvers through the tangles of continuing resources and government documents as well as the relatively straightforward monographs with ease. She has had to work with ordering, budgeting and cataloging of these resources. She is able to think creatively and was instrumental in bringing mylar book covers over dust jackets to our library because “you do judge a book by its cover!” I know that Tammy has contributed significantly to our library and I believe that her participation and service to NYSLAA makes her an excellent candidate for this award.”



Michele Matthews and Tammy Southard

Ray Murray 2017 Award Winner

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

Mary Ann Mavrinnac

Dean of River Campus Libraries
University of Rochester

Katie Papas states in her nomination letter, “Dean Mavrinnac is a powerful spokesperson and advocate for the River Campus Libraries and she has been instrumental in highlighting the central role of the library at the University of Rochester. Her style of leadership is, first and foremost, to empower her staff with the skills and information they need to grow and develop in the profession. Library Assistants are given opportunities to serve on search committees for new positions, on working groups which affect library policy, service and even building spaces. Dean Mavrinnac has been a fearless leader during the time when academic libraries in general have had to work to find their identity in an ever changing environment. Library staff at all levels have also had to work to determine their role going into the future. At no point has Dean Mavrinnac overlooked the importance of Library Assistants and there is no better example of this than her continued inclusion of this group at every stage of development and planning. Personally, I have flourished under her leadership as I have participated in numerous career building opportunities and was even inspired to go back to school and obtain a Master’s of Library and Information Science.”

Judy Viken and **Rose Flickner** wrote, “Dean Mavrinnac has led us courageously through renovations and innovations designed to transform the library into a digital collaborative learning center for our students. She encourages support staff to learn about new trends in libraries and technology that impact today’s students so that we are able to offer the most skilled assistance to our library service desk. Dean Mavrinnac encourages the support staff to participate on boards and committees along with the librarians in our library and wants us to be a major part of the strategic planning process taking the River Campus Libraries into the next decade.” Judy states, “Dean Mavrinnac has provided opportunities to learn new things about the library profession and for library assistants to remain a vital part of the

library.” Rose writes, “Through Dean Mavrinnac’s encouragement, I have been able to step outside my duties in Interlibrary Loan and take an active role on committees and at conferences.”

Solomon Blaylock states, “Since taking the helm at the River Campus Libraries, Dean Mavrinnac had advocated for the library assistants in word and deed. She has made funds available for professional development opportunities including conferences and travel for library assistants. Dean Mavrinnac has consistently lobbied for more equitable pay for library assistants, the hardworking backbone of our organization, she has shown that she values the valuable perspective and insights of all support staff encouraging their involvement in working groups that cross departmental lines in addressing organizational issues. She has cultivated leadership qualities among staff at all levels, fostering an environment in which initiative and dedication are rewarded. On a personal note, Dean Mavrinnac was instrumental in my decision to pursue librarianship as a career.”



Mary Ann Mavrinnac

Recognition Given to Our Own Judith Andrew.

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South Central Regional Library Council



Member Profile

Name: Judith Andrew

Describe your current position:

I am the Music Cataloging and Acquisitions Specialist in the Music Center of the Ithaca College Library. I am one of two full-time staff members in this area of the Library and I assist in supervising our staff of student assistants. My days involve ordering, receiving, and cataloging all print and media music materials; maintaining the integrity of the music headings in our online catalog; assisting in music collection development; serving two hours a day at the music reference desk; managing the department when the music librarian is not there. I also am a member of the Library's Technical Services Team and our Marketing Team.

Educational Background:

I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, so clearly I changed my mind career-wise after graduating from college!

What is most interesting about your current position?

I am very closely associated with the faculty and students of the college's School of Music and I am constantly fascinated while helping them with their research needs, hearing about their projects and accomplishments, and attending their performances. I often order musical scores and recordings related to the school's repertoire, sometimes directly from the composers, and that is always interesting.

What has been your biggest professional challenge?

I think my most major challenge has been keeping up with the technology involved with my position.

What was your background before becoming a librarian?

During high school and college I always felt very comfortable and energized when I was in a library. Those feelings led me to work in my college's library the year after graduating and that, in turn, helped me obtain my current position in the I.C. music library.

What would you be doing if you weren't a librarian?

I would be doing something in the theatre world. In addition to my day job, I am an actor with the Ithaca Shakespeare Company and other local theatre companies. That is a major love of mine so I can't imagine not being involved with that segment of our world.

What is the most interesting issue in librarianship today?

Watching libraries become more and more involved in the education and the bringing together of our communities has been very interesting to me. We hear all the time of people who predict that libraries will become obsolete because of various technologies and electronic books, but I see no validity in that opinion.

What are you most proud of?

Career-wise, I am very proud of my role in helping to make the Music Center of the Ithaca College Library one of the best music libraries in the country. In my personal life, I am most proud of my husband and me raising a son who is fascinating, kind, respectful of all people, and a lover of art.

What other organizations are you involved with?

I am a co-founder of the New York State Library Assistants' Association and am still a proud member. I am also helping to revive the Library Assistants Special Interest Group at SCRLC.

What advice would you give to a new librarian?

Don't ever lose sight of the importance of our role in helping the people of our community learn, grow, and prosper. And be proud that libraries have been, throughout history, centers of education and freedom.

What software/web tools do you use regularly?

Our library's online system (Voyager for many years, soon to be Alma); various music databases to which our library subscribes; Google.

Favorite social media platform:

Facebook.

Favorite blog or website:

The New York Times.

What do you do to relax?

Go see a play or a film; read non-fiction; take a walk or visit a park; spend time with loved ones.

What is the most daring thing you've ever done?

Any time I do something out of my comfort zone, I feel very brave. In acting, accents do not come easily to me, and a few years ago I succeeded in performing an entire play with an Irish accent, which scared me to death! I felt very daring when I took a hot air balloon ride some years ago.

What would you like to learn?

I would love to learn the Welsh language. My maternal grandmother was Welsh and I have always been drawn to anything having to do with that country.

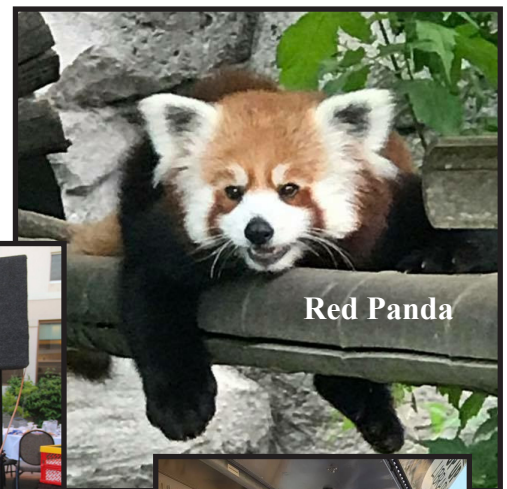
Is there anything about you that others would be surprised to know?

I love loud noises, like fireworks and thunder and timpani.

Thank you Judith!



Executive Council at Town Meeting



Red Panda



Sheila Tshudy doing what she knows!



Mixer dancing



Darlene Strack checking out the baskets



Northern Onondaga Pop-Up Library