

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

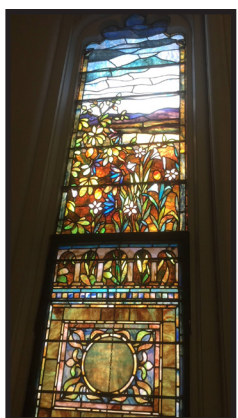
July-Sept. 2018 Vol.30, No.3

NYSLAA: Past, Present and Future Wrap Up

Sheila Tshudy,

Conference Committee Chair

The conference began by offering some great tours. There was an opportunity to tour the galleries of The Corning Museum of Glass or enjoy the beautiful architecture and view over 80 stained glass windows at Corning's Christ Episcopal Church. Some even tapped in to their creative side by taking a Wine & Design class that afternoon. The entertainment at the Mixer had most people on their feet or at least sitting on the edge of their chairs watching a select few (randomly drawn) participating in our Minute-To-Win-It activities with an MC that had everyone engaged!



Workshops started Thursday morning. What better treat to have after lunch on your own than ice cream from Corning's very own Hokey Pokey truck. Did you know that the truck was first purchased in 1961 and has been operating in Corning since then? Yep – and still being operated by the same family.

Thursday evening we traveled outside of Corning for a great dinner at the Watkins Glen International racetrack, where nearly half took advantage of taking a lap around the track in a Pace Car -- a once in a lifetime opportunity for most of us. Even the bus driver for our NYC members got in on the action!

At the awards luncheon on Friday, we changed things up a bit. Instead of a keynote speaker, we heard from some of our members who offered to share something about themselves. It was a great opportunity to get to know some of the faces of NYSLAA. In addition to the many deserved awards that were given at the luncheon, each of us received a pin designed by **Carrie Goetz**, in celebration of our 40th conference.



The conference evaluations have been reviewed, and we're pleased to say that the workshops and presenters were very well received by those in attendance. NYSLAA is especially indebted to all the presenters who generously donated their time, and to Watkins Glen International who provided the venue at no cost. Thank you to **Ruth Oberg** for acting as our Conference Coordinator - we couldn't have done it without you, and a huge thank you goes out to the Executive Council who were right beside us every step of the way. It most certainly was a team effort!

On behalf of this year's conference committee, I would like to thank the 125 registrants we had for our 40th annual conference. Donations made to local organizations were well over the top this year, truly a sign of the giving nature of our members. It was our pleasure to be your hosts; and once again Corning proved to be a great place to welcome you all. Just sayin!.

INSIDE: Regional Reports...Membership...NYSLAA Elections...Community Outreach... Certificate of Achievement... Award Winner... Conference Photos

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Donations Chair
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Public Relations Chair
(vacant)

**Certificate of Achievement
Review Board Coordinator** – and –
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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**

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.

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Next publication date: *November 15, 2018*

Submission deadline: *October 31, 2018*

Regional Reports

Kara Greene, Public Relations Chairperson

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 4 planning sessions in addition to these workshops. We currently hold two of our four annual meetings at 5:30 pm in conjunction with RRLC's Monday Night Pizza Series.

Since our last conference we have offered the following half day sessions:

October 18th - **The Challenging Colleague:**

Important Conversations and Successful Outcomes

Presenter: **Ben Hogben**

This workshop discussed the ways in which one can:

- Learn about different personality types as they relate to communication
- Learn how our style of communication may affect the outcome of a conversation
- Discuss how communication might be misinterpreted, changing the intent of a message

May 29th - **Using Family Search & Planning a Genealogy Vacation**

Larry Naukam presented a fun session covering two genealogy topics: Using FamilySearch and Planning a Genealogy Vacation.

FamilySearch:

What's your family history? In this genealogy class we learned the ins and outs of one of the world's largest free online resources, FamilySearch.org.

A. Learn to navigate the FamilySearch website to help you find your roots!

This session covered how to:

- Ask questions that elicit important family history information
- Record names, dates, places, and sources on Ancestor Charts and Family Group Sheets
- Use online databases for locating family history information
- Use Google search engine to find web pages and FamilySearch.org content containing information on your ancestors

B. Planning a Genealogy Vacation:

In this workshop, Larry shared what he wishes someone had told him before he planned his first genealogy vacation. Learn where to look, what to expect, and Larry's advice on conducting research.

This session will cover how to:

- Plan visits and follow best practices when going to local or out of town resources
- Collect vital records documenting births, marriages, and deaths
- Locate other documentation about families such as census, probate, church, and military records
- Communicate with other researchers gathering information on your surname (last name) or geographic area
- Learning objectives:
- Learn to locate family history information and gather documentation to confirm the accuracy of their information.
- Learn best practices when doing on-site research.

The two evening sessions included:

September 18th - **Instagram in the Public Library**

Instagram is a great social media tool that many libraries are using to connect with their users, authors, and each other. But it's not only for its innovative approach to photo sharing that libraries are using Instagram: this social media platform is growing faster than Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest combined. Laura and Annalise gave an innovative, creative, and fun glimpse on how to make the most of your library's Instagram account.

The Presenters were: **Laura Lintz** and **Annalise Ammer**

Continued on page 4



*Ruth Oberg, Donna Hanna and Carrie Goetz
waiting for their pace care ride!*

(RRLC cont'd)

May 14th - Fine Free Panel Discussion

Fines versus no fines: that question is a current hot topic in library communities across the nation. It was debated at the ALA 2018 Midwinter Meeting where three librarians took on the topic. Now you have a chance to ask questions and see how some libraries in our area approach the use of the fine fee status. See if their ideas give you new ways to think about fine free! Questions were answered from library leaders who have tried the new approach to library services.

Included on the panel:

- Chris Finger – Geneva Public Library
- Julia Koberlein – Macedon Public Library
- Ruth Freier – Gorham Free Library
- Debby Emerson – Wadsworth Library
- Patty Uttaro – Rochester Public Library

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. **Donna Hanna** organizes this event and usually has between 3-6 volunteers who help with the meal.



The pace car at Watkins Glen International that provided rides around the track for those that wanted to partake. The Thursday evening event included a buffet dinner at this very unique venue.

Central New York Libraries Resources Council Anna Dobkowski

CLRC has a new(ish) Director. Marc Wildman took over the reins from Debby Emerson this past September. Marc was the former Assistant Director at the Dewitt Public Library and the Director of Libraries at Cayuga Community College.

Interns have been hard at work digitizing a number of local collections uploaded to the [New York Heritage](#) website. Take a look, if you haven't already.

CLRC offers two great financial opportunities. The Professional Development Award reimburses a library staff member for conference expenses or online education. The New Initiatives Grant covers the cost for libraries that want to implement a creative program idea. Both of these opportunities are reviewed on a quarterly basis. The next deadlines are June 30, September 30 and December 31, with recipient selection soon after the deadline.

The Library of the Year and Library Staff All-Star award nominations are due by June 30. There are four categories - Academic, Public, School and Special. Recognition (and awards) are given at the CLRC annual membership meeting and conference. This year, it will be held at Vernon Downs on October 25.

New York Libraries' will have a booth at the New York State Fair. This will be our 5th year!!! The 2018 Fair runs from August 22 to September 3. Please consider volunteering for a three-hour shift with a colleague or friend. You'll get free admission to the Fair for the day, a great purple tee shirt, and the satisfaction of advocating for all types of libraries. Sign up will be emailed in early July.

CLRC has not had an active LA SIG (special interest group) in some time and would like to begin one for our regional library support staff. If you are interested in being part of this new adventure for Central New York (Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, Herkimer counties) please contact:

Anna Dobkowski, at adobkowski@clrc.org
or call 315-446-5446

South Central Library Research Council

Judith Andrew

Jessica Philippe, the Member Engagement Librarian at SCRLC, and NYSLAA co-founder and member Judith Andrew continued their attempts to revive the SCRLC Library Assistants Special Interest Group.

In October of last year, they planned a Library Assistants Mindfulness Workshop which was to take place at the SCRLC office suite in downtown Ithaca. Alas, no one registered so they had to cancel it.

Then in November they created a Library Assistants online Google Group and sent invitations far and wide electronically. They thought that since people weren't willing or in many cases not able to get together in person, we could gather virtually online. The Google Group is described this way:

"This group is for library assistants in the South Central region of New York State. Its purpose is to bring us together as a community to discuss work-related issues and to share activities, events, articles, and ideas related to our profession."

Twelve wonderful library assistants joined the group but it has largely been inactive aside from a few early postings and Judith and Jessica's periodic postings. Another repeat invitation was sent out in another SCRLC newsletter.

So here we are. Still trying, but without much success. If anyone is interested in joining the Google Group, just email Judith at jandrew@ithaca.edu. Judith and Jessica would also like to hear any ideas the South Central people may have. Thank you.



Glass design created by Ruth Oberg at the Sandblasting Workshop at Corning Museum of Glass.

Western New York Library Resources Council

Pat Klaybor, Liaison to the WNYLA Committee
Emily McDonald, Chair of the WNYLA Committee

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. Even though membership on the committee is only open to support staff, all our events are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

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.

We had two GTKY's in the summer of 2017. The first was a tour of the Forest Lawn Cemetery including the archives. That was held on 6/21/17. The second one was held on 8/2/17 and was a Buffalo River Historical Tour. This was 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. These were two of our most successful events. I received many emails regarding both these events telling us what a great job the committee did with both tours.

We did not hold any workshops in 2017. It is sometimes difficult to plan workshops when we have a very small number of committee members.

Our networking events for 2018 will include a combined tour of Buffalo City Hall and the new Robert H. Jackson U.S. Courthouse in May. This includes a tour of the library there. We have 18 attendees.

Our second GTKY will take place at the Buffalo History Museum in October, and will also include a tour of the library at the History Museum.

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

Cheryl Marriott

LASSA/SIG went through a transition in 2017 starting with a change in conveners. At our September 2017 meeting **Val Colon** and **Cheryl Marriott** stepped into the role of co-conveners and then we went through the process of appointing other members to committee roles:

Valentin Colon *Convener*

Cheryl Marriott *Convener*

Anthony Wyche *Meetings & Events Coordinator*

Arlene Quammie *Secretary*

Jehanne Black *Treasurer*

Nina Manning *Outreach Coordinator*

Sarah Davis *Technology Coordinator*

Mildred Graham *Corporate / Vendor Donations*

Rita Gregory *Founding Member / MAL*

Pamela Van Duyne *Corporate / Vendor Donations*

Maxine Grandison *MAL*

Deborah Green *MAL*

Christine Morrison *MAL*

Nancy Rettagliata *MAL*

Angela Reyes *MAL*

(MAL = Member-At-Large)

At our May 2018 an additional change took place when we asked Jehanne Black to take on the role of Treasurer that became vacant when Caron James resigned from the committee. In 2017/2018 the new committees landed on both feet and started working. Since then our Outreach Coordinator, **Nina Manning**, has been very busy organizing community outreach projects.



We have been involved in several **C o m m u n i t y** Outreach events which were well received and with huge success.

The New York City Metro Library Assistant

Support Staff Association/Special Interest Group participated in the following:

Book Drive We were able to share The American Dolls book collection with Main Chance Drop in Center and the Hotel Latham; a family.

Food Drive In November 2017 in conjunction with the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church we packed and distributed over 1,500 Holiday Staple Food Packages to the community in the Bronx, New York. This well-organized event not only took care of the community but also provided a hot breakfast for over 100 volunteers. We also distributed several bags of groceries to a local New York City Shelter.



Toy Drive In December we participated in a toy drive along with the A. Philip Randolph Institute and Coalition of Black Trade Unionist. In January a nearby shelter got toys collected in our January meeting.

METRO LASSA/SIG's 20th Library Assistant's Day (LAD) Conference

On April 12, 2018 we held our annual LAD conference. This year's conference was held at DC37 (New York City's largest municipal employees union, headquarters). With our 150 participants from over 50 libraries throughout New York City and Westchester County, this was LASSA/SIG's 20th LAD event and it was a huge success. With the financial support of **Val Colon** and New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930, and the venue support from the Executive Director of DC37 Henry Garrido as well as staff Service support from the New York Public Library, this year's event was a huge success. It was great being able to bring all these different partners to support LAD. Our keynote speaker was the Director and VP of Branch Services at New York Public Library, Christopher Platt. Christopher is also one of our financial supporters for New York Public Library's participation at NYSLAA that is done in conjunction with the New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930.

We are proud to announce that two of our very own were presenters at this year's LAD conference. Thank you **Sarah Davis** and **Cheryl Marriott**!

Kudos to our ENTIRE team who made this event a success.

End of Submitted Regional Reports

C.O.W.s are Loose in New York State

Anne Pierce

C.O.W.s (Creatively One Works) are loose in NYS! As the Virginia Exchange representative I came to the NYSLAA Conference a week ago and am already looking forward to Geneva. I learned 25 new things which I'm discussing with my colleagues on our Conference Committee and the Virginia Library Association Director.

These include:

1. Tables of readers discussing their favorite reads, their bookclubs or their experience with GoodReads;
2. Hotspot loans;
3. Door prizes – we need a committee just for this;
4. Baskets – we only have 8-10;
5. Donations for other nonprofits;
6. Lottery trees;
7. Have a travelogue for subject research – sent the Humanities class on the city bus to see how long it took them to get back to campus and have them record what they saw along the way;
8. Join the Librarian's Google group; establish a digital archive for the Univ. 50th anniversary;
9. Start a Friends group;
10. Create a Ready for College pkg: What tech skills do you need? What should you bring to class? What are the faculty's expectations? What memories do you have of the first day of class?

As you can see I've got my work cut out for me – now what will count toward a Certificate of Achievement? Thanks so much for being such great hosts – I knew when Tim gave me a ride from the airport that this would be a fun time!



Amanda Mills, working intently on her creative side in the Wine and Design Tour.

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Our membership so far for 2018 is at 213 of which 28 are new members.

Renewal reminders were mailed to 107 members in July. Membership cards/letters are being mailed electronically, so if you haven't received yours you will shortly as I have a few left to process. If you believe you have renewed and did not receive a card/letter please let me know and I will check into it for you.

If you move or your email changes, please be sure to alert me. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your membership notifications.

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.

NOMINATE NOW!

NYSLAA Elections

Nora Renda

2018 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 and shall submit a written annual report to the President in January.

Nominations need to be submitted by **September 30, 2018**. Each nomination needs to contain the signed acceptance form which is with the nomination form, located on our website, nyslaa.org, and a biography has to be included in the ballot. You can also find the duties for each of these positions in the bylaws on the NYSLAA website.

Please send your nominations to:

Nora Renda

NYSLAA Coresponding Secretary

134 Lockwood Memorial Library, North Campus

University at Buffalo

Buffalo, NY 14260

or submit electronically to: nlrenda@buffalo.edu

or fax to 716-645-5955

Outreach

Community Outreach at Conference

Lauren Anthony-Palmer

Thank you to the conference attendees who brought donations (items and money) for the 4 designated organizations in the Corning area. Our generosity was greatly appreciated by the organization's representatives and will certainly benefit community members in the Corning area.

The organizations were:

- Arnot Ogden Medical Center - blankets for the Pediatrics Department and onesies for the NICU
- Corning Food Pantry- food and toiletries
- Tanner's P.A.W.S.- cleaning items
- ProAction of Steuben & Yates, Inc. - new and gently used books for the Bright Red Bookshelf program

A special note of thanks to everyone who helped to display, pack, load and deliver the items!



A small sample of the many food pantry items donated by conference attendees.



Food pantry items donated by conference attendees arriving at the Corning Food Pantry.

Thank You from the Red Book Shelf

Linda George

During this year's New York State Library Assistants' Association's Annual Conference in Corning, New York, the Pro Action Family Literacy program presented on "Connecting Family Literacy with Community Partners". The NYSLAA community partners showed up in a big way by bringing two careful loads of gently used children's books to be placed on the 75 red book shelves located throughout Steuben and Yates County for children and families to take for free. Your group helped make this year's Stephanie Bates Memorial Book Drive the largest one yet with well over 7,000 books donated total. The books are already going out on shelves for children to read this summer and the Red Book Shelf program gives out over 60,000 books each year. Pro action of Steuben and Yates and the Family Literacy Program thank you all for being such great community partners.



An example of one of the many Red Bookshelf displays around the counties.



Linda George with a small sample of the many boxes of books donated by conference attendees.

Outreach continued

Ruth Oberg received this regarding a donation for the Linus Project in memory of a former member:

Ruth, you may remember me from the two NYSLAA conferences that were held at St. John's University--but I mention this only as way of introduction. I, too, have retired as dean of libraries, and am enjoying this new role.

After Louise Smith-Jones retired, no one could replace her enthusiasm and passion for NYSLAA--and the NYC group has consequently been woefully diminished; no one from St. John's has attended/participated in NYSLAA for some time. A few of us would like to remedy that, in a very indirect way.

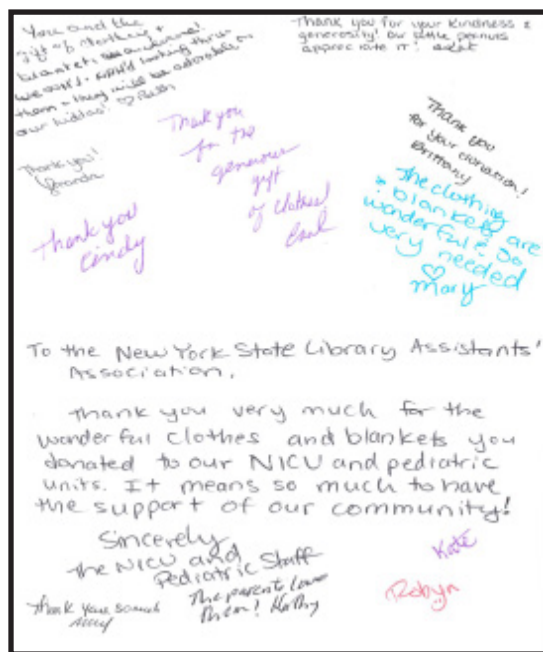
As you probably know, Louie passed away a few years ago. In her memory, we have three blankets to donate to NYSLAA's Linus Project service initiative...not much in quantity, but made with a good deal of love and remembrance. The blankets conform to all the requirements of the Project.

On behalf of my former colleagues and me, thank you for all you have done (and seemingly continue to do!) for NYSLAA. It is, in my humble opinion, the finest library organization of any kind.

With warm regards,
Theresa Maylone

From **Sheila Tshudy**:

Today I received a thank you card from Arnot Ogden's NIC and Pediatrics Units, for all of the handmade blankets and baby clothes that our members donated at this year's NYSLAA conference. They were truly overwhelmed with the generosity and thoughtfulness of each and every person who donated. To those of you who donated, thank you for making a difference.



Blankets made and donated for the Linus Project



Baby clothes donated by conference attendees for the Arnot NiCU

Outreach continued

Monetary donations were collected at the registration desk at the conference for our Outreach choices. After the conference that money is added to from the treasury and rounded up to make a nice donation. NYSLAA then sends a check to each agency. Here is the thank you our treasurer **Carrie Goetz** received from Tanner's Paws.

Tanner's P.A.W.S *Protecting Animal Welfare & Safety*

117 W. Market Street □ Corning, NY □ 14830 □ Phone: 1-866-9TANNER

August 6, 2018

NYS Library Assistants' Association
Carrie Goetz

Dear Carrie,

Wow! You are awesome! Thank you so much for your generous donation to Tanner's P.A.W.S. on August 26, 2018. As we are sure you are aware, Tanner's P.A.W.S. is 100% volunteer based, which means that 100% of your donation goes straight to the animals.

Your \$150.00 donation provides quality medical care and treatment for animals in Tanner's P.A.W.S.' care. The impact your investment has is incredible because it permits us to continue our efforts to pursue improving the life of animals. Without support from people like you, we could not possibly save the lives of these precious fur babies, as it is a team effort.

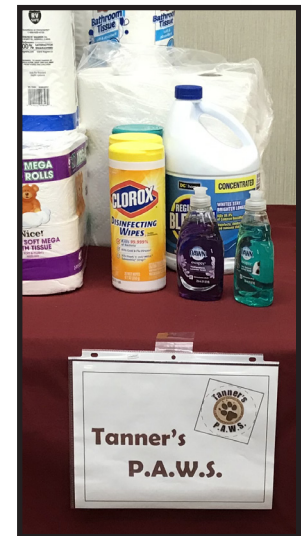
Thank you for helping the animals in care at Tanner's P.A.W.S., we truly can't thank you enough.

Have a great day! You have certainly made our day!

With Sincere Thanks and Appreciation,

Christie Speciale
Tanner's P.A.W.S. Founder

It was wonderful meeting you! Thank you so much for choosing Tanner's!



Some of the donated cleaning supplies requested by Tanner's Paws donated at the conference

Pig Out on Reading

Kathy Rossello

On the afternoon of July 30th, I was looking out the window for the mail truck. I could not believe my eyes, there was a cute little pig and two pugs coming into the library. I went to investigate and found them getting comfortable in our large meeting room. I found out that this was the children's afternoon program.

I was then introduced to Farmer Minor and Daisy, the World's Most Famous Pig. Daisy had her two friends with her, pugs Lily Pug and Dixie Cup. I was able pose with Daisy and have our picture taken.

When the program started for the children, I went down to peek. Farmer Minor was telling stories and interacting with the children. Their laughs were very contagious. The children loved this program, as did the grownups with them. A Pig story was read to the audience.

Farmer Minor, Daisy and the Pugs "Encourage Children to Develop A Love for Reading." Daisy has more than a 1,000 library cards. Daisy of course loves books on Pigs. Lily Pug and Dixie Cup love books on pugs. I have noticed that we have many books in our library with pugs and pigs in stories together. Everyone was invited to pose for a picture with Daisy, Lily Pug, & Dixie Cup. I saw lots of hugging happening.

The East Greenbush Community Library had a wonderful program for all!

E-mail: farmerminor@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.pigoutonreading.com



Kathy Rossello with Daisy and pugs.

Save the Date

June 12-14, 2019!

Michele A. Matthews

Wendy Freier from Geneva Public Library with committee members **Trish Kemp** and **Debbie Elliotto** have come forward to host the 2019 NYSLAA Conference at the Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Geneva Lakefront Resort. Geneva is in the Finger Lakes region at the top of Seneca Lake.



You can call now to reserve your rooms at the Ramada Geneva Lakefront by calling 315-789-0400 and ask for the NYSLAA rate of \$129 for street side rooms or \$139 for lake side rooms.

Keep a lookout for fundraising email coming soon.



We Need You!

NYSLAA is looking for a webmaster. Our web page needs to be updated and we were hoping one of our members would help us out.

*If you are interested please contact:
Michele Matthews at prendm@rpi.edu.*

Certificate of Achievement

Michele A. Matthews

At this year's conference we awarded three Certificate of Achievement certificates.

Jane Coane, Huntington Public Library received a Level IV in Technical Services

Tim Finnigan, SUNY Geneseo received a Level IV in Public Services

Jose Rodriguez-Morell, Salvation Army College For Officer Training received a Level III in General Library Services

The Certificate of Achievement Committee would like to thank **Terry Berl** for volunteering to be on the committee and wish her a wonderful retirement. Thank you, Terry.

If you are interested in your certificate, please contact me at prendm@rpi.edu.



Michele Matthews received this regarding Jose:

Dear Ms. Matthews,

Thank you for your letter of 17 May about Antonio's achievement. He is indeed a hard worker, and very eager to learn. I am grateful that such an organization as NYSLAA exists, so that there is a way to provide professional recognition of the work of library assistants.

Sincerely,

Robin Rader, MLS (St. John's), MA Urban Studies Brengle Library Director The Salvation Army College for Officer Training



Michele Matthews awarding Tim Finnigan his Certificate of Achievement.

Mansfield Professor and Daughter Give Presentation on Opioid Epidemic

(Reprinted with permission)

MANSFIELD, PA — Tiffany Welch, chair and field education director of the Department of Social Work at Mansfield University, and her daughter, Micaiah, gave a presentation entitled “The Enemy in the Room: Understanding Our Opioid Epidemic” at the New York State Library Assistants’ Association (NYSLAA) 40th Annual Conference, held in Corning, NY on June 6-8.

Micaiah graduated from Williamson High School earlier this month and is enrolled at MU as a Secondary Education/Math major.

Their presentation focused on raising awareness of the issue of opioid addiction and some of the resources available and steps that can be taken to combat it.



“Beyond the family system, our schools and libraries have a huge responsibility as an educational system to put prevention efforts in place, but we must first make them available to them,” Tiffany Welch said. “To be able to present alongside Micaiah, who has personally lost her biological father to this epidemic, was inspiring and it gives me hope that there are many other young people like her who have a strong desire to educate others on the topic of preventing drug use. I can’t say enough about how important it is that while we are breaking the stigma and providing services to those already affected that we must take the time to educate on the importance of prevention in order to stop the cycle of continued misuse.”

“It was life changing to be able to share my own experience and knowledge with others who are now motivated to go back to their communities, states, and countries, to implement the new ideas we had shared, which will hopefully change even more lives for the better,” Micaiah Welch said.

This is the second time the mother and daughter have presented on the topic. They made a presentation at the School Social Workers Association of America (SSWAA) National Conference held in Columbus, OH in March.

Craig Koste 2018 Award Winner

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

Terry Berl, Library Clerk II
Drake Memorial Library, The College at Brockport

The following are excerpts from the nomination letters:

Sheila Tshudy, Library Assistant, nominated Terry and stated: Terry has been an active member of NYSLAA since 1996 and is a proud recipient of her Certificate of Achievement, Level IV, Technical Services. Terry supports our organization by volunteering on several NYSLAA initiatives: Donations Committee, Outreach Committee, Certificate of Achievement Review Board, and the 2018 Conference Committee. Terry has volunteered at the conference since 1999. Her outgoing personality naturally draws new members to her where she welcomes them like an old friend. NYSLAA could not ask for a better ambassador. When I was contemplating hosting this year's NYSLAA conference, Terry said, "Let's do it!" We decided to ask conference members to donate children's books for the Red Book Shelf program—a literacy program that puts books on shelves where children can take a book at no cost. Within days of our decision, Terry told me the Drake Library was weeding its juvenile collection. Terry sorted and pulled suitable books and personally delivered 1,263 books to this program on behalf of NYSLAA.

Holley Laudico, Library Assistant, writes: •I met Terry when I started at The College at Brockport in 2013. She introduced me to NYSLAA and to my first conference. Terry possesses a fun-loving spirit. Terry has served on the Welcome Weekend Committee for many years. Each fall she welcomes freshmen and their families to the campus. She uses her engaging disposition and sense of humor to make the newcomers feel welcome. Each year NYSLAA can count on Terry to provide generous donations to the conference basket raffle. She will even enlist the help of her friends and family to produce blankets for Project Linus. This year, she plans to donate a bin full of preemie/newborn clothing to the Arnot Ogden Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Mary Jo Orzech, Associate Librarian, Drake Memorial Library states in her letter: Terry is commended for her many volunteer service efforts. She has participated in the Giant Read Program since its inception over seven years ago. Terry has taken a leading role in planning and organizing the day. While there, they read to students and present books, and day-packs including school supplies, toys and personal hygiene items to the first and second graders. She is recognized for going above and beyond this work in securing dental hygiene items from a local dentist and assembling the bags for distribution to over 70 students each year.

Tammera Robertson, Information Technology Assistant, The College at Brockport adds: Terry exemplifies the professionalism and dedication that make her a deserving candidate for this award. Terry is professional, courteous and quick to help. She is organized, efficient and extremely competent. She is a team player with a strong work ethic. Terry derives satisfaction from helping others.



Terry Berl accepting the Craig Koste Award from President Michele Matthews.

Photos from the 2018 Conference



Pam Rogers, Vickie Button and host Sheila Tshudy in the lobby.



NYPL having fun posing at the mixer!

Ruth Oberg and Tammy Southard checking over registration folders.



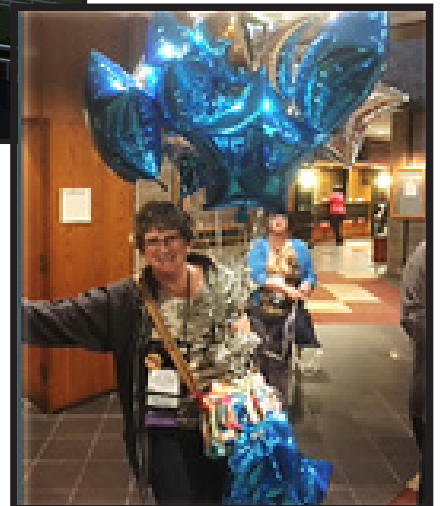
Tammy Southard preparing baskets for the move to registration.



*Above - Host Sheila Tshudy enjoying the evening at Watkins Glen International!
Left - The view from dinner!*



Carrie Goetz enjoying her pace car ride!



Michele Matthews, the Queen of it all!