

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Oct. - Dec. 2019 Vol.31, No.4

NYSLAA Library Assistants: Create, Learn and Explore in the Catskill Mountains Cat Wise, 2020 Conference Committee Chair

Our 42nd conference will be taking place June 10-12, 2020 at the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology in Cobleskill, NY.



Lodging is on campus at the Alumni Commons

Every suite/townhome comes fully furnished with a bed, desk, dresser and chair. Living rooms are furnished with sofa, chair and multipurpose tables. Full kitchens with refrigerator, stove, microwave and cabinetry. Bedrooms are single occupancy. There is one full bathroom for every two guests. Wireless and wired internet connections throughout.

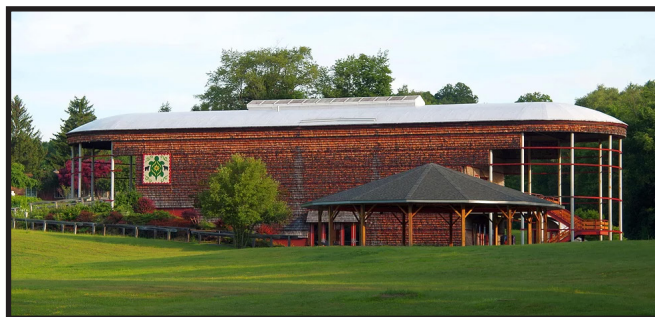
Although they are very nice rooms, they are college dorms. Guests will be provided with a list of items they will need to bring that hotels usually furnish. It is suggested for further comfort to bring a mattress topper to put over the thin mattress.

Wednesday tours, we are working to provide the following tours:

Howe Caverns 90-minute walking tour with a boat ride. The adventure begins with a story on how the cave systems were discovered and then you will descend

underground by elevator to begin your journey through the caverns. Here you will experience the mystique of the River Styx, the wonders of Titan's Temple and The Giant Formation on your journey. Howe Caves has many other activities if you wanted to extend your visit. More info: <https://howecaverns.com/>.

Iroquois Indian Museum is an educational institution dedicated to fostering understanding of Iroquois culture using Iroquois art as a window to that culture. Your visit will begin with a guided tour that will educate you on the history of the Iroquois culture as well as their creative spirit of modern artists and craftspeople. There will be time after your tour to explore the museum on your own. <https://www.iroquoismuseum.org/>



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Community Outreach Chair

(vacant)

Donations Chair

(vacant)

Public Relations Chair

(vacant)

“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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Next publication date: *February 15, 2020*

Submission deadline: *January 31, 2020*

(cont'd from page 1)

We are also working on putting together a guided campus tour. We are planning to include the livestock barns where we have cows, horses, sheep and goats. Located in the fisheries and wildlife area you can visit the herpetology lab, turtle lab, 40,000-gallon cold water fish hatchery, tropical fish hatchery, warm-water and shell fish hatchery, aquaponics greenhouses and research ponds.

As we are located in the Heart of the Catskill Mountains, we are planning to hold our mixer right at Alumni Commons. The grounds have a beautiful quad where we can sit outside and enjoy our dinner from Brooks BBQ. If the weather cooperates, we will roast marshmallows over an open fire, make our own s'mores and maybe do some stargazing.

Thursday night we are planning dinner at Chieftains Restaurant in the Village of Cobleskill. This local restaurant has a newly renovated banquet room. We are still in the planning phase but are planning to have a buffet dinner, cash bar and a Trivia contest. Before dinner, there will be time to explore the town and visit the shops that neighbor Chieftains Restaurant on Main Street.

We are in the process of planning workshops and are working hard to find a unique selection of topics that will be of interest to all those who attend. The workshops are being considered for public and academic libraries as well as some general topics that will appeal to all. More information to come after we confirm all our speakers.

I hope you will join us next June. We look forward to welcoming you to the Heart of the Catskill Mountains where you can explore, create and learn at our conference.

Fundraising



We will be wrapping up a fundraiser with Boon Supply **November 4th**. You can see our fundraiser online and order until then. NYSLAA will receive 40% of your sale. It is on our Facebook page or you can click on the following.

<https://www.boonsupply.com/collections/604182-nyslaa-suny-cobleskill>

Conference Outreach 2020

Please consider donations to our Outreach Community Groups for 2020. These groups listed below are all wonderful causes and appreciate any help given.

Animal Shelter of Schoharie County – Is in need of dog and cat food, cat litter, Dawn dish soap, laundry soap, cat towers, towels, toys and catnip.

Catholic Charities of Cobleskill – Would love to have donations for their battered woman's shelter and food pantry. The shelter is always looking for shampoo, soap, woman's hygiene supplies and personal care items, deodorant, gas cards for transportation, twin sheets and washcloths. The food pantry is in need of tuna fish, peanut butter & jelly, pasta and canned vegetables.

Blankets for the Linus Project - Blankets must be handmade, for example, (fleece tied, knitted or crocheted and at least 36 inches in length).

It's Lottery Time!

The 2020 NYSLAA Conference Committee is gearing up for a lottery fundraiser. The proceeds go toward keeping the conference costs affordable. Each year the Executive Council and Conference Committee work together, looking for ways to supplement the costs of running the conference. This year they are bringing back the ever popular February Lottery fundraiser!

The numbered tickets for sale are based on the New York State Lottery's EVENING drawing. Lottery numbers will be good for the entire month of February so every night in February you have the chance to win, your ticket just needs to match that EVENING's drawing. *That's 29 chances to win!* Tickets are \$5.00 each. Contact Cathy Wise for tickets at WiseCL@cobleskill.edu and she can give you all the information you need.

The daily winnings are \$25.00. As a bonus, on Valentine's Day (14th) and Leap Day (29th), the payout will be \$50.00. Good Luck!

Please consider helping us by purchasing or offering to sell some tickets. They make great thank you gifts, stocking stuffers, exchange gifts or a "just because" gift.

2019 Election Results

Tammy Southard, Elections Chair

We received one nomination for each office creating an unopposed slate.

As stated in the NYSLAA Bylaws, Article II: Elections Section B: Election Procedures: 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.”*

The winners are:

Michele Matthews, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute was nominated as President (incumbent)

Carrie Goetz, University at Buffalo was nominated as treasurer (incumbent)

Dawn Foland, SUNY College at Cobleskill as Corresponding Secretary

Their terms will run from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

Congratulations to all and welcome to **Dawn!**

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2019 is at 269 and 62 members are new.

Renewal reminders were sent out in early August. As a reminder, membership cards/letters are being mailed electronically to anyone who has an email.

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

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.

Certificate of Achievement Review Board

Michele A. Matthews, Coordinator

Currently the Certificate of Achievement Review Board is working with several members to complete their packet. Who will be the first for 2020?

The Review Board would like to welcome **Nora Renda** from the University of Buffalo to the committee. Thank you, Nora for stepping up and helping out.

If you are interested in earning your Certificate of Achievement please contact one of the following Review Board members:

Michele Matthews – Coordinator

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prendm@rpi.edu

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Melissa Tidd

Goshen Public Library & Historical Society

mcody@rcls.org

Nora Renda

University at Buffalo

nlrenda@buffalo.edu

Anyone interested in serving on the Certificate of Achievement Review Board can contact me directly at prendm@rpi.edu.

2019 Scratch-Off Ticket Lottery Tree

*At the 2019 Conference in Geneva, **Rinda Brown** won the lottery tree at the basket raffle. She won \$94 after scratching off 173 tickets.*



NYSLAA

Continuing Education Scholarship

NYSLAA will award one scholarship up to \$250.

To qualify for the NYSLAA Continuing Education Scholarship, you must be:

- ❖ A current regular member of NYSLAA
- ❖ A NYSLAA member for the previous consecutive three years
- ❖ Continuing your professional development in a non-matriculated program

To apply for a scholarship submit the following to the NYSLAA President:

- ❖ Complete the application form below
- ❖ Write a statement of 150 to 300 words explaining your goals and how this scholarship will aid you
- ❖ Include a letter from the Registrar's office or a receipt showing that you are enrolled and the cost of the course
- ❖ A letter from the NYSLAA Membership Secretary verifying your years of membership

Please note:

- ❖ Applications must be postmarked no later than December 31st
- ❖ First consideration will be given to those applicants who have not received a NYSLAA scholarship in the past.

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Name of Educational Institution: _____

- ❖ If you are awarded this scholarship, would you like your director/supervisor notified in writing by NYSLAA? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please provide a name and address below:

Signature: _____

Return completed packet to the NYSLAA President. (see nyslaa.org)



NYSLAA

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 current regular member of NYSLAA
- ❖ A NYSLAA member for the previous consecutive three years
- ❖ Actively pursuing a matriculated degree at an accredited educational institution

To apply for a scholarship submit the following to the NYSLAA President:

- ❖ Complete the application form below
- ❖ Write a statement of 150 to 300 words explaining your goals and how this scholarship will aid you
- ❖ Include a *copy* of your transcript, or letter from the Registrar's office citing the number of credit hours taken
- ❖ A letter from the NYSLAA Membership Secretary verifying your years of membership

Please note:

- ❖ Applications must be postmarked no later than December 31st
- ❖ Applicants may receive this scholarship only once. Previous winners may not apply.

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Name of Educational Institution: _____

- ❖ If you are awarded this scholarship, would you like your director/supervisor notified in writing by NYSLAA? Yes No

If yes, please provide a name and address below:

Signature: _____

Return completed packet to the NYSLAA President. (see nyslaa.org)

Banned Books Week

Alex Hartzog

The Ithacan, Oct 23, 2019

(reprinted with permission)

The Catcher in the Rye, Animal Farm, Of Mice and Men and To Kill a Mockingbird. All of these books were banned at one point in some form around the world. Ithaca College hosted a read-out during Banned Books Week focusing on works by author Toni Morrison, allowing attendees to read aloud banned books.

The read-out took place from 6 to 7 p.m. Sept 24 in the Handwerker Gallery. Approximately 30 community members showed up to the event, filling many of the available seats. At the event, seven attendees read some of their favorite books, many of which were banned books in some form or another.

The American Library Association, an organization that promotes libraries and library education in America, created a list of all the books that have been banned or challenged throughout history, including the aforementioned books, along with others like **Lord of the Flies** and **1984**. The event's organizers pulled from this list for the readings.

Jennifer Spitzer, associate professor in the Department of English, began the event by talking about the late Morrison, who died Aug. 5. Spitzer discussed Morrison's work and the various bannings her work accrued throughout her lifetime, such as **Song of Solomon** and **Beloved**.

"One of the singular frustrations about teaching Morrison is that once you get to one of her books in your course, all of the other books kind of seem superfluous," Spitzer said. "You kind of wonder why you taught anyone else but Toni Morrison."

The event was run by library staff members **Judith Andrew**, music cataloging and acquisitions specialist, and communications librarian Cathy Michael. Representatives from Amnesty International, a nongovernmental organization, recited speeches at the event.

The aim of Banned Books Week is to bring light upon censorship throughout the world of writers and libraries, Andrew said.

The first Banned Books Week took place in 1982 in response to a surge in the number of banned and

challenged books in America, Andrew said. Banned Books Week occurs on the last week in September each year. Andrew said she was pleased with the turnout for the event.

"Everybody who was here was clearly here because they wanted to be and because they felt strongly about fighting censorship," Andrew said. "The readers were wonderful. It was a really wide variety of works that they read from."

Wayles Browne, professor emeritus in the Department of Linguistics at Cornell University, spoke about banned languages at the event. Browne talked specifically about the Macedonian language and the oppression it has faced throughout history, such as when it was banned in Greece and treated as a dialect in Bulgaria and Serbia. Browne ended his speech with a poem in Macedonian titled **The Woman Embroidering**.

Junior Isabella Oliverio, a television-radio major, said she came to the event after hearing about it from her mentor Cathy Michael. She said she felt an obligation to stand up against censorship because the field she intends to enter is often censored. Oliverio read **The Great Gatsby** for the read-out.

"To me, **Gatsby**, while it is a sad story, I think embodies so much hope, especially for myself and the images of light you can come across throughout your life," Oliverio said.

At the event, to further support the removal of censorship, Amnesty International members left out petitions in support of censored authors and journalists near the entrance. Andrew, along with Amnesty International representatives, asked attendees to sign the petitions. Many of the petitions were similar in nature, asking for various governmental bodies across the world to unban certain books or to release imprisoned authors and journalists.

For many authors, critical reception and popularity are not enough to save them from being banned, as in the case of Toni Morrison, Spitzer said.

"Toni Morrison ... is one of the most challenged and banned authors of the 20th century," Spitzer said. "So although she has become required reading in so many classrooms, all of her novels have sat at the top of the American Library Association's top 10 list of banned and challenged books."

Summer Reading Challenge for Adults

Adrienne Birchler

For the second year in a row, my town's library, William K. Stanford Library in Colonie, NY, presented a Summer Reading Challenge for Adults. Last year's program had 250 readers tracking their reading (either on paper or online) and participating in fun activities to earn raffle tickets toward great prizes. This year the number of patrons taking part more than doubled. I enjoyed participating in last year's program, so there was no question I was going to sign up again this year. The theme this summer was "A Universe of Stories."

The program was kicked off with a soiree. Folks were encouraged to show off their best 70s style, mingle with fellow program participants, enjoy a musical performance by a local band, plus learn all the ways they could participate and earn raffle tickets as an Adult Summer Reader.

Some of the events that folks could sign up for to earn raffle tickets were reading and then attending book discussions (Neil deGrasse Tyson's **Astrophysics for People in a Hurry** and H. G. Wells' **The Time Machine**), taking a full moon walk in our town park to explore the night sky with astronomy apps, playing trivia BINGO, participating in a paint 'n sip class, and re-watching footage from the moon landing of 50 years ago.

Participants could also win a raffle ticket by completing one line of activities on the weekly BINGO sheets that came in our packets when we signed up. Some of the BINGO activities were to check out a pass to a museum you've never been to, try out a new recipe, read a book at the beach, join the Friends of the Library, download the Flipster app, check out a DVD or CD and listen to a podcast. We were also given activity sheets to earn additional tickets.

At the end of the program, participants were treated to a readers' bash that consisted of dinner (salad, pizza and cookies) and the raffle drawing. Prizes that participants could take a chance on winning with their tickets were a Kindle Fire HD 8, a Roku Streaming Stick, an Instant Pot, a telescope, a globe, gift certificates to local restaurants and a variety of gift baskets. I won a year's family pass to a nearby art museum. Those attending that weren't lucky enough to win something were

given an opportunity to select an item or two from a table displaying books, puzzles, CDs and other items. Donations from The Friends of the Library and local attractions and businesses helped make this year's program a success. I can't wait to see what's in store for next year's challenge!

SUNY Cobleskill Chili Contest

Cat Wise

The Fourth Annual Chili Contest was held October 9th at SUNY Cobleskill. Employees and students were invited to submit a crockpot of chili with students, faculty and staff serving as judges. There were 1st-3rd places for best tasting, most unique and hottest chilis. The winners received a certificate and bragging rights. First place received medallions, with 2nd and 3rd place receiving Frank's Red Hot sauce. Next up - Mac 'n Cheese is Love contest on Valentine's Day.

