

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association
July-Sept. 2009 Vol.21, no.3

31st Annual NYSLAA Conference

CALA Coordinating Committee



After a year of hard work and planning, we at Capital Area Library Assistants (CALA) feel we can say that the Conference was a success. There were the normal computer glitches and transportation issues due to the split campus arrangements, but overall we believe we hit our goals for the event.

Starting Wednesday afternoon with the tours of Oakwood Cemetery and the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, attendees were given a look into the wealthy and richly historic heritage of Troy, NY. Kathy Sheehan of the Rensselaer County Historical Society and Bernie Vogel of Oakwood Cemetery were consummate tour guides of Historic Oakwood. It was both a history and art lesson from the intricate mosaics and the stained glass windows of the Gardner Earl Chapel to the marble and granite tombs on the grounds. The highlight of the tour for many was a visit to Uncle Sam's gravesite and a stop to take in Oakwood's panoramic view of the Hudson Valley. The evening was topped off with a Mixer at the Red Front Tavern and Restaurant. This gave attendees an opportunity to mingle and enjoy the great food and hospitality the Red Front is well known for. Two speakers, Jean Scheviak, Executive Director of Capital District Library Council, and Michael Esposito, author and member of the Friends of Troy Public Library, offered welcomes.

Thursday started the first day of workshops. They were very well received and according to the evaluations the presenters received high marks. A few attendees even requested that certain workshops be offered again. That evening we ate, danced and

generally had a great time aboard the Captain JP as we cruised on the Hudson River. The delicious food and lively music were just what was needed after a long day in workshops.

Friday offered more workshops that again received high praise. The day culminated with our Keynote Luncheon at which we enjoyed a tasty meal followed by a talk given by the very dynamic Sister Anne Bryan Smollin. Her address was truly an inspiration to all. After following her instructions and hugging at least a dozen other members, it was time for the Certificate of Achievement awards, numerous longevity awards, and the esteemed Craig Koste and Ray Murray Awards to be given out. The exciting finale was the raffling of 47 raffle items and the over-loaded lottery tree.

The host committee of CALA would like to thank all who attended this year's Conference. We would especially like to thank those who volunteered their time to work on the registration desk, drive or whatever. We look forward to attending next year's conference in Corning, NY.

Thank you to all, from your hosts,



CALA Coordinating Committee

Top row: Kathy Corbett, Adrienne Birchler

Middle: Eileen Lemley, Carol Reppard, Jean Guyon

Bottom row: Michele Giuffre, Ling Zhang, Michele Matthews

INSIDE: Regional Reports from the Conference...CAP Report and Certificate Recipients...Craig Koste and Ray Murray Recipients... Welcome Susan Flick...Membership Update Call for Nominations...

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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-L, NYSLAA’s Electronic Forum

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Regional Reports from the Conference



Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO)

by Louise Smith-Jones
St. John's University

This is the report Louie sent for the April-June Network Connection regarding Library Assistants Day. Spacing issues prevented its inclusion. We bumped it to this issue as Metro's regional report. Coleen, ed.

Twelfth Annual Library Assistants' Day Celebration

Sponsored by

The Metropolitan New York Library Council

Thursday, April 16, 2009

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The Brooklyn Public Central Library

Ten Grand Army Plaza

Brooklyn, NY 11238

Theme:

Communicating In a Changing World

Morning and Afternoon Workshops:

Improving Your Writing Skills

Roseanne Gatto & April Sikorski

Learn to Listen/Communication Skills

Ma'lis Wendt

Financial Planning

Cary L. Hall

Public Library: Research Tools & Treasures

James Drumgo

Stress Management in these Economic Times

Nina Luca-Boclosky

Web 2.0 - Social Networking in Libraries

Kathryn Shaughnessy

The workshops listed were a big success and we enjoyed beautiful 60 degree+ weather.

Mary Graham, the Director of Public Services, welcomed LASSA-SIG to the Brooklyn Public Library. Jason Douglas, Operation Manager, Clerical Central Administration of Brooklyn Public and his staff Nereida Ocasio, Debbie Plummer, Devika Mohuddin, Tiffani Pearson, Robin Wallace and many others hosted the Library Assistants' Day event. The DC37-Local 1482 sponsored the breakfast and Central Administration sponsored the lunch. The workshops ran from 10:00am to 3:00pm, which was a full day of fun and information.

METRO (The Metropolitan New York Library Council) sponsored ONE Library Support Staff to attend the NYSLAA Conference in Troy, NY from June 10-12, 2009. The winner was Lyvonne Park from Queens Public Library.

A LASSA-SIG's Board member, Nina Manning and New York Public helped in getting LASSA a grant to offer an honorarium to our presenters.

NYSLAA donated TWO one year memberships. And the winners were Shevawn Anderson from Queens Library and Jackie Willoughby from New York Public. We also announced and gave out the NYSLAA web site directing attendees to the information about the conference in Troy, NY and encouraged everyone to attend.

The short animated video "Counter-Entropy Squad" produced by Loretta Merlo using the program, Poster 7, was shown. The video was inspired by a comment made by Weill Cornell Medical College emeritus Dr. Roger Greif and it demonstrates how support staff work very hard in their daily responsibilities.

That was our Library Assistants' Day.





Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC)

by Heidi Jensen
Pioneer Library System,
RRLC Library Assistants Group Chairperson

The RRLC Library Assistants Group met four times over the past year. Our group sponsors and supports workshops and performs community service in Rochester and the surrounding areas.

This year we provided six workshops.

- Google Services
- Tool or Toy – You decide (Technology Gadgets)
- Blogging
- Desktop Security
- Ergonomics in the Workplace
- Twitter

We also sponsored a half-day workshop entitled *Cataloging 411*.

Last fall the RRLC Library Assistants Group co-sponsored a Library Assistants’ Day Mini Conference at the Holiday Inn/Carrier Circle in Syracuse, NY. The other sponsors were CLRC, SCRLC, and NYlink. We are happy to be co-sponsoring the event again this fall.



Our community service efforts focus on the Ronald McDonald House and Grace Urban Ministries in Rochester.

This past year we collected money to purchase food, and then we prepared and served dinner to about 40 people four separate times at the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester.

Our group also holds two annual collections which are now called the Kathy Martel Honorary Grace Urban Ministries Collections to honor Kathy Martel, a retired library assistant from Rochester Public Library, who started both these events



Capital Area Library Assistants (CALA)

by Jean Guyon
SUNY Albany
CALA Chairperson

As the hosts of this year’s conference, CALA has not had time to hold any other events but we hope you enjoyed the workshops and other events the group worked on for the conference.



Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN)

by Sue Lefebvre,
Champlain Valley Educational Services
School Library System.

The Northern New York Library Network Library Assistants’ Committee held two one-day conferences and one meeting this year.

The first conference was held at the Wild Center, Tupper Lake, NY. Workshops presented were:

- Facebook and Twitter
- Motivational Speaking
- Historical Newspapers and Regional Resources

Our second conference was held at Clarkson University and the workshops were:

- Collaboration
- Microsoft 2007 with Jim Crowley
- Tour of Clarkson University Library



New and old friends at the Conference Mixer



South Central Regional Library Council
by Judith Andrew,
Ithaca College

The SCRLC Special Interest Group sponsored two workshops since last year's NYSLAA conference:

Change: A Proactive Approach

This workshop was held on September 17, 2008, at Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden. The presentation by Steven Massey-Crouch helped us understand the forces behind both large scale and small scale changes, and offered suggestions for not only controlling change, but making it work for you.

Library Assistants Day Mini-Conference

Although not hosted by our Special Interest Group, many of our South Central regional members attended the library assistants' mini-conference in Syracuse on Oct. 16th, presented by SCRLC, Central New York Library Resources Council, Rochester Regional Library Council, and Nylink. This was a full day of workshops as well as opportunities to network and socialize with each other.

Library Assistants Day Celebration

In celebration of Library Assistants' Day, April 16th this year, The Rakow Library of the Corning Museum of Glass and our SCRLC Special Interest Group co-sponsored a half-day workshop on NYSLAA and its history, and its Certificate of Achievement Program. A panel of four NYSLAA members, Donna Hanna, Coleen Hopkins, Ruth V. Oberg, and Judith Andrew, presented.



After the presentations, we all received a tour of the Rakow Library at the museum, as well as a tour of the Corning Museum of Glass.

Plans are underway for our Fall 2009 workshop.



Western New York Library Resources Council
by Pat Klaybor,
WNYLRC

In the past year, the Western New York Library Assistant's (WNYLA) have held three "Getting to Know You" events.

The first was held at the E. H. Butler Library, Buffalo State College on October 24, 2008. This event featured a tour of the Tom Fontana and Murphy Brown Collection with Archivist Dan Dilandro. The tour was followed with hors d'oeuvres and a wine tasting at Campus House, Buffalo State's original building.

Our second event was titled "Going Green Ideas for Work, Home and Life." Using the premise that it's easy to be green, our April 15, 2009 meeting at Buffalo and Erie County Public Library featured Fred Stoss talking on Ideas for Work, Susan Jaworski on Ideas for Home and Andrew Goldstein, Recycling Coordinator for BuffaloRecycles, on Ideas for Life. We discovered that it was easy to be green once we knew how.



The most recent event was May 28, 2009. We toured the new "green building" at the Research and Information Commons at Daemen College. Kara McGuire spoke on what LEED certification is, why the new building qualifies for this certification and many more facts about being green.



Sister Anne Bryan Smollin
Keynote Speaker – 2009 Conference

---End Regional Report Section---

Certificate of Achievement

The Executive Council regretfully accepted Scott Goodman's resignation as the Coordinator of the Certificate of Achievement Review Board in May. Dorothy Morgan graciously agreed to take on the responsibility. Dorothy has served as the Coordinator in the past, so she's ready to roll!



The Review Board has also gained new members and now consists of Barbara Hubbard, Michele Matthews, Karen Ricketson, Sheila Tshudy, and Donna Kuhner as the Executive Council Liaison.

Certificates can be earned in Automation, Administration/Management, General Library Service, Public Service and Technical Service and it is possible to earn certificates in more than one area.

This year we are pleased to award two Certificates. The recipients are:



Jan Aguirre,
Finger Lakes Library System,
Ithaca, NY

Upgrade to Level 3 in
Automation



Gail Merian,
Guernsey Memorial Library,
Norwich, NY

Level 3 in
General Library Service

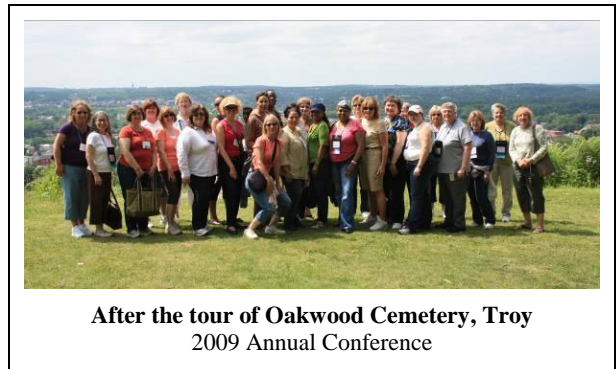
Congratulations Jan and Gail!

For information on earning a certificate, please contact any Review Board Member or check the NYSLAA web page at nyslaa.org.

ALERT! ALERT!

Dorothy Morgan,
CAP Coordinator

On October 30, 2009 the Certificate of Achievement Review Board is meeting with the Executive Council to introduce new members AND most importantly... to review packets. This note is intended to all of you who are working on their portfolios right now. The lazy days of summer are practically over. This is a good time to look at our portfolios before all the holidays start happening. Let us review what you have accomplished already. We will let you know what's missing or maybe give you that congratulatory call that you have reached your goal!



After the tour of Oakwood Cemetery, Troy
2009 Annual Conference

Craig Koste Award Winners for 2009

Compiled by Joy Piper

In 1992, the Executive Council created the NYSLAA Award for Outstanding Service for New York State library assistants who are members of NYSLAA. Its name was changed to honor Craig Koste, a library assistant who, in 1995, bequeathed an endowment to NYSLAA. The award recognizes those library assistants who have distinguished themselves by their service to our organization and to the library assistants of New York on either a state or local level. A stipend of \$100 is given to the recipient's library for collection development.

This year we are happy to have two very active NYSLAA members as our Craig Koste Award winners. Congratulations Michele Matthews and Louise Smith-Jones. *(see next page...)*



Michele Matthews
Library Specialist,
Interlibrary Loan,
Folsom Library,
Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute

Michele Matthews was nominated by Adrienne Birchler, Coordinator, Rensselaer Libraries. In her letter, Ms. Birchler praised Michele's dedication to NYSLAA during the past 20 years. "A general member since 1991, a member of the Certificate of Achievement Review Board for five years and the Review Board Coordinator for two years, Michele has been an active Association member and volunteer for almost 20 years and an enthusiastic promoter for the Association and professional development in general." The Acting Director of Rensselaer Libraries adds, "Michele was the first Rensselaer employee to earn NYSLAA's Certificate of Achievement.... She received the 2003 distinguished Service Award from the Capital District Library Council Committee on Interlibrary Loan." Irving Stephens, Manager Public Services, writes; "I cannot imagine someone...more deserving of the ...award or who has done more than Michele Matthews to promote the development and recognition of library assistants locally or across the state."



Some dance, some hide.
Aboard the Captain JP, 2009 Conference



Louise Smith-Jones
Library Assistant
Main Library
St. John's University

Louise Smith-Jones (Louie) was nominated by Margaret Pelletier of Newark Public Library and Heidi Jensen of the Pioneer Library System. Ms. Pelletier shares that the energy and enthusiasm Louie exhibits is a great influence on the organization and its members. Echoing those sentiments, Heidi Jensen mentions how "...she has been the little voice in the back of my head that keeps me motivated when it comes to Support Staff." Vergie Savage-Branch of Weill Cornell Medical College adds that "Louie is an inspiration to all she meets and continues to encourage others to join LASSA & NYSLAA." To quote Theresa Maylone, University Librarian, St. John's University, "Louise Smith-Jones has been the single greatest booster for support staff at St. John's and it is her persistence to get everyone involved in NYSLAA and in LASSA-SIG of METRO that has united our staff in the understanding of the value they represent to libraries in general and St. John's libraries in particular."



OK, what are they up to now???
2009 Conference

Ray Murray Award Winner for 2009

Excerpts from message compiled by Joy Piper

In 1989, the Ray Murray Award was created to honor Ray Murray, a librarian who opened the door for creation of the annual library assistants' conference, thereby laying the groundwork for NYSLAA. This award is given to librarians, library directors, trustees, board members or others who have contributed to the recognition and/or professional growth of library assistants.



Debby Emerson
Assistant Director
Rochester Regional
Library Council

Debby Emerson,
Assistant Director
of the Rochester
Regional Library

Council (RRLC), is the recipient of the 2009 Ray Murray Award. Ms. Emerson has been an advocate for professional development of library support staff through her work at RRLC. Ms. Emerson is also active in NYLA where she is a member of the Continuing Education Committee and a Councilor-at-Large.

Ms. Emerson was nominated by Heidi Jensen of the Pioneer Library System. In her nomination letter Heidi wrote; "Ms. Emerson is the liaison for the RRLC Library Assistants Group where "...she asks and values the group's positions on different topics." Heidi spoke of how Ms. Emerson "...promotes the value of library assistants in our area...Debby is a great supporter of Library Assistants."

Michelle Costello, Reference/Instruction Librarian at SUNY Geneseo, adds "Debby has been a member of the Library Assistant's group from very early on and has been instrumental in facilitating their goals and missions, to provide a forum for library assistants to broaden their education, help the community and advocate their role in the workplace." Ms. Costello closes her letter of support, "Debby's thorough understanding of library assistant's needs and her proven record in meeting needs make her an

excellent candidate for NYSLAA's Ray Murray Award."

NYSLAA's Vision Statement states our desire 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."

Ms. Emerson embodies the spirit of the Ray Murray Award, NYSLAA is proud to present her with this award.



Welcome Susan Flick, NYSLAA's Donations Chair



Susan Flick is a Senior Library Clerk at Geneva Public Library where she started as a Page in 1991 and has worked on and off ever since. She has

also worked as an Evening Supervisor at the Hobart and William Smith Colleges Library in Geneva.

Susan holds an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences with a concentration in English from Finger Lakes Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Cultural Studies with concentrations in both English and History from SUNY Empire State College. She is currently working on her Certificate of Achievement, and plans to pursue her MLIS in the near future.

The Donations Chair position was instituted in 1994 and held by Joe Valenti until he retired in 2002. The Executive Council is grateful for Susan's willingness to take on this important position.

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2009 is at 369. Of those, 44 are new members! There are still 103 members from 2008 who have not renewed for the current year. Reminders were sent out in July and one more will be sent out in early October.

I already have received several renewals for 2010. Thank you to all the early birds! Remember, if you've renewed early, your 2010 membership cards and letters will be included in the February mailing along with the conference brochure.

If you move, please be sure to alert me that you have a new address. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your mail. Other information such as job title, work phone etc. should be updated before December 1st of this year to insure accuracy in the directory.

Are you on NYSLAA-L? This is a great avenue to share information. It's not a busy list making email messages very easy to manage. Why not take a minute to sign up? Go to NYSLAA.org, click on NYSLAA-L listserv, and follow the instructions.

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.



Their FIRST conference and ELVIS, too!
At the Captain JP, 2009 Conference

Welcome New Members!

Brian Abbott - DeWitt Community Library

Kelly Bliss - Corning Museum of Glass,
Rakow Research Library

Laurie Constable - University at Albany,
Science Library

Julia Corrice - Corning Museum of Glass,
Rakow Library

Laura Emerson - SUNY Brockport,
Drake Memorial Library

Lauri Fortino - DeWitt Community Library

Lori Fuller - Corning Museum of Glass,
Rakow Research Library

Kathleen Kapral - Corning Museum of Glass,
Rakow Research Library

Pennie Mercado - Fallsburg Library

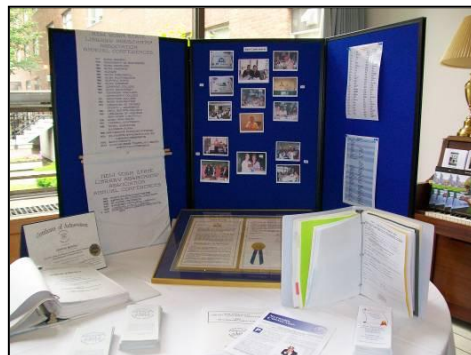
Nicole Morris - Fallsburg Library

Tracy Savard - Corning Museum of Glass,
Rakow Research Library

John Staerker - Hudson Valley Community
College, Marvi Library



Dancing onboard the Captain JP
2009 Conference



NYSLAA's new display board
2009 Conference



Executive Council aboard the Captain JP.
 (top) Ruth V. Oberg, Coleen Hopkins,
 (middle) Dawn Burnett, Donna Kuhner,
 (bottom) Donna Hanna. Joy Piper absent.

Corning, NY Here We Come!

The NYSLAA 32nd Annual Conference will be held in Corning, NY, June 9-11, 2010. The Conference location will be the Radisson Hotel in Corning and there will also be events at the Corning Museum of Glass. Corning is located in the beautiful Finger Lakes and has a lovely historic business district. Start making your plans to join us!



An artist at work in the hot glass studio at the Corning Museum of Glass.

Nominations are now being accepted for NYSLAA Executive Council Elections

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for three officers. This October we will hold elections for President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. Descriptions of each officer's duties are listed below. NYSLAA officers serve a two-year term and shall submit a written annual report to the President in January.



The **President** shall: 1) prepare an agenda for all general sessions and for meetings of the Executive Council; 2) preside at all general sessions of the Association and at meetings of the Executive Council; 3) fill the vacancies in the Executive Council by appointment; 4) authorize the creation of ad hoc and special committees; 5) act for the Executive Council between meetings of the Council; 6) collect written annual reports from all officers, committee chairs, the Ambassador, and the Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator for publication in the first quarter newsletter; 7) perform other duties as may be required.

The **Treasurer** shall: 1) receive, record, hold, and disburse all monies of the Association at the direction of the Executive Council; 2) receive all membership dues; 3) prepare a written annual statement of accounts for the Association; 4) perform such other duties as may be required.

The **Corresponding Secretary** shall: 1) conduct such correspondence as may be directed by action of the Executive Council or Association and keep an official file of correspondence to be deposited in the archives upon completion of the term of office; 2) liaison the Public Relations Committee; 3) chair the Election Committee in even years; 4) perform such other duties as may be required.