

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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Library Assistants...an Enduring Beacon of Light

Donna Hanna and Coleen Hopkins

The 33rd annual New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA) Conference will be held June 8-10, 2011 on the beautiful SUNY Geneseo Campus, in Western New York's Genesee Valley.

Our conference committees are diligently working on all aspects of hosting this event. Fundraising has started with the annual lottery, so check the information in this newsletter for tickets. Preparations for tours are in the works, one of which will be the Abbey of the Genesee, which is famous for their delicious Monks Bread. We're planning one other organized tour and will provide lots of suggestions for local attractions to visit on your own.

The Entertainment Committee has come up with a very unique format for the Mixer. It will give you an opportunity to experience our historic community in a personal way. Sections of the village of Geneseo are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and we will feature this area throughout the evening. Our logo is the



Bronze Bear lantern which sits atop the fountain that has been on Main Street since 1888.

We are addressing many facets of libraries and library assistants' responsibilities in planning our workshops. Of course, we have the ever popular Steve Dresbach scheduled to provide two technology workshops. Some of the others are *Book Repair*, *Adapting to Change from a Library Assistant's Perspective*, *New Gadgets* and many more. We are striving to meet the needs of library assistants in any type of library.

Tentative plans for Thursday evening are to travel to the Genesee Country Museum (www.gcv.org) in Mumford, NY. We're planning a tour of the museum, catered dinner and a comedian to entertain us. More detail will follow.

Our keynote speaker will be Kim Weitkamp, storyteller extraordinaire. Kim has also agreed to do a workshop, *Storytelling*, which will not be your typical "storytelling" session. (www.kimweitkamp.com)

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2010

Sally A. McMaster

President
University of Rochester
(585) 275-9502
smcmaster@library.rochester.edu

Ruth V. Oberg

Vice-President
University at Buffalo
(716) 645-1336
oberg@buffalo.edu

Dawn Burnett

Treasurer
Bureau Veritas Consumer Prod. Serv.
(716) 505-3590
dawn.burnett@us.bureauveritas.com

Coleen Hopkins

Recording Secretary
SUNY Geneseo
(585) 245-5597
hopkinsc@geneseo.edu

Donna Kuhner

Corresponding Secretary
Gloversville Public Library
(518) 725-2819
dkuhner@sals.edu

Donna Hanna

Membership Secretary
SUNY Geneseo
(585) 245-5508
hanna@geneseo.edu

Standing Committees

Public Relations Chair

Ruth Mason
Guernsey Memorial Library
(607) 334-4034
no.ruth@4cls.org

Donations Chair

Susan J. Flick
Geneva Public Library
(315) 789-5303
sflick@pls-net.org

Conference Coordinator

Ruth V. Oberg
University at Buffalo
(716) 645-1336
oberg@buffalo.edu

Ambassador

Vacant

Certificate of Achievement

Review Board Coordinator
Michele Matthews
Richard Gilman Folsom Library
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
(518) 276-8337
prendm@rpi.edu

“We would like to see a library community in New York State where library assistants have a voice in decisions that affect their future, are valued for their contributions, recognized and rewarded appropriately, and where there is equitable access to professional development opportunities.”

NYSLAA’S MISSION

“The mission of the New York State Library Assistants’ Association is:

1. To enhance the professional image and status of NY State’s library assistants.
2. To further their professional growth.
3. To provide a network for communication to our members and the profession on library and library assistant issues.
4. To network and cooperate with library organizations on local, state, national, and international levels.”

CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: nyslaa.org

Join NYSLAA-L, NYSLAA’s Electronic Forum

To subscribe, send the following command to **listproc@cornell.edu**
Subscribe nyslaa-l <first name><last name>. Do not include a subject.

To unsubscribe, send the following command to **listproc@cornell.edu**
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Editor: Coleen Hopkins

*Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo,
1 College Circle, Geneseo, NY 14454
Phone: 585-245-5597 Fax: 585-245-5997
Email: hopkinsc@geneseo.edu*

*Newsletter Committee: Chair, Coleen Hopkins, SUNY Geneseo;
Donna Hanna, SUNY Geneseo; Ruth V. Oberg, University at Buffalo*

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Suggestions on How to Increase NYSLAA's Membership

Coleen Hopkins

At the time of this printing, the NYSLAA Membership stands at a very low 338. The Executive Council addressed this concern at the 2010 NYSLAA Conference Town Meeting in Corning, NY, by asking for suggestions from the floor. We were pleased to receive quite a number of suggestions and many of the responses were practices we can all adopt for our own libraries and in our own regions.

The list, responses and actions follow:

1. **Buy back membership years.** *At the October 22, 2010 meeting, the Executive Council voted to offer a "one-time only buy-back opportunity." See the criteria below.*
2. **All organizations are facing decreased memberships.**
3. **Members should send welcome letters and information to new hires.** *This is an opportunity for members to do outreach in their own libraries. Introduce NYSLAA to all new hires, direct them to nyslaa.org and tell them about the annual conference.*
4. **Renewal reminders.** *Donna Hanna has been sending them for many years.*
5. **It is questioned, who pays their membership.** *Most members pay their own membership and we should not expect our employer to pay it*
6. **Brochures.** *Ruth Oberg will send them to anyone who requests them.*
7. **Could the trifold be put on the website?** *Done. Go to nyslaa.org, on the right side of the page under Tools and Resources.*
8. **Outreach to Directors.** *Ruth Oberg suggests maybe a regional luncheon for Directors.*
9. **Personal outreach in your own library or area.**
10. **Send a presence to the NYLA Conference... possibly set-up a table at the conference.** *Donna Kuhner and Sally McMaster did a workshop and a display at the Poster Session this year.*
11. **Go back to our own libraries to show how we benefitted from this conference.** *See #3.*
12. **Make a presentation at your own library after the conference.** *Let your Director and/or Supervisor know what the NYSLAA Conference means to you. Write a report and/or offer to do a presentation in your library.*

13. Get involved in NYSLAA yourself!



Criteria to Buy Back Membership Years

Executive Council, October 22, 2010

You asked for it! Here it is!

It is a one-time opportunity for the year 2011.

You can buy back missed years for breaks in membership only.

If a longevity award is missed, you will forfeit that award and continue on to the next longevity award when it is achieved.

The cost will be the price for a current Regular Membership (\$15.00) for each year being bought back.

Contact Donna Hanna if you have any questions about your membership or if you are interested in taking advantage of this one-time opportunity.

Executive Council Elections

Donna Kuhner, Election Chair

We have just completed the 2010 NYSLAA Executive Council elections for the following offices: Vice President, Membership Secretary, and Recording Secretary. A call for nominations was published in the July-September 2010 *Network Connection*.

We received *no* nominations from the membership for the above offices and the present officers have agreed to continue for the 2011-2013 term.

Vice President:

Ruth V. Oberg, Science & Engineering Library, University at Buffalo

Membership Secretary:

Donna Hanna, Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo

Recording Secretary:

Coleen Hopkins, Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo

As printed in our By-Laws under 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.”

Please join me in congratulating Ruth, Donna, and Coleen.

Please consider running for an office in the future, NYSLAA depends on the involvement of its members. Several of the current Executive Council will be considering retirement in the next five or so years. It is important to take an active part in the organization to keep NYSLAA the great organization it is today. Next year marks our 33rd Annual Conference and we hope to see many more. If you have any questions, please speak to any Executive Council Member.



2010 NYSLAA Conference Radisson Hotel Corning, NY



Join us at SUNY Geneseo, June 8-10, 2011, and see what all the fun is about...and learn some new skills at the same time!

Certificate of Achievement

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board met with the Executive Council at Baldwinsville Public Library on October 22, 2010.

Michele Matthews, Folsom Library, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has accepted the responsibility of Review Board Coordinator and the Review Board recommended Michele Giuffre, Bethlehem Public Library, and Debra Curry, Mid-Manhattan Branch, New York Public Library to be added as new Review Board Members. The Executive Council approved both members and is also considering a “Review Board Member in Training” Program.

As in the past, the Review Board is readily accepting **unfinished packets** in order to assist members in earning their Certificates of Achievement or earning a higher level if they already have one. At this point, several members are working on their packets and we hope others will submit theirs as well.

Review Board Members:

Michele Matthews, Coordinator
prendm/rpi.edu
518-276-8337

Sheila Tshudy
tshudysa@cmog.org
607-974-4358

Karen Ricketson
ricketsonk@cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov
518-563-0921 ext. 29

Michele Giuffre
giuffrem@uhls.lib.ny.us
518-439-9314 ext. 3018

Debra Curry
dcurry@nypl.org
212-340-0816

Information is also available at nyslaa.org.



NYSLAA Conference...a Good Value

Coleen Hopkins

Many NYSLAA members attend more than one conference, but with libraries facing budget cuts from many directions, we will all need to re-evaluate where we are going to invest the resources we have. I think it is hard to dispute the benefit we receive from attending a NYSLAA Conference and I want to take this opportunity to show you just what a bargain we offer. Take a look at these **prices for 2010** and bear in mind that the 2011 NYSLAA Conference Committee is committed to keeping the costs as close to the 2010 level as possible. I hope this chart will assist you in your requests to attend the 33rd Annual NYSLAA Conference, June 8-10, 2011, in Geneseo, NY.

Organization	Registration	Rooms
NYSLAA	\$110 Full conference/ 4 meals.	\$109 plus tax per night
NYLA	\$195 Full conference	\$119+ plus tax per night
ALA	\$170 Full conference/ NO meals.	\$86.40 includes tax
VLAPF	\$165 Full conference/ NO meals.	\$97.18 includes tax
SUNYLA	\$45 Full conference/ 1 lunch	\$40/person/night

NYSLAA Lottery



My name is Tim Finnigan, from Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo and I am the local donation chair for the 33rd Annual NYSLAA Conference. This conference will be held June 8-10, 2011 at SUNY Geneseo. I am reaching out to you for assistance in selling the NYSLAA lottery tickets which helps to keep the registration fee affordable. The lottery itself runs the month of February, 2011, in conjunction with the evening New York State Pick 3 numbers. The payouts are \$25.00 per day (you can win as many times as the number comes up) and \$50 payout for Valentine's Day, February 14th. The cost per

ticket is \$5.00 and with Christmas coming they make great stocking stuffers.

This is all you have to do:

Tell me how many tickets you would like to sell along with your address and I will get them out ASAP. All monies (Make checks payable to NYSLAA) and unsold tickets need to be turned in by Jan 24th to the following address:

Timothy Finnigan, SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library, 1 College Circle, Geneseo, NY 14454.

If you need to get in touch with me you can call 585-245-5192, Sunday through Thursday evenings from 2 pm till 10 pm and /or email me at finnigan@geneseo.edu.



**We're all winners at the
NYSLAA Annual
Conference!**



Library Assistants... (Continued from front page)

In an effort to support Geneseo's sustainability agenda, we will be offering a re-usable water bottle this year and water will be available in the conference areas. We will **NOT** be providing a conference bag and we are encouraging all attendees to bring a bag from a previous conference and if you have any to share, bring them along for a new attendee. The staff at Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo looks forward to welcoming you to the Genesee Valley for a terrific conference in June 2011.

In and Around Geneseo

Photos courtesy of geneseo.com



The Valley Oak



Livingston County Courthouse



Letchworth State Park.
Just a few miles from Geneseo.



Geneseo Hunt - one of the oldest in the country.



Wadsworth Library

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2010 is at 338. Of these, 32 of our members are new! We've mailed out our final renewal reminders for the year giving people one last chance to get credit for this year.

If you move, please be sure to alert me that you have a new address. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your NYSLAA 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. The Directory will be available online this year! In this effort to become more "green" we will also be saving ourselves the cost of printing and mailing. We will still mail the 2011 conference brochures with membership cards/ letters at the end of February. In the event

that you have no online access and need a paper copy of the Directory, please let me know before January 15th and we will try to accommodate your needs.

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.

Please find the Membership Application on page 11.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Pamela Ameigh
Kay Baker
Melissa Cody
Lillian Giyomai
Cheryl Greene
Darlene Strack
Karen Strang
Maureen Vigliante

Ithaca College Library
Guernsey Memorial Library
Goshen Public Library
Patterson Library
Greece Public Library
SUNY College at Plattsburgh, Feinberg Library
Brunswick Community Library
Rensselaer Public Library

NYSLAA Scholarships Available

Coleen Hopkins

Two distinct scholarships are offered each year:

- **The Continuing Education Scholarship** is for members continuing their education in any field and not pursuing a degree at the time. The award is \$250.
- **The Degree Program Scholarship** is for members pursuing a degree in any field. The award is \$350.

Applications must be sent to the President and postmarked by December 31st of each year.