

# NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Apr.-June 2011 Vol.23, no.2

## Geneseo on the Horizon!

Donna Hanna & Coleen Hopkins, Co-Chairs

The registrations are pouring in; Joan Cottone, Cataloging Librarian who offered to handle the donations, has been busy making follow-up phone calls and arranging pick-ups; and all sorts of details are being put to bed. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual NYSLAA Conference in Geneseo, NY, is just around the corner.

### Notes from the Co-Chairs:

*If you are driving in and around Geneseo*, please be advised that this area ENFORCES the New York State law stating that vehicles MUST stop if there is a pedestrian *at the crosswalk*. Don't go home with a ticket as a souvenir!



*Put on your comfy shoes* and join us for a great conference. The Mixer will be a walking tour of our historic village featuring stops and treats at several locations, followed by dessert and beverages at the Big Tree Inn. The village and campus overlook the Genesee Valley, so there will be a few hills.



There will also be walking at the Thursday Night Event at the Genesee Country Village and Museum. We will make arrangements for those unable to walk for either event, so be sure to indicate your need for assistance in the Special Needs area of your registration.

*Those who are staying in the dorm* may want to bring a fan as they are NOT air conditioned. Also, each quad has a small kitchenette with a stove and microwave, but no refrigerator.



*In the interest of SUNY Geneseo's Green Initiative*, we will not be supplying a conference bag this year. We would like conference

attendees to bring their favorite bag to use. If you have any bags you would like to donate, please bring them for a new conference attendee or someone who has forgotten to bring one. We WILL be providing each participant with a re-useable water bottle. Instead of using commercially bottled water,



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**INSIDE:** Library Assistants' Day...Legislative Report...Workshop Reports...New Members

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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.”

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**CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org)**

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## **Join NYSLAA-L, NYSLAA’s Electronic Forum**

To subscribe, send the following command to [listproc@cornell.edu](mailto: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](mailto:listproc@cornell.edu)  
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## Geneseo on the Horizon (from page 1)

we are asking everyone to keep their bottle with them and refill it at campus fountains.

**Don't forget your scratch-off lottery ticket** for the ever-popular lottery tree. You will receive one ticket for each dollar-value you bring.



**Remember to bring your NYSLAA name badge holder** if you already have one and if you would like to buy one, they will be available at the Registration Table for \$3.00. You must wear your name badge at *all* conference events.

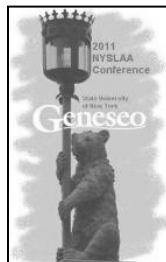
**Did you renew your membership with your conference registration or around the same time?** Your membership card and letter will be included in your registration packet.



**Sign up for a NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement one-to-one consultation** at the conference. Contact Michele Matthews at (518) 276- 8337 or email her, [prendm@rpi.edu](mailto:prendm@rpi.edu).

### **NYSLAA 2011 Conference Program Change.**

Due to a conflict in scheduling we will need to move workshop #4 Living History scheduled for session I on Thursday. We feel it is an important topic and it was so well received in Corning that the decision was made to offer it in session IV on Friday, June 10 from 10:45 to 12:30.



If you have already signed up for this workshop, you will be given your second choice and contacted directly to see if you'd like to modify your selection for session IV. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Contact Donna Hanna at (585) 245-5508 or email [hanna@geneseo.edu](mailto:hanna@geneseo.edu) if you need assistance.

**Please be considerate.** Turn off or put your cell phone on vibrate while in workshops or meetings. If you **MUST** take a call...step outside *before* answering. Thank you

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## Library Assistants' Day...Quotes from NYSLAA-L



Today is Library Assistants' Day. RRLC thanks all area library assistants for their continuing dedication to providing quality library service for the people of our region.

One day is not enough to thank you for all your contributions, advocacy, and support of libraries and of RRLC.

Thank you!  
*Kathy Miller,*  
*Executive Director, RRLC*

Happy Library Assistants' Day! Congratulations and enjoy the day.

*Sally McMaster*  
*University of Rochester Library*

Happy Library Assistants Day - thanks for all you do ☺. Especially with all this weeding going on!

*Kate Pitcher,*  
*Collection Development Librarian,*  
*SUNY Geneseo*

Here at Plattsburgh Public Library, the Friends of the library held a luncheon of yummy treats for us.

The nice part was that we got to sit and chat and get to know each other.

They do so much for our Library, They are truly appreciated.

*Mary Heffernan*  
*Plattsburgh Public Library*

Here at Troy Public Library we decided to celebrate Library Workers Day and Library Assistants Day. We held a pizza lunch on Wednesday at the Main branch and a sub lunch at the branches, complete with cookies and soda. Everyone had a great time, the food was wonderful and it was free as the Library picked up the tab for all.

Hope everyone had a great day also.

*Carol A Reppard*  
*Troy Public Library*

Here at Ithaca College Library, although I was not here yesterday, I understand there was fresh fruit in our staff room for all.

For National Library Week: we have had our flag with the international library symbol flying on one of the campus flagpoles all week; there are bowls of lollipops at all service desks; and our library website homepage features a Library Week announcement.

*Judith Andrew*  
*Ithaca College Library*

The libraries at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute celebrated National Library Workers Day on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Our director doesn't want to exclude thanking anyone, including the cleaning staff, so we celebrate that special day rather than Library Assistants Day. We had a lovely luncheon in the Folsom Library for the



entire staff. Lunch was a buffet of pre-made sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, potato chips, beverages, and a beautifully decorated cake that was inscribed, "Thank You!" Tables were adorned with colored table covers and floral arrangements. I should add that the supervisor in charge of all our library assistants (Circulation Desk and Technical Services staff) presented each one with a small box of assorted chocolates.

*Adrienne Birchler*  
*Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*

At the Weill Cornell Medical College Library we celebrated all week. For our patrons we gave out free coffee, classes for managing publications and a Library Haiku contest- the winner received a Harrison's textbook.

On April 12th, National Library Workers Day, the director hosted lunch for the staff with sandwiches, a fruit platter, potato chips and sodas. There was also a Haiku contest for the staff and the winner received a \$20.00 gift certificate.

METRO's LASSA SIG held their 14th Library Assistants' Day celebration at Bronx Library Center-NYPL. We offered a full day of six workshops sponsored by the New York Public Library, breakfast sponsored by union Local 1930 and a library tour. In attendance were approximately 125 Library Assistants from the NYC area.

*Vergie Savage-Branch*  
*Weill Cornell Medical College*

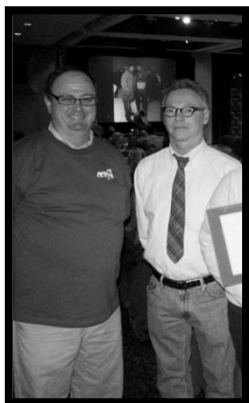
I was on vacation during library week and missed Library Assistant's Day. Wednesday, after I returned, I was surprised with juice, bagels and fruit for breakfast along with flowers and a thank you card signed by the six librarians I work with! It was very nice and appreciated.

*Ruth V. Oberg*  
*Science and Engineering Library, UB*

## New York Libraries Take Another Hit; Asked to Do More with Less One More Time...Legislative Report

Ove Overmyer, Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County

April 21, 2011 – New York’s lawmakers passed a \$132.5 billion budget before the April 1 deadline, a rare event. That is, on the whole, a political win for Gov. Andrew Cuomo who cut



Tim Finnigan,  
SUNY Geneseo and  
Ove Overmyer,  
Rochester Public  
Library @ Lobby Day

nearly \$10 billion in spending. But the way he chose to do it will bring unnecessary pain to the less fortunate across the state, while allowing some of the richest residents to escape their share of the burden during one of the worst economic downturns for New York’s middle-class

working families. Tellingly, legislators passed the budget behind locked doors in the early morning hours of March

30 while angry protesters chanted inside and outside the Capitol corridors.

The 2011-2012 Governor's Executive Budget initially proposed a 10 percent cut in Library Aid. Additional cuts proposed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo included a \$1.5 billion reduction in School Aid, 10 percent reduction in Bundy Aid to private colleges, \$115 million cut to SUNY and \$70 million cut to CUNY institutions.

**Lobby Day draws thousands of library supporters** to counteract this shift in priorities; The New York Library Association (NYLA) sponsored the annual Library Lobby Day on March 1 this year, which brought thousands of librarians, library assistants, trustees and patrons to Albany to ask the legislature to restore the cuts in Library Aid.

The event started with an early morning breakfast reception for legislators and library advocates. Legislators had their photos taken for the very popular READ posters, which

legislators can send to the libraries in their districts to promote the Statewide Summer Reading program.

That afternoon, library advocates then met with legislators and their staffs in their offices, where they delivered the message that library funding is integral to our state’s economic recovery and should not be targeted for massive cuts.

### State legislature passes first on-time budget since 1983

When the state legislature finally passed the budget, it was hailed by conservatives as “reform” and viewed by others as “shameful.”

The Governor proposed a 10 percent or \$8.4 million cut in Library Aid, which would have reduced funding to \$76 million or below 1994 levels. The 10 percent cut was in comparison to a 7.3 percent cut in School Aid and a 2 percent cut in Municipal Aid.

The Senate proposed a \$4.2 million restoration in Library Aid and the Assembly proposed no restoration. The Senate was only able to get the Assembly to agree to a \$3 million Library Aid restoration. In the end, Library Aid was reduced by 6 percent, or \$5.4 million, leaving \$79 million left intact.

The Governor's proposal to make permanent the supplemental system aid and the Education Commissioner's ability to grant waivers from local maintenance of effort requirements was accepted by the Legislature. This will aid central library systems who do not meet the mandated requirements of operation, like the 55 hour a week threshold.

In addition, the Legislature not only rejected the merger of School Library Materials Aid with Textbook and Computer Software Aid, but also allowed these two categorical aids to be used to purchase library materials.

According to NYLA Executive Director Michael Borges, given a \$10 billion proposed deficit, these legislative accomplishments are something to cheer about. However, New York State Aid to Municipalities will have a significant impact on our local government operating revenue. For example, the City of Rochester now has a 50 million dollar budget deficit and is proposing

cuts to library services, closing branches and laying off dozens of workers.

Albany law-makers have drawn too much ill-gotten praise for reaching an on-time budget, and the full impact of cuts on state and local workers, not to mention the needy, has yet to be measured.

*NYSLAA, as an organization that maintains a 501(c)6 non-profit tax status cannot lobby, but we encourage all members to advocate for libraries in any way you can, including attending NYLA's annual Lobby Day.*

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## Have You Attended a Workshop Lately?

### Customer Service

Melissa Cody, Goshen Public Library

I work at the Goshen Public Library & Historical Society and our library is part of Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS). In February 2011, the Public Services Consultant from RCLS, Leslie S. W. Riley came to our library to present a workshop on good customer service.

Ms. Riley showed a video on how to show proper body language on the job and gave us tips on "open and closed" faces. A smile and raised eyebrows give a welcoming appearance and a frown and lowered eyebrows purvey the concept of irritation, impatience and anger. She also discussed positive body language, such as relaxed arms falling loosely at your sides as opposed to folded arms that portray negative body language.

We also learned the importance of saying our names as we answer the phone. Patrons feel a more personal connection when they know with whom they are speaking.

I found this training very helpful and I was able to put these tips to good use the very next day. I felt great at the end of the day!

### Time Management and Stress Reduction

Coleen Hopkins, SUNY Geneseo

The Rochester Regional Library Council's (RRLC) Library Assistants' Group sponsored this workshop facilitated by Susan Mason. In her handout Ms. Mason described 7 items we would be better able to do by the end of the session. They are:

1. Identify symptoms of burnout.
  - \* Energy levels and attitude
2. Set SMART Goals.
  - \* S specific
  - \* M measurable
  - \* A attainable
  - \* R realistic
  - \* T time-based
3. Prioritize your time and activities.
  - \* Make a daily plan
  - \* Set A, B, C priorities and update.
4. Recognize and stop procrastination.
5. Minimize interruptions.
6. Apply assertiveness techniques.
7. Identify coping strategies.

This was a very interactive workshop and I feel confident I can increase my productivity (and reduce my stress) by taking the time to plan.

## **Rochester Public Library Celebrates 100 Years**

- \* **100 Years. 100 Books. Reading Project**
- \* **Birthday Parties at the Branches**
- \* **Post Office Special Cancellation Stamp**
- \* **Rochester's Rich History Programs**
- \* **Visit <http://www.rpl100.org/> for more information**

## **Membership Update**

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2011 is at 245. Of the 245 there are 15 of our members who are new! Renewal reminders were mailed out with the conference brochures and newsletters in early March. You should have received your membership card and letter if you renewed before the mailing. Please let me know if you did not receive it.

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.

The directory will be available online this year! We will let you know when we bring it up. In the event that you have no online access and

would like a paper copy of the directory, please let me know as soon as possible 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.

## **Welcome New Members!**

William Baker  
Solomon Blaylock  
Amy Curtis  
Karen Ercolano  
Giovannine Finn  
Paula Friant  
Heather Gad  
Barbara Jacobini  
Lindsey E. Kaufman  
Tor J. Loney  
Michael Sheridan  
Kelly Sickler  
Peg E. Stallworth  
Ronda Turner  
Nancy M. Walsh

SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library  
University at Rochester, Rush Rhees Library  
DeWitt Community Library  
MOOG Inc.  
East Greenbush Community Library  
Southeast Steuben County Library  
SUNY College at Oneonta, James M. Milne Library  
Plattekill Public Library  
Jamestown Community College, Hultquist Library  
Albany Public Library  
Guernsey Memorial Library  
DeWitt Community Library  
Monroe Community College, LeRoy V. Good Library  
Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES SLS  
Dewitt Community Library Association