

# NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

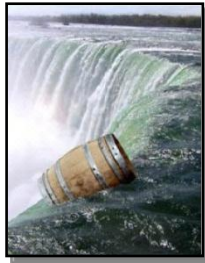
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## Niagara Falls, NY ~ 2012 Conference Update

By Ruth V. Oberg, Conference Coordinator and Local Chair

The committee has been working hard to polish off the details of this year's conference. We expect the mixer to be a great flow of people interacting with each other while a magician weaves though the group doing magic tricks for small groups. Watch closely and tell me how he does it! Weather permitting it will be outside on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor patio overlooking the Niagara



River rapids just before they go over the falls. Two floors below will be the casino where you can try your luck if you so desire. We hope you will remember to spend some time networking on the patio in between visits to the casino.

We tried to put our workshops into some tracks to give attendees, with a focused interest, a cluster of three to four similar workshops in different sessions to attend. We have a history track: Underground Railroad, War of 1812, and one on Electricity's birthplace and development. A public library track: storytelling with music, recognizing and preventing bullying; and graphic novels. A library service track: cataloging, preservation; reference; and GIST (a gift book manager). Computer track: MS Excel, a basic and an intermediate; Photoshop; and online security. Also workshops for everyone on

going green, financial planning, social media, grant writing, genealogy, e-books and tablets, stress relief, transformation of libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and of course the Certificate of Achievement workshop given by the Review Board members. There is a new Culinary Institute being constructed in Niagara Falls and it is expected to open around our conference time. We asked one of the Chefs to do a cooking workshop. He will show you how to prepare a chicken dish and what to do with the leftovers as a healthy lunch option.

We are really looking forward to dinner on Thursday. It will be held near the brink of the Horseshoe Falls! There will be Buffalo themed foods and the opportunity to enjoy the falls up close and take in their beauty. The American Falls are just a short walk down the path. Both are breathtaking when you take the opportunity to stand so close to where they cascade over the edge.

Friday's keynote address will be by author Patty Gelman. She delivers an upbeat positive account of her personal battle with Cancer. She will also do a signing of her book entitled: *Humor After the Tumor*. All proceeds from the sale of her book are donated to Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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**INSIDE:** 2011 Annual Reports... Membership Contest... NYSLAA Conference Contest...etc.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2012

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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’s Electronic Listserv (NYSLAA-L) and follow us on Facebook

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the NYSLAA listserv simply go to [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org), click on “Join Our Email List” and follow the instructions.

To follow us on Facebook search for New York State Library Assistants’ Association.

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Donna Hanna, SUNY Geneseo; Ruth V. Oberg, University at Buffalo*

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(Cont from pg.1)

By the time you get this newsletter we will have had our first conference fund raiser held in the libraries at the University at Buffalo. We decided to do this to off-set some of the higher pricing we encountered by hosting the conference at the Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel. I'm sure many of you noticed that we did not hold the regular lotto fund raiser last year for the drawing in February. NYSLAA's accountant advised us not to hold this annually so we opted out this year. As of this writing, we have 27 baskets donated so far! Thank you to our generous colleagues at UB!

Canada is just blocks from the casino. If you want to cross into Canada you will need to bring a passport, a passport card or an enhanced NYS driver's license that you can obtain from the NYS DMV prior to your trip here. There is a wonderful spa at the hotel. If interested, book an appointment prior to your arrival so they can accommodate you at a time that won't interfere with conference activities. See: [www.senecaniagaracasino.com/seneca-niagara-spa.cfm](http://www.senecaniagaracasino.com/seneca-niagara-spa.cfm)



At the time of this writing, the Maid of the Mist is in the news with a dry dock issue. Well, I am sure it will be running this summer, but they are not posting prices for 2012 at this time. We are offering it as a tour along with the Cave of the Winds. Now for the slightly confusing part: If you are coming into town for extra time to take in the Falls, the Aquarium, Canada, etc., there is a Discovery Pass that can be purchased online for \$35.00. It includes the Maid of the Mist and the Cave of the Winds along with, the Aquarium, two other attractions, and one day of unlimited trolley service between these attractions. If you want to purchase this pass ahead of time, you can still meet up with the group at registration at 1 p.m. and ride the Maid and do the Cave with us. If you buy the pass, just don't pay for the tours on your registration form. For more information, see: <http://tinyurl.com/Discoverypass>. If you sign up for both tours on registration it will cost you \$25.00, but for \$10 more you can go to all five attractions if you have the time to do them. Questions call me at 716-645-1336.

*Looking forward to seeing you all here!*



## 2011 NYSLAA Annual Reports

### President:

This is my second year as NYSLAA President. My responsibilities include scheduling meetings, preparing the agenda and running the Executive Council (EC) meetings. EC continues to be an excellent resource for me.

Another great conference is under our belt, thanks to Donna Hanna, Coleen Hopkins and the entire staff at Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo. We had a good turnout, but NYSLAA felt the pinch of budget cuts with many members receiving no financial assistance from their libraries. The workshops were great and the conference was a success.

The Executive Council awarded a 2011 NYSLAA Conference Registration to Susan Flick, Geneva Public Library for her essay on what NYSLAA means to her. We hope to continue this award for the 2012 conference.

The Executive Council explored the option of accepting credit/debit cards for conference registration. The fees are high and we do not feel it is practical at this time.

We have implemented SKYPE for EC meetings. A few members have taken advantage of the hour we have set aside for your comments and concerns. We look forward to expanding this as more people join in.

Carrie Oberg Goetz has been instrumental in helping us with Survey Monkey for this year's conference evaluations. GO GREEN. Heidi Jensen was appointed NYSLAA Ambassador. CAP had a banner year with ten members receiving their Certificate of Achievement. We look forward to working with all committee members to ensure NYSLAA growth.

Entering my second term as NYSLAA President, I look forward to seeing new and familiar faces at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Niagara Falls.

Get involved, volunteer! NYSLAA is always looking for new members and people to step forward and serve on a committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally McMaster

**Vice President:**

As Vice President I attended every Executive Council meeting during 2011, I participated in discussions and helped where I was needed. I maintain the archives by filing minutes and other association documents.

It is my hope that by the end of 2012, when nominations are requested, someone new will step up and take on this role. I have not run for this office for the last two terms, but have accepted the appointment from the Executive Council to fill the vacancy. This office provides a great opportunity to bring fresh ideas to NYSLAA. Attending meetings, helping with the conference, and filing the archives are the specific duties, but working for this organization and with the rest of the Executive Council is very rewarding.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth V. Oberg

**Corresponding Secretary:**

I have had the pleasure of serving as your Corresponding Secretary for two terms. I look forward to serving you again over the next two years. Thank you for your support.

As Corresponding Secretary I notify the winners of the drawings for the NYSLAA, New Jersey, and Virginia conferences. To be considered for the NYSLAA Conference, submit an essay on what NYSLAA means to you. For the other conferences, simply check the box on your registration form to be eligible for the drawings. I am happy to announce the winners of the drawings for 2011 were: Susan Flick, Geneva Public Library for the NYSLAA conference and Sheila Hallahan, Horseheads Free Library for the Virginia conference. We did not have an attendee at the New Jersey conference. Congratulations to all the winners.

The Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service and the Ray Murray Award are given annually at our NYSLAA conference in June. This year's winners were Coleen Hopkins, Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo for the Craig Koste Award and Geoff Kirkpatrick, Director of Bethlehem Public

Library for the Ray Murray Award. Congratulations to both of these very deserving winners. If you know someone who is worthy of one of these awards please consider nominating them in 2012.

NYSLAA is your organization; please take an active part in making it flourish. It is important to let our voices be heard. We are the backbone of the library. Without us the library would not function. Let's make 2012 a wonderful year.

Respectively submitted,  
Donna Kuhner

**Recording Secretary:**

2011 has been another busy year and has gone so very quickly! I have continued to enjoy every minute of my involvement with NYSLAA. The office of Recording Secretary is multi-faceted and includes participating in the decision making for NYSLAA, editing the *Network Connection* and as the NYSLAA Election Chair on the odd years.

As always, I strive to record the Minutes of the organization professionally and with accuracy. A Member can view the Minutes from any meeting at any time by sending a written request. I can be reached by email at [hopkinsc@geneseo.edu](mailto:hopkinsc@geneseo.edu) or by US Postal Service at: SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library, 1 College Circle, Geneseo, NY 14454.

The *Network Connection* newsletter is an ongoing learning experience for me. I continually watch for new ideas and design to give it the professionalism we, as library assistants hope to project. Articles, announcements and photographs for events you are hosting or attending are always greatly appreciated.

This year was also the Recording Secretary's responsibility to serve as the NYSLAA Election Chair. It was a pleasure to actually hold an election, as all the offices since the 2005 Election have run unopposed. We had two members step forward who had never run for a NYSLAA Office before and one of them, Kathryn Riedener, is our new Treasurer.

I look forward to another year of service to this organization and wish to thank Donna Hanna, SUNY Geneseo, and Ruth Oberg, UB, for all their help in editing, publishing and distributing the *Network Connection*. Their assistance is invaluable. I would also like to thank Donna

Hanna for all her organizational skills and direction in co-chairing the NYSLAA Conference here in Geneseo in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,  
Coleen Hopkins

### **Membership Secretary:**

The 2011 membership year ended at 295 members. Years with our organization for members are: 16 twenty two-year, 8 twenty one-year; 5 twenty-year; 2 nineteen-year, 8 eighteen-year, 17 seventeen-year, 10 sixteen-year, 19 fifteen-year, 14 fourteen-year, 13 thirteen-year, 10 twelve-year, 12 eleven-year, 8 ten-year, 11 nine-year, 15 eight-year, 11 seven-year, 10 six-year, 23 five-year, 20 four-year, 24 three-year, 19 two-year and 26 of our members were new. Associate status is held by 40 of our members.

The regional distribution of members is:

- (1) Capital District Library Council—21 (20, 35, 23, 20, 19, 24)
  - (2) Central New York Library Resources Council—28 (31, 39, 53, 49, 49, 48)
  - (3) Long Island Library Resources Council—12 (23, 19, 26, 33, 42, 36)
  - (4) Metropolitan New York Library Council—31 (36, 62, 82, 84, 75, 54)
  - (5) Northern Country Library Council—15 (17, 15, 18, 20, 25, 29)
  - (6) Rochester Regional Library Council—79 (85, 88, 94, 91, 101, 128)
  - (7) South Central Research Library Council—56 (63, 63, 62, 66, 53, 77)
  - (8) Southeastern New York Library Resources Council—19 (27, 22, 25, 30, 24, 24)
  - (9) Western New York Library Resources Council—26 (27, 28, 34, 34, 35, 42)
- Out of state members—8 (10, 11, 11, 12, 13, 10)

Types of institutions represented by this year's membership are:

- College and University- 90 (103, 120, 131, 128, 130, 146)  
Junior College- 14 (18, 20, 26, 26, 19, 22)  
Law- 6 (9, 12, 26, 41, 40, 37)  
Medical- 3 (8, 8, 10, 11, 12, 10)  
Non-library- 18 (17, 13, 17, 20, 15, 20)  
Public- 151 (165, 187, 206, 197, 193, 213)  
School- 6 (7, 9, 10, 10, 11, 11)  
Special- 7 1 (11, 11, 6, 6, 16, 13)

*\*Numbers in parenthesis are 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005 totals.*

Unfortunately, our membership numbers are way down from 2010 losing 48 members. We will have to renew our efforts to boost membership.

The 2010 Directory was compiled and is in electronic format. The 2011 Membership Directory is in the works and should be ready for online viewing by the end of February. Printed copies will only be available upon request.

We had 8 people participate in the “NYSLAA Membership Year Buyback Program” buying back a total of 14 years of membership. This program enabled people to fill in gaps in their membership by purchasing missed years at the \$15 rate. It was a onetime offer for this year only.

I would also like to thank Coleen Hopkins for co-chairing the conference with me this past year. Also, thanks to the entire Milne Library staff for their efforts in helping make the 2010 conference a success.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Hanna

## **Treasurer**

The Treasurer's Annual Report is not intended for viewing on the web site. If you are a NYSLAA member you may request a copy from the NYSLAA Treasurer or check your paper copy of the newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn M. Burnett

## **Standing Committees**

### **Ambassador:**

I became the NYSLAA Ambassador in June of 2011. I was appointed this position at the NYSLAA Annual Conference. At the conference I had the opportunity to meet new people and introduce myself. Unfortunately, since that time, I have not done any Ambassador work. I hope 2012 will be a better year for this position.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Jensen

### **Conference Coordinator:**

The first half of 2011 was spent working on the conference planning that was started in 2010 with Donna Hanna and Coleen Hopkins and the committee from Milne Library at SUNY Geneseo. The 2011 conference was held on the SUNY Geneseo Campus. We enjoyed a unique evening (despite the heat) walking the town of Geneseo and stopping at 8 historic sites. We discovered interesting points as we enjoyed a different food sample at each location while listening to a historic talk given by each of our hosts. There was a good selection of workshops. The keynote address was given by author Kim Weitkamp from Virginia. She was a wonderful wrap up to the conference. The conference received good reviews on the evaluation forms and was rated a success. A large thank you goes to the local planning committee for all their commitment and hard work putting together another great NYSLAA conference.

In the second half of 2011 I began the planning for the 2012 conference to be held in Niagara Falls with a committee from the University at Buffalo and one member from the Nioga Library System. I arranged a site visit in August with the Executive Council. The conference will be held at the Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel.

The planning continues and we expect to have a great conference for all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth V. Oberg

### **Certificate of Achievement:**

The current Committee Members are Michele Matthews, Coordinator; Sheila Tshudy, Karen Ricketson, Debra Curry, Michele Giuffre, Melissa Cody, Heidi Jensen and Kathy Rossello. The Certificate of Achievement had a very productive year. Three new members were added to our committee, Melissa Cody, Heidi Jensen and Kathy Rossello.

Michele Giuffre and Michele Matthews presented two CAP workshops, one at the Capital Area Library Assistants workshop in and the other at Bethlehem Public Library. The Review Board, again presented at NYSLAA's Annual Conference in Geneseo.

Ten people earned their Certificates of Achievement this year and they are:  
Adrienne Birchler – Level IV Administration  
Melissa Cody – Level IV – Public Services  
Susan Costantini – Level IV – Public Services  
Susan Flick – Level IV – Public Services  
Michele Giuffre – Level IV – Automation  
Nicki Haupt – Level IV – Public Services  
Patricia Riger-Romano – Level IV – General Services  
Kathy Rossello – Level IV – Technical Services  
Karen Strang – Level IV – Administration  
Ling Zhang – Level II – Public Services

The CAP Review Board is reviewing packets at the present. We are also in the process of designing a Certificate of Achievement pin.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michele A. Matthews

**Public Relations:**

Arrangements were made with the office of NYS Assemblyman Jonathan Bing to have Thursday, April 14, 2011 proclaimed New York State Library Assistants' Day. The proclamation was received in late May from Albany and was displayed at the NYSLAA Conference in Geneseo the following month.

A message was sent on the NYSLAA list-serv reminding NYSLAA members about Library Assistants' Day. There were several responses describing how different libraries celebrated the day. Activities ranged from luncheons, munchies, gifts of appreciation to workshop programs.

The *Associates* Magazine published a large advertisement for the NYSLAA 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in their Spring issue.

Heidi Jensen and Ruth Mason were both spotlighted in issues during the year.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual NYSLAA Conference was held at SUNY Geneseo. Coleen Hopkins was awarded the Craig Koste Award and the Ray Murray Award went to Geoff Kirkpatrick, Director of the Bethlehem Public Library. Awards were also presented for 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of NYSLAA membership.

Regional Representatives were asked to present a brief report of events from their area at the Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth A. Mason

End of Annual Reports



**New Member Contest...**

**Win registration to the conference in Niagara Fall  
or free membership for 2013-2014!**



NYSLAA's membership numbers have been dropping and the Executive Council has been discussing how to increase them. We recently announced a membership contest on nyslaa-l and with input from members who were able to take part in the discussion, we have decided to run the contest with two prize levels. The guidelines state, "Whichever member brings in the most new members from Feb 1 to May 31, 2012 wins a free conference registration (\$115) for the 2012 NYSLAA conference in Niagara Falls, NY. The second prize would be a free NYLSAA membership for 2 years, 2013-2014, for the person who brings in the second most new members."

Also, the Executive Council and all NYSLAA Committee Members are not eligible to win. So bring in those new members and be sure they put your name on the Membership Application so we can give the proper credit to award the prizes.



## Craig Koste and Ray Murray Awards

### Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service

In 1992, the Executive Council created "The NYSLAA Award for Outstanding Service" specifically for New York State library assistants who are members of NYSLAA. In 1997, its name was changed to honor Craig Koste, a library assistant who passed away in 1995 and 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 will be given to the library of the winner for collection development.

### Ray Murray Award

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. The Ray Murray Award is given to librarians, library directors, trustees, board members, and others who have contributed to the recognition and/or professional growth of library assistants.

#### To nominate:

Send a letter of nomination for either award to:  
Sally McMaster  
University of Rochester  
Rush Rhees Library  
775 Library Road  
Rochester, NY 14627  
FAX: (585) 273-5309  
smcmaster@library.rochester.edu

Supporting letters and documentation are encouraged along with the nomination letter for either award. For the Craig Koste Award, please include the name of the nominee's supervisor for notification. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Sally. Awards will be presented at the 2012 Conference in Niagara Falls. Find the nominating form at nyslaa.org.

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## NYSLAA Conference Contest

The Executive Council will present one NYSLAA member an award allowing them to attend the 2012 conference for free! The recipient will receive full conference registration and one night's lodging. (Tours, mixer and apparel are on your own.)

To qualify you must be a current NYSLAA member and will NOT be receiving any funding from your library to attend the conference. Write a statement of 150 to 300 words on "What NYSLAA means to me and why I would love to attend this year's conference in Niagara Falls, NY."

Please send your essay to:

Sally McMaster  
NYSLAA President  
University of Rochester Library  
755 Library Rd  
Rochester, NY 14627  
smcmaster@library.rochester.edu



Deadline date for entering to be eligible for this year's conference is April 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Photographs from the 2011 Conference at Geneseo



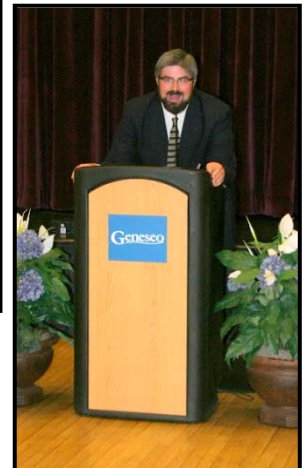
Visiting with old and new friends.



Good food, good conversation



Craig Koste Award  
Coleen Hopkins,  
SUNY Geneseo



Ray Murray Award  
Geoff Kirkpatrick,  
Bethlehem Public Library



**This could be you...contact Michele Matthews or any of the CAP Review Board members and find out how**