

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

April-June 2014 Vol.26, no.2

Library Assistants: *Racing into the Future*

Michele Matthews, Conference Co-Chair

The 36th Annual Conference is almost upon us. We are very excited to welcome everyone to the Northeastern part of New York State. The committee has a wonderful conference planned.

All of the workshops are in place and we have two great tours planned for you on Wednesday afternoon.

There will be a tour of the historic **Roosevelt Baths & Spa, by Saratoga's Water Witch, Amie' Millet**. For those NYSLAA members who would like to partake in mineral bath the spa is offering us a reduced price of \$20.00. (www.RooseveltbathsAndSpa.com)

Horsin' Around Trolley Tours will take NYSLAA attendees on a 90 minute tour of the different sites of Saratoga Springs. See the historic Saratoga Race Track and many other sites. (www.horsintours.com)

The Wednesday night mixer is being held right across the street from the Holiday Inn at **The Inn at Saratoga**. (www.theinnatsaratoga.com)

This will be a great time to get reacquainted with old friends and meet new ones.

The **National Museum of Racing** (www.racingmuseum.org) is the location for our Thursday night dinner. There will be two seating's for dinner, so while one group enjoys dinner the other will be able to explore the museum and visit the gift shop.

There are many historic sites to see during your free time. You may want to visit the Saratoga Battlefield, Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Automobile Museum, Canfield Casino and Congress Park just to name a few. If you enjoy shopping there are many unique shops on Broadway and several malls close by.

Please remember to bring items for the Shelters of Saratoga, there is so much that they need. (www.sheltersofsaratoga.com/SOS_Shelter-Needs.asp) We will also be collecting items for the local animal shelter.

See you soon!



INSIDE: CAP...NYSLAA Presentation...Membership...Scholarship...Essay Contest...

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Ambassador

(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.

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



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Certificate of Achievement 2013 Annual Report

This report was inadvertently omitted from the January Network Connection.

Current Committee Members are Michele Matthews, Coordinator, Carrie Goetz, Michele Giuffre, Kathy Rossello, Melissa Tidd and Sheila Tshudy. Michele Giuffre, Melissa Tidd and Sheila Tshudy have all agreed to serve on the committee through 2016.

Sixteen people were awarded their certificate at the 2013 conference. They are:

Marie Arnstein	Level IV-Public Services
Kimberley Barbato	Level III-Public Service
Ashley Baroch	Level IV-Public Services
Terry Berl	Level IV-Technical Services
Nancy Davis	Level IV-Administration/Management
Evanna DiSalvo	Level IV-Public Services
Wendy Freier	Level IV-Automation
Coleen Hopkins	Level IV-Public Services
Lisa Pritchard	Level IV-Public Services
Anna Reed	Level IV-Automation
Annette Shaughnessy	Level IV-Automation
Louise Stamp	Level IV-Public Services
Eileen Stelljes	Level IV-General Library Services
Martha Sullivan	Level IV-Administration/Management
Shirley West	Level IV-Public Services
Ling Zhang	Level III-Public Services

Michele Matthews traveled to SUNY Plattsburg and SUNY Oneonta to present a Certificate of Achievement workshop for library assistants. Sheila Tshudy is slated to do a workshop with Judith Andrew at the 7th Annual Library Assistants Day, April 2, 2014, in Syracuse.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Matthews

The 2014 Conference Committee
is carrying on the ever popular lottery tree tradition. Bring a
New York State Lottery scratch off ticket to put on the tree.
More tickets mean more fun and more potential for a big win!
Ticket donors will receive one raffle ticket for each dollar
value of the lottery ticket they donated, up to \$5.

NYSLAA Presentation at Regional Conference

Judith Andrew

On April 2nd, one of the workshops offered at the 7th annual Library Assistants Day Conference in Syracuse, NY was about the history and purpose of NYSLAA and our Certificate of Achievement Program (CAP). This conference is co-sponsored by the five, western-most councils of the New York 3Rs Association: Central New York Library Resources Council, Northern New York Library Network, South Central Regional Library Council, Rochester Regional Library Council, and the Western New York Library Resources Council. Thirty people attended the workshop.

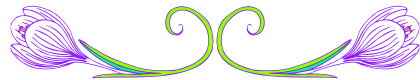
The presenters for the workshop were Judith Andrew of Ithaca College Library, co-founder and past president of NYSLAA, and Sheila Tshudy of Corning Museum of Glass Rakow Library, NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement Review Board member.

Judith talked about the rich history of our association, beginning with the first conference in 1978. After much discussion at conferences of the possibility of creating a state-wide library

assistants association, there were two years of development meetings from 1986-1988 which brought about NYSLAA at the 1988 conference. Judith also mentioned various milestones in our association's growth such as the creation of scholarships, the newsletter, the listserv, and the Certificate of Achievement Program.

Sheila then presented information about CAP and its development and how it has served as a template for the creation of other library assistant certification programs across the country. She also explained the basics of the certificate application and the various types of documentation and confirmation needed to represent the applicant's accomplishments.

Throughout the workshop, our NYSLAA web site was projected on a screen for all to see, and we both referred to its various sections often. The session ended with a question and answer period. We're happy to report that most of the CAP and NYSLAA brochures we provided were snatched up by people eager to learn more.



Librarians and Library Assistants Working Together in Public Libraries

Michele Giuffre and Kathy Rossello

Geoff Kirkpatrick, Director at Bethlehem Public Library and Adjunct Instructor at the University at Albany, invited two NYSLAA members to speak to his Public Libraries graduate class on April 2, 2014. Michele Giuffre, Bethlehem Public Library and Kathy Rossello, East Greenbush Community Library addressed the topic "The relationship between librarians and library assistants in public libraries."

We began by telling the students a little about ourselves—our backgrounds and our history in libraries. We went on to describe our current work environments including the relationships in our organizations.

The program continued with a question and answer segment. Several of the students are currently working in libraries as library assistants and it was interesting to hear their stories as well.

We pointed out that all library staff are "professionals" and should be treated accordingly. With mutual respect and professionalism in place, an organization will run smoothly and efficiently.

We talked about NYSLAA, its mission, and the upcoming conference as well.

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2014 is at 247 and 34 members are new.

If you move, please be sure to alert me that you have a new address. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your membership mailings.

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 email me at hanna@geneseo.edu.



Welcome New Members!

Troy Belle	New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research and Black Culture
Chavonne Brown	New York Public Library, Library Service Center
Amber Certain	New York Public Library, Columbus Library
Darren Chase	Bronx Community College, Bronx Community College Library
Tunisia Craig	New York Public Library, Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library
Linda Garraud	New York Public Library, Public Programs
Lauren Grygiel	Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Library
Kathleen Handy	Saratoga Springs Public Library
Peggy Huckel	Saratoga Springs Public Library
Donna Jensen	Guernsey Memorial Library
Jeannine Jeter	Saratoga Springs Public Library
Iftexharul Kabir	New York Public Library, Bronx Library Center
Trisha Kemp	Geneva Public Library
Jason Kibby	College of Saint Rose, Neil Hellman Library
Holley Laudico	SUNY Brockport, Drake Memorial Library
Kristi Mangine	Colgate University, Cooley Science Library
Denise Mena	New York Public Library, New Amsterdam Branch
Lulu Paolin	New City Library
Shanda Peterson	New York Public Library, Science Industry Business Library
Jhenelle Robinson	New York Public Library, Van Nest
Norene Saccone	Baldwinsville Public Library
Martha Sanchez	Bronx Community College Library
Donnalee Simon	New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
Susan Sprecher	Wadsworth Library
Eugenie Springer	New York Public Library, Book-Ops
Francis Taranto	Guernsey Memorial Library
Angela Taylor	Guernsey Memorial Library
Corine VanAlthuis	Guernsey Memorial Library
Ray Watts	University of Rochester, Edward G. Miner Library

Scholarships

Coleen Hopkins



NYSLAA offers two annual scholarships, the Degree and the Continuing Education Scholarship. This year we had one application and we are pleased to award a Degree Scholarship for \$350.00 to Melissa Tidd, Goshen Public Library.

The Executive Council encourages all NYSLAA members to take advantage of the financial benefits our organization offers. Besides these two scholarship opportunities, there is an Enrichment Fund for workshops or conferences.

Scholarship and Enrichment Fund information and applications can be found on our website, nyslaa.org.



Standing Committee Chairs

Coleen Hopkins

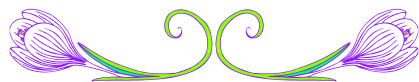
The Executive Council is pleased to announce that three open Committee Chairs have been filled.

Nancy Davis, University of Albany has stepped forward to accept the chairs of both the Public Relations and the Community Outreach Committees. She has already been very busy on NYSLAA's behalf. Nancy is also serving on this year's Conference Committee.

Sheila Tshudy, Corning Museum of Glass has accepted the position as Donations Chair. Sheila has served NYSLAA for several years on the Certificate of Achievement Review Board and chaired the 2010 Conference Committee.

Thank you, Nancy and Sheila!

NYSLAA depends on its members to come forward and serve our organization, please consider getting involved. Library Assistants need to work together and stand up for ourselves...be a part of the growth of our profession!



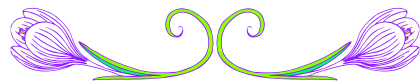
Essay Contest

Coleen Hopkins

This year, the Executive Council voted to apply the unused Continuing Education Scholarship funds towards an additional essay contest winner. Winners of the essay contest receive conference registration and a one night hotel stay. We were very excited to receive five extremely well-written essays this year.

What a difficult task we had in choosing just two winners!

The two finalists are Chris Shaunessey, Liverpool Public Library and Wendy Freier, Geneva Public Library. Congratulations! We look forward to seeing you in Saratoga Springs!



One Last Word on the 2014 Conference

Nancy Davis

Hello Fellow NYSLAAians! I really hope you are planning to attend the conference this year in beautiful Saratoga Springs. It has been such an honor and pleasure working with the committee on this conference. It is so rewarding and exciting, knowing all we have planned for you.

Just a reminder, we will continue accepting baskets to raffle at the conference, up until and including registration day. If you and your co-workers are interested in donating a basket, it would be helpful if you could let Michele Matthews (prendm@rpi.edu) know what it will contain. And thank you to everyone that has or will donate! It helps so much to enhance the

excitement at our conferences. We have some extra-special selections including several gift cards and a Kindle Fire. If you are like me, the homemade items are a favorite, the thoughtfulness just never seems to end. And don't forget your lottery tickets!

As Michele Matthews has already mentioned, the Community Outreach Committee will be accepting donations for the Shelters of Saratoga and the Saratoga County Animal Shelter. I hope you will consider a donation to either or both charities.

Looking forward to seeing you all in June!

