

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

July-Sept. 2019 Vol.31, No.3

Library Assistants: Learning in the Heart of the Finger Lakes

Wendy Freier, Conference Committee Chair

Thank you all who attended the conference this year! It was a pleasure to welcome you here and share our lake with you. I hope that most of you were able to get here Wednesday to enjoy the sunny weather.

The conference started with three tours. I attended the Seneca White Deer/Depot Tour and we saw a variety of animals, including many white-tailed deer and even quite a few of the white deer! I was afraid we would not see many. I was proven wrong. Our tour guide, Jim, did a great job being both informative and funny. I went



on the Smith Opera House tour before the conference started, so I knew that our attendees would have a great time. The tour was wonderful. I learned a lot about the history of our community and the Smith. If only I could have gone on a winery tour. Oh wait — I live here! I can go anytime I want.

The mixer held at The Ventosa Winery was a big hit. The golf cart tour of the vineyard was short but exciting. She sure did drive fast! Although not as fast as the pace car at Watkins Glen. The food was delicious,

the view was gorgeous, and the weather was beautiful. Thursday night dinner at the Belhurst afforded us all the opportunity to enjoy more beautiful scenery. The rain even stopped long enough for us to walk the historic grounds.

A great big thank you to all our workshop presenters, some of whom epitomized the phrase “grace under fire” as they dealt with wonky internet issues. I learned something in each of the workshops I attended, and I hope that you all did as well. Who knew there was a Chasing the Color Purple Trail in the Finger Lakes? Now that I know, I am seriously considering taking that tour.

We finished off the weekend with our keynote speaker, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, portrayed by Eleanor Stearns. I had heard that she gave a great performance and now I have heard her for myself. It was not just informative; it was also emotional. I was moved by her story. I laughed and yes, almost cried. Our luncheon ended with the awards. We had many members get their 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25-year membership pins. We also celebrated for the first time 30-year members! Congratulations to all. We had five people receive their Certificate of Achievement. Two of them from the conference committee and two from the executive council! Congratulations to all five! The Craig Koste award winner was **Carrie Goetz**. Great job, Carrie! I know Ruth is proud.

INSIDE: Regional Reports...Community Outreach...Memberships...NYSLAA Elections/Officer duties...Save the Date...Certificate of Achievement...Scholarships... Award Winner

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Standing Committees

Certificate of Achievement

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**Community Outreach Chair
(vacant)**

**Donations Chair
(vacant)**

**Public Relations Chair
(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.



Search for: **New York State Library Assistants’ Association**

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Erma Nieves, Bronx Community College
Ruth V. Oberg, Unaffiliated

Next publication date: *November 15, 2019*
Submission deadline: *October 31, 2019*

Regional Reports

Written regional reports are requested from the regional representatives prior to the conference. We also invite the representatives to present a brief summary at the conference.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC)

Wendy Freier

Since June of last year we have hosted two Monday Pizza Night Workshops.

Cultivating Empathy in Reference Services

Mental health issues continue to dominate national conversations, including those in community services and education. This program will explore what role empathy should have in reference services. Empathy is defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Questions that were explored:

- What activities can librarians undertake to develop their empathy skills?
- How can librarians express empathy while also maintaining appropriate boundaries with their patrons?
- What does empathy look like in virtual reference services?
- In what ways are librarians already practicing empathy, and what can we do to grow and cultivate those practices?

Presenter: Ilka Datig is the Head of Instruction & Outreach at Nazareth College, Lorette Wilmot Library.

Presenter: Miranda Stefano currently is the librarian at Hillside Children's Center Andrews Trahey School, a residential school for students with varying levels of trauma and mental health diagnoses.

Census 2020 program to be held at Macedon Public Library

The 2020 census is right around the corner. Did you know that this census will focus on using the internet to increase response rate? Find out what libraries can do to help bridge the digital divide, identify and reach out to "hard to count" groups, and more.

Presenter: Elizabeth A. Burakowski, Deputy Director of Upstate Revitalization, NYS Homes & Community Renewal.

We hosted one half-day workshop.

Libraries Preparedness & Community Resiliency Toolkit May 29, 2019

Incidents of severe weather, floods, fires, and other natural and human-caused disasters have underscored the vital role that libraries can play in helping their communities cope with and recover from crises. Increasingly, members of the community and public officials are looking to libraries to provide services and support during these critical times. Even when libraries are not directly impacted by disaster, they are an important resource for resiliency and recovery as the community grapples with immediate threats and disasters. But is the staff of the average library prepared to assume these responsibilities?

Designed in collaboration with the state libraries of New Jersey and Arizona, this workshop will help librarians assume this new role with confidence. Workshop attendees will:

- learn how crises unfold and the valuable roles librarians play in helping communities manage disasters.
- step through the development of a disaster recovery plan for their facility.
- learn when and how to use various checklists and other tools to prepare for future disasters.
- learn how to budget for a disaster so that resources will be available to assist in community recovery.
- receive help in creating strategies for dealing with the operational challenges that arise during and shortly after a disaster.
- learn how to work with local emergency management explaining the role libraries have in promoting community resiliency.

Attendees were given access to online resources, checklists, plans, and other resources that allowed them to put into practice the principles and concepts covered in the workshop

Presenter: Don Byrne, a nationally-recognized expert on risk management, community resiliency, and business agility, developed this program specifically for librarians.

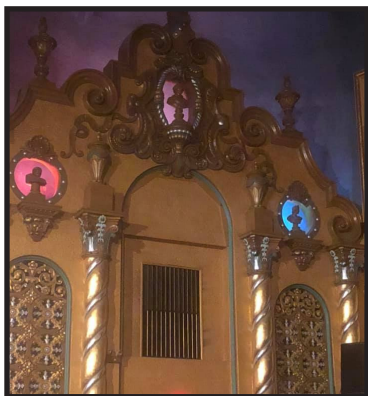
(RRLC report continued)

We have continued our Ronald McDonald House Dinners. Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, under **Donna Hanna's** direction, we were able make four dinners for families staying at the House:

- August 17, 2018 - Chicken BBQ Dinner
- November 17, 2018 - Ham Dinner
- December 28, 2018 - Chicken Parmigiana Dinner
- February 25, 2019 - Meatloaf Dinner



Thursday dinner at Belhurst Castle



Interior of Smith Opera House



White deer seen on our tour



Eleanor Stearns performing as Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Central New York Libraries Resources Council (CLRC)

Anna Dobkowski

CLRC offers two grants to our member libraries and any library staff member. These are reviewed and awarded quarterly.

Professional Development Awards are given to any library staff of a member library for attendance at a conference or workshop or to take a class that will enhance your job duties. These are reimbursement grants.

New Initiatives Grant is given to member libraries for an innovative program.

CLRC members libraries are any public, school, academic or specialty library in Onondaga, Madison, Oneida and Herkimer counties.

Grant deadlines are March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31. Information can be found on our website www.CLRC.org under Services/Awards.

CLRC is now accepting nominations for the 2019 **Library of the Year** and **Library All-Star of the Year**. Nominations are open to any academic, public, school or specialty library in Onondaga, Madison, Oneida and Herkimer counties. Winners are chosen by an out of region panel and will be announced at the CLRC Annual Meeting at the Mohawk Valley Community College Rome Campus on October 10. Nomination forms may be found on our website at www.CLRC.org under Services/Awards.

- CLRC regional Library Assistants — Watch for an upcoming survey on topics of interest and upcoming meetings.

- CLRC will not be hosting the NYS Libraries exhibit booth at the New York State Fair this August 2019, due to an increase in booth rental fees. We will instead exhibit at the NYS Winter Fair in February. Watch for details and volunteer sign-ups.

- CLRC offers a wide range of free continuing education and professional development events. Visit www.CLRC.org under Events for upcoming classes and workshops.

Western New York Library Assistants (WNYLA)

Pat Klaybor, (WNYLRC), Liaison to WNYLA Committee

Emily McDonald, (Buffalo & Erie County Public Library), Chair of WNYLA Committee

The Western New York Library Assistants Committee (WNYLA) presents workshops and networking events with the support of the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) and is a standing committee of that council. Even though membership on the committee is only open to support staff, all our events are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

WNYLA usually holds one or two networking events that we call GTKY (Getting to Know You) a year and usually a workshop geared toward the interests of library assistants, staff and clerks. We do sometimes have a difficult time holding events and workshops, since sometimes our numbers sometimes dwindle down to three or four members, besides me, but we do the best we can.

Our networking events for 2018 included a combined tour of Buffalo City Hall and the new Robert H. Jackson US Courthouse. This took place on May 22, 2018 and included a tour of the library there. We had 18 attendees.

Our second GTKY took place at the Buffalo History Museum on October 9, 2018 and included a tour of the library at the History Museum. We had 16 attendees.

Our activities for 2019 include a combined tour of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Richardson Olmstead Complex. This GTKY was June 25, 2019. The Albright Knox Art Gallery had been on our to do list for a long time and this was the last opportunity for quite a while, as the gallery will be closing soon for two years due to a major renovation. The Richardson-Olmstead Complex has recently been overhauled and renovated after many years sitting idle. The tour is a hard-hat tour of the unimproved grounds. Our committee is looking forward to these tours.

This year, our committee member numbers have risen to eight members, which means we can plan more activities for next year. We are very excited and ready to dig in and get to work.

LASSA (NYC)

Anthony Wyche

Nancy Rettagliata was appointed as our new Treasurer. All committee members were encouraged to sign up for METRO's MeetUp group. This was a new mechanism that METRO required for all special interest groups to use when planning all meetings. METRO asked that three meetings be held at their headquarters at 599 11th Avenue, New York City.

Our annual "food drive" was held in November 2018 (in conjunction with Union Grove Church).

Our annual "toy drive" was held in December 2018 (in conjunction with "Sheltering Arms Shelter").

We collected \$75.00 for the "Feeding Families at the Shelter" organization (November 2018).

On Thursday, April 11, 2019, we held our 21st Annual Library Assistants' Day Celebration at SUNY Downstate's Medical Library. Our workshops included "Financial Planning," "Self Care," and "Retirement/Social Security." We had a dynamic keynote speaker, NYSLAA member **Louise Stamp**, who provided useful and insightful information pertaining to our theme, "Library Support Staff Equals Strong Foundation." Kudos to our LASSA group members **Cheryl Marriott** and **Sarah Davis**, who served as instructors for two of our workshops.

LASSA (NYC) Committee Titles

Valentin Colon, Convener

Cheryl Marriott, Convener

Sarah Davis, Technology Coordinator

Mildred Graham, Corporate/Vendor Donations

Maxine Grandison, MAL

Deborah Green, MAL

Rita Gregory, Founding Member/MAL

Nina Manning, Outreach Coordinator

Christine Morrison, MAL

Arlene Quammie, Secretary

Nancy Rettagliata, Treasurer

Angela Reyes, MAL

Pamela Van Duyne, Corporate/Vendor Donations

Anthony Wyche, Meetings and Events Coordinator

MAL = Member-At-Large

End of Submitted Regional Reports

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2019 is at 261 of which 62 members are new.

Renewal reminders will be sent out in early August. As a reminder, membership cards/letters are being mailed electronically to anyone who has an email.

If you move or your email has changed, please be sure to alert me of these changes. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your membership correspondence.

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 via hanna@geneseo.edu.

Welcome!

New Members!

Jill Anderson	Queens Borough Public Library, Central Library
Melanie Castine	SUNY College at Oneonta, James M. Milne Library
Charity DeCaro	Buffalo State College, E.H. Butler Library
Cyndi Fordham	Wood Library Association

We Need You!

NYSLAA is looking for a webmaster. Our web page needs to be updated and we were hoping one of our members would help us out.

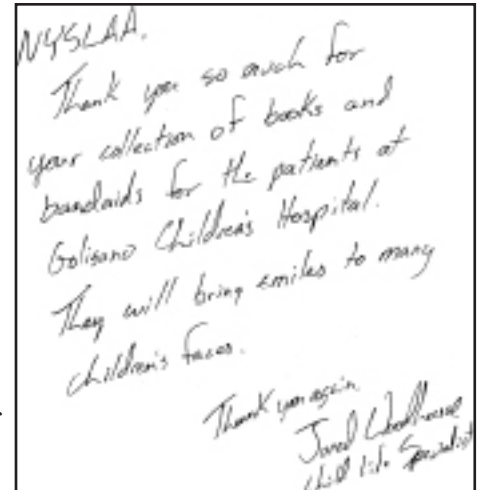
If you are interested please, contact me at prendm@rpi.edu.

Michele A. Matthews

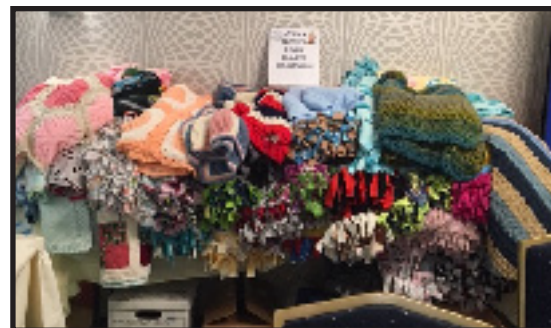
Community Outreach

Wendy Freier, Trisha Kemp and Debbie Elliotto

There were so many community donations from our conference attendees. Thank you to everyone who donated. We brought four boxes to the Center of Concern along with several bags of items. There were two large boxes and one medium size box of books for Golisano Children's Hospital. We also were able to give a large drawstring bag full of Band-Aids. They were very thankful. We donated a trunkful of things for both dogs and cats to the Beverly Animal Shelter. There was a variety of blankets, food, litter, etc. They were touched and very appreciative of our donation. I just heard from our local Project Linus representative. We collected a total of 65 blankets! Great job again this year!



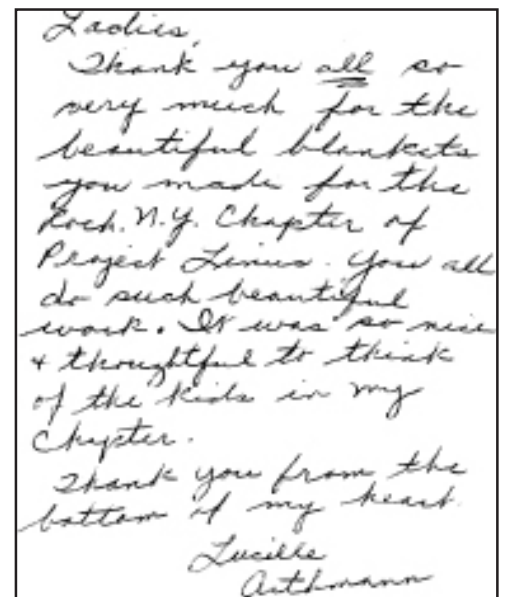
NYSLAA,
Thank you so much for your collection of books and band-aids for the patients at Golisano Children's Hospital. They will bring smiles to many children's faces.
Thank you again,
Janel Woodhouse
Child Life Specialist



Project Linus blankets made by our members



Project Linus blankets packed and ready to be delivered



Ladies,
Thank you all so very much for the beautiful blankets you made for the Rock. N.Y. Chapter of Project Linus. You all do such beautiful work. It was so nice + thoughtful to think of the kids in my Chapter.
Thank you from the bottom of my heart.
Lucille
Authmann

NYSLAA Executive Council Officer Duties (according to the Bylaws)

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 Executive Council; 6) collect written annual reports from all officers, committee chairs, the NYSLAA Ambassador, and the Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator for publication in the first quarter newsletter; 7) be the liaison with the Community Outreach Committee; 8) perform other duties as may be required.

The Vice President shall: 1) perform the duties of the President in the President's absence; 2) serve as the Association's archivist; 3) be the liaison with the Certificate of Achievement Review Board; 4) perform other such duties as may be required.

The Recording Secretary shall: 1) keep and distribute the official record of all general sessions of the Association and of the meetings of the Executive Council; 2) chair the Newsletter Committee; 3) chair the Election Committee in odd years; 4) perform such other duties as may be required.

The Membership Secretary shall: 1) receive and process membership applications; 2) maintain a list of correct names and addresses of active (both regular and associate) members of the Association; 3) supply the Election Committee with a current list of regular members; 4) chair the Membership Committee; 5) 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; 2) be the liaison with the Public Relations Committee; 3) chair the Election Committee in even years; 4) perform such 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) Prepare a written annual statement of accounts for the Association; 3) Meet annually with a Certified Public Accountant for tax preparation; 4) Perform such other duties as may be required.

The Conference Coordinator shall: 1) work closely with the local conference host to prepare the annual conference; 2) manage the budget for conference income and expenses; 3) sign contracts with all conference venues; 4) set registration cost based on estimated expenses; 5) prepare conference brochure, program, and any other conference print materials; 6) arrange for conference apparel and other NYSLAA items to sell; 7) be the liaison with the Donations Committee; 8) perform other duties as may be required.

Section C: Each Executive Council member shall submit a written report to the President in January.

NYSLAA Elections

Tammy Southard

2019 Elections Chair

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for officers. This October we will hold elections for President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. NYSLAA officers serve a two-year term and shall submit a written annual report to the President in January.

Nominations need to be submitted by September 30, 2019. Each nomination needs to contain the signed acceptance form, which is with the nomination form located on our website, nyslaa.org, and a biography has to be included in the ballot. You can also find the duties for each of these positions in the bylaws on the NYSLAA website.

Please send your nominations to:

Tammy Southard

NYSLAA Recording Secretary

James M. Milne Library

Ravine Parkway

SUNY College at Oneonta

Oneonta, NY 13820

or submit electronically to:

Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu

or fax to 607-436-3081

Certificate of Achievement

Michele A. Matthews

At this year's conference we awarded three Certificate of Achievement certificates.

Debbie Elliott, Geneva Public Library,
Level IV in Technical Services

Carrie Goetz, University at Buffalo,
Level IV in Automation

Trisha Kemp, Geneva Public Library,
Level IV in General Library Services

Nora Renda, University at Buffalo,
Level IV in Technical Services

Barbara Ruppel, Niagara County Community College,
Level IV in Administrative/Management

If you are interested in your certificate, please contact me at prendm@rpi.edu.



Debbie, Carrie, Trisha, Nora, Barbara



Tour group at Torrey Ridge Winery

Scholarships

There were no applicants this year for the NYSLAA Continuing Education or Degree Programs Scholarships.

Adrienne Birchler, Retired from Folsom Library, Renesselear Polytechnic Institute, was awarded the Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship this year.

In her letter to the Executive Council on "What NYSLAA means to me and why I want to attend the Annual conference," she wrote, "As a member, NYSLAA is important to me because of what it does to support library assistants. It helps further library assistants' growth; keeps them informed of current library trends, issues, and opportunities; and informs members of what other groups in New York State are doing. Part of this is accomplished through NYSLAA's Facebook presence, an impressive quarterly newsletter, and a well-maintained website." In closing, she wrote, "I am applying for the 2019 Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship because I would be honored to attend another inspiring annual conference. The workshops and speakers have always been impressive and I have gotten a lot of satisfaction out of attending them." Well congratulations, Adrienne! You are the recipient of the 2019 Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship... I know you had a great time at this year's conference!

Cassey Cornish from the Cayuga Medical Center was the recipient of the first SCRLC scholarship for the conference this year.



Ruth, Nora, Carrie, Donna, Michele, Adrienne, Tammy

Craig Koste 2019 Award Winner

The Executive Council is pleased to announce the Craig Koste winner.

Carrie Goetz, Libraries Annex Assistant The Libraries Annex, University at Buffalo

Ruth Oberg, Conference Coordinator, nominated Carrie and stated, “Carrie joined NYSLAA in 2007 and started getting involved. She has attended every conference since 2007. Carrie has served as a volunteer at every conference. Carrie joined the Certificate of Achievement Review Board and jumped into action. The Review Board used to mail packets to the members for review and discussion. Carrie set up a Google Drive account and taught the Board how to upload documents so everyone could look at them at the same time and leave comments for discussion. This was a great advancement in the way the Review Board conducts business and really streamlined the entire process. Carrie has also helped NYSLAA move into the electronic age in other huge ways. During the workshops she has helped out with tech issues many times. We have had speakers who have had issues hooking up their laptop to our projectors or just getting their presentations to run and Carrie has been a great trouble-shooter.”

Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary, writes, “In 2014 Carrie was elected to the position of Treasurer and has done an outstanding job of maintaining NYSLAA’s books. Having Carrie as Treasurer for over 5 years has been stabilizing for our organization. She also works well with NYSLAA’s accountant. Carrie’s technical savvy has make it possible for members to pay for membership and conferences online which seems to be a growing preference for institutions and members over the last few years. She has helped us go from paper evaluations at the conferences to online which seems to make the process much more streamlined and effective.”

Christopher Keough, Manager, Libraries Annex, writes, “After several years of processing Interlibrary Loan at the Annex, Carrie acquired a new accountability of adding bibliographic records to the cataloging module. This was in part due to the large influx of bound serials that have been sent to our Library to be added to the Empire Shared Collection Program. The fact that this task was delegated to Carrie is a credit to the confidence the administration has in her attention to detail and her understanding of the importance of this process to the discoverability of these materials. Carrie’s dedication and detail oriented approach to both the new and old tasks allow the Libraries Annex to be successful in its mission. In addition to the above, Carrie was tasked with becoming a member of the Alma Fulfillment and Resource Sharing Team. This group is responsible for improving the access to all library materials by configuring Alma to meet the needs of library users. She is a rock of institutional knowledge and is one of the most reliable employees a manager can have. I look forward to working with her as we encounter the challenges of the migration to Alma as well as the expansion of the Libraries Annex.”



Carrie Goetz accepting the Craig Koste Award from Conference Coordinator (and Carrie’s Mom) Ruth Oberg. Congratulations, Carrie! Well deserved!



Wednesday dinner at Ventosa

No nominations were made this year for the Ray Murray Award. Please consider nominating someone for next year’s conference.

Save the Date!

June 10-12, 2020

SUNY Cobleskill

Ruth V. Oberg,
Conference Coordinator

The planning is under way for the 2020 conference. The host committee is working hard to pull together an interesting slate of workshops and exciting after hour events. Mark your calendars and put in your travel requests when appropriate.



This year will be back to our roots as we will host most meals and workshops on campus. We will be staying in air-conditioned dorms that will hold two to four people. Everyone will have their own bedroom and will share with their suite mates the kitchen, living room and one to two bathrooms depending on the room set-up. The kitchen has a sink and a full size refrigerator, microwave and oven. Beds will be twin size. You will have the option of bringing your own linen or paying \$22 to rent bed linens for your stay. You will also need to bring all toiletries and towel and washcloth. There will be no TVs in the rooms. Bring your tablets as the wifi is good. The dorms are across the road from the buildings for the meals and workshops, maybe a 20-minute hike. There will be parking available at the dorms and near the workshops. More information as we have it.



We are working on tours of The Iroquois Indian Museum and Howe Caverns. SUNY Cobleskill has strong programs in animal science and plant science,



so we hope to have a tour of the campus including their greenhouses and barns.

The Wednesday dinner/mixer will be on campus and outside, weather permitting. The Thursday dinner will be in town at a restaurant which is under renovations now and will be new and shiny for us when we arrive.

I am going to revamp our schedule this year for Thursday as you won't have time to get to town to have lunch on your own. We will have a shorter lunch time with a boxed lunch and the workshops will end earlier so you will have time to roam the shops in town before dinner.

Please watch the upcoming newsletters, Facebook and the NYSLAA listserv for more details as we get everything fine-tuned for you. We expect to pull together another great conference. See you next year!



Beautiful mountains and countryside surrounds Cobleskill, NY