

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Apr. - June 2020 Vol.32, No.2

2020 NYSLAA Conference Canceled

Wendy Freier

Conference Coordinator

As the Covid-19 situation has continued, we have deemed it prudent to cancel this year's NYSLAA conference.

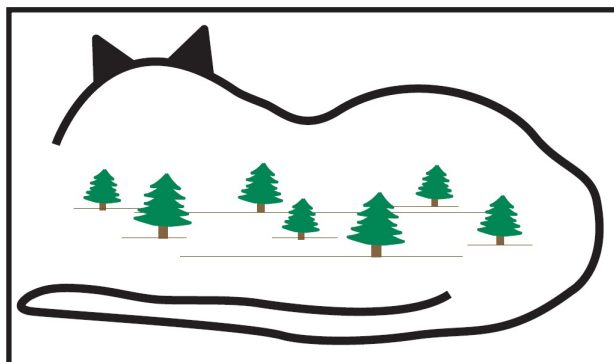
We are hoping that we can reschedule the same conference venues and speakers for 2021. The 2021 conference date is temporarily set for June 9-11, 2021 at SUNY Cobleskill. Everything is tentative until we get confirmations. As we firm up the details, they will be posted to the listserv, Facebook, the NYSLAA website, and distributed via the newsletter. Keep your eyes open for more details as they become available.

Please save the conference brochure that was mailed to you this year. We are hoping that

much of it will stay the same and we can send out an updated page for the brochure next year. We **will not** be reprinting or mailing the entire brochure.

Also, as a reminder, if you have not yet paid this year's membership fee please try to pay using Paypal. This will make it easier for Donna Hanna as she is also working from home and has limited access to her work mail. Paypal is on the NYSLAA webpage and use the link [Member Tools](#). Thank you.

I hope that you are all doing well and staying healthy and safe.



INSIDE: Membership... Scholarships... Storytime...

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2020

Michele Matthews

President
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
(518) 276-8330
prendm@rpi.edu

Kathy Rosello

Vice-President
East Greenbush Community Library
(518) 477-7476 ext. 108
rossek@eglibrary.org

Treasurer

(vacant)

Tammy Southard

Recording Secretary
SUNY Oneonta
(607) 436-2727
Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu

Dawn Foland

Corresponding Secretary
SUNY Cobleskill
(518) 231-4562
folandde@cobleskill.edu

Donna Hanna

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

Wendy Freier

Conference Coordinator
Geneva Public Library
(315) 781-2935
wfreier@pls-net.org

Standing Committees

Community Outreach Chair

(vacant)

Donations Chair

(vacant)

Public Relations Chair

(vacant)

**Certificate of Achievement
Review Board Coordinator – and –
Ambassador**

Michele Matthews
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
(518) 276- 8330
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’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**

The *NYSLAA Network Connection* is published four times a year by the New York State Library Assistants’ Association. Articles may be reprinted with the permission of the editor.

Editor: Tammy Southard

SUNY Oneonta, Milne Library
Email: Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu

Newsletter Committee: **Chair, Tammy Southard**, SUNY Oneonta
Adrienne Birchler, William K. Sanford Public Library volunteer
Ruth V. Oberg, Unaffiliated

Next publication date: *August 15, 2020*
Submission deadline: *July 31, 2020*

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership renewals for 2020 are off to a slow start. Understandable in lieu of our current situation. We have 120 members who have renewed and 6 of our members are new.

I will try to send out renewal reminders electronically sometime this month as I have limited access to outgoing mail on campus. I am able to pick up mail twice weekly, so you can still mail your renewal to my campus address as usual. You can also renew via NYSLAA.org using the tools and resources tab on the right and following the directions. If you renew using this method you do not need to send a membership form. I would just need to know if any of your information has changed. As a reminder, membership cards/letters are also 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.



Note: This is a very brief issue as most members are working from home with very little library activity to report. Please think about sharing what you are experiencing for the next issue as **Kathy** and **Judith** have. Until then, enjoy some scenery to fill the page! - **Ruth Oberg**



Scholarships

NYSLAA has awarded the Degree Program Scholarship this year to **Kiesha Ivey** from Brighton Memorial Library in Rochester.

NYSLAA has also awarded the Continuing Education Scholarship to **Patricia Barber** from Alfred State.

Congratulations Kiesha and Pat!

There were no applicants for the Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship this year.

Storytime

Kathy Rossello has been doing virtual storytime with her granddaughter, Adriana. East Greenbush Community Library, where Kathy works, hosts a storytime with Miss Molly. Adriana watches from Kathy's work from home desk, "C" is for Cat!



Now and Here

by Judith Andrew

Why didn't I bring that home from my office?
My office of so many years, the colorful, busy room
with such high windows
Is empty.
Silent.
No sounds even from the students
Usually on the other side of my east wall
Studying talking together loving being together.
Where are they now?
Seated in my office at home, too many hours seated
More sedentary than my days in the library
When I was up and about,
Walking down the hall, up the stairs down the stairs
Chatting, searching, copying, filing, moving more.
At home I remind myself, remind myself, remind
myself again
To stand, walk, move now. Move now. Again, move
now.
Then was only a month ago
Now is only a month later
Now I am here, here I am.
Why I am here is complicated, confusing, frightening.
How long will this particular now and here be?
When will my here be there again
For some other simpler happier reason?



Virtual Animal Assisted Activities

Kelly Hallisy, Social Sciences Librarian and
Ben Hogben, Access Services Manager
Ithaca College Library

The Ithaca College Library's Animal Assisted Activities have been an important de-stress component of the library's final study break activities since 2015. The animal visits typically consist of a few different dogs, often a Shih Tzu named Max, and "Breakfast" the llama, a student favorite. These events help to create fun breaks from studying, but they are also community bonding experiences at the end of a semester. With the pandemic, Ithaca College transitioned to online learning in March. Providing students with de-stress opportunities and feeling connected to the college as they finish their finals on Zoom are more relevant than ever. This encouraged us to create virtual animal assisted activities.

Animal Animations

Some questions that needed an answer were: how would we create a virtual animal visit and how would we promote it. An email to the Cornell Companion volunteers provided us with many volunteer photos; even some animals that have not visited us (yet) in person. We chose to make a video using either Windows video editor or the Mac iMovie app. Both of these apps allow the user to quickly drag and drop photos, include features like editing photo transitions, and finish it off with music. You can see the finished video by visiting the Ithaca College Library's Facebook page.

We had hoped to give a presentation on Animal Assisted Activities this year at the NYSLAA conference, which has been postponed to June 2021. We hope to see you all there and may have information to share on two new animal visitors that will soon be in training, Anniversary the Alpaca and Curley the Camel. See you in 2021!

