NETWORK CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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Library Workers: Making Connections and Making a Difference - Conference '24

(by C. Paine, with Wendy Freier, Conference Coordinator)

June 5- 7, 2024

Thank you to all who attended the conference at the Sonesta Downtown in White Plains, NY this past June. Everyone who attended got a fantastic deal on a downstate conference hosted by METRO NY – LAS-SA SIG with our own President, Cheryl Marriott and the awesome Committee of Nina Manning and Valentine Colon and Anthony Wyche (Facebook posts!). Thanks again go out as well to the volunteers: Chandra Best, Patty Hoffman, Fatime Jaafar, Evangelina Pena and Hilary Schrauf.

We were all looking forward to starting the conference with what we expected would be an amazing tour of one of a couple of historic residences: Kykuit (KAI-KUT) the former John D. Rockefeller Estate or The Percy Grainger Home and Studio. Alas, through no fault of ours, BOTH tours were cancelled on us last minute and left us scrambling to try to find substitutions. Although alternate ideas had been suggested and printed in the conference brochure, these did not pan out very well for our group either due to carpooling consensus or distance and whatnot. It was interesting to see so many information experts (aka librarians) working on the problem. Go figure that near NYC we would be pre-empted by a film crew and some misinformation. But in the "I-Ching" of the downstate environs, or perhaps due to Providence, it turned out well, everyone pretty much peacefully accepted no practical last minute terrific options, and just made do and kept moving forward. Well done all of you.

We finished off Wednesday night at the 'Meet and Greet' located in the hotel in the Larchmont Room. We learned that downstate, Meet & Greet looks like an airport café of sorts with stand-up tables & not enough seating so that presumably there would be more space to walk around and "Meet & Greet": Lessons learned for future conferences – assume nothing, (including the availability of free water). The white elephant gift exchange was generally deemed a success and seemed to be enjoyed by all who participated. In an attempt to save time and confusion, we tried "Honor System" – If you brought a gift, then when your number is called you can feel free to get a gift. It was announced and emphasized, but nevertheless, not processed by some. I think the consensus was that it could be fun to try again and all would understand next time.

On Thursday, the in-hotel Starbucks was a plus, and all enjoyed the breakfast buffet and the workshop sessions.

The room was buzzing with comments after both the morning and afternoon sessions. Cheryl Marriott and Nina Manning were two in particular from the morning sessions that I was hearing wonderful comments about. That should be an encouragement to many of our members to consider being a speaker at a conference as was suggested by Cheryl during the 'Town Meeting' at the conference. Likewise the afternoon sessions were outstanding: Active Violence training, GOOGLE Docs and Sustainable Thinking, were all right on point with "making

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2024

President –
Cheryl Marriott
SUNY Downstate Medical Research Library
Phone: (718) 270-7409
cheryl.marriott@downstate.edu

Vice-President –
Vacant

Treasurer –
Heather Gad
SUNY Oneonta
James M. Milne Library
Phone: (607) 436-2726
Heather.Gad@oneonta.edu

Recording Secretary
Patty Jackman
Middle Country Public Library
-term begins January 1, 2025

Corresponding Secretary –
Cheryl Paine
Gorham Free Library
Phone: (585) 526-6655
cpaine@owwl.org

Membership Secretary –
Donna Hanna
SUNY Geneseo
Phone: (585) 245-5508
hanna@geneseo.edu

Conference Coordinator –
Wendy Freier
Geneva Public Library
Phone: (315) 789-5303 ext 150
wfreier@owwl.org

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Shai-ana Bess
Guernsey Memorial Library
Phone: (607) 334-4034

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Certificate of Achievement

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Melissa Tidd
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Phone: (845) 294-6606 ext.10

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:

To enhance the professional image and status of NY State's library assistants.

To further their professional growth.

To provide a network for communication to our members and the profession on library and library assistant issues.

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.

Find us on Facebook

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

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Editor: Cheryl Paine

Gorham Free Library

Email: cpaine@owwl.org

Newsletter Committee: **Cheryl Paine**, Gorham, **Heather Gad,** SUNY Oneonta, **Patty Jackman,** Middle Country Public Library

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connections and making a difference" and I heard lots of exciting chatter after and about each of those.

Many great eateries nearby afforded an enjoyable on-your-own lunch with nearby shopping at The Westchester mall. The mall was a bit of a challenge locating specific places and it was fun finding out that even 'the natives' are elevator geo impaired.

Thursday's dinner at the hotel was fabulous and fun. The tables were all decorated for the Luau theme and Leis given out so everyone looked ready for the tropics. The food and accommodating staff were also very good.

Between Thursday and Friday, there were a couple of unforeseen cancellations by scheduled speakers and again, everyone shifted into other sessions and almost without fail really enjoyed the workshops they attended.

Another wonderful breakfast buffet and morning of sessions moved the conference along to the Keynote speaker, Anthony Harman, AFT Vice-President. His very inspirational speech perfectly aligned with our theme of "Making Connections, and Making a Difference. We were encouraged to be the change that we want to see: in the library, in our community and in our world.

A heartfelt thanks is given to all of our presenters who gave of their time and talent to give such great workshops that informed everyone who attended. I'm sure we all took away nuggets of wisdom from each one as well as some practical ideas that we could begin to implement when we returned home.

The luncheon ended with awards and the Basket raffle drawing. Two Certificate of Achievement awards were earned and presented – and membership pins were given for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and even 35 years. Amazing. Congratulations and Kudos to all these well deserving and dedicated people.





CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2024

Congratulations to:

Danielle Swart Four County Library System

Public Service—Level Four

Patty Jackman Middle Country Public Library

Public Service—Level Four



COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2024

Wendy Freier

Conference Coordinator

Every year, NYSLAA makes an effort to reach out to help the communities where we host our conferences

We accepted contributions for the following agencies:

- Humane Society of Westchester
- Coachman Family Center

Thank you for donating to these area charities

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert."

- Andrew Carnegie

Wendy Freier

Conference Coordinator

Every year, NYSLAA makes an effort to reach out to help the communities where we host our conferences

We will be accepting contributions at the registration desk at the conference

Outreach for the Community

This year we will be collecting for some local community agencies. Stay tuned for more details.

REACHING OUT FROM NYC TO AFRICA

At the 2024 conference in White Plains, NY the theme of "*Making Connections and Making a Difference",* became more than a slogan. During the Luau dinner conversation, we were talking with each other about summer plans. When Deb Lawrence (Book-Ops) learned of my planned July trip to Africa, she thought of a way to make a difference.

I was privileged to join a team of people from a Canandaigua area church traveling to Zambia, Africa to visit an orphanage known as The Children's Nest. People in the US and in Germany have jointly supported Children's Nest for over 20 years.

Our main purpose was to spend time with the wonderful children playing games and helping them write letters, visiting the community school, observing classrooms and offering feedback. One of our team, a 6th grade math teacher taught the kids "the American math method" which immediately helped three kids, who had not been able to get correct answers before!

Deb's box of Red Rocket readers sent from NYC to Canandaigua, went into the suitcases with other donations and with us to Chomo, Zambia.

The first grade classroom I observed was so excited over the books when the teacher passed them out to look at. Even the reluctant readers could hardly wait until their turn as the teacher passed them out for the children to see. They were all so excited and wanted to show classmates "their books."

Later, I helped in a STEM class workshop (taught by an American expat from CA). She was excited about the Red Rocket Readers too, and mentioned they would end up in her room to be "signed out" by any children in the school. The books are making a difference for the orphanage children and the community children who attend the school. They value education so much as the way out of poverty.

Later, I was able to visit the library in Chomo, Zambia. It was not open while I was there, but the concrete children's story-hour circle outside warmed my heart. When I asked our guide "Who can use this library?" He answered:

"Libraries are for Everyone"

Thanks Deb, you made a difference!

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

We have 183 members so far for 2024. Thirty-six of our members hold associate status. Sixty-six of our members are new this year! We had a great response to our National Library Week offer for library employees who have never been a NYSLAA member. I have three pending receipt of membership applications, and they are all three new members with one holding associate status. Membership cards/letters have been sent to all members who have renewed or joined, so if you did not receive yours, please let me know. One last reminder will be emailed out this week to the remaining 33 2023 members that had yet to renew.

Membership forms are available on our nyslaa.org website under the "Membership Application" on the right. You can fill out your renewal and mail it in with your check or you can renew via the "tools and resources" tab 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 mailed electronically to anyone who has an email.

We have revitalized the NYSLAA Membership Year Buy-Back program. For this program you would be able to buy back years of NYSLAA membership where you have had a gap and missed renewing for a particular year. The only stipulation is that you cannot buy membership for years prior to the first year you were a NYSLAA member. Please contact me, hanna@geneseo.edu, to find out what years you are missing and how to go about buying them back.

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 information.

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!

Debbie Allman	New York Public Library
Belinda Farley	New York Public Library
Liz King	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Take an active role in your association!

Consider running for office yourself. Or nominate a colleague who you believe could make a significant contribution to our organization.

2025 Elections will be held for the following offices:

Offices that expire in *EVEN* years: (2024)

The **Vice President** shall: 1) perform the duties of the President in the President's absence; 2) serve as the Association's archivist; 3) perform other such 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 Membership Committee; 5) perform such other duties as 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 **Conference Coordinator** shall: 1) coordinate annual conference planning; 2) Oversee creation of conference forms, programs and logo clothing; 3) negotiate conference facilities agreements; 4) perform such other duties as may be required.

How to Make a Nomination

Nominations must be submitted in writing. (Nominees must also accept the nomination in writing.)

Follow this link for a nominating and acceptance form: Nomination Form. The form is in Adobe PDF format so you can display, update and print it with Adobe Acrobat Reader. Some fields can be typed-in right on the PDF.

Include a brief biography of the candidate with the nomination. The bio will be included with the ballot to acquaint voters with the candidate. Please mail your nomination form to the Election Committee Chair using their mailing address, preferably postmarked by **December 20th**.

This year the Chair is the corresponding secretary: Cheryl Paine, Gorham Free Library, P.O Box 211 Gorham , NY 14461 or send to cpaine@owwl.org

Scholarships & Enrichment Fund

Four distinct scholarships are available to NYSLAA members:

Continuing Education Scholarship (CES) is for members continuing their education in any field and not pursuing a degree at the time. The award is $250. Applications must be postmarked by December 31st of each year. Full details on the Application Form (PDF).

Degree Program Scholarship (DPS) is for members pursuing a degree in any field. The award is $350. Applications must be postmarked by December 31st of each year. Full details on the Application Form (PDF).

Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship (ELCS), previously known as the NYSLAA Conference Contest, was renamed to honor the memory of Eileen Lemley who passed away while attending the 2014 conference. Eileen loved working in the library and attending NYSLAA conferences. This scholarship allows a member who receives no

Send requests to the NYSLAA President.

https://www.nyslaa.org/scholarships.html

FUNDRAISER INFO

2025 Conference planning is underway!

Help us raise some funds for our favorite time of year with Giving Bean - Fresh Roasted Coffee and Tea! Follow the link below!

https://www.givingbean.com/store/home.php?partner=0d76a

Check out this Popcorn Pop-up fundraiser NOW!

This one ends in 2 days !!! Tell friends and family to support NYSLAA with some great POPCORN.

It makes a nice Christmas gift or Party Snack.

https://popup.doublegood.com/s/jm722cc2

2025 CONFERENCE DETAILS

Save the Date: 44th NYSLAA Conference

When: June 18-20, 2025



NYSLAA at Binghamton, NY

The Conference Host Committee and the Executive Council are working on getting speakers and tours set up for you.

As future details become available they will be posted to the listserv, Facebook, and distributed via the newsletter.

Save the Date: 44th NYSLAA Conference

Where: DoubleTree by Hilton
225 Water St, Binghamton, NY 13901



Mark your calendars and come join us in Binghamton!