NETWORK CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association *Oct. -Dec. 2025 Vol.37, No.4*

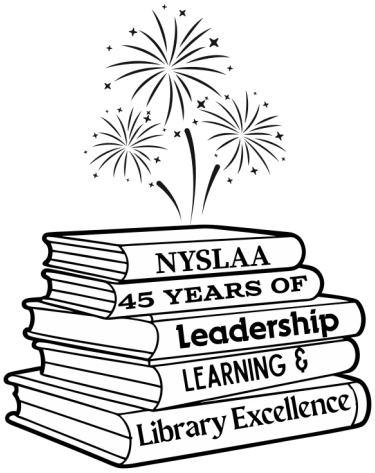
NYSLAA: 45 Years of Leadership, Learning, and Library Excellence

Wendy Freier, Conference Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that NYSLAA's 45th annual conference will be taking place at The Radisson Hotel Corning, Corning, New York, May 27 - 29, 2026. Our theme for the conference is simple, but says it all, "NYSLAA: Past, Present and Future."

We are in the process of putting together the workshops and we have 12 currently confirmed. If you have a topic that you would like to present at the conference or know of a great speaker please email me at wfreier@owwl.org.

As usual, we will be on our own for lunch on Thursday. Step outside the hotel onto Market Street. Market Street is the Gaffer District's hub for culinary creation. Stroll its brick sidewalks and take in the irresistible aromas of over 30 restaurants crafting culinary excellence ranging from fall-off-the-bone BBQ at Nickel's Pit BBQ, to farm-to-table fusion cuisine at The Cellar, and a unique twist on the classic steakhouse at The Mallard Club. So, whether you're in the mood for a quick bite or a multi-course meal, Market Street has a restaurant for even the pickiest eaters.



Interested in shopping? In the Gaffer District, shopping is an experience! Stroll the historic, tree-lined streets to discover independent boutiques offering unique finds for every age, style, or budget. Are you looking for hand-blown glass from expert gaffers? You'll find that here! Want to browse the offerings of over 100 local artisans? You can find that here too! Need the perfect gift for someone special? You guessed it; you can find it here! Whether you're shopping for yourself or someone else, you'll discover your next new favorite thing while shopping in downtown Corning.

INSIDE: Conference... Council & Committee Positions… Membership Update…Fundraising... and more!

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Donations Chair
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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."**

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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Submission deadline: February 18, 2026

Museums and Tours in Corning, NY

A short three-block walk from the Radisson Hotel will bring you to Centerway Square. Listed in Travel & Leisure magazine as one of “America’s Most Beautiful Town Squares.”



That beauty is only part of the appeal, though. The Gaffer District—named after a gaffer or master glassblower—is home to many boutique shops, art galleries, studios, craft beverage producers, restaurants, and two museums.

The Chocolate Trail

If you haven't described your visit to the Gaffer District as sweet, you definitely haven't walked the Chocolate Trail!







Visit **Dippity Do Dahs** for homemade ice cream. This shop was a Finalist in 2021's TravelAwaits for Best Small Town Ice Cream Shop! Offering 30 delicious homemade flavors and specialty items such as non-dairy sorbets and wine sorbets.

Enjoy **Old World Café** for hearty homemade soups, salads, and sandwiches. The café also offers specialty gourmet foods & gifts, imported cheeses, custom gift baskets, freshly baked desserts, and old-fashioned candy.

Start your day at **Soul Full Cup Coffeehouse.** Since 1996, Soul Full Cup has been passionate about great coffee. They actively support a better future for coffee farmers, the environment and wildlife habitats.



Check in for the conference on Wednesday then tour the **Corning Museum of Glass**.

- Wednesday, museum hours 9am-5pm -

We will have a special conference rate of $16 per person. Just show your conference badge at the museum to receive the special rate. Admission is valid for two consecutive days.

Looking for something to do outside of the city?

A short five minute drive will get you to **Spencer Crest Nature Center**. The Center features several trails, two ponds, a stream, and a museum which includes an apiary.



The Sensitivity Trail. This looped boardwalk is ideal for those with visual or mobility limitations. The boardwalk leads to the Rockwell Pavilion where one can enjoy a quiet picnic.



Amelia Pond, dedicated to Amelia Gerhardt Creath, a former biologist at Corning Community College.

The Center's trails are open from sunrise to sunset all year long. The trails are easy to walk, well-maintained, and you'll find a variety of plants, birds, and other wildlife. The trails vary in length, with the shortest being only a third a mile long. The Sensitivity Trail is a looped boardwalk, is ideal for those with visual or mobility limitations.

Embracing 2026: A Year of Renewed Purpose and Professional Excellence

Letter to Members

Cheryl Marriott

To all our dedicated members of the New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA) and library support staff across New York: Welcome to 2026! This coming year offers a vital opportunity for renewed commitment, fresh energy, and expanded professional horizons.

We reflect on 2025 with immense gratitude for your resilience. As front-line navigators, your daily contributions - from circulation and technical services to welcoming patrons - are the essential foundations upon which all library excellence rests.

In 2026, NYSLAA will continue to build on our traditions of **Leadership, Learning, and Library Excellence**. We challenge every member to embrace professional growth, viewing this year as one for monumental impact and innovation within our roles. True leadership starts with the commitment to step forward, whether by streamlining a process, suggesting an innovative display, or mentoring a new colleague.

To fully champion your success and amplify our voice across the state, **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**.

Your involvement is crucial and takes many forms:

1. **Financial Support:** Please actively support our fundraisers throughout the year. Your financial contributions directly fuel our scholarships and essential programming, ensuring continued opportunities for all support staff.

2. **Skills Support:** We need your expertise! Show leadership and training by stepping up to lead a regional workshop, join a committee, or share your knowledge with fellow members. Your skills are the engine of our collective growth.

3. **Presence Support:** Mark your calendar now for our biggest event of the year: the 2026 NYSLAA Conference in Corning, NY! Your attendance fosters vital networking, education, and collective advocacy. Let's make the Corning conference a powerful demonstration of our strength and unity.

NYSLAA is dedicated to providing the resources and advocacy you deserve. We have the skills, the passion, and the collective strength to ensure our libraries not only thrive but become even more essential to the fabric of New York State.

Thank you for your service and commitment. Here's to a year of profound learning, inspiring leadership, and monumental achievement. Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you in Corning!

NYSLAA Executive Council and Committees

Nominations & Elections

This year, the positions of President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary were up for nomination. Unfortunately, we did not receive any nominations. Cheryl Marriott, President, is willing to stay on for one year to help train our next President. Heather Gad will stay on as Treasurer, and Cheryl Paine will stay on as Corresponding Secretary. Please keep these positions in mind for your future involvement in NYSLAA. Information on these positions can be found on our website.

Meet Your New Vice-President

LeAndre Peoples stepped up to fill our vacant position of Vice-President. This was not an election year for Vice-President. Therefore, he was appointed by the council at our meeting in November. We are grateful for his assistance.

Le'Andre Peoples is a seasoned library professional with over 20 years of service at the Brooklyn Public Library, where his career has progressed through roles such as Office Aide, Technology Resource Specialist, Circulation Manager, and now Regional Assistant. A 2025 graduate of the New York Library Association's Developing Leaders Program, he brings strong skills in clerical operations, technology, and administrative leadership. Le'Andre is known for strengthening staff performance, optimizing workflows, and supporting strategic systemwide initiatives. His long-standing commitment to operational excellence and innovation continues to advance the mission, efficiency, and community impact of the Brooklyn Public Library.

Conference Committee

Thank you to Chandra Best for offering to help with conference planning. She has been a NYSLAA member for about 18 years and will be shadowing Wendy Freier.

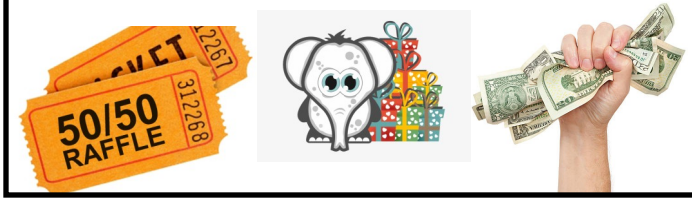
Chandra has been a valued member of the New York Public Library family for over 33 years. She began her journey at NYPL as a Library Page, and over the years, has held several key roles, including Administrative Assistant, Office Aide, and most notably, Office Associate I, a position she has held for over 20 years. Throughout her extensive career, Chandra has worked at various NYPL branches, building strong relationships with both her colleagues and the diverse communities she serves.

Currently, Chandra works at the *Mott Haven Branch*, where she leads craft programming such as painting, jewelry making, and more, enriching the lives of community members through creative activities. In addition to her role in programming, she also supervises and mentors staff, helping foster a positive and collaborative environment.

Beyond her work at NYPL, Chandra has a deep love for crafts, baking, and, of course, reading.

Conference Prizes, Raffles, and more!

Once again, we are planning a white-elephant gift exchange for our welcome dinner, and there will be basket raffles and 50/50 raffles at the conference.



NYSLAA Membership

Welcome a New Member for 2025!



Nicholas Cisco
SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library

We thank Nick for stepping in to help our organization. He is going to be shadowing Donna Hanna for future position as Membership Secretary. He is also willing to continue with the conference registrations. By taking this on, it made it easier for us to get hosts and not have to reinvent every year.

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

We have 155 members for 2025. Twenty-seven of our members hold associate status. Forty-six of our members are new this year so far! Membership cards/letters have been sent to all members who have renewed or joined so far, so if you did not receive yours, please let me know.

Renewal reminders for 2026 will be sent out in January. Membership cards/letters for those who renewed early will go out around the same time.

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. Just email me if any of your information has changed. As a reminder, membership cards/letters are mailed electronically to anyone who has an email.

We still offer 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 email to hanna@geneseo.edu.

Certificate of Achievement Review Board

Melissa Tidd



The NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement Review Board is looking for many members to join! If you like helping people, now is your chance to help them work toward their goals!

Meetings would be conducted either by email or Zoom. For further questions or if you are interested, please reach out to Review Board Coordinator Melissa Tidd at mtidd@suffernfreelibrary.org

Library News Across the State

Geneseo Authors Celebration
Donna Hanna

SUNY Geneseo hosts a annual Geneseo Authors Celebration. This year's event was held in the newly renovated Milne Library on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Faculty, supporters, and library staff gathered to enjoy refreshments and to celebrate the achievements of about seventy-five faculty and alumni.

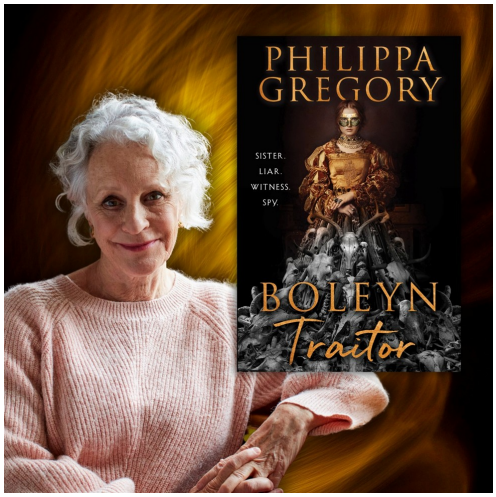
Milne Library began a tradition of celebrating faculty authorship in 2009 with a series of workshops and a celebration in collaboration with the Teaching and Learning Center. Over the years it has evolved to more accurately reflect on the variety of academic and creative work done here at Geneseo. The annual Geneseo Authors Celebration is an opportunity for the library and the campus to celebrate the faculty and truly acknowledge the time and effort that faculty have invested into creating exceptional works that contribute to the scholarly discussions taking place in their disciplines.

Books authored or edited by Geneseo faculty and alumni are archived in the College Archives and a second copy is also available to borrow from the Geneseo Authors Hall.

Events at Geneva Public Library
Wendy Freier

In October, Geneva Public Library presented an intriguing conversation with Phillipa Gregory about her newest novel Boleyn Traitor. There was a viewing party at the library with refreshments. Some patrons were able to watch online from the comfort of their homes.

GPL patrons can enjoy a range of talks from bestselling authors and thought leaders. *Brought in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium*.



Jane Austen's birthday will be celebrated with library patrons at Geneva Public Library on December 6, 2025.



Keep in Touch

Participate in our fundraisers. We can all help to lower costs of our annual conference when we buy some tasty treats!

GIVING BEAN .com
great coffee {and tea} for great causes

Our current fundraiser is Giving Bean, great tasting coffee and tea for a cause! Please use the link below to order and support NYSLAA,.

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

Now through December 12th.



Little Caesars Pizza

Holiday season equals busy nights. Make your dinners a little easier with a Little Ceasar's Pizza Kit!

Click here (https://fundraising.littlecaesars.com/products?support=3473a4a9-cd4c-4f4d-9a1a-93e591227176) to order today.

It's easy and only takes a few minutes to order. You can pay by credit card and the yummy Kits will be shipped right to your door by FedEx.

Now through December 17th.

Visit our website or Facebook page for current fundraising links.

Our network for communication is open to all our members. Please use it to connect with us and each other across the state.

WEBSITE

Visit our website at nyslaa.org to find more information on awards, scholarships, and our Certificate of Achievement program.

FACEBOOK

Join our group on Facebook to see what's new!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/NYSLAA

Or visit our website at nyslaa.org and click the link to Facebook in the top banner.

LISTSERV

Join NYSLAA's electronic listserv (NYSLAA-L)

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the NYSLAA listserv, simply go to nyslaa.org, click on "Join Our Email List" and follow the instructions.

CONFERENCE

Join us in May 27th - 29th, 2026, at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, NY for our annual conference. We look forward to seeing you!