A Message from the ASLS President

Elaine Lasda Bergman, ASLS President

Dear ASLS Members,

It is hard to believe that it is almost spring! Here are some random items about NYLA and ASLS in which I thought you might be interested:

First and foremost, as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, ASLS is working up many great programs for the Annual Conference! We hope that you will be able to join us in Niagara Falls, NY. Please note the dates for the conference are much earlier than usual: September 25 – 28.

Also, you may be interested to learn that in December, NYLA Council approved a resolution addressing the treatment of libraries by the publishing community in relation to e-content. This resolution is in response to an American Library Association request that state chapters echo ALA and strengthen the library voice on this issue.

If you have not done so already, I urge you to donate to NYLA’s Disaster Fund – you can do so on this link: http://www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/donate/form.html. Downstate libraries affected by Sandy can apply for these funds; but beyond that the Disaster Fund will be available for any libraries affected by natural disasters in the future.

Finally, I hope that you will take a look at my article later in the newsletter about the proposed alignment of NYLA and the New York State Higher Education Initiative (NYSHEI). Bringing these two organizations together could help provide a more unified voice to library advocacy.

As always, if you are interested in getting more involved with the section, please contact me. There are both short- and long-term opportunities for participation and those of us on the board are always happy to welcome newcomers.

Until spring, stay warm!

Elaine M. Lasda Bergman
13 Tips To Stay Safe Online In 2013
By Blake Carver

1. Check your passwords... Use good passwords, and don’t use the same password for everything! Better yet, use good passwords and use a different password for *everything*. Make sure the library passwords aren’t readily shared.

2. Start some kind of employee training at your library. Make sure everyone is aware of IT Security basics. Anything is better than nothing! It’s important everyone knows they can be a target.

3. Get in the habit of locking your devices... your laptop, desktop, tablet and phone. Everything should have a password.

4. Know your vendors: It is wise to conduct some due diligence about the people that run your OPAC, website, databases and other electronic resources. Ask them how they handle security and backups on your important data.

5. Start using second factor authentication for things. Your bank, your email, paypal, many of the services you use probably have second factors available.

6. Attack your library. Think like a bad guy. What can you get into? What can you steal? If you can get into things you shouldn’t, chances are good someone else will as well.

7. Make sure all your devices are locked down, have antivirus, are patched, what about your WIFI?

8. How are your backups stored? Know where things are, who has access, and how you’ll restore in the event of emergency.

9. Make sure you’re keeping your website updated. Especially if you’re running Wordpress, make sure everything (themes, plugins, widgets...) are all updated.

10. Make a security tip sheet. For National Cyber Security Awareness Month, www.staysafeonline.org has created a Cybersecurity Awareness Resource tip sheet to help everyone at home, school, and work stay safe.

11. Use different usernames and emails. I know this one is tough. But if you want to be as safe as possible, have at least a few different usernames and emails so all your online services aren’t tied together. Look up “Marc Honan Hack” for a good example of how this helps.

12. Offer some kind of training for patrons. Maybe as simple as posting signs next to the public access computers?

13. Work to keep your personal information more private. Check all your settings on your social network accounts, lock them down.
Treasurer’s 2013 Report

Academic and Special Libraries Section
New York Library Association

Beginning Balance—10/2012 $17,604.77

REVENUES

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EXPENSES

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Closing balance 12/31/2012 $16,955.99

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Elaine M. Lasda Bergman, President
University at Albany
Phone: (518) 442-3695
Email: ebergman@uamail.albany.edu

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Phone: (607) 547-1532
Email: s.deer@nysha.org

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Phone: (716) 633-0705
Email: sknab@wnylrc.org

Erin Rushton, Director
Binghamton University Science Library
Phone: (607) 777-2706
Email: erushton@binghamton.edu

Debbie Emerson, Director
Central New York Library Resources Council
Phone: (315) 446-5446
Email: demerson@clrc.org

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Binghamton University Libraries
Phone: (607) 777-3510
Email: jdixon@binghamton.edu

Michael V. Daly, Director
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
Phone: (518) 736-FMCC (3622) x8052
Email: michael.daly@fmcc.suny.edu

Sarah Maximiek, Director
Binghamton University Libraries
Phone: (607) 777-3941
Email: Maximiek@binghamton.edu

The ASLS Newsletter is published three times a year by the Communications Committee of the Academic and Special Libraries Section of the New York Library Association, Wendy Quinn-Decatur, Editor. ADDRESS: ASLS Newsletter c/o AMRI Library, 26 Corporate Circle, Albany, NY 12212; Phone: 518-512-2374 Fax: 518-512-2083; email: wendy.quinn@amriglobal.com
ASLS is going to sponsor a great lineup of conference program sessions! Some of the sessions currently being considered focus on new technology trends, open access publishing, Education Pipeline: High School to College, Maker Spaces, using Big Data. These are just a few of the topics that you may see at Niagara Falls in September. Be sure to join us!

Writing Our Next Chapter: Member thoughts from the 2012 NYLA Conference

ASLS members and visitors who stopped by the ASLS booth at the 2012 conference had the opportunity to leave thoughts and reveal their next chapter regarding what they are looking forward to in the next year. It was interesting and inspiring reading. Here are just a few of the comments that members shared with us:

“Extending information literacy instruction beyond the library”

“Organizing and making accessible digital and physical archives!”

“Hopefully adding ipads to our children’s room”

“Listening to our community”

“To do our best to meet our campus community where they are – ONLINE!”

Renovating the children’s area so it is more community friendly”

“Position the library as an essential service in the minds of the communities we serve”

“Demonstrate the role & values to life longer learning and civic engagement”

“Learn from the past but look forward to the future”

Inspiring words from our members who are writing the next chapter in our future while looking forward to sparking everyone’s imagination!

By Karen Gardner-Athey
NYLA and NYSHEI: Forging a Partnership
By Elaine Lasda Bergman

“The mission of the New York Library Association (NYLA) is to lead in the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning, quality of life, and equal opportunity for all New Yorkers.” –NYLA Mission Statement.

The New York Library Association is meant to be an advocacy organization for all libraries and librarians in New York State, regardless of library type or structure. Nonetheless, it is often the case that NYLA is perceived as primarily an association geared towards the needs and concerns of public libraries, and to a lesser extent, school libraries. It is true that the Academic and Special Libraries Section is one of the smaller subgroups of NYLA, and that we have not aggressively pursued an advocacy agenda for academic and special library concerns.

The New York State Higher Education Services Initiative is an advocacy organization for academic libraries in NYS. On its website, NYSHEI states that it “represents the interests of all public and private academic and research libraries in New York State” and “strives to promote the role of academic and research libraries in public policy and enhance the ability of these libraries to provide the broadest range of information resources to the widest audience in the most cost effective manner” (http://www.nyshei.org/about/). Clearly, the advocacy goals of NYSHEI are aligned with the needs and concerns of the academic librarians in NYLA ASLS.

As you may have heard, NYLA and NYSHEI have entered into discussions to consider a closer alignment, if not some sort of organizational unification. Such a move would bolster NYLA’s advocacy on behalf of academic libraries as well as provide a more cohesive, combined voice for all libraries in New York State. Led by Jeremy Johannesen, NYLA Executive Director, NYLA’s team consists of Carol Anne Germain, NYLA President, and Timothy Burke of Upper Hudson Library System, and myself. Led by Jason Kramer, Executive Director of NYSHEI, the NYSHEI team consists of Enid Geyer of Albany Medical College, Christina Pope of SUNY Upstate, and Louise Sherby of Hunter College.

As of this writing, it is unclear as to what form any sort of alignment/unification will be. Both sides have identified needs and concerns and have established points where NYLA and NYSHEI are in agreement; namely that we would like a unified advocacy voice for all libraries in New York State. To this end, many issues, large and small, must be hammered out. Exactly how NYSHEI fits in with the NYLA structure is still unclear. Please be assured, I will do my best to represent the needs and opinions of ASLS members as these talks progress.

If you have opinions or questions about these discussions, please contact me: elasdabergman@albany.edu.
New York Library Association
ASLS/Academic & Special Libraries Section
c/o AMRI Library
26 Corporate Circle
Albany, NY 12212

TO: