Mixed State Budget Results

by Michael Borges

The 2008-09 state Budget adopted only nine days late on April 9th was a mixed bag for libraries. As promised, the Legislature did restore a proposed $5 million cut in Library Aid that was included in former Governor Spitzer’s Executive Budget. However, the Legislature was unable to beat back a demand from the NYS Division of Budget for an across the board 2% cut in spending, which resulted in libraries receiving $1.9 million less than last year. Funding for public library construction remained the same as last year ($14.8 million) as did School Library Materials Aid at $6.25 per pupil.

Budget results could have been much worse if not for the largest turnout for Library Lobby Day (1,008 registered attendees) ever and the thousands of letters and faxes sent by library advocates to state legislators, as well as the many meetings with legislators in their Albany and district offices. The efforts of NYLA’s Legislative Committee, chaired by Kathy Miller, the donations of the New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC, the work of the regional coordinators who organized the appointments and transportation for Library Lobby Day and all our Lobby Day sponsors should be recognized for making an impact this year. The library community is also indebted to all our friends in the state Legislature, especially Senators Hugh Farley and Stephen Saland as well Assemblymembers Amy Paulin and Cathy Nolan for their efforts on our behalf.

Overall state spending did increase by 4.9% and school aid received a very generous $1.8 billion increase, yet the final adopted budget was $121.7 billion, which was about $2.3 billion less than originally proposed by former Governor Spitzer. The extra spending included in the state Budget was funded by a combination of new revenues and borrowing. The cigarette tax was increased by $1.25 per pack to bring in another $1.5 billion...

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I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Janet Welch, State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries who will be retiring in June 2008 after 11 years in the post.

In the 200-year history of the New York State Library, Mrs. Welch was the first woman to serve as New York State Librarian. Her choice of career was a continuation of a family tradition. Both her parents were librarians who met at the Chicago Public Library where they worked. Her father was the late Dr. Lowell Martin, library educator, author, and American Library Association honorary member.

Janet graduated magna cum laude from Bucknell University and earned her Masters of Library Science degree from Rutgers University. Prior to becoming State Librarian, Janet had worked in almost every type of library including, a corporate research library, school library, public library, and academic library, and finally as Director of the Rochester Regional Library Council.

She also served in several leadership positions in the New York Library Association, including becoming President in 1992. She first became involved in NYLA while working as a science librarian at the University at Albany and attended her first NYLA conference at Lake Placid in 1987. Her greatest accomplishment as NYLA President was developing a relationship with the Viburnum Foundation in Rochester which helped launched the Association’s advocacy and public awareness campaigns.

Janet has received many awards from library and community organizations, including the New York Library Association’s Outstanding Service to Libraries Award and our President’s award for development and leadership of the nationwide Public Awareness of Libraries Campaign, and the American Library Association’s Award for Nationwide Library Legislative Success and Improvement of Library Services. She also served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

She has had many achievements as State Librarian, including overseeing a major renovation of the New York State Research Library and receiving numerous grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museums and Library Services. The two achievements she is most proud of are the expansion of NOVEL statewide (it started off in Rochester) and the expansion of the Statewide Summer Reading Program from just under 500,000 children participating to over a million last year.

At the end of our interview, I asked her what are some of the challenges facing the library community. “Libraries need to continue to recreate themselves in an ever changing technology environment, adapting and integrating technology into both their existing services and in developing new ones,” she concluded.
STORIES FROM THE STACKS is a special feature of the Bulletin where we ask our members about the profession and library issues and print selected responses in the newsletter.

This issue’s question is “What new and innovative program or service have you launched at your library this year?”

The Westbury Memorial Public Library established a successful Teen Zone this year. We put up and take down teen friendly furniture and tech activities each day. The Zone is run by the YA librarian and our Middle School librarian. About 40 middle and high school (yes!) kids attend everyday! Serving latchkey students is a huge need in Westbury where 85% of the school aged children qualify for free lunch. In the past, teens flooded the main area of the library after school, making it challenging for adult users to be comfortable. The Teen Zone has transformed the Library. Everyone—staff, adults and teenagers, has benefited from the program.

-- Cathleen Towey, Director
Westbury Memorial Public Library

The New York Public Library with the generous support of The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation has produced an early literacy kit for young children and their caregivers. In this colorful kit with artwork from Duck & Goose by Tad Hills, there is a collection of traditional rhymes such as “Where Is Thumbkin?” and “Itsy Bitsy Spider.” To accompany the written rhymes, there is a lively musical CD of the rhymes produced, performed, and arranged by Tony Corsano of The Family Jam LLC. A brochure listing “fun tips for reading with your child” is included along with a Growth Chart to keep a record of a child’s favorite books as he grows. Finally, there is a copy of Babybug magazine for reading aloud. These kits are available for free at all the branches of The New York Public Library.

-- Leslie A. Fass, Early Childhood Literacy Specialist
The New York Public Library

For the last two years, as an “amnesty” activity, Cornwall Public Library has executed a two-week program entitled “Clean Up” Your Library Card. During this period, patrons with overdue fines on their cards are encouraged to bring in a brand new bar of soap, and have up to $1.00 in fines waived for each bar of soap donated. The soap is then contributed to local agencies, i.e. shelters, group homes, etc. This year, alone, more than 150 bars of soap were brought in by patrons. They have been donated to a local group home housing young women.

-- Beth Texter, Public Relations
Cornwall Public Library

The New York Public Library’s Mulberry Street Branch serves the SoHo/Little Italy area of the city. It utilized a creative way to get its non-budgeted adult programming started. A local Little Italy author offered to do a talk about the neighborhood and suggested teaming up with St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral for a tour of their catacombs normally closed to the public. The “Meet the Neighbors @ Mulberry St.” program “SoHo Stories & St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral” was presented to more than 70 people. Local author, Terry Iacuzzo, told some colorful stories about life in Little Italy. Two priests from the Cathedral spoke about the history of the famous churchyard and led a memorable tour of the catacombs. Since then we’ve brought in all kinds of local luminaries: a jazz singer, a non-profit serving the HIV/AIDS community, two documentary filmmakers, a theater group, and another local author. We’re fortunate be located in an area so rich in culture. To get the adult programming going some kind of structure to attract and market it was needed. The series “Meet the Neighbors @ Mulberry St.” was the right idea. Best of all it came from the right place; a neighbor.

-- Andrea Nicolay, Senior Librarian
New York Public Library, Mulberry Street Branch

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Executive Director’s Report

Since the beginning of the year NYLA has been working on three initiatives that will potentially have beneficial results for the library community and the patrons we serve.

The first initiative actually got its start last year when the NYLA Council approved recommendations from the CE Committee to explore requiring continuing education for certified public librarians. Since then, NYLA has been working with the Division of Library Development to establish draft regulations that would require public librarians applying for a certificate starting in 2010 to complete 60 hours of continuing education every five years. The public librarian certification would be renewed every five years upon completion of the 60 hours of professional development, which would be offered by a list of approved providers like library systems, library and information science schools and library organizations like NYLA and ALA. A final draft of the proposed regulations will be circulated to the library community for comment and input before being submitted to the State Education Department.

The second initiative was the creation of an Information Literacy Task Force composed of NYLA members from around the state who have been charged with developing Information Literacy Standards to be adopted by the Board of Regents. This initiative grew out my appointment to the Governor’s Universal Broadband Council and chair of its Digital Literacy Action Team. The Information Literacy Task Force is chaired by Fran Roscello and Ken Fujiuchi and has met three times so far this year and will be making its recommendations to the Broadband Council by the summer.

The third initiative was the creation of the Civil Service Task Force chaired by NYLA President-Elect Josh Cohen. Its charge is to work with the NYS Dept. of Civil Service to improve the civil service process for testing, recruiting and hiring public librarians. The Task Force has met twice with a representative of the Civil Service Department and is working on moving the test online, allowing the results to be transferable from one jurisdiction to another and expanding the eligibility lists.

Michael J. Borges
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Jean Clancy Botta has retired from NYS Correctional Services where she managed the 70 correctional facility circulating libraries and all their law libraries as well.

Dorothy Bulce is retiring from Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library after 15 years of service.

Wanda Bruchis, formerly of the Terrebonne Parish Library System in Houma, Louisiana, is the new Library System Assistant Director at the Mid-York Library System.

Elizabeth Carrature-Brown joined the New York State Library’s Division of Library Development as a Library Development Specialist. She is a member of Library Development’s Technology and Resource Sharing Team and is providing leadership and technical assistance services for the new Gates Library Opportunity Hardware Grant Program which will bring over 2,100 public access computers and peripherals valued at $5.6 million to over 400 public libraries.

Susan J. Charley has been named the Instructional Librarian at the new state-of-the-art Learning Resource Center at Dyersburg State Community College in Dyersburg, Tennessee. She retired last year after 30 years at the North Country Library System.

Mary K. Chelton, professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at Queens College, presented a talk on “The Appeal of the Narrator in Audio Books” at a preconference on audio books at the recent Public Libraries Association conference in Minneapolis.

Peter Edelman, former Assistant Head Librarian for the New York Daily News, has been appointed Senior Photo Archivist, a new archiving position for the newspaper. He will be responsible for organizing old negatives and digitizing them so that they can be added to the regular photo database.

Meredith Fraser, Serials/ILL Assistant for 17 years at the Lorette Wilmont Library, Nazareth College, has accepted the position of Library Manager for the East Rochester Public Library.

Christopher Harris, Coordinator of the School Library System for Genesee Valley BOCES was named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker for 2008.

Linda M. Kurtz, K-12 Library Coordinator, Rye Neck Middle School/High School Librarian, is the recipient of two We the People grants. The “Picturing America” and the “Created Equal” Bookshelf grants are sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

Deena Lipomi has joined the Brighton Memorial Library in Rochester, New York as their Circulation and Young Adult Manager.

Richard Matturro has recently published his third novel Leslie (Livingston Press, 2008). Myth and contemporary dilemmas are woven into the modern odyssey of a New York librarian.

Peg Mauer, of the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES School Library System, is now serving as Information Services Librarian. As such, she is responsible for the Library Automation program, as well as supporting Interlibrary Loan, Professional Development and other SLS services.

Ellen McTyre, Mamaroneck Library’s Children’s/YA Librarian, was awarded a grant from the Westchester Library System for her El dia de los ninos/El dia de los libros event, a celebration of childhood, Hispanic culture & bilingual literacy.

Margie Menard is the new director of the Kingston Library in Kingston, NY.

The Mid-Hudson Library System’s Kids’ Catalog was selected as the First Place winner of the 2008 Be Innovative! Award for the Most Innovative Web Catalog from Innovative Interfaces, Inc. The catalog is a kid-friendly, searchable interface to the shared collections of books, movies and music of the 66 member libraries of the Mid-Hudson Library System.

Emily Owen is the new Youth Services Consultant at the North Country Library System.

Wendy Quinn, previously an intern at AMRI, has recently joined the team as an Assistant Librarian.

Candice Rosseland, a Queens grad student, was hired as a Youth Services librarian at the Long Beach Public Library.

Stephanie Squicciarini, Teen/Young Adult Services Librarian at the Fairport Public Library, was named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker for 2008.

MaryAnn Stiefvater has joined the New York State Library’s Division of Library Development as a Cultural Education Program Specialist. She is a member of Library Development’s Technology and Resource Sharing Team and is providing support for the latest Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant program entitled “The Opportunity Online Hardware Grant Program.”

Melinda Taormina, librarian, has joined the Youth Services Department of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library. Previously, she was with the library’s Adult Services department, taught computer classes and was the public relations liaison. She will now divide her time between Youth Services and public relations liaison responsibilities.

Bridget Quinn-Carey is the new director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

Ken Weil has recently retired as the director of the Huntington Public Library in Huntington, NY.

Eileen Williams, Adult Reference and Senior Outreach librarian at the Gliderland Public Library, is the 2008 recipient of the Margaret E. Monroe Library Adult Services Award. This annual citation is presented to the librarian who has made a significant contribution to library service to adults.

Kristin White is the new director of the Roscoe Free Library, Roscoe, NY.
PLS

2008 Awards
The Public Library Section is now accepting applications for its 2008 awards. All applications must be submitted in electronic format to Kevin J. Gallagher, Director, Middletown Thrall Library, thrall7@warwick.net. Please note deadlines; details and criteria for each are on the PLS website.

Outstanding Public Library Building – Renovation
Beginning in 2008, two building awards of $1,000 each will be presented annually: one for a library serving a chartered population of less than 20,000; the other for a library serving a chartered population of more than 20,000.

In 2008, Outstanding Building Renovation projects will be considered. (In 2009, awards will honor new construction, with a two year application window for projects.)

DEADLINE: June 12

2008 Best Practices Award
The 2008 Best Practices Award honors a library demonstrating best use of web technology to promote the library and its services. The winner receives a $1,000 award.

DEADLINE: June 4

Post-MLS Award
Offered for the first time in 2008, the $500 award helps defray the costs of an accredited course or seminar for individuals already holding an MLS degree. The course must be work related. Applicants should demonstrate the value of the continuing education to their professional growth.

DEADLINE: June 4.

Conference Scholarship
PLS annually awards a scholarship to encourage public librarians or students to attend the annual NYLA conference and participate in conference activities. The award includes full registration costs plus up to $500 for expenses and NYLA membership if required. The winner is expected to assist with staffing the PLS booth; and to attend the full conference.

DEADLINE: June 4.

ASLS

The Rakow Research Library at The Corning Museum of Glass is seeking a graduate student in the Department of Library & Information Studies to lead a research project focusing on outreach activities in art & museum libraries. The student should have an interest in public services work and preferably has completed some graduate coursework or has previous library experience. The Library has recently finalized its Outreach Plan and is currently planning activities through 2008. This project will help the Library compare its programming and activities with similar institutions and may influence the shape and direction of outreach activities at the Library.

The Project:
1. Meet with librarians at the Rakow Research Library to develop guidelines for the development of the survey, including what types of institutions would be included and what types of information would be solicited.
2. Conduct a survey of the literature.
3. Perform the research for the survey.
4. Compile the results of the survey.
5. Provide an oral and written presentation of the results to the librarians at the Rakow Research Library.

Please note this project may be primarily completed via distance. However, it is expected the student will come to the Rakow Research Library at The Corning Museum of Glass twice over the course of the project.

Contact Aprille C. Nace, Public Services Team Leader at 607-974-8644 or naceac@cmog.org for additional information.

LAMS

The LAMS Board is proud that former LAMS treasurer Josh Cohen is the incoming NYLA President and that LAMS’ President-Elect Rebecca Lubin was selected as an ALA “Emerging Leader”. Congratulations Josh and Rebecca! Four LAMS members have come forward to run for two positions on the LAMS board. Candidate and electronic voting information will be coming soon.

LJAMS editor Richard Naylor is working on the spring edition of the online Journal of the Library Administration & Management Section. Articles will include: “A Survey of Public Library Trustee Attitudes toward Consolidation,” by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich; “Ask Us 24: Virtual Reference Success in New York State,” by Laura Osterhout; “Joining ConnectNY: Changes in Consortial Relationships & Resource-sharing Partnerships at Siena College,” by Kathryn Johns-Masten, and other peer-reviewed articles of interest. Thanks to Richard and LJAMS reviewers for their hard work. LJAMS is a wonderful LAMSection benefit.

Under consideration is a LAMS advisory board of administrators who have the expertise, but do not have the time, to serve on the LAMS board. We are particularly interested in representation from academic, school, and special libraries to help LAMS better serve these groups.

LAMS has some great programs planned for the NYLA Conference in Saratoga: LAMS’ CE program “Library Policy Toolkit,” will be conducted by Jerry Nichols, LIU, and Jim Riley, attorney. Other programs include “Library Merchandising on a Budget,” “Creating Spaces that Teens Want,” “Creating Effective Teams,” “I Still Don’t Want to Talk About It: More Uncomfortable Management Situations,” “Better Management Through Web 2.0,” and “How Do You Manage?” – a panel discussion on administrative issues.

LAMS dues support all of the above. If you’re a library administrator who is not a LAMS member, please consider selecting LAMS as your primary section when you renew your NYLA membership, or add LAMS as an additional section for $5.00.

SLMS

Marie Barron, SLMS President
SLMS is proud to announce that Sally Daniels accepted the nomination for AASL Region II Director-Elect. ALA voting ends April 24th. We hope to know the results of the election in early May. Sally graduated from Syracuse University with a Masters of Library Science in 1986. After serving as Library Media Specialist in the Cicero Elementary School from 1991 through the spring of 2005, Sally then moved to the Cicero-North Syracuse High School where she now serves as one of two Library Media Specialists. Sally has served in many offices including SLMS President, 3 Apples Book Award Chair, President of Central New York Media Specialists, SLMS Treasurer, and SLMS Regional Coordinator. Her article, “From Design to Assessment,” was published in Knowledge Quest (American Library Association), March/April 2007. Good luck to Sally in her quest to become the next AASL Region II Director-Elect.

Thanks to Follett Library Resources representatives Joe Jusko and Regina Yeager for their advocacy efforts in support of school library media programs throughout New York State. Joe and Regina collected data which was used to

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For Vice President (President-Elect)

**Kathy Miller**
Rochester Regional Library Council

I believe in the power of what people can do by working together. I see it in my everyday work life as director of the Rochester Regional Library Council. I see library people – librarians, staff, trustees – making significant contributions to their communities through their libraries. It may be a new teen center in a library, a consumer health information website, a small business center, or an information literacy partnership. Different types of libraries working together for the benefit of all.

I have seen that same collaborative spirit at work in NYLA.

When I first joined NYLA, I became active on the NYLA Continuing Education Committee. Though committee members were from different libraries and regions, we worked together, learned from each other, shared ideas, and planned programs for the NYLA Conferences. It was fun, I learned a lot, and I think we offered some programs that helped others learn too.

Later, I worked with academic and special librarians on the ASLS Board and eventually as its President. Working together with that great group of people, I again had the chance to learn more (I didn’t know much about prison libraries until then!), and mentor others.

On the NYLA Legislative Committee, which I have had the privilege to chair for the last four years, my faith in the power of people working together has grown. Legislative discussions are serious and the viewpoints differ – upstate/downstate; public/school/academic; small and rural; large and urban. But overriding it all is the knowledge that we share: only by working together can we succeed. Though our backgrounds and needs differ, we have worked together to develop a strong and successful legislative agenda. And you, as library advocates – from all types of libraries and all regions – have supported that.

NYLA as an organization thrives on that collaborative spirit.

I believe that every library in New York State – if not every librarian, library staff member and library trustee – should be a member of NYLA. NYLA promotes all libraries and all libraries in some way or other benefit from NYLA. It may be a significant benefit such as increased funding that is the result of NYLA’s advocacy efforts. Or it may be one of those benefits that are hard to measure but just as important, such as a staff member who has learned something at a NYLA CE program, or a become a leader by volunteering with NYLA.

If elected NYLA President, I will continue to promote the collaborative spirit that is NYLA. I will continue – as I always have – to reach out to all types of libraries. I will continue – as I always have – to promote the cause of all libraries. I appreciate all the support you have given me as Legislative Chair – when we needed advocacy you were there. I ask for that support again as NYLA President.

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For Vice President (President-Elect)

**Aprille Nace**

Coming Museum of Glass Library

We all know there are a variety of common challenges which face libraries today, whether economics (particularly give the recent downturn), censorship and privacy concerns or difficult dealings with governing and administrative bodies. We often face further challenges when we look for the differences, instead of commonalities, between us. Simply look at the difficulties professionals in our field face when trying to switch careers from a public library to an academic or from an academic library to a special library.

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Treasurer

**Ed Falcone**

Yonkers Public Library

It’s an honor to be nominated for a second term as Treasurer of NYLA. My goals have been to make NYLA’s finances transparent and easy for the membership to understand, to train & assist the unit treasurers, and to make sure that NYLA complies with ever-stricter accounting standards. NYLA’s financial position has never been stronger, and I’m proud to be part of a team that is leading the Association to a bright and dynamic future.

I have been a member of NYLA since 1985, and active in my primary section, LAMS (nee LAMRT) for nearly as long. Through my membership in NYLA, I have met and have been enriched by countless professionals from public libraries and from the wider library field. I look forward to continuing my service on the NYLA Council.

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Treasurer

**Penelope Klein**

Central NY Library Resources Council

I am honored to be considered for NYLA Treasurer. Moving to New York two years ago to join CLRC, I was delighted to discover that the state’s library association was offering innovative and vibrant professional development opportunities, as well as being a tenacious and successful advocate for all of New York’s libraries. Such an organization requires a sound financial base, and I would be thrilled to join the esteemed company of Treasurers that has worked hard to develop the resources necessary for NYLA’s success.

Before becoming a librarian, I was in banking. As NYLA Treasurer, I promise to bring my business experience to the role, and to continue the practices that have encouraged NYLA to flourish. I want to enhance NYLAs voice throughout all New York’s library communities, and I can think of no better way to serve my professional organization than by supporting its financial growth. I hope you will support my candidacy!
For Councilor-at-Large  
**Robert Hubscher**  
Ramapo Catskill Library System  
It is vital for NYLA members to take an active role in their association. Since moving to New York State in November of 2000, and joining NYLA I have worked to become a more active member.

Libraries are an essential institution in a democratic society. Libraries are part of the solution – dedicated to providing access to the record of civilizations’ accomplishments. As librarians we make it possible for people to enrich their lives by offering materials and services which refresh the spirit, improve the mind, and help sustain an open and free nation.

The threat to the future of libraries and librarians, whether real or imagined or the result of ignorance about what we are and do is palpable. NYLA can and does play a crucial role in the difficult task of framing perceptions about libraries, in defending the principles that are at the core of librarianship and by providing leadership to librarians, trustees and library workers.

I am committed to defending intellectual freedom, equity of access, privacy and confidentiality of library users and enhancing the image of libraries and librarians. I am eager to play an active role in helping to shape my Association and assure that it remains relevant, vibrant and solvent.

In an age when information is becoming a commodity, when the divide between the haves and have nots seems to be increasing, and success is tied to information access, our nation’s libraries have never been more important. I want NYLA to be in a position to support libraries, librarians, and library principles, to defend intellectual freedom, to rally our members, and to represent them effectively.

I want to contribute and I am ready to commit the time and energy required to do so.

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For Councilor-at-Large  
**Jennifer Morris**  
Pioneer Library System  
As the “Voice of the Library Community” NYLA provides us with strength in numbers and a way to connect for continuing education, for professional growth, for advocacy and for camaraderie. NYLA Council, as the governing board of our Association, provides the direction and leadership of NYLA initiatives.

A Councilor-at-Large is elected to represent the concerns of the members, across sections, and to serve as a liaison to several committees. I very much enjoyed serving on Council for three years as I moved from President Elect to President to Past President. It gave me a broad understanding of the issues concerning various sections, committees and roundtables. It also gave me the opportunity to get to know and work with more NYLA members – which was the best part!

I hope to get elected to serve on Council again, to bring member concerns to the table, and to collaborate with NYLA Leadership in setting the direction for our Association.

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For Councilor-at-Large  
**Gail Barraco**  
Eastern Suffolk BOCES  
I have served in a number of library settings over the past 17 years in public library, school library, and school library system settings. I have also served on a number of committees and advisory groups for the New York State Library, the School Library Systems Association, the Educational Media Technology Association, the National Media Market, and the WNET/WLIW Educational Telecommunications Service Committee.

I feel that these experiences have provided me with the background and expertise to serve the diverse library interests in New York as NYLA Councilor-At-Large. Advocacy for our profession is essential particularly in these tough economic times. I am proud to be a member of NYLA and to serve the interests of all libraries and library systems in New York State.

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For Councilor-at-Large  
**Pat Shanley**  
Retired  
Having worked in library services in many capacities and levels except academia, I believe I can represent all of NYLA’s membership very well and will do so to the best of my ability.

Like all of you, I am convinced of the positive impact that libraries have on lives at every age. My past experience serving on the NYLA board while president of SLMS, and my involvement on the SLM S board, has shown me what NYLA can do to support and enhance the library experience for all New Yorkers. Through the cooperative efforts of all sections, our association has become a stronger force for New York libraries and librarians. I think I bring to the table a feeling for the contributions of each sector of librarianship and will work cooperatively with NYLA for all libraries.

I have also experienced first hand, as an educator and NYSUT member, the importance of having an organization represent your interests in Albany. I believe strongly in NYLA’s mission to be the “voice” of New York’s libraries. All librarians need to better understand the role NYLA plays in promoting library services and obtaining funding to support those services. Each person who adds their “voice” by joining NYLA makes our message louder and clearer. Membership is crucial and as councilor-at-large I will use my voice to encourage membership in NYLA.

Still passionate about libraries after all these years!

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**NEW – Electronic Voting for 2008**

The 2008 NYLA Council election will be conducted via electronic ballot. By June 15th an e-mail invitation will be distributed to all NYLA members with log-in information and voting instructions. Those members for whom NYLA does not have an e-mail address will receive their instructions via US mail. The online ballot will remain available through midnight of July 15, 2008.

For complete candidate resumes, details on the electronic ballot and voting process, and the latest election information visit:  
Video Downloads Now Showing at the Library

by Lauren Russo, Communication Services

There are several video-on-demand services now being offered by libraries to their patrons throughout New York State.

One such service is MyLibraryDV. Created by Recorded Books, MyLibraryDV is a video-on-demand service in partnership with over 350 public libraries and 1200 library branches across the nation. MyLibraryDV (MyLibraryDV.com) offers 24/7 access to DVD-quality programming on the web.

Downloadable/streaming video programs include EdVideo, created by Thirteen Ed Online (thirteen.org), public television’s award winning Web service for teachers, and Learn 360, which allows students and teachers to either download or stream programs.

The MyLibraryDV collection contains over 500 videos, including over 25 classics such as “The Little Princess” and “The Little Shop of Horrors”, 20 independent films including “Wilby Wonderful”, 70 cooking programs with famous chefs, 100 travel videos, 50 health and fitness programs, 60 children’s videos, documentary films, along with literature programming that features author interviews and videos about books, and how-to videos including 60 minute episodes of “Antiques Roadshow” and “Today’s Homeowner.”

“MyLibraryDV is a phenomenal service,” said Norman Gluckman, Director of Avalon Public Library in Avalon, New Jersey. “It provides real content that patrons want to watch, which is vital for libraries trying to develop their websites into virtual branch libraries.”

Libraries can also add their own original digital content through the DV’s “virtual video.” Ideas for videos include kid’s story-time, annual events, meetings, visits from authors, and other local events. After uploading the original content on the website, everyone in the MyLibraryDV database, even patrons from other libraries, can view the video. With this program, patrons and subscribers can download up to ten videos at any time, and view them for seven days until check-out time. On the “My Downloads” play list, users can view the remaining time left on a program.

Another leading downloading service for libraries is Overdrive, which gives libraries and their patrons access to audio books, e-Book, music, and video formats from hundreds of publishers. Libraries can choose from over 80,000 titles to integrate into their digital collections.

Overdrive’s Partner Services team trains the library staff on how to use the service and gives assistance with collection development that fits the library’s brand. They then
incorporate the digital collection on the main library website where formats are available on a single platform.

In the New York Public Library’s eNYPL system, as part of the Overdrive service, patrons can download over 2,500 pocket e-books onto their mobile handheld devices. The Upper Hudson Library System, serving Albany and Rensselaer Counties, also uses the Overdrive Service. Their collection of 320 videos includes educational programs, classic movies, horror, science fiction, drama, westerns, cartoons, and documentaries, and users can view them for three weeks. The Guilderland Public Library is responsible for a third of UHLS’ Overdrive checkouts.

EdVideo has a collection of over 50,000 multi-media components for all grade levels and curriculum areas. Thirteen/WNET New York, PBS’s flagship station, developed this streaming video program to help teachers incorporate technology in the classroom with proper teacher training.

According to the Thirteen.org website, “A recent Educational Testing Service (ETS) study shows that helping teachers learn how to integrate technology, especially the Internet, into the classroom is a critical factor in the successful implementation of technology applications in schools…ETS research concludes that most teachers have not had the education or training to use technology effectively in their teaching, revealing that only 15% of U.S. teachers reported having at least nine hours of training in educational technology.”

To help assist teachers, the free service includes standards-based lesson plans and classroom activities in a multi-media primer, online mentors, and reviews of curriculum based websites, along with other items. Students can also view components that are specifically based on their curriculum and grade level.

With Learn 360 at learn360.com, students can view the site’s increasing collection of videos, video clips, stills, vocabulary video clips, images, and audio. Students can browse through these items based on the subject area, their grade level, media format, and state standard.

“Teachers love the programs [EdVideo and Learn 360],” said Linda A. Nichols, Director of Institutional Support Services at the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES Regional Education Center in Auburn, NY. “They can use clips and videos in their lessons and PowerPoint presentations. Students can also use them in their reports and other projects.”

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The New York Council for the Humanities is launching an exciting new reading and discussion program for parents and their 9 to 11 year old children. Recent studies have shown that reading for pleasure drops dramatically after the age of eight and that many children are not adequately prepared for engagement in complex, life-long reading. Together – Book Talk for Kids & Parents seeks to address these issues by bringing together parents and their upper elementary school children to explore and debate important humanities themes through shared reading.

Hosted by local libraries, the Together program involves six 90-minute discussion sessions that are co-facilitated by a librarian (often a children’s librarian) and a local humanities scholar. Each session is focused on themes of American identity related to either a picture book or novel, and every participant is encouraged to share his or her opinion, observations and analysis of the book.

The Together program model has been extensively piloted at a range of different libraries across the state with very positive results. A host library coordinator in Central New York reported that many of the families who participated in the Together series at her site have returned to take part in the library’s regular programs and services. She added that her library would be “more than interested in another session of Together.” In Schenectady, a library co-facilitator said that she has seen most of the families involved in her Together series come back to the library. “Everyone really raved about [Together], and felt it was a real benefit to both child and parent to be involved,” she explained. “One thing people really liked was the community building aspect of the program. I think people felt they made valuable connections to others through the literature and the sharing of personal stories and opinions.” She also remarked that Together “is so well conceived and tested that successful implementation is practically guaranteed!”

Not only has Together been successful for host libraries and facilitators, but families who have participated in the program have seen a growing interest in literacy at home. A child participant recently wrote to the Council saying, “Reading is not something I usually like to do, but I loved the [Together] program at my library.” “[Together] made me want to read more books,” said a fourth grader who took part in the program. She also mentioned an additional advantage: “My mom and I could spend more time together. We learned more about books and talking with each other.” One mother reported that her family has continued to discuss books together and has even designated a “Book Talk room” in their home. She concluded by saying, “Thanks to this club, you have helped us become better readers and taught us what books are. They are not just paper and ink; they are precious.”

The program also has the added benefit of engaging parents in their own reading. After attending the Together program with her child, one mother stated that “I read for myself now. I need to catch up and read the classics that I didn’t get since I did not grow up in this country… I used to concentrate on recommending books for the kids and making sure that they read—now I read for me.”

The Council covers all costs of the Together program for accepted applicants, and co-facilitators are provided with an extensive training session. To apply to host a Together series at your library, call the New York Council for the Humanities (212-233-1131) or visit our website (www.nyhumanities.org). Applications for Fall 2008 series will be available on May 16.

Section News continued from page 7

create a PowerPoint presentation depicting the average copyright age of nonfiction, average copyright date of the entire collection and average books per student. Thanks also to Michael Borges, NYLA Executive Director, who brought this information to the attention of Albany legislators in an effort to increase library materials aid.

The 2008 SLMS Leadership Retreat will feature Gail Dickinson and Barbara Stripling presenting the new AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner which were launched during the AASL National Conference in Reno. A past president of SLMS, Gail served as the AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner Task Force Co-Chair while Barbara served as a task force member. The SLMS Summer Leadership Retreat will be held at Cornell University, August 3 – 5, 2008. A new location for the 2009 retreat is being researched by the SLMS Educational Leadership Committee.

Plan on attending the 2008 Annual NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs, November 5-8 including the pre-conference with Joyce Valenza:

Technology Through the Kids Eyes: Explain it to the Adults. Topics of other sessions sponsored by SLMS include: Standards for the 21st Century Learner, marketing your library, podcasting with a PC, plagiarism and copyright in the K-12 environment, 3 Apples Book Award, putting the fun back into your library program, boys and reading, and the SLMS membership meeting.

YSS

Thanks to Natalie Korsavidis and her committee, Transformations: Embracing Change, the YSS Spring Conference, was an educational and entertaining experience for 230 attendees. Youth librarians emerged from the conference feeling inspired and recharged! Plans are now underway for the 2009 spring conference, which will be held in the Finger Lakes region. Stay tuned for more details. And if you missed this year’s spring conference, check out the pictures, coming soon to the YSS website.
“CHECK THIS GAME OUT, LAUREN,” my eleven year old cousin Skyler said excitedly while placing the game “Dead Rising” in his X Box 360. “What’s it about?” I ask. “It sounds like a pretty scary game to me.” Skyler chuckles and says, “It’s cool. There’s a lot of blood.” He tells me he has played the game only once before. My eight year old cousin Cameron sits on the white couch behind Skyler, staring at the black screen while the game loads. “Do you play this game?” I ask Cameron and he shakes his head. “I think he’s too scared to play it,” teases Skyler. On the cover of the game, a man holds a TV above his head while preparing to throw the television into the crowd of life-like gruesomely bloody zombies who surround him. On the front bottom corner, I observe the M for Mature rating given by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB), which means the game should only be played by consumers ages seventeen and up. The player’s character is a man who wears a baseball cap and runs around a mall killing zombies with different weapons, which include a chainsaw and lawnmower, while trying to retrieve pictures. While he chainsaws through a zombie, a scarlet red pool of blood spills out from the zombie’s corpse. The mall is also filled with living beings, who are mall employees who have gone insane as a result of the zombie invasion. They act as the “bosses” or people the player must beat in the game in order to continue on. One is a deranged looking clown with a chainsaw, and he continues to run his rollercoaster ride, which includes two small dead children in the front cart. Skyler continues to play this “awesome” game. Cameron had nightmares for weeks because of the game’s brutal content. When providing a video game for their children, parents may not always be aware of how violent or inappropriate the game may be, regardless of the ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) rating provided on the game’s front cover. That’s why the non-profit ESRB has created a Ratings Search Widget sponsored by the National PTA- so parents can make informed decisions about which video games are most appropriate for their children to borrow from the library. ESRB president Patricia Vance notes, “Last year, the ratings search feature of our website was incredibly popular, with more than four million ratings searches having been conducted. There’s clearly a huge appetite among consumers for ratings information, and providing this widget will make it that much easier for them to make informed purchase or rental decisions.”

According to esrb.org, “The ESRB typically assigns over 1,000 ratings per year. In 2007, ESRB completed 1,563 rating assignments.”

A widget is a portable mini application that allows users to share the widget with friends, and/or place on their desktops and personal homepages. With this new widget, parents can search games by their title, and retrieve information about the game’s content descriptors, rating category, publisher and platform (game system type). Content descriptors, which appear on the back of the game box cover, refer to specific elements in the game that may have influenced the rating. “Dead Rising”, for example, received an M for Mature for blood and gore, intense violence, language, partial nudity, and use of alcohol. To get the widget, simply go to ESRB.org. On the top left corner of the homepage, drag the mouse over the ESRB ratings category and click on resources. Once this page opens, click on the “Get the ESRB Ratings Search Widget” icon on the right side of the page.

Libraries can also post this tool on their websites so parents can make informed decisions about which video games are most appropriate for their children to borrow from the library. ESRB president Patricia Vance notes, “Last year, the ratings search feature of our website was incredibly popular, with more than four million ratings searches having been conducted. There’s clearly a huge appetite among consumers for ratings information, and providing this widget will make it that much easier for them to make informed purchase or rental decisions.”

Rating Searches Made Easy
by Lauren Russo, Communication Services
Did you know that Melville Dewey worked for spelling reform for the English Language? (indeed he considered changing his name to Melvil Dui) or that he first created hanging vertical files? It’s safe to assume that when Dewey’s hometown of Adams Center, NY chose to remember Dewey, it was for his better know accomplishment of the library classification system — the Dewey Decimal System (and perhaps his founding of the New York Library Association!)

A few years ago a group of Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) in Adams Center, spear-headed by Francis Shoemaker, (the former Adams Center librarian) decided to raise funds for a plaque to be placed on Dewey’s homestead; they wanted to celebrate the man known as a librarian and the creator of the Dewey Decimal System. The Friends group consists of Kate Wilson- President, Beth Vincent-Vice President, Pat Garbutt-Treasurer, and Renee Beach-Secretary. Together with the community they raised enough funds to purchase the plaque.

“We had a lot of support from the community — like bake sales,” Vincent said.

At the same time the Friends group was working on the plaque, another group, the Chi Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma were busy erecting a historical marker which now stands in front of Dewey’s house. The plaque notes Dewey as “the creator of the Dewey Decimal System” and a “librarian and educator” according to American Libraries Magazine.

Dewey devised the system during his years at Amherst College. Before Dewey libraries each used a different system to classify books such as assigning books a particular spot on a shelf; which made it difficult to patronize multiple libraries.

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**2008 CDLC Outstanding Student Employee Award**

The 2008 Outstanding Student Employee Award was presented to nine deserving students at a ceremony held at the Capital District Library Council on April 10, 2008. Kingsley Greene, Director of Libraries at Sage Colleges and President of CDLC’s Board of Trustees, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Michael Borges, Executive Director of the New York Library Association, congratulated the students and spoke to the students, their families and supervisors about the importance of Libraries in New York State.

Award winners, chosen for their commitment and dedication, time management skills, excellent patron services and colleague interaction, responsibility, peer leadership, interest and initiative, were presented with a certificate and a CDLC monogrammed briefcase.
just in case you need a little bit of help in this area, NYLA has provided you with all the tools, talking points, and information that you need to be a strong library advocate. Use this site extensively, please!

The next tab on our tour is Vendor Opportunities. This section of the website gives you information about the NYLA conference as well as the various programs and institutes that NYLA provides for you. Here you can access the list of vendors who participate in our trade show. Use this list to persuade your favorite vendor to participate in the NYLA conference.

Click on the Professional Development tab to check out all the programming and opportunities that are available to you through NYLA.

Click on Member Resources to become an informed NYLA member. This space contains the membership center, many library links, forms, membership benefits and much, much more. You need an ID and password to gain entrance to this site. Your NYLA membership gives you automatic access to this page.

The next tab is the Gift Shop. Galina Tsvaygenbaum very capably manages the NYLA store. She has added many library motif gift ideas that you can purchase online and at the NYLA conference. Every little bit helps the NYLA bottom line.

And the last tab for you to click on is Awards & Scholarships. Here you can learn about the many awards that NYLA offers and that you should avail yourself. Often these awards go begging because of either lack of knowledge or lack of interest. I’d like to think that there are few applications because of lack of knowledge. So now you know. Click on this tab, find out what awards and scholarships we offer, download the application and fill it out. How simple is that!

Thank you for taking this tour of the NYLA website with me. My theme for the year is “Cooperating, Connecting, and Collaborating”. At the last minute I threw in “Communicating”. I believe that the NYLA website along with the Bulletin and the NYLA Conference are the means to connect and collaborate and communicate with each other. If we connect, collaborate and communicate, the next step is to cooperate. If we do this, we will be stronger library professionals and stronger members of NYLA.
Have you visited the NYLA website recently? If you haven’t popped in lately you don’t know what you’re missing!

So take a tour with me and check it out! First, you need to get there—the URL is http://www.nyla.org. Make sure you bookmark the site! Once you get to the site you will be amazed at the wealth of information you will find there. The home page alone is a case in point. Here you can easily find information about upcoming events such as conferences, institutes and section events. You can also go shopping for openings in the career center, be a library advocate and send a fax to your legislator, or check out other programs initiated by NYLA, or actually go shopping in the NYLA store. Information you need to know is clearly featured on the home page. And everything within the site is easily accessed on the home page with one click of your mouse.

So let me walk you through the site. If you hover your mouse over the first tab, About NYLA, you can read about the history of NYLA, find the names of your NYLA Council members or check out the many sections and roundtables of NYLA. The information found under this tab helps you to identify the leaders of your organization and the great folks who work in the NYLA office making sure that the organization is strong and viable. And if you ever need to go to the NYLA office, you will find detailed directions here.

Now we’ll move to the right and hover over the Join Us tab. Here you will find a wealth of information beginning with testimonials from NYLA members. You’ll also find a list of membership benefits to use when answering the age-old question, “Why should I join NYLA? It’s sooo expensive.” Use the talking points that we have provided for you to persuade any colleagues who are non-members or who need that little extra nudge to convince them that joining is a “good thing”. And did you know that NYLA is having a membership drive? Read all about it on the NYLA web page. Anything that has to do with membership from forms to information can be found under this tab.

Moving to the right we click on the News & Events tab. This area is full of information about the many programs that NYLA provides for its members throughout the year. Here you will find a calendar and information about the NYLA Conference as well as about the many institutes and programs on demand that NYLA provides. Did you know that NYLA participated in a Disaster Relief Fund? Or that NYLA has a Spanish Language Outreach program? And you can find information about the Summer Reading Program here.

The next tab, Advocacy, is a must read section for everyone. Each of us advocates for libraries and library programs every single day of the year not just on Lobby Day. We need to educate the public about who we are and what we do. But