Library Legislative Agenda Stalls

by Michael J. Borges

Despite the herculean efforts of Assemblymember Amy Paulin, Chair of the Assembly Libraries and Education Technology Committee and efforts of the bills’ sponsors, NYLA’s top legislative priorities were held up in the Assembly. Legislation (S.2082 Larkin/A.6592 Gunther) that would allow public libraries and library systems to contract with BOCES for telecommunication services like internet connections passed the Senate, but was held in the Assembly Education Committee.

Legislation (S.7507 Farley/A.6256 Eddington) which would allow NYLA to bundle small construction projects together to submit to the Dormitory Authority for financing also passed the Senate, was reported out of the Assembly Library Committee, but was held in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

NYLA’s other top legislative priority (S.7507 Farley/A.10518 Paulin) would have allowed association libraries to opt into the NYS Retirement System upon approval of their boards of trustees. This bill also stalled despite getting approval from the State Comptroller’s Office and support from the Working Families Party (for which we are very grateful). CSEA opposed the bill because they don’t believe association libraries are quasi-governmental entities providing a public service, despite the fact that nineteen association libraries (including the NYC libraries) employing over 5,000 library staff are already in the state retirement system.

The Assembly did manage to pass one bill on our priority list (S.2066 Farley/A.3949 Perry), which would allow taxpayers to make a contribution to the “I Love Your Library Fund” through an check-off box on their state income tax returns. The bill got as far as third reading on the Senate Floor Calendar before dying there. The Senate’s position is that the tax form is already too crowded with “check off boxes”. NYLA is attempting to

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INTERVIEW WITH NYLA MEMBERS

Bridget Quinn-Carey

by Michael J. Borges

This summer I had the pleasure of interviewing new NYLA member Bridget Quinn-Carey, who started her new job as Director of the 37 branch Buffalo and Erie County Library System in March.

Although Bridget’s mom was a children’s librarian in Bellport, New York her path to becoming a librarian was not preordained. When she graduated from SUNY Binghamton with a BA in literature and rhetoric she was still undecided about her career choice. “I wanted to get into the publishing field, but prospects at the time were not good, so I took my parents advice to go to graduate school for an MLS at St. John’s University, where I really enjoyed the studies and worked part-time at the Middle Country Library in Centereach on Long Island.”

“Working at the Middle Country Library made a lasting impression upon me. It showed me how a public library that was responsive to patrons needs could become an integral part of the community,” said Bridget.

After graduating from St. John’s she moved to Iowa to be with her future husband who was attending law school in the state. Her first full-time job in a library was as Director of the Kalona Public Library that served a mainly Amish/Mennonite community. She later served as Director of the Washington Public Library and then as Head of Circulation of the Iowa City Library. After six years in the Midwest they decided to move back to the East Coast and landed in Connecticut, where Bridget found a job at the Connecticut State Library in charge of their new inter-library loan program.

She took the opportunity to become the Director of the Essex Library in the Connecticut town where she lived with husband and two daughters. She served as Director for eight years, where she launched initiatives to improve technology use, fundraising and teen involvement that eventually culminated in a renovation and expansion project that more than doubled the size of the existing library.

After the completion of the construction project, Bridget was interested in a new challenges and her husband was itching to return to his family roots in Western New York. So the job opportunity at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library was a perfect opportunity for them both professionally and personally. “I had followed the news of changes at BECPL for some time and coming here gave me the chance to make a real difference once again for the library and the community,” stated Bridget.

“BECPL has gone through some tough times, with facility closures, staff layoffs and funding cuts, which is not an easy thing to recover from. People here are looking for a fresh start and beginning a new chapter for the library and achieving its full potential,” continued Bridget.

Bridget wants the library to collaborate with other community organizations to deliver needed public services like literacy training and workforce development skills. “The more responsive we are to community needs and the more we collaborate with other cultural organizations, the more buy-in we have from the public and the ability to leverage private investment in providing these services,” said Bridget.

She also hopes to integrate more technology and use of the Internet into BECPL’s operations and programming. The library is in the process of rolling out RFID and self-checkout in the city branches and hopes to roll it out to the other branches as well.

I concluded the interview by asking what she thought were the challenges facing libraries and about the role of NYLA. “Public libraries need to take a hard look at what they are doing to make sure they are responsive to community needs, not to be afraid of trying new things and getting out of the comfort zone,” she responded. “NYLA plays the lead role in advocating for libraries and I was impressed by how well Library Lobby Day was run, and by the large turnout.”
Executive Director’s Report

Since my last report in the Spring Bulletin, we have made progress on three initiatives that will have a positive impact on the library community. The first initiative deals with requiring 60 hours of continued professional development for public librarians who receive their certificate starting in 2010. At the end of July, NYLA representatives will be making a presentation to the Board of Regents on this proposal (which the Board of Regents recommended in a 2000 report). We have received many suggestions and thoughtful responses to this proposal from the library community, some of which are reflected in the proposal to be presented to the Board of Regents. The proposal can be found on our website.

The second initiative was the creation of Information Literacy Standards. These Standards, which can also be found on our website, have been sent to the Board of Regents for their consideration and hopefully inclusion in any new NYS Learning Standards. NYLA requested and received approval to have a school library media specialist on both the English Language Arts Panel and Regents Steering Committee on Learning Standards, which are examining and revising the Learning Standards for K-12.

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 met last month with the NYS Dept. of Civil Service, which agreed to let us make recommendations to update and improve both the Librarian I and II exams, which will then allow these tests to be available online.

A new initiative that NYLA is working on with the Division of Library Development is the establishment of a New York Book Festival to be held in Albany at the Cultural Education Center and attached Empire State Plaza during National Library Week. Anyone interested in serving on the planning committee for this event, please contact me at director@nyla.org.

Michael J. Borges

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The NYLA Bulletin

Members on the Move

**Jill Annitto**, formerly of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Management and Budget, has been appointed the Director of Operations at the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives in New York City.

**Mary Biblo** has been elected to a four year term as an American Library Association Councilor-at-Large.

**Valerie Brown**, has been named the Director of the Andes Public Library in Andes, New York.

**Jeffrey Cannell**, NYS Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education, has been appointed as NYS Acting State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries.

**Mary Lou (Caskey) Reape** has recently retired as the Director of the Mid-York Library System in Utica, NY.

**Joyce Conroy** is the new Library Director of the Roscoe Free Library in Roscoe, NY.

**Tara D’Amato**, is the new Library Director of the Port Jefferson Free Library in Port Jefferson, NY.

**Carol Ann Desch**, Coordinator of Statewide Library Services and Director of the Division of Library Development at the New York State Library was inaugurated as the 2008-2009 President of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies.

**Denise DiPaolo** is the new Library Director of the Shelter Island Public Library in Shelter Island, NY.

**Catherine Doyle** is the new Director of the Lorette Wilmot Library and Media Center at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY.

**Harry Dutcher** retired in January 2008 as the Library Director of the Saratoga Springs Public Library in Saratoga Springs, NY.

**Mary Grace Flaherty**, Director of the Sidney Memorial Public Library, has accepted an IMLS fellowship from Syracuse University to pursue a Ph.D. in information science.

**Darlene Ford** is the new Director of the Mid-York Library System in Utica, NY.

**Linda Fox**, Director of the Capital Region School Library System, is the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the School Library Systems Associations of New York State.

**Charlotte Garofalo**, Library Director of the Gouverneur Reading Room in Gouverneur, NY, received the Northern New York Library Network’s 18th Annual Award for Excellence in Library Service.

**Barbara Genco**, Brooklyn Public Library, has been elected to a four year term as an American Library Association Councilor-at-Large.

**Alexandra Gutelius**, formerly of the Vaughn Public Libraries near Toronto, Canada, is the new Library Director of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library in Clifton Park, NY.

**Patrice Hollman**, Albany Public Library’ Interim Assistant Library Director, is the recipient of the Brain Injury Association of New York State’s Silent Angel Award.

**Kim Iraci**, Communications, Advocacy and Outreach Librarian at the Pioneer Library System, has been named one of the top five trainers in the national Spanish Language Outreach Program sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Robert Jaquay** has recently retired as the Director of the William K. Sanford Town Library in Loudonville, NY.

**Heidi Jensen**, Cataloging Assistant at the Pioneer Library System, received the Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service, for her distinguished service to the New York State Library Assistants’ Association and to the library assistants of New York on either a state or local level.

**Joyce Lalosa**, Voorheesville Public Library Children’s Librarian, was awarded the first Micki Nevett Sparkler Award by Children’s Literature Connection.

**Min Liu**, Long Island Library Resource Council Assistant Director, has received her Executive M.B.A. from Stony Brook University College of Business.

**Stephen Maher**, former intern at the New York Library Association, has joined the Metropolitan New York Library Council as the Professional Development Manager.

**Kate McCaffrey** is the new Library Director of the Northern Onondaga Public Library in Cicero, NY.

**Sheila Mikkelson**, Director of the Seymour Public Library District in Auburn, NY, will be the keynote speaker at the 2008 Children and Teen Services Conference of the Ohio Library Council.

**Richard Naylor** is the new Director of the William K. Sanford Town Library in Loudonville, NY.

**Sharon Phillips** has been appointed by the New York State Library as the Associate Librarian (Blind) and will serve as the Regional Librarian in charge of the Talking Book and Braille Library, comprised of 55 upstate New York counties.

**Lonna McKeon Pierce** of MacArthur Elementary in Binghamton, NY, and **Mary Ann Karre**, of Horace Mann Elementary in Binghamton, NY, were selected to receive grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend Newark Museum’s Picturing America Seminar this summer!

**Josephine Piracci** has recently retired as the Director of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library in Clifton Park, NY.

**A. Issac Pulver**, most recently Deputy Director of the Shaker Heights Public Library in Ohio, is the new Director of the Saratoga Springs Public Library in Saratoga Springs, NY.

**Alan Roeskel** recently retired as the Director of the Garden City Public Library in Garden City, NY.

**Janet Roszman**, recent MLS graduate from the University of Buffalo, has accepted a position at the Perry Public Library as a Youth Services Librarian.

**Ellen Rubin**, School Library Media Specialist at the Wallkill Senior High School in Wallkill, NY, is the recipient of a Picturing America Award, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association.

**Louise Sabin-Hildiss** is the new Director of the Chatham Public Library in Chatham, NY.

**Amanda Seigel**, Technical Assistant IV in the Dorot Jewish Division of the New York Public Library, received the 2008 Association of Jewish Libraries Scholarship.

**Barbara K. Stripling**, Director of Library Services for the New City School Library System, has been elected to a four year term as an American Library Association Councilor-at-Large.

**Ellen Tannenbaum** is the new Youth Services Librarian of the Tuckahoe Public Library of Tuckahoe, NY.

**Lisa Wemett**, Assistant Director for Reference and Teen Services at the Webster Public Library in Webster, NY, received the 2008 Ray Murray Award from the New York State Library Assistants’ Association in recognition of her work with library assistants, student interns and clerical staff over the past fifteen years.

**Diana Wendell**, most recently a school library media specialist at the Port Byron High School in Port Byron, NY, has accepted the position of Madison-Oneida School Library Systems/Media Services Coordinator.

**The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library** has been named the Community Partner of the Year by the Buffalo Museum of Science in recognition of the partnership between the two organizations for the “Cool Science” Series, which aims to bring science programs to children ages 8-12 in nine branch libraries in the City of Buffalo.

**The Delaware-Chenango-Madison- Otsego BOCES School Library System** has just been awarded a $15,000 grant to provide training and financial opportunities to our member librarians in the use of Primary Sources from the Library of Congress.

The **Garden City Public Library** hosted a Renovation Celebration on Saturday, April 19th to mark the completion of the Library’s renovation and expansion project which was initiated in response to community needs.

**The Guilderland Public Library** was awarded $5,000 in funding as part of the American Dream Starts @ your library initiative by the American Library Association and Dollar General Literacy Foundation in recognition of the Library’s ongoing efforts to provide services to the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) community.

In Memoriam: NYLA is saddened to learn of the passing of Karen L. Cooper, Lucile Holt, Melanie A. Leavitt and Norm Seldes.
ASLS April C. Nace, President

We are currently seeking applicants for the ASLS/Ridley Bookbindery Student Internship Grant. Sponsored by Ridley’s Book Bindery (Ithaca, NY), the grant enables the recipient to conduct a project planned by the library and implemented by a student currently enrolled in a graduate-level library studies program. The grant provides a $1000 stipend for the intern chosen by the recipient library. The purposes of the grant are to:

- Provide a practical and meaningful work experience for a graduate library studies student interested in pursuing a career in academic or special librarianship.
- Stimulate interest among graduate library students to pursue a career in academic or special libraries.
- Support professional development of graduate library studies students for careers in academic and special libraries.
- Applications must be postmarked by August 15th and the winner will be notified in early September. The grant application and additional information about the grant can be found on the ASLS Awards page of the NYLA website.

And in other News...

A special thanks to ASLS Board Member Nancy Virgil Morgan who recently inventoried the ASLS Archives. The ASLS Web Improvement Committee (Regan Brumagen, Leigh Mihlrad, Amy Pass, and Heidi Pettit) has put together a plan of action for the website and are prioritizing changes to begin implementing. We anticipate digitizing selected items from the Archives and posting them on the ASLS website in the future.

Look for the upcoming ASLS Newsletter for more section news.

RASS Donna Ciampa-Lauria, President

The Annual Conference is fast approaching. Make plans to be there and take advantage of the many programs related to your professional needs. RASS has a wide range of topics sure to please, beginning with our pre-conference Continuing Education workshop, Positive Personal Change: How to Take a Positive Approach to Life and Work” with speaker Mark Steinberg.

Other programs that RASS is sponsoring include, “Book Buzz: A Focus on First Novels.” Representatives from top publishing houses will showcase the new crop of debut novels and first books. Speakers at “Wiki Technology as a Staff Empowerment and Information Sharing Tool” will share how their staff is using wiki technology to capture boomer librarians’ years of institutional knowledge. At “Libraries for the Future,” speakers will discuss transforming libraries into centers for boomer learning and community participation. “The Best of Reference” returns presented by librarians from Brooklyn, Queens and New York Public Libraries. “Library as a Third Place” will look at how library spaces can better accommodate and inspire their uses. Find out about the database for a Spanish web library and how your library can join this collaboration. At our Noted Author Luncheon, we’ll welcome Colum McCann. Colum is the author of short story collections and other novels, including international best-sellers, This Side of Brightness and Dancer.

And finally, we hope you will attend RASS-berries, Bagels and Roundtables for stimulating discussion on a variety of library topics.

Thank you for supporting RASS and we hope to see you all at this year’s conference in Saratoga.

YSS News Lisa Jacobs, President

The Annual NYLA Conference will be chock-full of YSS events. Thursday’s programs are Tween/Teen Programming 101 and the YSS Featured Author & Membership Meeting with author Carolyn Mackler. Friday’s programs include Online Summer Reading Program Registration - Innovation@Your Library; Seeing the World, Creating the World with Illustrator, Matthew McElligott; What’s the Buzz? Keeping Up with Technology for Librarians; and the ever-popular Telling Tales. Saturday morning will feature YSS Table Talks.

Friday’s special event will be the Empire State Award luncheon, featuring this year’s award winner, Rafe Martin.

Special thanks to Jennifer Ogodowski and the Conference Planning Committee for putting together this wonderful slate of events.

Spring Conference

YSS is pleased to announce its 2009 Spring Conference on Friday, April 3, 2009, at The Inn on the Lake in Canandaigua, NY. The keynote speaker will be author Linda Sue Park, whose novel, A Single Shard, was the winner of the 2002 Newbery Award. “A Kaleidoscope of Ideas” is the theme of this day-long conference, which will include a choice of twelve workshops for librarians specializing in services for children and teens. Topics will include early literacy, using technology with teens, programming on a budget, library web pages for youth, developing collections and programs for gamers, and designing hands-on graphic novel workshops for teens. Edgar-Award winning author of Never Trust a Dead Man, Vivian Vande Velde, will provide the luncheon speech.

Registration includes a continental breakfast and luncheon. Early bird rates apply until February 28, 2009. Reduced registration fees will be offered for library school students and New York Library Association mem-

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Advocacy, My Way!

by Ellen Rubin

As a school library media specialist in a 9-12 public high school in a semi-rural area of NY State, advocacy and outreach comes in many shapes and sizes for me. Many of the library media specialists that I know strive to collaborate in their schools by reaching out to their teachers and administrators to better serve their student populations. Some even work with their Parent-Teacher Associations to organize book fairs within their library media centers as fundraisers and a way to encourage reading. However, the advocacy and outreach that I do at Wallkill Senior High School goes beyond the norm to include local and state legislators, senior citizens’ groups, public and academic librarians, authors, illustrators, cartoonists, musicians, dancers, board of education members, parents and so on.

One advocacy component in my “bag of tricks” is to take interested, politically active high school seniors to lobby every year, for the past sixteen years, on NYLA’s Lobby Day in March. I only bring ten as it’s easier to move around the Legislative Office Building and gain access to our local legislators. Nothing spells advocacy better than speaking up in support of school libraries and legislation relating to them in Albany! Throughout the sixteen years, the students that I have brought with me have told me what an awesome experience it was to actually lobby for something important to them and not just read about it in a book or hear about it from their teachers. The staff members who have accompanied me have also told me that they found the lobbying process fascinating. I’m allowed to bring these students and get funds to travel on the Ramapo Catskill Library System bus because the school’s administrators and teachers all support this field trip as a way to witness state government in action!

However, one of the most consciousness-raising and thought-provoking events which occurs in my library media center is when I bring our area’s local state assemblymen and senators in to speak to various groups of my high school’s seniors. In past years, I’ve had Senator Bonacic and Assemblymen Cahill, Kirwan and Larkin, as well as local judges, town supervisors, and Ulster County legislators. On separate occasions in May, Assemblymen Cahill and Kirwan spoke to several classes regarding the workings of the state legislature and bills which they were sponsoring. They also answered a myriad of questions from the audience which covered topics ranging from the cost of gas, to the use of alternative energy sources, to the impending presidential election, to outsourcing and so on. The students were prepped ahead of time by me or their social studies and English teachers. They visited the legislators’ web sites and came ready to participate in what often became a very lively discussion! On the days that the legislators visited, our superintendent of schools, the assistant superintendents, a few board of education members, and our high school’s building administrators were all on hand to join in the dialogue. What better example of mega-collaboration at work? Students, staff, administrators, board members (who are also district parents) and state legislators all coming together every year in my library media center. The center is showcased as an active, vital area in our high school. This event is the result of careful planning involving contacting these individuals and getting your students, staff and administrators on board, too. The legislators are usually available to visit on Thursdays or Fridays and are more than willing to come, once the state budget is passed. Calling their local offices to plan their visits is the best way to reach them.

Another vital way to advocate is to send emails and letters periodically to state and federal officials touting the importance of adequate funding for school libraries, library systems, and the hiring of certified school library media specialists in the school libraries in every state.

You, too, can make these valuable experiences happen in your community—to become a “cheerleader” in the legislative arena. Just do it!!

Voices:
Voices: The Journal of New York Folklore is a semi-annual, peer-reviewed publication that is a continuation of New York Folklore Quarterly (1945–1972) and New York Folklore (1972–1999). Its goal is to present scholarly articles on folklore and its manifestations, with a special emphasis on New York State. In addition to eight feature articles, each issue of the journal contains eight columns that address current issues in the field of folklore. The Journal is found worldwide and is available by membership.

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**YSS Board**
- Vice President / President Elect – Sarah Sachs
- First Year Director – Margaret Tice
- Secretary – Beth Zambito

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**Legislative Agenda**
continued from page 1

work with organizations seeking a similar contribution option to see if we can simplify the form to allow more organizations to participate.

We will be working with Assemblymember Paulin and other library supporters to address the concerns of Assembly staff in the months ahead in order to move these bills forward next year.

The State Budget situation continues to be dire with the economy in recession and Wall Street reeling from the mortgage and credit crisis. The Division of Budget will be releasing budget updates in July and October, which could determine whether mid-year budget cuts are recommended to the Governor.

Library Lobby Day is Tuesday, March 10th next year and we will be meeting with staff from the Governor’s office and Division of Budget this Fall to press our case for the restoration of the 2% cut imposed this year and attempt to forestall any additional cuts in library aid. •
NYLA Welcomes First-Time Members 1/1/08 - 6/30/08

ASLS
Barbara Alvarez
Kristine Boniello
Catherine Brenner
Kenneth Burns
Elizabeth Carrature
Kenneth Distler
Briana Falconer
Miriam Gurowsky
Robert Johnston
Mary Keller
Valerie Lang
Cyril Oberlander
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Samuel DeVola
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Nina Edgerton
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Antonette Ellinger
Hugh Farley
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Leanne Finngan
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debra Gaffey
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Lillian Gavin
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Kathi Greer
Josephine Grella
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Sandra Keltai
Regina Kenlor
Rhonda Konig
Gregory Kropp
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Mary Ellen Ledwith
Pamela Lee
Heidi Liscimb
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Bridget Quinn-Carey
Lisa Richland
Erin Robinson
Linda Rock
Liam Rogers
Daniel Sabol
Edward Sadowsky
Rebecca Saunders
Joyce Scott
Gary Skeels
Vivian Street
Beth Texter
Allyce Thor
Bonnie Towles
Geraldine Whittington
Jeffrey Wilson
Beth Zeman
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Louis Munoz
Jennifer Palmisano
Jean Rene
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SMART
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Stephanie Baker
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Gina Bell
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Gerri Calandro
Michael Collins
Myna Cortes
Deborah Dalton
Mira Dougherty-Johnson
Jodi Feldman
Rogio Gomez
Lynne Grant
Amanda Green
Melinda Grey
Max Hogan
Karen Jacoby-Bendeson
Elena Jannello
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Josephine Konvisse
Tracy Lobdell
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Monica Salo
Elizabeth Spoto
Lisa Stevens
Shari Taylor

Section News continued from page 7

bers in the Youth Services and School Library Media Sections. The Youth Services Section is pleased to be partnering with the 4th Annual Grater Rochester Teen Book Festival which will be held in Rochester on Saturday, April 4. This free event for teens will allow youth services specialists the for-tuitous opportunity to hear some outstanding young adult authors the day after the YSS Spring Conference.

Gather with friends and colleagues in the beautiful Finger Lakes Region of New York State to examine the constantly changing field of youth services. For further information, please contact Conference Chair Liz O'Toole at lotoole@pls-net.org.
As technology becomes a major part of our daily lives, the decrease in patrons at university and local libraries across the country is becoming more apparent. At a time where students and patrons rely on Google, Wikipedia, Jstor, and other research databases for information, fewer people, especially younger generations, are utilizing the library for printed texts for their reading and writing needs.

As a fourth year student at the University at Albany, N.Y., I have witnessed this transformation firsthand. The main University Library is more of a place where students socialize rather than a place where students enhance their learning. Students who actually want to study go to the Science Library, which is located next to the campus center with caffeinated energy beverages and food items only a two minute walk away. The most crowded places in both the Science and Main Libraries are the computer labs, which are almost always full. Most of my friends have never opened or taken out a book from the library. In their dorms and apartments, most students have either a laptop or desktop, and feel the Internet is their only necessary study tool.

As Scott Carlson observes in his article titled, “The Deserted Library” from The Chronicles of Higher Education, “…more and more students are entering libraries not through turnstiles but through phone lines and fiber-optic cables.” In this fast-paced technological world, libraries have begun to explore more aggressive ways to attract and retain patrons. Library cafes with their creative food offerings and espresso machines are one way that libraries are giving patrons and students a new reason to return to libraries.

At the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., Director Bob Mayo describes RPI’s café as a “library as a place” where patrons, students, and faculty can socialize and collaborate.” Mayo estimates that the library café has been around for about ten years, and was recently refurbished as part of the main floor’s renovation to make this section of the campus more attractive and spacious. Patrons and students can purchase virtually any food item including build-your-own subs and sandwiches, wraps, salads, soups, desserts, Green Mountain coffee, espresso, and freshly-squeezed lemonade. The café has music piped in and offers free wireless Internet.

“Students love the socialization aspect,” Mayo added. “They can get a coffee, sit at one of the booths, and study. The café is so popular that spilling food and drinks around the rest of the library is not a problem because people will choose to stay in the café. It brings in people who would otherwise not come to the library. They come in with the purpose of going to the café, but then are like ‘wow, look what’s actually in a library’ and see the true value.”

In 2004, the Buffalo & Erie County Library received a bequest for renovations, which led to the opening of the Fables Café in 2005. Since its inception, the café has become a downtown destination for the business community. Fables Café is run by an outside concern, which serves an upscale breakfast and lunch. Café hours are 8:30 am – 3 p.m. weekdays and 8:30 am – 2 pm Saturdays. The Café seats 66 and serves an average of more than 120 people each day for lunch. In fact, the café is so successful that an additional 22 seats are planned.

The café brings business people from downtown into the library, many of whom were not otherwise patrons of the library. “It allows us to diversify funding sources,” said Stanton H. Hudson Jr., Deputy Director. “We are currently developing a new policy so that not-for-profits and business groups can rent space in the library for special events catered exclusively by the Fables Café. Future endeavors include cross-marketing between the Café and the gift shop to increase revenues from both areas.

The Newburgh Free Library installed a small library café about 10 years ago, which has proven to be a boon for the people in the neighborhood. “The idea behind creating our café was to make the library a welcoming place,” said Library Director Muriel Verdibello. “Most of the café users are library patrons who enjoy the convenience of having beverages and snacks and wireless Internet available onsite. It’s basically a coffee stand run by a volunteer, so it’s not a profit center for us.” Verdibello also said that were the library to go through a major renovation, she would support creating a full-service library café run by an outside vendor.

In the Central Library of the Monroe County Library System in Rochester, N.Y., Director Paula Smith says the purpose of their library café, vended by “Simply Crepes,” is to provide a new service to patrons and to bring in new clientele. “Simply Crepes,” went through a competitive bid process three years ago, and won based on its elegance and unique catering services. “We loved their menu and their dedication to commitment,” Smith said. “There was a lot of renovation continued on page 13
Groups of librarians throughout the U.S. are working collaboratively to prepare students to develop the necessary information literacy skills to be successful in college and beyond.

The Information Literacy Continuum Committee, working under the auspices of the Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC), is an example of a collaborative group of academic, school and public librarians in the Rochester, NY area, committed to ensuring that students in K-12 and higher education institutions learn information seeking skills. The group has developed a continuum of information literacy skills needed for a transition from high school to college.

The committee was first formed in 2004 as a result of a Library Services and Technology Act funded, New York State Library Division of Library Development grant awarded to RRLC, to promote the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVEL) databases. The committee’s original charge was encourage lifelong learning through the use of the NOVELNY databases but the group quickly broadened its scope to include students’ information literacy skills.

According to Barbara Ciambor, Outreach Librarian, RRLC, “The question was posed, ‘What if we could develop a document that would assist students with the high school to college transition, introducing specific skills with reinforcement as part of the process?’”

The document outlines grade levels at which specific skills in each step are expected to be introduced and mastered. The “Core Library & Research Skills” (http://www.rrlc.org) has been shared throughout the Rochester area as well as nationally and internationally.

Kathleen Sigler, committee member and Instruction Librarian at St. John Fisher College, presented the “Core Library & Research Skills” document at a workshop for Rochester Area School Librarians (RASL). In addition to sharing the document and reviewing differences between K-12 and academic libraries, Sigler stresses the importance of acknowledging differences in student populations: “While trends can be valuable for stimulating discussion, one must ultimately become familiar with the information literacy needs of the population one is serving, whether it is in the K-12 environment or in an academic library setting. There is no one-size-fits-all answer. One of the most unsettling aspects of the transition from high school to college is the sheer size of the academic library’s resources, staff, and building as compared to a high school library. Thus, anything librarians can do to ease this change is valuable.”

Information Literacy Continuum Committee members have organized and participated in a variety of programs to help educate school and academic librarians about information literacy instruction at the different levels. Collaborative activities have included a panel presentation by academic librarian members to a faculty meeting at Brockport High School. According to Kathy Jaccarino, committee member and Brockport High School Librarian, “Making sure our students are as best prepared as possible for life after high school is one of our main goals at Brockport. As a faculty we are always discussing ways to improve instruction and increase rigor, having college librarians come to facilitate a discussion among the faculty...”
seemed like a great way to make sure we are doing everything we can to assure this success."

The panel was composed of committee members Barbara Alvarez, University of Rochester; Jennifer Little, SUNY Brockport; and Alice Harrington-Wilson, Monroe Community College. Amy Puchalski, Freshmen Advisor from SUNY Brockport, joined the librarians. The college and university librarians discussed what they felt were the skills students were lacking, and made suggestions as to what high school teachers and librarians could do to address these issues. Topics of discussion ranged from note taking and writing skills to research and social skills. Overall the resounding message was that incoming college students need to better understand the research process, including how to take adequate notes, identify or focus a topic and associated key words or phrases, how to evaluate web sources, and how to cite sources. The panel stressed that repetition and reinforcement was critical to success, all agreed that the more students wrote and researched in high school the better.

Barbara Alvarez, Modern Language and Cultures Librarian at Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester explained that students often do not have a good understanding of academic research. “The work of a scholar goes much beyond reporting what other scholars have said on the subject. In addition to being a good information seeker and a good writer, a good scholar is able to come up with an interesting research problem, big or small, whose solution creates new knowledge and/or modifies our understanding of the world.”

The panel discussion generated a great deal of positive feedback from Brockport High School faculty and administration. Greg Pelletier, AP social studies teacher, observed, “It was great to make a connection with people in the academic arena, they reaffirmed that we’re on the right track. I definitely gleaned some good ideas from their feedback.”

Committee members have had the opportunity to present at regional library meetings and conferences, including a joint presentation with the Buffalo area High School to College group at the Spring Sharing session of the School Librarians’ Association of Western New York (SLAWNY).

Two members representing public libraries have joined the committee, Kristin Gallagher, Fairport Public Library and Jay Osborne, Central Library, Monroe County Library System. With their input the committee will broaden its focus to learn how information literacy can be supported across a “continuum” of lifelong learning.

that needed to be done.” The café offers patrons dessert and meal crepes, soups, salads, fruit, smoothies, and specialty coffees in a relaxing setting. The vendor also caters special events. Just last year, 20,000 people visited the café, bringing in new loyal patrons and helping the staff indulge in their daily caffeine buzzes. “The library café has been a major success,” she added. “It was definitely worth all the refurbishing.”

The Saratoga Springs Public Library opened a café ten years ago when it moved into the new building. According to Library Director “Ike” Pulver, a symbiotic relationship exists between the library and the café, with the library leasing space to the concessionaire and the concessionaire operating the café independently. The library receives a half million visitors annually and the café, with its 50-60 person capacity, is usually busy. The vendor is the exclusive caterer for any events that take place within the library. Kimberly Till has been the owner/operator of the Higher Grounds Caffé, as it is now called, for the past three and a half years. Till stressed the need to be creative and to find catering opportunities within the library that help with the bottom line. “The most important ingredient is to be hands-on,” said Till. “In order to succeed in this type of setting, it’s critical that the owner/operator be on site as much as possible.”

The Suffern Free Library in Suffern, N.Y. offers a somewhat more discouraging view. Its café opened eight years ago as part of a building renovation. Currently, the library is on its sixth café vendor. Previous vendors have included a trained chef, a deli owner, a former employee, and a volunteer who did it as a community service. Most left because they couldn’t make it financially. “Our patrons and staff love it,” said Library Director Ruth Bolin, “but we don’t seem to be able to draw in other people. The only way the vendor can be successful is if he or she is able to market the café to outside patrons and make our café a destination.” This library café faces several challenges: People need to drive to it because it’s not downtown; it is located across the street from a hospital with its own inexpensive café; some patrons feel that it is too costly for a café within a library; and the public doesn’t know it exists.

Libraries across the nation are looking at library cafes as one more way to effectively market their services in today’s world. In the right location, with a good space and a committed vendor, an onsite café can be a useful tool in keeping library patrons and staff content while, at the same time, enticing the Starbucks and Dunkin’ Donuts powered generation to give the library a try.
You’re invited!

Join us for the NYLA Vitality Fund Event during the 2008 Trade Show and Conference.

- Fun
- Prizes
- Fashion Show & Raffle
- Full course dinner
- Help raise money for library student scholarships and disaster relief for libraries

Who: NYLA members attending the Annual Trade Show and Conference.

What: NYLA’s Vitality Fund Event. The New York Library Association invites you to join your colleagues and friends at the annual Vitality Fund Event in the Hall of Springs featuring a full course dinner and fashion show.


When: Thursday, November 6th 2008. 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Why: The Vitality Fundraiser is one of the premier events of the conference. It will raise money for our NYLA’s various funds like our library student scholarships and disaster relief fund to help libraries impacted by flooding, fires, etc.

Details: The fashion show will highlight the dress and style of characters chosen from books suggested by librarians participating in the show. The clothing will be modeled by professionals and NYLA members. So show your support for NYLA and your brave colleagues by joining us for an evening of good food and fun. The Vitality Fund Event will also feature a raffle with a wide array of prizes like jewelry, books, Proctor’s Theatre tickets and a golf foursome at the Sagamore Resort.

RSVP: Sign up early for the Vitality Fund Event and get a discount on the raffle tickets! Tickets start at $50 per person.

If you haven’t yet registered for the 2008 NYLA Conference and Trade Show, you can do so by visiting www.nyla.org or by calling 800-252-6952 or emailing membership@nyla.org for more information.

With Love from New York’s Libraries: Operation Paperback

“We’re raining books on Baghdad!” said Phyllis Kitt, Board Member of the Empire Friends of the Roundtable of the New York Library Association, summing up EFR’s successful mission to send books to soldiers on military bases in Iraq. Empire Friends became aware of this opportunity through a library in California and began their own operation back home with two local libraries. “The idea appealed to me so strongly, it had Empire Friends written all over it,” said Kitt.

In order to get their operation up and running, Empire Friends got in touch with their local Reserves Unit who supplied them with information of soldiers in Iraq grateful to receive a shipment. The books are bundled approximately sixty to a box at a cost of about $15 when sent through the U.S. Postal Service.

Many of the books are obtained through library book sales; when the sale is over the leftover books are donated and sent to Iraq. Soldiers there are desperate for a good book to read; during respite many soldiers relish digging into a good novel, hoping to get their mind off the present, Kitt explained. Her son, who served in Iraq, noted that the books available to him were a tattered few. The soldiers prefer science fiction, best sellers and mysteries.

Interest in the book drive is expanding rapidly. Kitt estimates that the two libraries Empire Friends is working with have sent out about 500-600 pounds of books, or 1,200 books! Kitt can not approximate how many other local groups and individuals have sent books because many do not contact her as the process is simple. In order to send books you need to contact your local Reserves to ask permission and to obtain military addresses in Iraq. The Reserves will check to see that you are legitimate source which a library address should solve. A response should follow within a few days after which the packages (25-30 books to a carton) can be delivered to a US Post Office.

Kitt is grateful to be able to provide some comfort for those serving in Iraq: “We all feel so frustrated about this war” she said. “We feel we can do nothing, this is just a microscopic thing we can do”. This feeling of frustration might have helped develop their tagline: “It’s not body armor but it what we got.”

For more information contact Kitt at pkitt@frontier-net.net.
sion luncheon. This is a departure from past practice and we hope that it will be successful. So come to the conference, attend a session in the morning, be there at the grand opening of the exhibits and then come to the luncheon for the general opening session with Lee Rainie.

The Conference Farewell Luncheon

Join us on Saturday for the conference farewell luncheon. Our featured speaker is Russell Banks, one America’s most prestigious fiction authors. Banks was a past president of the International Parliament of Writers and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He lives in upstate New York and he was the 2007 New York State Author. He has written some amazing books—some of which have been made into movies. We are very excited to have him with us as we conclude our conference.

NYLA Vitality Fund Event

This year we are trying something new! Please help us make this event successful. We have had gambling, art auctions, an evening at the races, previewed an upcoming movie as well as other fun events at the Vitality Fund Event. This year we are having a fashion show! Yep, you heard me right—a fashion show. This event will take place at the Hall of Springs and will feature a full course dinner as well as a fashion show featuring the latest casual fashions and professional styles in clothing for men and women. Several of your colleagues will audition for their post library career by showing off their runway talents and style. So come for the food. Come for the fun. Come for the raffle. And come for the fashion show. You’ll never know who among your colleagues will sashay down the runway!

The programs

Let me tell you, every section proposed great programs this year. It was hard to choose the best when all the programs submitted were good. The programs that made the cut are worthy of your attention. Let me highlight just a few of the programs for your consideration.

On Thursday you can choose these topics: combating plagiarism in the K-16 environment, the Best of Reference, politics and networking, multiple intelligences, the Rudi Weiss Lecture, and web 2.0. No matter what arena of librarianship you espouse you will find something of interest in any of these programs.

On Friday you will have the following choices: NYLA legislative initiatives for 2009, merchandising on a budget, PLS Table Talks, making connections—high school to college and beyond, Film formats and partnering with Google and Microsoft, wikis and more web 2.0, Illustrator Matthew McElligot, and raising student achievement. With this array, how can you miss?

On Saturday your choices include advocacy and marketing, Standards for 21st Century, digitizing print resources, creating effective teams and using cookbooks and restaurant menus for research.

Of course, the ones listed are only a few of the offerings that you can choose from each day. The program contains many more. As I said before, no matter whether you are a school librarian, a public librarian, a youth services librarian, an academic librarian, a special librarian, a trustee or a Friend of the library, you will find a program that will speak to you in our line-up.

The Trade Show

The trade show is a very important part of our conference. It’s the many vendors who buy space to exhibit their products that allows us to plan a conference for your professional development. Without the support of our vendors the registration fee would be much higher. We need the vendors; the vendors need you. So plan a walk through the trade show. Stop and talk to the vendors. Ask questions. Learn about a new product. Learn more about a favorite product. Tell the vendors what you need—what your clients need and how the product might be improved. It’s like the connection you have with your doctor. If you don’t tell the doctor what ails you, he can’t properly diagnose you. So talk to the vendors. They surely want to talk with you. Thank them for exhibiting with us and tell them how much you appreciate their support of our conference. The bottom line is, without the trade show revenues, your conference registration would be much higher.

The location

Saratoga Springs is one of my favorite locations for a NYLA conference. Our statistics show that you agree with me. Saratoga Springs in the fall is wonderful. Usually the air is crisp and cool. Perfect for a brisk walk down the main street. While walking, you can window shop. There are many small shops and boutiques for you to explore. The last time I was in Saratoga I bought a great ring at one of these boutiques. There are restaurants and coffee shops galore. In short, there is lots to see and do during those in-between times when you have a little time on your hands.

So—what are you waiting for? You can register online. You can send in your registration the old way by mail. You can pay with a check or you can use a credit card. How easy can it get!

I’m looking forward to reconnecting with many of my old friends and making connections with new colleagues. Please join me in making this conference the best one yet!
Can we talk? About the upcoming NYLA Conference? Oh good! By the way, have you registered yet? If not, there’s still plenty of time to get your registration in.

I just received my conference preliminary program and I am so impressed! Everything about the preliminary program is very impressive—the color, the wide range of offerings, the timeliness of the keynote speaker, everything!

I do so hope that you are planning to attend this conference. But if you’re still undecided, let me give you several reasons why you should attend the conference.

The pre-conference programs

All the section conference program planners need to be congratulated for all their hard work in finding programs that are timely and worthy of your time. For example, the pre-conference programs include:

- A program on developing collections for teens
- Using RSS feeds
- 130 web tips
- Open-source ILS solutions
- Writing policies
- How to deal with personal change
- Web 2.0 and the virtual library, and
- Subject analysis and cataloging

All the preconference programs take place on Wednesday. Read more about each program in the preliminary program and if you want to know more, check NYLA’s conference web page. A lot of work and effort has gone into selecting and implementing the preconference programs. You can’t go wrong with any of the choices. So get on board. Sign up for a preconference today!

The Keynote speaker

Lee Rainie is the Director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project. This project examines how your internet use has affected your life. Since our lives seem to revolve around our time online, this promises to be an interesting presentation.

Also, this year NYLA is trying something new. The keynote will be featured as part of our general opening ses-

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