



The Voice of the Library Community

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What's inside

- 2 Interview with Bernard Margolis
- 3 DEC Provides Helpful Opinion for Libraries Engaged in SEQRA Review
- 4 Executive Director's Report
- 6 New Members
- 8 Members on the Move
- 9 Section News
- 16 From the President

Mark your calendar

September 11, 2009

NYLA Hudson Valley Cocktail Hour - New Paltz

September 15, 2009

NYLA Institute: Creating an Adult Literacy Program for People with Intellectual Disabilities - Long Island

September 22, 2009

NYLA Institute: Creating an Adult Literacy Program for People with Intellectual Disabilities - Westchester

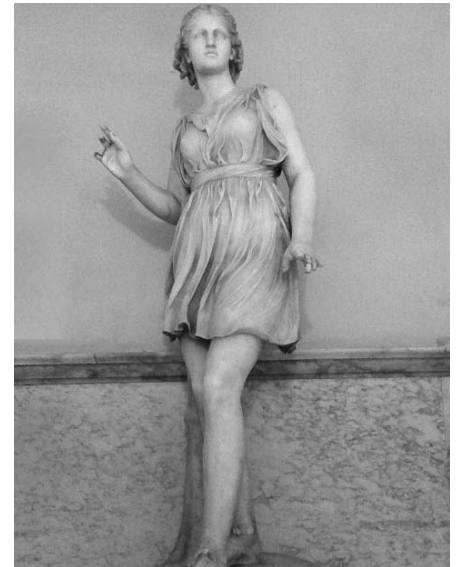
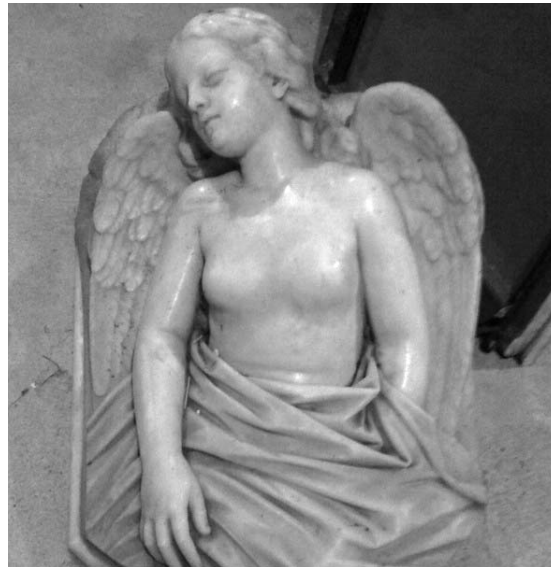
September 24, 2009

NYLA Council Meeting
Guilderland

October 14 - 17, 2009

NYLA Annual Conference
Niagara Falls, NY

For more information about upcoming events, please visit www.nyla.org



Sculptures at Troy Public Library

New Deaccessioning Rules for New York Libraries?

by Shawn McConnell

During their June 22-23 meeting, the New York State Board of Regents adopted an emergency measure that Jeffrey Cannell, Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education, says is designed to protect museum and historical society collections during the current fiscal crisis. During budget crises, museums and historical societies are often tempted to sell off parts of their collections in order to pay bills and to maintain their buildings. The measure passed by the Regents amends museum and historical society deaccessioning rules to restrict selling of historical artifacts. In a June 9, 2009 memo to the Regents, Cannell writes, even "if a museum fails, we want to keep collections in the public trust and not lose them to debt or insolvency."

According to the June 9 memo, the measure amended Regents deaccessioning rules to:

- Enumerate the specific criteria under which an institution may deaccession an item or material in its collection.
- Remove the option allowing an institution to designate a structure as a collections item.
- Specify that no proceeds from deaccessioning may be used for capital expenses, except to preserve, protect or care for an historic building previously designated as part of the institution's collection.

The new rules mirror a temporary measure the Regents originally passed in December 2008 and have renewed every

continued on page 12

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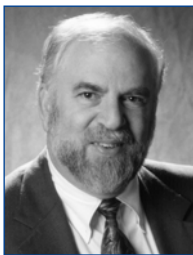
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INTERVIEW WITH NYLA MEMBERS

Bernard Margolis

by Michael Borges



This summer I had the pleasure of interviewing our new (relatively) State Librarian Bernie Margolis for this issue of the Bulletin. And of course I even asked him why he became a librarian

(after doing five years of interviews, I have yet to get the same answer).

“My plan was to go to law school after college, but while attending the University of Denver I ran out of money and needed a job,” stated Bernie Margolis. “So I looked for a job and found one at the Denver Public Library (DPL), where the staff encouraged me to become a librarian instead of a lawyer,” continued Bernie.

Bernie ended up following the advice of his library colleagues and obtained an MLS from the University of Denver, while continuing to work at the library in a variety of positions ranging from shelver to night supervisor to head librarian at a DPL branch. After leaving DPL, he worked in management positions in Michigan and Colorado, before ending up at the Boston Public Library, where he served as President from 1997-2008.

Although Bernie went to college in Denver, and spent a majority of his professional career elsewhere, he has roots in New York and attended elementary school in Queens and high school in New Rochelle.

I asked him what accomplishments or innovations he was most proud of so far in his

career? “Initiating the first library loan of computers (commodore 64’s – remember those?) to patrons comes to mind, and obtaining a grant that enabled the library to hire developmentally disabled people to do back-office work, and more recently at Boston Public securing funding to put a children’s librarian in all 27 branches,” said Bernie.

“Another interesting endeavor was launching a joint exhibit with the Paris City Libraries on Alexandre Vattemare, a famous ventriloquist and philanthropist of his time. He is credited with being one of the founders of the modern public library through his promotion of the exchange of reading materials and the concept of lending books out to the public,” continued Bernie.

I asked Bernie what interested him in coming to New York and serving as State Librarian? “Well as you know, I was looking for a new career opportunity, and I have always been interested in positions that have an impact on public policy and provide a bully pulpit to espouse library issues, while also having a hand in running a library,” replied Bernie.

As a follow up, I inquired as to what goals he hoped to achieve during his tenure as State Librarian? “I want to make libraries indispensable to the government and people of the state, integral to the fabric of our communities, so that libraries cannot be taken for granted,” said Bernie.

I also asked, what are some of the challenges ahead for libraries here in New York and nationally? “Right now, funding for libraries is a

continued on page 6

Unshelved
by Bill Eckman and Grant Anderson



DEC Provides Helpful Opinion for Libraries Engaged in SEQRA Review

by Robert T. Schofield

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”) recently issued an advisory opinion that may prove helpful to libraries considering expansion projects of 10,000 square feet or less. On May 27, 2009, in response to an inquiry by an association library located in Suffolk County, the DEC’s deputy commissioner and general counsel issued an opinion holding that libraries chartered by the Regents of the State University are educational institutions for purposes of environmental reviews under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and, as such, are eligible for Type II status with respect to certain projects.

Under SEQRA, construction projects and other activities generally trigger an obligation to conduct an environmental review prior to their commencement. In the case of public library districts, this review is often conducted by the library itself, acting as lead agency. With respect to other library types the review is often conducted by the municipality in which the library is located.

SEQRA divides projects and actions into three categories for determining the level of review required. Type II actions are those that have been categorically found to have no significant adverse impacts on the environment. DEC has implemented a regulation listing various actions and classes of actions that are categorized as Type II and, therefore, require no further review under SEQRA.

One specific provision in the Type II regulations grants an exemption for projects that constitute “...routine activities of education institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area...” 6 N.Y.C.R.R. §617.5 (c)(8). Under this provision, educational institutions undertaking projects to expand existing facilities by fewer than 10,000 square feet are not required to conduct a formal SEQRA review.

Prior to the issuance of the advisory opinion, there had been no court or agency determination on whether the term “educational institutions” specifically included libraries. Indeed, in the case giving rise to the advisory opinion, the library had asserted its entitlement to Type II treatment as an educational institution that was expanding its facility by fewer than 10,000 square feet, but the local zoning board of appeals found the exemption inapplicable to the library. The advisory opinion now clarifies that, for purposes of determining whether an action falls with SEQRA’s Type II category,

libraries are educational institutions. As the advisory opinion comes from DEC, the agency charged with the implementation of the SEQRA regulations, it will likely be given significant deference by local agencies and courts interpreting the applicability of the regulation to libraries.

It is likely that libraries around the state contemplating or engaged in small-scale expansion projects can benefit from this opinion and eliminate the burden of conducting a full-scale SEQRA review. Of course, any library undertaking a construction project should continue to work with an architect or engineer familiar with the requirements of SEQRA and its associated regulations and should also consult legal counsel in connection with the environmental review of its proposed project to determine whether this or any other Type II exemption applies to the project. ♦

The author is a partner in the law firm of Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP in Albany, New York. He represents a number of libraries in litigation and construction projects and with regard to general legal matters. The Firm is a member of NYLA.



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Executive Director's Report

As you know, the shenanigans in Albany this year reached new heights of absurdity, which unfortunately had negative ramifications for advancing our Legislative Priorities this year. Despite the best efforts of library advocates and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, the outgoing Chair of the Assembly Libraries and Educational Technology Committee, none of our legislative priorities passed the Legislature.

Towards the end of the Legislative Session, the Speaker announced numerous changes in leadership and committee chairmanships, including replacing Assemblywoman Paulin with Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton (D-Ithaca).

The chaos in the Senate also temporarily put in jeopardy two grants NYLA received from Senator Breslin. Now that the leadership issue has been settled, NYLA can proceed with the Empire State Book Festival Initiative and renovations to the lower floor in our new building to turn it into a training center.

The Governor recently announced that the current 2009-2010 State Budget has a deficit of \$2.1 billion and plans to call back the Legislature in September for a Special Session to address this deficit. NYLA will be working closely with our new partner in advocacy, the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), to prevent further cuts and advance our legislative and budgetary priorities.

NYLA Council voted unanimously in favor of affiliation in May and the NYSUT Board of Directors voted at the end of July to approve the two-year agreement. NYLA and NYSUT's membership has considerable overlap and similar agendas in terms of funding for schools, libraries and colleges. ♦



Michael J. Borges

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Heather Whalen Smith

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Gloria Hughes
Lisa Karim
Karen Kase-McLaren
Patricia Kaufman
Robert Lusak
Bernard Margolis
Timothy McDonough
Brian Morell
Carol Probeyahn
Roger Reyes
Jacqueline Ryan
Tina Scott
Christina Ruth Valencerina
Lawrence Webster

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Larry Bloomstein
Peter Burke
Merrilie Camhe
Colleen Card
Deborah Cotton
Michael del Castillo
Jaqueline Dunn
Debra Engelhardt
Lisa Erickson
Dustin Fineout
Geraldine Franklin
Deborah Geier
Lauren Gilbert
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Harriet Grifo
Laurie Guenther
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Caleb Moshier
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Virginia Pfeifer
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Karen Rade
Marion Reiss

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Otto Romanino
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INTERVIEW WITH NYLA MEMBER continued from page 2

major concern, and making sure the public and policymakers understand and appreciate what libraries do is important to restoring the support we need to carry out our mission," stated Bernie.

In concluding our interview, I asked my usual question, what role do you see NYLA playing in helping you achieve your goals and meeting the challenges here in New York?

"NYLA is critical and an effective voice in the public policy realm and political arena, its persistence and new partnership with NYSUT will give it a louder voice for libraries," responded Bernie. ♦

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Members on the Move



Robert J. Bellinger, Associate Director for Government and Community Affairs at the New York Public Library, retired with more than 35 years of service.

Harry Bloomfeld, New City Library Trustee, has been awarded Honorable Mention for the 2009 Anthony J. Knipp Library Trustee Award given by the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS).

Elizabeth Burns is the new Director of the Rogers Memorial Library.

Cornwall Public Library's new seating area features four handsome upholstered chairs, presented to the library in loving memory of Sixtus Petraeus by his son and daughter, 4-Star Gen. David H. Petraeus and Carol Petraeus Morton.

Kimberly Bolan Cullin, the principal library consultant with Kimberly Bolan & Associates (Indianapolis, IN), is now partnering with Providence Associates Library Planners (Cottonwood, AZ). Kim just completed the master facilities plan for the Public Libraries of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and is busy working on several other facilities project across the U.S.

Judith A. Dzikowski, Director of the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison School Library System, is the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the School Library Systems Association of New York State (SLSA).

Debra Engelhardt is the new Director of the Huntington Public Library.

Ana E. Fontoura has been appointed Dean of the Mother Irene Gill Library at The College of New Rochelle.

Barbara Genco has been named *Library Journal's* Editor, Collection Management. Genco brings with her over 25 years in collection development and management at the Brooklyn Public Library.

Margaret Gough, former Assistant Director of the Island Park Public Library, has been appointed the Director of the Elmont Memorial Library.

Donna Hanus, Franklin-Essex-Hamilton School Library System Director, is the recipient of the 19th Annual Award for Excellence in Library Service.

Scott Jarzombek is the new Head of Youth Services at the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.

Jim Karge retired after 13 years as Head of Children's Services at the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Jacque Kowalczyk is now an Adult Services Librarian at Saratoga Springs Public Library. She previously worked at Bethlehem Public Library and Northern Onondaga Public Library.

Carol Kowalik is a new reference librarian at the Olean Public Library.

Karen LaRocca-Fels was appointed Director at the Cornwall Public Library. She was previously the Assistant Director at the Finkelstein Memorial Library in Spring Valley.

Dionne Mack-Harvin, Executive Director, Brooklyn Public Library, has been named one of *The Network Journal's* 2009 "40 Under Forty Dynamic Achievers." The award is presented to individuals who have exhibited outstanding contributions, leadership and influence in the corporate, non-profit, health or entrepreneurial arenas, along with great service to African American communities.

Jane B. Marino is the new Director of the Great Neck Library.

Rita McNamara, **Beth Leanza**, and **Rhona Koretzky** are three long-time Adult Services Librarians who have retired from the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Carol A. Nersinger, who was named New Jersey Librarian of the Year in 2008, is the new Executive Director of the Albany Public Library. Nersinger takes charge at an exciting time in the library's history with five new state-of-the-art, "green" neighborhood branch libraries opening throughout the city of Albany between fall 2009 and summer 2010.

Trevor Oakley is now the Teen Services Librarian at the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Jennifer Ogradowski is the Head of the newly-formed Youth Services Department at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. The new department aligns Children's and Teen services to serve young people from birth through age 16 and their caregivers. Jennifer was previously Head of Youth Services at the Guilderland Public Library.

Kathy Osmond recently joined the Onondaga County Public Library (OCPL) as Public Information Specialist. She heads the Community Relations Department which serves the Central Library and city branches, and supports the work of all system libraries.

Queens Library accepted *Library Journal's* 2009 "Library of the Year" Award at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Circulation topped 23 million for FY '09. At the same time, Queens Library's capital program is going full force. Two newly-renovated libraries have re-opened for public service, seven more are in progress, while a new branch library building and the Children's Library Discovery Center are under construction.

Deborah Shoup, recent Director of the East Greenbush Community Library, has been appointed the Youth Services Department Head at the Guilderland Public Library. Opportunities to work in several Youth Services venues over the last few months have rekindled her desire to work with children again.

Rocco Staino, NYLA 2005 President, recently retired and has been named a *School Library Journal* Contributing Editor.

Frank Sykes is the new Director of the Livonia Public Library.

Jackie Thresher, Director of the Nassau Library System, was the recipient of the 2009 LDA Award at the Long Island Library Conference.

Carolyn Voegler, former Director of the Floral Park Public Library, has been appointed the Director of the Garden City Public Library.

Thomas Witt, former Assistant Director of the Garden City Public Library, has been appointed the Director of the North Merrick Public Library.

Congratulations to the following NYLA members on winning the most recent ALA elections:

- Carolyn Giambra** - Councilor-at-Large
- Sara Kelly Johns** - Councilor-at-Large
- Judith A. Dzikowski** - Supervisors Section Chair -Elect
- Randall Enos** - Assoc. for Library Service to Children, 2011 Sibert Committee
- Stephanie Auicciarini** - Young Adult Library Services Association, Board of Directors
- Nick Buron** - Young Adult Library Services Association, Councilor
- Loida Garcia Febo** - IFRT, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect
- Carol Thomas** - Library Support Staff Interests Round Table, Member-at-Large



Section News

LAMS Rebecca Lubin, LAMS President

The Library Administration and Management Sections (LAMS) is happy to announce the winners of the 2009 LAMS Board election are President-Elect/Conference Chair – Julie Hamrah Johnson (Kinderhook Memorial Library), Treasurer – Mary M. De Bellis (Mahopac Public Library). Thank you to those who ran and voted.

We are very excited about the conference programs we are presenting this year. Included in the offerings are the LAMS Annual Luncheon: author and consultant Lisa Giruzzi will be speaking on appreciative inquiry and “Creating We: The DNA of Teamwork”. Also, the winning conference programming idea “Managing Up: Leadership vs. Management” will help those not yet in management positions learn how to cultivate positive management interactions in your work relationships, create healthier working environments by following tried-and-proven management strategies, and effectively identifying and developing your own management style. When carried out effectively, managing up strategies can modify the behavior directed towards you and enable you to feel more in control of your work life and career path. We all have choices in how we relate to people at work. Thrive at your library, by using managing up strategies!

Also, don't forget to stop by the LAMS booth to purchase a pack of limited edition Little Miss Matched “peace, Love and Freedom” socks designed especially for LAMS.

Up-to-date LAMS news is always available on our webpage (http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=62) including fun photos (Vitality fashion show anyone?) and conference materials from past NYLA conferences.

Also make sure to check out our peer-reviewed online journal, JLAMS, at http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=62.

Despite the section name, LAMS isn't just for managers, it is for anyone interested in how to handle work situations, furthering their library career and moving up to positions of leadership anywhere in the library world.

PLS Karen LaRocca-Fels, PLS President

The Public Libraries Section Board is pleased to announce the results of the PLS elections. Geoffrey Kirkpatrick of Bethlehem Public Library was elected as Vice President / President-Elect, Patrice Hollman of Albany Public Library was elected to the position of Second Vice President, Kathy Naftaly of Crandall Public Library was elected as Secretary, and James Keller of Queens Library was elected as First Year Director. Many thanks are due to Evelyn Butrico of East Greenbush Community Library, Barbara Madonna of Gloversville Public Library, and Leah LeFera of Canajoharie Library for participating in the election.

We're looking forward to another great NYLA conference this year. In addition to the excellent line-up of programming that we've planned, Libby Post of Communication Services will be presenting a full-day pre-conference CE: a one-day, four-part Library Campaign Planning Institute. We will again be having our Author! Author! event on Thursday, this time at Top of the Falls restaurant in Niagara Falls State Park. Our featured author will be Carol Goodman. Join us for this wonderful annual event. For our full line-up of programming, please see the NYLA Annual Conference Preliminary Program or visit www.nyla.org.

Please remember to save the date! PLS is planning Spring Conference 2010 in Ithaca at the beautiful La Tourelle Resort and Spa. The conference will be on Friday, April 30, preceded on Thursday evening by a Wine and Wellness Reception.

PLS offers four Continuing Education / Post MLS awards each year to members attending workshops, courses, or continuing education programs. Deadlines are October 1, December 1, February 1, and June 1 and award amounts range from \$50 to \$250. For more information, please visit our website at www.nyla.org/pls.

SLMS Carole Kupelian, SLMS President

The successful SLMS spring conference in Saratoga was sponsored by the School Library System Association (SLSA). Speakers included Esme Raji Codell, Knickerbocker Winner David Adler, and author Gregory Maguire. Continuing Ed was presented by American Association of School Librarians (AASL) President Ann Martin. Local authors and local dignitaries including State Librarian Bernard Margolis, and NYLA President Josh Cohen also spoke and/or presented.

Representatives from SLMS, SLSA, and NYLA and several school administrators joined State Ed and State Library representatives at the NYSED Library Summit in June. Conclusions and plans of action will be posted on the NYSED website in early September.

Representatives from SLMS and SLSA attended the Broadband meeting in July. Working under stringent time constraints, they did an amazing job of crafting proposals for submission to the panel for consideration in the first round of funding.

SLMS continues to have representatives on a number of initiatives.

- The Middle Level Summit.
- The P21 initiative, working with a number of state and national organizations including AASL and ASCD.
- The Governor's Summit, working with a number of NYS entities including SLSA, BOCES, public libraries, the NYS Library, NYSUT, and School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) to launch a strategic collaboration of public and private sector organizations to provide targeted educational support to students attending high need, low performing schools.

The annual SLMS Leadership Retreat is held in August. This year's speaker is Carol Koechlin. She is discussing student inquiry and questioning techniques, as well as assignment design using her techniques and the new AASL Standard program guidelines.

SMART Patti McCall, SMART President

SMART congratulates Joyce Smith who was elected Member at Large, Sarah Maximiek who was elected Vice President/President Elect, and Bob Dowd who was elected to serve another term as Treasurer.

YSS Annette Birdsall, SLMS President

Congratulations and welcome to our newly elected Board Members: Leslie Millrod, First Vice President/President-Elect; Stephanie Kyle, Second Vice President/Membership; Mary Ferris, Treasurer; and Laura Panter, First Year Director. We commend them for their commitment, and hope our support will give them a rewarding and fun experience with YSS.

Your next opportunity to explore YSS will be at the NYLA Annual Conference in Niagara Falls on October 14-17. Join us at the Empire State Award Luncheon where we will honor our 2009 winner Linda Sue Park and *Feel like a kid through children's books* with Jerry Griswold at our Pre-Conference Continuing Education Workshop. Griswold celebrates the ability of those who write for children to remember and recreate that feeling

continued on page 15

NYLA Council and Section/Roundtable Election Results *CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!*

NYLA Council

President Elect 2010 / President 2011**Marcia Eggleston**
Councilors-at-Large 2010 - 2012**Mary Donohue & Tom Bindeman**

Section Elections

ASLS Board

Single Director Position**Amy Pass**
Secretary / Webmaster**Leigh Mihlrud**
Vice President / Conference Programmer**Blake Carver**

LAMS Board

President Elect**Julie Hamrah Johnson**
Treasurer**Mary DeBellis**

PLS Board

Vice President / President Elect 2010**Geoffrey Kirkpatrick**
Second Vice President**Patrice Hollman**
Secretary**Kathy Naftaly**
First Year Director**James Keller**

RASS Board

President**Hong Yao**
Vice President / President Elect**Sharon Cox**

SLMS Board

Vice President / President Elect 2010**Frances Roscello**
Secretary**Pauline Herr**
Vice President for Conferences**Karen Sperrazza**
Coordinator Region I**Jane Herbst**
Coordinator Region III**Livia Sabourin**
Coordinator Region V**Anne Paulson**
Coordinator Region VI**Sue Kowalski**
Coordinator Region VII**Jennifer (Charlie) Kelly**

SMART Board

Vice President / President Elect**Sarah Maximiek**
Treasurer**Bob Dowd**
Director-at-Large**Joyce Scott**

YSS Board

Vice President / President Elect 2010**Leslie Milrod**
Second Vice President / Membership**Stephanie Kyle**
Treasurer**Mary Feris**
First-Year Director**Laura Panter**

Roundtable Elections

ESRT Board

Vice President / President Elect 2010**Brigid Cahalan**
Treasurer**Fred Gitner**
Member-at-Large**Manuel Figueroa**

IFRT Board

IFRT Coordinator**Robert S. Devino**
Assistant IFRT Coordinator**Colleen Kehoe-Robinson**
Treasurer**Art Friedman**

NMRT Board

Mentoring Chair**Alison Herrero**
Voice Newsletter Co-editor**Jennifer DeVito**

NYLA Receives Grant to Launch Empire State Book Festival – April 9-10, 2010

NYLA has received a state grant from Senator Neil Breslin (D-Albany) to launch the Empire State Book Festival in Albany on April 9 & 10, 2010. The event will bring together authors, illustrators, librarians, storytellers, publishers and booklovers to celebrate the literary heritage of New York State.

The event will be free and open to the public. It will be held in The Empire State Convention Center and adjoining meeting rooms, where readings, author signings and special presentations will take place. In conjunction with the festival, NYLA will launch a New York State Writers' Hall of Fame. Five writers who are either native New Yorkers or have lived a significant part of their lives in the state will be inducted into this pantheon with an additional five being inducted annually. The announcement of the first inductees will be announced on October 15, 2009 in Niagara Falls, New York during NYLA's annual conference.

"We are grateful for this opportunity to celebrate the rich literary heritage of New York State and replicate here the enthusiasm for literature begun by the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C." said Michael Borges, Executive Director of the New York Library Association. "In addition, the New York State Writers' Hall of Fame will provide a unique and permanent venue to recognize and showcase our literary notables."

A Planning Committee has been formed that is co-chaired by NYLA members Ellen Rubin and Rocco Staino. An Honorary Committee for the Book Festival has been created that includes Senator Breslin, Albany Mayor Gerald Jennings, Regents Meryl Tisch and Joseph Bowman, Interim SED Commissioner Carole Huxley, and NYS Librarian Bernard Margolis.

The public can nominate New York State writers both living and dead to the selection committee via the festival's website www.empirestatebookfestival.org. In addition, sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available and those interested can receive more information by emailing info@empirebookfestival.org. ♦

NYLA Fundraising Auction

From September 10 through September 25, NYLA will be holding a Fundraising Auction on www.nyla.org. All proceeds will benefit NYLA programs and funds.

Items to be auctioned include hand-crafted jewelry, gift certificates to restaurants and hotels, autographed books,

paintings, sculptures, and more! Be sure to keep an eye out for the auction announcement on NYLA's homepage in the month of September.

Special thanks to NYLA members, friends, family members and supporters who have donated to this special event.

Susan Acampora
Wendy Armstrong
Kristina Bilello
Betsy Bishop
Marie Bruni
Ana Fontoura
Miguel Hoyos
Phyllis Keaton
Frenchy Loeb
Janet McBride
Ken Nichols
Ellie Parker
Carolyn Reid
Ellen Rubin
Rocco Staino
Harvey S. Sutton, DDS

Dianne Tracy
Amanda Crawford Designs
Carnegie Hall
Comfort Inn Niagara Falls
Crabtree Publishing Co.
Crowne Plaza Albany
Crowne Plaza Niagara Falls
Doubletree Hotel - Syracuse
Emoire Wine Store - Albany
Fortuna's Restaurant - Niagara Falls
Hard Rock Café - Niagara Falls
Highland Graphics
Holiday Inn Express - Albany
Hyatt Regency - Rochester
La Tourelle Resort - Ithaca
Luminary Graphics Inc.

Mirror Lake Inn - Lake Placid
ML Associates
Peachtree Publisher
Phifer-Reader Company
Proctors - Schenectady
Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC)
Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel
Niagara Falls
Staff of Guilderland Public Library
Storey Publishing
The Espenza Rose
Toby Press
Villa Italia - Schenectady
Windham Mountain Ski Resort
Workman Publishing Co.



We are pleased to be hosting the NYLA Annual Conference and Tradeshow October 14-17

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2008 Shubert Library Excellence Award

Lucy McClure, Chair of the New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, has announced that the 2008 Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award was awarded to the Mid-Hudson Library System in Poughkeepsie, New York for their project entitled Health Information Project.

As explained in their application by Project Coordinator Barbara Clapp, the Health Information Project, celebrating its 10th year as a designated community-based prevention provider, is funded by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to conduct a summer Teen Intern Program and to supply materials that focus on teen health and social issues and substance abuse prevention through the public libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System. The project addresses the reduction of individual, family, school and community risk factors, and enhancing positive factors that buffer youth from unhealthy behaviors.

The runner-up was the Queens Library for their partnership with the Queens Cancer Center, the American Cancer Society of Queens and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer



Sara Kelly Johns presents Barbara Clapp with Shubert Award.

Center to bring cancer information, screenings, and treatment referrals to medically underserved communities in Queens.

The Shubert Library Excellence Award is given annually to recognize the achievements of small, medium and large libraries and library consortia in New York State. The Award honors libraries or library consortia that have taken significant steps within the past two years to improve the quality of library service to users.

Last year's Shubert Award Committee (consisting of Sam Simon, Chair; Ellen Bach and Sara Kelly Johns, members) was enthusiastic in its decision to honor the Mid-Hudson Library System's submission as an excellent example of "the spirit of the Shubert award." The award, along with a check for \$1,000 made possible by EBSCO Information Services, will be presented at NYLA's Annual Conference and Awards Banquet in Saratoga Springs. Queens Library will also be receiving their plaque at the banquet.

For more information about the Shubert Library Excellence Award and the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, visit: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/advicns/rac/index.html>. ♦

New Deaccessioning Rules

continued from page 1

60 days since. The latest measure took effect July 17, 2009, and will likewise expire in 60 days.

Although the measure is temporary and only applies to museums and historical societies, the legislature may force libraries to adopt similar deaccessioning rules permanently. During the 2009 Legislative Session Assemblymember Richard Brodsky (D Westchester) and Senator José Serrano (D Manhattan) introduced bill A.6959/S.4584 which, if passed, will make the Regents' temporary rule change permanent. Additionally, the bill will expand the deaccession require-

ments to cover "any other cultural or educational institution...operated by a governmental entity, education corporation, not-for-profit corporation or charitable trust [that] owns or holds collections, or has collecting as a stated purpose in its charter...or intends to own or hold collections." In other words, the proposed new law will also cover libraries.

NYLA is closely monitoring the legislation and has voiced its concerns with the legislation as it applies to libraries. The bill is not expected to see any further movement this year. ♦

School Library Summit

On July 29-30th, NYLA/SLMS/SLSA co-hosted a School Library Summit with the NYS Education Department's Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support at the Education Department Building in Albany. The purpose of the summit was two-fold: 1) for the school library community to come together to share ideas and brainstorm together about what can be done to support increased student achievement within the context of school library services and 2) to present our recommendations to SED Senior Managers in order to gain support and recognition within SED of the contributions of school libraries/librarians towards raising student academic achievement.

Five focus areas were identified for in-depth discussion in the areas of curriculum and instruction, materials support, system support, assessment and administrative support.

Listed below are the key areas of discussion for each of the focus groups:

- **Curriculum and Instruction** - Inclusion of Information Literacy Standards as part of NYS Learning Standards.
- **Materials Support** - Obtain support for increases in Library Materials Aid that also targets high need areas and educate school districts on appropriate uses of aid.
- **Systems Support** - Secure sustained financial support for school library systems and recognition of contributions towards improving library media programs and student achievement.
- **Assessment** - Utilize state and local school library program assessment data to impact the development and implementation of curriculum, instruction and assessment models.
- **Administrative Support** - Build awareness and support

among school district and building managers for the critical role of school libraries and librarians in teaching and learning.

At the end of two-day summit, the issue focus groups made presentations to a panel of SED leaders that included Regent James Dawson, Interim Commissioner Carole Huxley, Jeff Cannell, Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Cultural Education, Jean Stevens, Associate Commissioner, Office of Instructional Support and Development, Bernie Margolis, NYS Librarian, and Carol Ann Desch, Coordinator of Statewide Library Services.

Specific action items were identified to achieve recommendations in both the short-term and long-term. These recommendations will serve as the blue print for goals and tasks to be undertaken by SED's Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support for 2009-2010 in conjunction with NYLA and other members of the library community.

Participants in the two day School Library Summit included Barbara Stripling, Gail Barraco, Bea Baaden, Mary Ratzer, Erik Sweet, Susan Polos, Susan Janczak, Stephanie Wilson, Ellen Rubin, Fran Roscello, Leslie Yolen, Frank Sutliff, Mary Ann Politi, Rocco Staino, Judy Marsh, Joe Mattie, Carole Kupelian, Glen Huot, Jill Eagan, Michael Cambria, Patricia Vilello, Judith Dzikowski, Linda Fox, Bonnie Tryon, Elizabeth Pollicino, Elizabeth Sheffer, Marla Yudin, Marybeth Casey, Sara Kelly Johns, Joanne Shawhan, Blyth Bennet, Carolyn Hirst-Loucks, John Monahan, Marcia Eggleston, Jill Leinung, John Brock and Michael Borges.

NYLA looks forward to working with Anne Schiano, Assistant Director of the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support and her staff – John Brock and Joanne Shawhan in the months ahead to move this comprehensive agenda forward. ♦

NYLA Testifies at Assembly Library Procurement Hearing

On July 28th the Assembly Committee on Government Operations and Committee on Libraries and Educational Technology had a joint hearing on Library Procurement Issues.

Michael J. Borges, NYLA's Executive Director testified at the hearing on library usage and satisfaction with the OGS state contract process as well on several initiatives that NYLA was supporting that would help reduce the costs of purchasing products and services for libraries.

The three initiatives that were highlighted in the testimony were support for the passage of legislation that would allow public libraries and library systems to engage in coop-

erative bidding, support for legislation that would allow BOCES and libraries/systems to contract for internet service and support for the State Library to negotiate statewide pricing for databases accessible to all libraries. (see testimony at www.nyla.org under Headlines).

Bernie Margolis, NYS Librarian also testified at the hearing and requested authorization for the State Library to administer and negotiate statewide licenses for databases not only for libraries but also for state agencies. The NOVEL databases would form the foundation for an expanded collection of electronic resources called NYSCIS – New York State Comprehensive Information System that would be available to a wider array of users. ♦

Library Legend David Cohen Turns 100

by Rocco Staino (courtesy of School Library Journal)

David Cohen, a former school librarian and a pioneer in the field of multicultural librarianship and intellectual freedom, celebrated his 100 birthday on May 24.

Cohen, who was a professor at Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, received the American Library Association's (ALA) Honorary Membership Award in 2007 for his seven decades of service in the field. He had served as chair of ALA's Committee on the Treatment of Minorities in Library Materials and on the ALA Minority Concerns Committee.

Cohen was cofounder and coordinator of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table's Task Force on Ethnic Materials, which later became the Ethnic Material and Information Exchange Round Table (EMIE).

Within the EMIE, Cohen was the founding member of the Jewish Librarians' Caucus and the founding editor of the



David Cohen

EMIE Bulletin. In addition, he was a charter member of the Freedom to Read Foundation, a trustee of the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund, and cofounder of the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship.

In the 1940s, Cohen was active in the Progressive Librarians Council, a liberal group that felt ALA did not adequately represent their views on major social issues.

"David passionately and eloquently fought for the two great ideals of librarianship: intellectual freedom and equity of access," says Josh Cohen (no relation), a longtime friend and current president of the New York Library Association. "He fought for diversity before it became a buzzword and inspired generations of librarians to the cause of intellectual freedom." ♦

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From the President...

continued from page 16

controls the future and who controls the present controls the past. We have seen how easily history is distorted. We have seen how scientific research can be shaped to say not what is, but what fits into someone's agenda. It is librarians who need to take control of the present by insuring fair accurate information is available to the public. This role in protecting freedom is becoming more significant considering the trends of the last few years. Academic and research libraries must demand and provide a clear record of history and research findings. Who else can be counted upon to insure history is fairly represented. Accurate information is about freedom.

By providing materials for people from other cultures. The wide range of materials from all across the globe insure that any individual can reflect on their own culture or learn about other cultures. Learning about other cultures can only lead to a better understanding of the world. By viewing the work through a variety of lenses, creative solutions to problems can be found and shared. Just as we want to be allowed freedom, we must allow others freedom. Diversity is about freedom.

By allowing people to take control of their lives. People can come into a library and explore new careers, new skills, or a new direction for their lives. This opportunity for life-long change unlocks individuals potential for growth. Pursing lifelong learning is about freedom.

By fighting censorship. Few of us want to be portrayed in headlines as purveyors of porn or circulators of corrupting materials, but when self proclaimed the children protection groups demand libraries not have books from Kings of Kings to Harry Potter, librarians must take on the fight. The reality that every dictator in history has attempted to destroy books, demonstrates the strong the connection between books and freedom. Resisting censorship is about freedom.

What a long strange trip it has been for libraries, from mere book circulators to protectors of freedom. It is a path we might not have chosen. Our role of freedom fighters has been thrust upon us. While we have always worked to protect our patron's privacy and their freedom to read, in the last several years, this role has become more controversial and more critical. We need support each other. This is one of the key elements of the annual conference: an opportunity to get together, share our successes, search for solutions, but significantly to reinforce and reaffirm our commitment to freedom.

Some people have complained about the choice of Niagara Falls for our annual conference. Others feel that

because money is tight, they should forgo conference. Both of these arguments are feeble.

While I like most of you would prefer the conference be close, does the inconvenience of extra travel time truly negate the value of sharing time with your colleagues, learning new ways to improve your library and standing tall for our principles?

Although many think not going to conference to save money is a wise decision, it is not. It makes little sense if in not going to conference, your library will not find new ways and ideas of doing things. The money saved by not going makes little sense if you lose your enthusiasm and commitment to make your library the best possible library it can be. The public will not notice or thank you for the little savings you gained by not going to conference, instead they will expect that as the norm.

Conference is the time to recharge yourself and your opportunity to support each other. It is the time to free your mind for the day to day issues of your work routine and think about the meaning of our profession.

If you have not registered, or are thinking of not going to conference, I ask you to reconsider. Without each and every one of you our conference will be diminished as will our association. The next few years will be tough for the our communities our state and our libraries. By coming together we will persevere in our mission of insuring freedom to our country. I hope you will choose to attend and look forward to celebrating freedom with you in Niagara Falls. ♦



Section News

continued from page 9

in his book of the same name. Visit <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~jgris-wol/RecentNews.html> for a glimpse of his magic. Other YSS sessions include the classic telling tales storytellers, an exciting panel on graphic novels, real experiences utilizing teen volunteers, and the ever popular table talks. Please note that Emily Jenkins had to cancel. Now you'll have to attend just to find out who will be speaking at the Membership Meeting!

If you like to plan ahead, save April 9, 2010 for the YSS Spring Conference: Back to Basics. Schedule the entire weekend and attend the first Empire State Book Festival on April 10, 2010.

From the President...

Freedom

*Emancipate yourself from mental slavery,
only ourselves can free our minds...
Won't you help me sing, the songs of freedom.*

-Bob Marley

Lately it occurs to me what freedom really means. I used to think it was about me (who else?) having freedom, but now I see that it is about giving other people freedom. That is what libraries do, we give people freedom.

How do libraries give freedom?

By providing a complete range of information on all topics. In these days of media conglomeration on one hand and loss of local media sources on the other, an increasingly important role for libraries is insuring the public's right to know. This means selecting a wide variety of sources, web, print, video that offer alternative view point on issues. Maybe even sponsor programs on community issues. The public's right to know is about freedom.

By insuring patron's privacy so they can feel comfortable reading or viewing controversial or personal materials

without fear or intimidation. There is no freedom if a person cannot be comfortable with a complete range of information and be comfortable knowing what they read, research or view is completely confidential. Privacy is about freedom.

By teaching literacy and digital literacy. How can someone be free to explore or understand an issue if they cannot read? If they cannot read they are dependent on what someone else tells them, they cannot find out for themselves. How will they make accurate decisions if they cannot evaluate web sources? It is intrinsic to democracy and freedom that people have literacy skills and the place they learn those skills is in a school library media center staffed by a certified media specialist. Then there are the programs offered through public libraries that begin with toddler programs and move through the complete spectrum of literacy levels. Literacy is about freedom.

By assuring accurate information. While many people remember Big Brother from 1984, they often forget what the hero of the novel, Winston Smith's occupation was. He revised history. Orwell posited that who controls the past



Josh Cohen