Library Lobby Day A Great Success!
Over Thousand Attendees—Senate Supports Full Restoration of Library Aid

by Michael Borges

Library Lobby Day on Tuesday, March 10th came once again at a critical time in state budget negotiations as both the Senate and Assembly were working on releasing their budget proposals. Over a thousand library advocates came to Albany to meet with legislators and their staffs to discuss the urgent need to restore the proposed Library Aid cuts.

The day started with the Legislative Breakfast Reception for legislators, library leaders, and early-bird attendees. At the Breakfast Reception, 87 legislators had their photos taken for the very popular READ posters (and bookmarks), which legislators can send to the libraries in their districts to promote the Statewide Summer Reading program. Then library advocates dispersed to meet with legislators and their staffs in their offices, where they delivered the message that library funding should be a priority for restoration.

The event culminated with a Library Rally at which children’s author Charles R. Smith, Jr, motivated the overflowing crowd with a very heart-warming speech on the positive impact of libraries, and was followed by comments by long-time library champion Senator Hugh Farley, Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Assemblymember Amy Paulin, Chair of the Assembly Libraries and Education Technology Committee, State Librarian Bernie Margolis, and Queens Public Library Director Tom Galante.

Sen. Suzi Oppenheimer, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, commented that she has rarely seen a group at the Capitol like the nearly one-thousand library supporters in the room. Sen.
INTERVIEW WITH NYLA MEMBERS

Penelope Klein

by Michael Borges

For this issue I interviewed Penelope Klein, NYLA-Treasurer Elect and Director of the Central New York Library Resources Council, which is located in Syracuse and serves libraries in Herkimer, Madison, Oneida and Onondaga Counties.

I started off the interview as I always do with the ubiquitous question of why a person chooses to become a librarian. “Several factors led me to librarianship. As I was trying to decide what to pursue after finishing an undergraduate degree, I was fortunate to have a spouse who is a career counselor and who helped me realize that librarianship was a natural fit for me. I also found that every librarian I met really loved their work! I was always an avid library user, and, as I conducted informational interviews, I found that librarians were always willing to share information. I was in a class at the University of Minnesota with a librarian and she was the one who finally convinced me that I should consider librarianship as a career. I graduated from the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997,” said Penelope.

Penelope began her professional career at the Reading Public Library in Reading, Pennsylvania as a Reference and Government Documents Librarian. “I always thought I would be an academic librarian, but two days after I graduated from SLIS, my husband got a job at a college in Pennsylvania and I applied for the available reference job at the local public library, never imagining I would be hired! It took about two weeks for me to realize that I loved being a public librarian,” said Penelope.

Penelope has also been a branch librarian, a public library director, a district consultant for a public library system, and now a NY3Rs director. “Each job has had unique challenges, and each has demanded new skills. I once read that if you do what you love you will never work a day in your life, and that is how I feel about librarianship. My library life has certainly never been boring!” continued Penelope.

I asked Penelope what plans she had for the future at CNYLRC. “CLRC is currently developing a digitization project in partnership with two local public libraries. CLRC is always interested in collaboration, and recently joined with another NY3Rs Council to offer virtual reference to the libraries in its region. The Council has strengthened its programs by sharing resources and opportunities. I’m very fortunate to have a really great peer group – the NY3Rs – that is always willing to work with us,” responded Penelope.

The interview moved onto challenges facing libraries and the library profession. “I believe the biggest challenge is sustainability especially in challenging economic conditions,” responded Penelope.

continued on page 10
AED’s (Automated External Defibrillators) in Public Libraries: Recommended, But Not Required.

By David Melanson, Cardiac Life Products and Michael J. Borges

In 2005/06, the Legislature amended the NYS Public Buildings Law to require state owned or leased buildings to be equipped with AED’s by 2010. Section 140 of the Public Buildings Law says the following, “Subject to regulations promulgated pursuant to this subdivision, it shall be an additional duty of each such superintendent of each of the public institutions and buildings of the state to equip each such building with an automated external defibrillator (AED).”

Since a majority of public libraries are not located in state owned or leased buildings they are not affected by this law. However, municipal governments (cities, counties, etc.) can pass local ordinances to require that the state law apply to all public institutions including libraries in their jurisdictions. Libraries should check with their local government administrators to see if such a local ordinance was adopted that impacts them.

For those public libraries that have installed or will install AED’s, you are required by Section 3000-b of Public Health Law to have a staff person properly trained to use it, have it registered with the NYS Department of Health’s Emergency Medical Services Council or regional EMS council, and have proper signage at the main entrance to the building indicating where such AED is stored.

AED placement should be at a central and easily accessible location for both employees and the public. Survival rates drop 10% for every minute the patient is unconscious. Best practice is not allowing more than 3 minutes to elapse before using the AED. For security purposes, AED’s can be kept in alarmed cabinets, as long as the cabinets remain unlocked. Law also requires you to place signs at your facility indicating the location of the AED. In addition to placing sign at the entrance, it is also recommended that you place a sign above the room or cabinet where the AED is stored.

In New York State, AED use is protected by the Good Samaritan Law. The Good Samaritan Law excludes anyone who offers first aid assistance to an individual under duress from law suits. On November 13, 2000 President Clinton signed the federal “Cardiac Arrest Survival Act,” in H.R.2498, now Public Law 106-505, regarding the placement of AEDs in federal buildings and providing civil immunity. If a Good Samaritan, building owner, or tenant acts in good faith to purchase or use an AED to save a life, this law will provide protection from unfair lawsuits.

NYLA Civil Service Task Force members have met with representatives of the NYS Department of Civil Service several times over the past 12 months and have reached a tentative agreement on changes and updates to the Librarian I and II exams that will hopefully be implemented by the end of the year. Task Force members pictured are Josh Cohen, NYLA President, Richard Naylor, Tom Witt, Patrice Holloman, Geoff Kirkpatrick, Sonia Long and NYLA Executive Director Michael Borges (taking photo was Shawn McConnell, NYLA Intern and staff member assigned to the Task Force).
Executive Director’s Report

During the third week of February we made our move to our new offices at 6021 State Farm Road in Guilderland (about 25 minutes west of our old offices in Downtown Albany). Hopefully, most of our members were not inconvenienced by the temporary loss of phone, fax and internet service in the days immediately before and after the move.

The new building (it’s actually 40 years old) includes 4,400 sq. ft over two floors and approximately 40 parking spaces. The abundance of parking spaces alleviates the inconvenience to members who struggled to find and pay for parking at our old location. The bottom floor (approx. 2,200 sq. ft.) of the building will be renovated in the not too distant future for use as a training center and phone banking operation.

Despite the move, we have continued our advocacy efforts by holding a very successful Library Lobby Day with over a 1,000 attendees and have scheduled several Regional Institutes on marketing, Gaming in Libraries, Google, and Wordpress among other topics.

Membership numbers remain stable and we hope with good attendance at the Annual Conference to weather the economic turmoil this year in relatively good shape.

Michael J. Borges

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**Members on the Move**

**Stephen Almasi**, Senior Librarian at Coxsackie Correctional Facility, sponsored an appearance on Presidents’ Day by Rev. Dr. C. Modele Clarke, professor emeritus at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, and pastor of the New Progressive Baptist Church in Kingston. Rev. Clarke spoke on New York’s 2009 theme for African American History Month, “The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr...the Dream Continues.”

**Carol A. Batt**, was promoted from Coordinated System Services Administrator to Assistant Deputy Director for Information Technology at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

**Mary Lou Carolan**, Director of the Wallkill Public, received the RCLS 2008 “Children’s Program of the Year Award” for her program “Where’s Ike?” – a detective scavenger hunt involving the library and downtown community businesses. Mary Lou was also presented the “Pride of Ulster County Award” by Legislator Catherine Terrizzi for creative and innovative community programming.

**Elizabeth J. Dailey**, most recently Director of the Liverpool Public Library, has been appointed Executive Director of the Onondaga County Public Library.

**Jodi Feldman**, PreK-12 Librarian at Mt. Pleasant-Blythedale UFSD, a public school district created by the NYS Legislature solely for the purpose of educating the patients of Blythedale Children’s Hospital, created the school’s first ever library Web site and is converting the collection to an online catalog in hopes of giving remote access to students in the hospital.

**David Franz** retired as the Director of the Ogdensburg Public Library.

**Alison Herrero**, Adult Services Librarian at the Howland Public Library, is the 2008 recipient of the RASS Outstanding Public Service Award.

**Anne Hofmann** and **Tom Alrutz** retired from the New York Public Library

**Matthew P. Hogan** was hired as the Manager of Digital Services & Resource Sharing at the South Central Regional Library Council.

**Kacper Jarecki** was awarded an On-the-Spot Award by Queens Library for the many clubs he initiated and for arranging to have Washington, DC author Elizabeth Scott visit the library.

**Pauline Kehoe** has retired as the Director of the Goshen Public Library and Historical Society after nearly 19 years. Kehoe is a past President of PL$ (2000).

**Barbara Madonna**, Director of the Gloversville Public Library, was recognized by the Gloversville Central Council Parent-Teacher Association as a Founder’s Day honoree.

**Sue McConnell**, children’s services coordinator with the Southeast Steuben County was the recipient of the regional Southern Tier Library System’s 2008 Grass Roots Award in recognition of outstanding library outreach service.

**Michael McLane** is currently serving as the ACRL Visiting Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy. McLane previously held positions as Director of Libraries at SUNY Oswego and Executive Director of the Central New York Library Resources Council.

**Alissa Jones Oakley** recently started as an Adult Services Librarian at the Bethlehem Public Library.

**The Pace University Library** has been selected by Best Colleges Online.com as among the world’s 25 most modern libraries. The **Prattsburg Free Library** would like to announce that after 30 years with provisional charters that the library has been granted an Absolute Charter by the Regents of the University of the State of New York.

**Bridget Quinn-Carey**, Director at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, and **John P. Monahan**, Director of the School Library System at the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, have been appointed to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries by the New York State Board of Regents.

**Ken Riccardi** the librarian at Rice High School in Harlem wrote a first place essay in the Samsung Hope for Education contest. Hope for Education was created by Samsung in 2004 to support U.S. schools K-12 with the latest technology products to assist in the educational process. Rice will receive $61,000 in new hardware and software.

**Carol Sheffer** retired as Deputy Director of Queen Library. Sheffer is president of the Public Library Association.

**Stephanie Simon** has joined the leadership team at the Albany Public Library as public information officer. Simon has more than 16 years experience in the field as a reporter, writer, editor, designer, public relations specialist, information coordinator, and communicator.

**Paula Smith**, retired as the Director of the Monroe County Library System and Rochester Public Library after 24 years of service.

**Lucille C. Thomas**, former president of NYLA and currently a trustee of the Brooklyn Public Library, was an honoree at the 12th Annual Gala. Thomas was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1993 by then Mayor David Dinkins and reappointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

**Patricia Uttaro**, most recently the personnel and communications director for the Rochester Public Library and the assistant director for the Monroe County Library System, has been appointed Director of the Monroe County Library System and Rochester Public Library.

**Lisa C. Wemett** retired as assistant library director at the Webster Public Library.

**Dr. Nancy Zimmerman**, 1999 NYLA President, has been named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, The Graduate School, The University of South Carolina. She is responsible for curriculum and academic quality oversight and policy compliance for all graduate programs of the University.

**In Memoriam**

Teresa Strozik passed away on Friday, January 2nd. Teresa Strozik was the Associate Director of NYLINK ((SUNY/OCLC) from 1973-1989 and then moved back closer to her home and became Head of Tech Services at Hamilton College.
LAMS  Rebecca Lubin, President
The Library Administration and Management Sections (LAMS) is happy to announce its NYLA committee representatives for this year are Legislative Committee - Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Mid-Hudson Library System), Continuing Education and Public Awareness – Pat Kaufman (Mahopac Public Library), Web Committee Richard Naylor (William K. Sanford Town Library) and Membership Committee – Julie Johnson (Kinderhook Memorial Library).

The winner of the $600 2009 NYLA Conference Scholarship is Zahra M. Baird from the Chappaqua Library. Her program suggestion, “Managing Up: Being a Leader Even When Your Title Isn’t “Manager” was chosen to be one of the LAMS programs at this year’s NYLA Conference. Congratulations Zahra!

Up-to-date LAMS news is always available on our webpage (http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=62).

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, President
Looking forward to the NYLA Conference 2009? So are we! Author Carol Goodman will be the speaker at our annual Author! Author! event, which will be held at the beautiful Top of the Falls restaurant.

Stay posted for the spring edition of the PLS newsletter, Synergy. We will be offering several awards this year: our Conference Scholarship Award for the NYLA conference, our annual Award for Outstanding Public Library Building, the L. Marion Mosher / Asa Wynkoop Award for Distinguished Librarianship, and the NYLA Dewey Fellowship Award.

SLMS  Carole Kupelian, President
SLMS has been working closely with the professional organization of the School Library System Directors (SLSA). Along with our mutual concerns including advocacy, literacy, and professional development, we have been planning the 2009 SLMS Spring Conference in Saratoga on April 30-May 2. SLSA has used their state-wide resources to gather a program representing both the geographical areas of NY State and the wide interests and concerns of librarians. Keynote speaker is Esme Raji Codell, a leader in the promotion of literacy and reading, Friday’s luncheon speaker is 2009 Knickerbocker Winner, David A. Adler. Saturday’s luncheon speaker is Gregory Maguire, author of Wicked, a novel adapted into a Broadway musical. The Friday Banquet speakers are Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum, creators of Unshelved. Meal tickets may still be available through the registration form available from the conference website http://www.nyla.org/content/user_19/2009Registration_form.pdf

SLMS and SLSA, as well as NYLA and the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), have continued to work with members of the NYS Education Department in promoting the educational importance of libraries. A Library Services Summit to develop recommendations that will support increased student achievement is on the agenda. A variety of attendees from many disciplines and geographical areas of NY State will be recruited for this Summit, expected to be held in Albany in the summer of 2009.

SLMS continues to work with organizations within NYS and also claims a strong national presence through AASL, an affiliate of ALA. We advocate on many levels, from local to state to national.

YSS  Annette Birdsall, President
There is still time to register for the YSS Spring Conference, “A Kaleidoscope of Ideas!” featuring Linda Sue Park and Vivian Vande Velde. The conference is a wonderful way to get inspired, find new ideas, feel supported and develop your skills. Come explore ideas that will help you design your summer reading programs and new library services for the children, teens and families you serve. Everyone is welcome to attend the entertaining Past President’s dinner on Thursday, April 2nd. Tickets can be purchased when you register. Keep in mind that your great 2009 promotional materials and programs can be recognized by applying for the Pied Piper Award. Celebrate this year’s winner at the conference. Treat yourself to an extra day for TBF Live: The Fourth Annual Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival with your favorite young adult authors. See the NYLA/YSS website http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=54 for a complete brochure and registration form. Now is also the time to encourage your readers to vote for their favorite book for the Three Apples Children’s and Teens Book Awards. Visit http://www.3applesbookaward.org/ for a complete list of nominated titles and instructions.
times. We constantly ask librarians to do more with less. If I ran the world, libraries would be a funding priority and would be recognized for all the ways they serve their diverse communities. Alas, I do not run the world which is why advocacy is key!” stated Penelope.

My follow up question was what do you think will have the greatest impact on libraries in the future? Penelope replied, “When I was an undergraduate, I did not own a computer, and did not have an e-mail account. Two years later as a graduate student, I was asked to organize the incoming class orientation at SLIS and coordinated the entire event only using e-mail. I did not make one telephone call. For me, this was a completely new way to work and I embraced it. Now librarians find themselves having to embrace many new technologies because their communities are very sophisticated. While this is exhilarating, it is also exhausting! The technological challenges are myriad: keeping up and paying for it all, training every staff member to use it, and always keeping slightly ahead of your users! Social networking is changing our landscape and the challenge is to make it work for us.”

As always I concluded the interview with why she became a NYLA member and what role do you see NYLA playing to advance the library community? “Professional development should be the priority of every librarian, and I am no exception. I joined NYLA because I knew it would help me to network and grow. My first NYLA conference was interesting because I knew hardly anyone; at my second conference I felt as though I knew everyone! Librarians are very friendly, supportive people. I have learned great amounts about the New York landscape through NYLA, and I am grateful. It was also obvious to me that NYLA was a growing, dynamic organization that had the best interest of libraries at heart, and that deserved support. I was really appreciative of its active advocacy stance,” concluded Penelope. *
2008 NYLA Fund Donors

The New York Library Association would like to thank all those who generously contributed to the NYLA Fund during 2008.

Because of gifts like these, NYLA can continue providing strong programs and advocating for the needs and priorities of libraries across New York State.

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New Yorkers for Better Libraries Gala

The New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC held its Third Annual Fundraiser Banquet on March 9th in Albany. Over 112 library supporters attended to hear a legislative update from Amy Paulin, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Educational Technology. After cocktails and dinner, the musical group Annie and the Hedonists provided musical interludes between rounds of the PAC’s first-ever Trivia Contest and raffle drawings for prizes such as a weekend in Wellfleet, restaurant gift certificates, golf outings, and gift bags of wine.

The New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC is in its sixth year of providing financial contributions to legislators who actively support the library community’s legislative and budgetary priorities.

In 2008, the PAC contributed $26,700 to 36 campaign committees around the state. These contributions have helped provide access to decision-makers and have signaled a seriousness of intent within the library community.

All NYLA members are encouraged to support the New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC. To donate, go to www.nylibs-pac.net and click on “Make a Donation.”

Kevin Verbese, NYLA Legislative Committee Chair and Michael J. Borges, NYLA Executive Director share thoughts about Lobby Day

John Hammond addresses PAC donors
NYLA Lobby Day

Senator Hugh Farley

Senator Suzi Oppenheimer

Assemblymember Amy Paulin
NYLA Partners with Scholastic for Book Donation to School Library

Assemblymember Sandra Galef (D-Ossining) and Michael J. Borges, NYLA Executive Director speak to students and administrators at Scholastic Book Donation event at the Claremont Elementary School in Ossining in December. Scholastic donated $3,000 in books to the school library and students. The purpose of the event was to highlight the importance of school libraries and the role school librarians play in promoting reading and early literacy.
from their busy schedules to make the trip to Albany and express their love of libraries. The Governor has proposed an 18% cut in library funding incredibly expecting libraries to function at a 1993 level of funding.

Imagine walking into a small library in an upstate community and being able to access research university information. Think about the potential for virtual reference tools that people can take advantage of 24/7 from home. Consider being able to get any title delivered to your library within two days. Other times, like 1993, this would have been science fiction, but now all these are possible. Through New York State’s library infrastructure of systems that has been developed over the last fifty years we can create a world class information network that would connect any user from anywhere to any resource they need. The public systems, 3 Rs councils and school library systems work behind the scenes so that any resident of New York State can get access to all this seamlessly.

Many people do not know the vast array of service libraries can offer. For example when Melville Dewey said the library should be the cultural conscience of the community, he could not have envisioned the incredible response to Big Read projects, the increasing numbers of summer reading attendees, the innovations with gaming and web 2.0 that are attracting teens in greater numbers than ever before. Our message is more than people love libraries; it is that libraries have become an essential element of any community, the fabric that connects society. We know from over twenty research studies that a school library is essential for improved student performance, we know that many colleges are judged by the quality of their library, we know for hospitals to offer the best service a good library is crucial, we know for businesses to be competitive a good library provides an edge and we know that realtors show off the public library when trying to sell houses in a community. Libraries of all types have worked together to create a cooperative, cost efficient innovative network that provides a complete range of information, education, entertainment and community support services unrivaled by any other model in existence. We need to recognize the value of the role each of us plays in this structure and need funders to recognize and value our accomplishment.

As Shakespeare said in The Tempest: “my library Was dukedom large enough,” We who love libraries understand that the library opens up the world to people while providing a tranquil oasis from that world. Libraries are place of peace and love.

Ironically peace and love are things we have to work for. They don’t exist naturally. Noise and conflict seem to be more natural than peace and love. If we want peace and love we have to build it by building better communities. Better communities get built when people in the community have a place to go and talk out their conflicts, a place where they can think things through. That place is the library. The millions of library users need to unite to insure there is enough funding so that libraries can not only continues to exist, but to continue to grow innovate and respond to community needs. I can barely see that happening without working with NYLA to build a year around advocacy effort.
Oppenheimer shared some much-needed positive news, announcing that the Senate Majority supports library funding restoration.

“I can tell you that the Senate Democratic Conference met last night and we are going to restore the $18 million cuts back into the budget,” Sen. Oppenheimer told an enthusiastic crowd. “There is probably not a single line item in the budget more important to me than libraries.”


“I am so proud of all of you for keeping up the fight. Libraries have been shortchanged for so many years already and now would be a terrible time to reduce library funding with the economy turning people back to their libraries,” said Oppenheimer.

Assemblymember Amy Paulin, Chair of the Assembly Libraries and Education Technology Committee said, “We have been talking for years about the need for increased advocacy, your advocacy today surpasses our highest expectations. Your loud voices mean so much in helping us restore the funding for our libraries around the state. The last few years have represented dramatic change for libraries, creating more access to more people, while still maintaining that hometown feeling. This is why we need to keep library doors opened, not closed.”

Paulin also expressed support from the Assembly Majority. “There has been great support in the Assembly for full restoration for your services,” said Paulin. “Together we will work to ensure libraries get what you need to ensure the important services you provide.”

Senator Hugh Farley, said, “There are thirty votes in my conference to restore the $18 million. Libraries are non-partisan, it doesn’t matter if you are a Democrat or Republican but you have to support libraries.”

The next step in the process is for the Senate, Assembly and Governor to resolve the differences in their proposals and adopt a final state budget by the April 1st deadline. Special thanks to NYLA Legislative Committee Chair Kevin Verbesey for serving as emcee for the event, and to all the volunteers who helped out with lobby day preparations and staffing the registration and handout tables, and to our sponsors.
The amazing power of Web 2.0, tools like My Space and Facebook, have created the belief that people no longer need to meet in person. These social networking tools offer the incredible power to communicate with people all shining on me, with similar interests from around the world, but they do not replace face-to-face meetings. Libraries have and can continue to tap into these tools, but libraries also have and can continue to offer a community space where people can get together the old fashioned way.

We know more people than ever are going to need library service. They need to cut their expenses by borrowing instead of buying, they need to get help finding jobs and using online services, they need to investigate cost efficient ways of doing things, they need programming for their children, they need medical advice and homework help, tax and business support online databases, and a place to discuss the problems this recession is bringing with friends and experts. They need a place where they can find peace to reduce the increasingly stressful situation in which we find ourselves.

On March 10th over 1,000 library supporters took time...