2011 Library Advocacy Day: Enough Cuts Already!

by Michael J. Borges

Library advocates rallied once again in Albany on March 1st for Library Advocacy Day to protest the latest round of funding cuts to libraries and library systems. Approximately 934 advocates came to the Capitol from all over the state to ask their state legislators to reject the Governor’s proposed 10% or $8.45 million cut in Library Aid that would reduce funding to $76 million or below 1994 levels. Seventy-Eight legislators attended the Meet and Greet portion of Advocacy Day and mingled with their constituents before having their photos taken for the 2011 READ posters and bookmarks.

Senator Hugh Farley, long-time library champion and Assemblyman Bob Reilly, newly appointed Chair of the Library and Education Technology Committee spoke at the Rally along with authors and library cheerleaders Elizabeth Levy and Marilyn Johnson. Jeff Cannell, Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Education and Tom Galante, Queens Library Executive Director also spoke and motivated rally attendees.

The Senate and Assembly are expected to release their one-house budget bills/resolutions outlining their proposals and priorities for the 2011-12 State Budget and then hold conference committees to resolve their differences over the next few weeks in the hopes to adopt a budget by the April 1st deadline.

The New Yorkers for Libraries PAC held their 5th annual fundraising dinner the night before Advocacy Day. Over 120 people contributed to the fundraising dinner that featured speakers Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Ranking Minority Member on the Education Committee and author Elizabeth Levy.

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INTERVIEW WITH NYLA MEMBER

Michael Nyerges

by Michael Borges

This Winter I interviewed one of our newest library system directors, Michael Nyerges, recently appointed Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System.

“Libraries have been important to me since I was 11 when I first visited the old Winton Road Branch of the Rochester Public Library, a large three-story old brick schoolhouse that offered two floors of books that were entirely available to me, an astonishing opportunity for a poor kid who wore hand-me-downs and didn’t own a bike, baseball glove or a pair of sneakers. As a teenager, I would visit the downtown Rundell Library weekly. Sometimes, I would just browse the subject tracings of Rundell’s card catalog. What can I say? I was a curious kid,” stated Michael Nyerges.

He continued, “In my twenties, I was an inveterate reader, worked as a recreation leader for the City of Rochester and earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy at SUNY Brockport. I loved recreation and serving the community, but the focus was at times hard to square with my night-time reading that ran from the mildly academic and to the really obscure. In sharing one of those late-night angst-filled self-assessments with my wife, she hit upon what became an obvious solution: switch careers, become a librarian.”

Michael belonged to one of the last classes to graduate from SUNY Geneseo with a Masters of Library Science degree. After graduating, he worked at several New York libraries in Geneva, Canandaigua and Westfield. He also served briefly as a Technical Reports Librarian at Texas A&M University and as a Library Technology Specialist at Genesee Valley BOCES. While his two sons were in school, he worked as a Library Media Specialist at the Canandaigua City School District, where he also served as the Curriculum Area Lead Teacher and school district webmaster.

“Every job offers opportunities and challenges but the toughest job I had in a library is the year I developed and taught a research class full-time to seventh graders—110 or so every day—and served on the seventh grade teaching team. Many a day I went home exhausted at 4 p.m. after the kids were gone, and then went to sleep by 8 p.m. to get up at 4 a.m. to prepare for another day. But as difficult as this was, it was also a privilege and exhilarating. Seventh graders can be so interesting, confounding, frustrating and wonderful to work with!” said Michael.

“My appreciation for the transformative power of libraries has only grown in my thirty years of service. The collections and programs libraries provide help us understand ourselves, our relationships with others, our communities and our world. (This is especially true of fiction collections that are too often, and sometimes dismissively, referred to as supporting “recreational reading.”) continued Michael.

I asked him about the challenges facing libraries and he replied, “I believe libraries, long last in line for public funding, are now threatened by the continuing economic crisis, threatened by the perception they are no longer relevant in a world dominated by direct digital service of content, and threatened by the licensing of content rather than by purchasing content with rights of first sale.”

Michael continued, “I believe we need to form partnerships with schools, educational and social service organizations, and individuals, to create a culture of literacy, where the joys and importance of reading and books, (these are independent of format), are recognized, appreciated and rewarded.”

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Executive Director’s Report

Another year, another cut in funding for libraries. I guess it could be worse, and it is in other states like California and Texas where all funding for libraries was proposed to be eliminated, or it could be better like in New Jersey and Massachusetts, where no further cuts were proposed.

Advocacy is a marathon and not a sprint. It is something we have to do year after year with the same intensity and vigor regardless of the outcome. Some years our advocacy efforts have been more successful than others, but the key is not to give up. As long we have the support of the library community, NYLA will never give up the fight and continue to be the voice of libraries here in Albany and beyond, to voters and local elected officials throughout the state.

As the Library Aid portion of the state budget shrinks, NYLA will be seeking out other sources of state funding like Employment Preparation Education (EPE) funds or Universal Pre-K funds that libraries could tap into to support services they already provide. NYLA is also working with the NYS Board of Regents to insure that school librarians and libraries continue to have a vital role in implementing the new core standards and curriculum.

In addition to advocacy, NYLA continues to expand its professional development opportunities through its Leadership and Management Academy and Library Assistant Training Program, which in May will be offered at Nassau, Tompkins and Ulster Community Colleges.

Coming next month will be our newly launched website, a salary survey, the 2nd Annual Empire State Book Festival and NYS Writers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, and discounted subscription rates for Library Journal and School Library Journal for NYLA members. Stay tuned for more exciting news!
Empire State Book Festival
April 1&2, 2011

The Second Annual Empire State Book Festival and Gala is scheduled for April 1-2 in Albany. The two day event kicks off on Friday, April 1st at 6 pm with the Empire State Book Festival Gala at the State Room that features the NYS Writers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Author Paula Fox and poet John Ashbery will be inducted into the Hall of Fame along with past literary luminaries like Willa Cather, Julia DeBurgos, Ralph Ellison, Lorraine Hansberry, Madeleine L’Engle, Dorothy Parker and Herman Melville.

Tickets to the event are $60 and invitations can downloaded from the Events page on the Empire State Book Festival website at www.empirestatebookfestival.org.

The Book Festival begins on Saturday, April 2nd at 10 a.m. in the Empire State Plaza with keynote speaker Ann Martin, author of the popular series The Baby-Sitters Club. The opening address is followed by 30 workshops, panel discussions and storytelling covering topics like book collecting, pets and romance to how to get published and graphic novels. The Festival ends with closing speaker author and singer Rosanne Cash at 3:45 p.m. The event is open and free to the public. For a comprehensive listing of panels and workshops visit www.empirestatebookfestival.org.

The Empire State Book Festival is an initiative of the Empire State Center for the Book at the New York Library Association.
NYLA Updates to Civil Service Exams Approved

The NYS Department of Civil Service at the end of last year gave final approval to a set of recommendations proposed by NYLA’s Task Force on Civil Service Reform headed by Josh Cohen, NYLA Past-President and retired Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System.

The new exams and rating scales became available January 1, 2011 and covers Librarian I, Librarian II and Library Director I titles. In addition to the updates, the NYS Dept. of Civil Service has made the exams available online. According to the policy advisory sent to all municipal service agencies, “All agencies can begin holding examinations included in the ATAP entry-level professional librarian series on January 1, 2011. However, agencies that currently hold examinations in this series on a continuous recruitment basis will be provided with a year to transition from the current decentralized examination program to the centralized ATAP examination program between January 1, 2011 and December 21, 2012.”

The new exams also references the 60 hours of continuing education over five years requirement instituted in January 2010 for all new certified public librarians. The Librarian I exam also more adequately reflects the courses currently offered in library schools throughout the state. Credit is also given to librarians actively participating in professional associations like the New York Library Association.

Our gratitude to all the the members of the NYLA Task Force on Civil Service Reform who worked over a 12 month period to make these changes happen: Josh Cohen, Richard Naylor, Sara Dallas, Jim Sleeth, Sonia Long, Tom Witt, Peter Ward, Geoff Kirkpatrick and Kevin Gallagher.

Special Thanks to Shawn McConnell, former NYLA Intern (now with Penn Yann Library), who staffed the Task Force on Civil Service Reform and conducted the research that resulted in the revisions and updates. •
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Members on the Move

Alfred-Almond Central School held a College Color Day. District staff wore the logos and favorite colors of their alma mater in February. The day promoted college, fostered an interest in surrounding education institutions and heightened school spirit.

James Belair is the new SLS Director for Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES.

Ken Bellafiore, current president of the Nassau County Library Association, is the new Director of the Freeport Memorial Library.

Mary Lou Carolan, Wallkill Public Library Director, introduced an enthusiastic group representing over 15 libraries to the new, national community awareness project, Geek the Library, at its New York State launch. This exciting, free outreach opportunity is available to all public libraries from a grant made possible by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Sharon Cox has recently been appointed Manager of the Children’s Library Discovery Center at Queens Library. The Discovery Center is slated to be opened in late spring.

Miriam Curnin, long-time Larchmont Public Library Board of Trustees member and current Board Chairperson, has retired.

Susan Dillon, the President of the Merrick Library Board of Trustees, was awarded the Civic Leadership award by the Freeport-Merrick Rotary.

Debby Emerson is the new Executive Director at the Central New York Library Resources Council.

Bev Federspiel is the new Director at the Lockport Public Library. She replaces Marie Bindeman who has retired.

Muriel Feldshuh, Library Consultant to The Books for Kids Foundation, reports that her “Story Banner Project” was selected to be part of The Story Box Project, which represents a vivid way to share familiar stories with young children.

Jessica Fenster-Sparber, Library Coordinator at Passages Academy Libraries, will be speaking on an ASCLA panel on Prisoners’ Right to Read on Saturday, June 25th.

Michael Firestone is the new director of the Bayport-Blue Point Public Library.

The Friends of the Brighton Memorial Library won the Empire Friends’ Roundtable contest for National Friends of Libraries Week for showcasing Friends’ achievements and inspiring library users to join the Friends.

Maureen Garvey is the new Director of the Director of the Bellmore Memorial Library.

Carolyn Glamba, Sara Kelly Johns, and Vikki Terrile were judges in the 2010-11 Empire State Center for the Book’s Letters about Literature competition, a nationwide literature and writing based competition.

Lynne Golliher, Ellenville Public Library & Museum announces that the library received a grant from the Dutchess County Arts Council for a special program, “Cultivating Community through the Arts”. The grant will help cover costs of four community events helping people to understand, recognize, and celebrate cultural diversity.

The Greater Southern Tier BOCES School Library System has received a “Learning On-The-Go” Wireless Pilot Project” from the FCC.

Katy Hepner, Children’s Librarian at Westhampton Free Library, has been appointed Administrative Assistant for YALSA’s Great Graphic Novels for Teens Committee.

Kimberly Davies Hoffman, Associate Librarian for Reference and Instruction, and Michelle Costello, Reference/Instruction, Education and Instructional Design Librarian, at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo, will receive the 2011 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), Instruction Section (IS) Innovation award for developing LILAC (Library Instruction Leadership Academy), a collaborative professional development project designed, organized and delivered by regional K-12, community college and college/university librarians.

Jill Hurst-Wahl, Assistant Professor of Practice in Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies, has been elected to the Special Libraries Association Board of Directions (2011-2013).

Scott Jarzombek is the new Director of the Pawling Library.

MaryAnn Karre, School Librarian at Horace Mann Elementary School in Binghamton, was awarded a grant at the NYSCATE Annual Conference in Rochester which will be used to expand the SMART SE Digital Portfolios Project. She also received a Lois Lensky Covey Foundation Grant to purchase books for an in-school reading program.

Anja Kennedy, School Librarian at Passages Academy Libraries, will be speaking on an OLOS panel on outreach services to incarcerated and detained populations on Sunday, June 26th.

Kingston District Library announces the Kingston Library Loan of Artwork to Patrons Program. Original artwork, framed and ready to hang will be loaned to patrons for one month.

Ronald Kirsop, a recent graduate of the School of Information Studies at SUNY Buffalo, joined the staff of the Wood Library Association as its Head of Reference and Adult Services.

Matthew LaBrake, a Dutchess BOCES School Library System, is creating a new school library media program for the Salt Point Center K-8 Special & Alternative Education School in Poughkeepsie.

Susan LaVista is the new Director of the Hampton Bays Public Library.

Anne Lotito Schuh, School Librarian at Passages Academy Libraries, was awarded a $10,000 REACH grant.

J. James Mancuso, Adjunct Librarian for The Sage Colleges, wrote the chapter “Laid off? Here’s one way to land on your feet” in the newest ALA publication, The Frugal Librarian. The chapter discusses the advantages and disadvantages of looking for, interviewing for, and securing part-time employment in the library realm.

Maggie Marino is the new Director of the Wantagh Public Library.

Frank McKenna is the new Director of the Seaford Public Library.

Jane Minotti, Librarian at the NYS Department of Transportation Cooperative Highway Research Program Project 20-90 “Improving...
Management of Transportation Information." Sponsored by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, the research will produce guidance on best practices and strategies for the capture, preservation, search and retrieval, and governance of transportation data and information.

**Chrsissie Morrison**, Tween & Teen Librarian at the East Greenbush Community Library, travels to Missouri in March to present the Missouri State Library’s Teen Summer Reading Workshop series.

**The New York, Brooklyn and Queens Library Systems**, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, developed homework help "apps" that students can access from their social networking pages. "Homework NYC Apps: A Decentralized Approach to Homework Help by Public Libraries" has included the development of apps that allow students to search Library databases (SearchIT), find programs at their local branches (AttendIT), share books and other resources they like (ListIT) and reach live teacher help at Dial-a-Teacher, a program run by the NYC Dept. of Education.

**Linda A. Nichols** has been appointed Interim Executive Director at the Geneva Public Library.

**The Oyster Bay - East Norwich Public** is celebrating 110 years of service at its present location. In 1899, Theodore Roosevelt, who was then Governor of New York State, laid the cornerstone for the building, and the Oyster Bay- Free Circulating Library opened its doors to the public in 1901.

**Anne Marie Perrault**, Assistant Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies, University at Buffalo, served as the guest editor for The January/February 2011 issue of Knowledge Quest (Journal of the Association of School Librarians) Everyone’s Special: Equal Opportunities for All Students to Learn.

**Michael Pfisterer** is the new Director of Thrall Library District of Middletown and Wallkill.

**Lonna Pierce**, School Librarian, won a Binghamton City School District Foundation Grant to create a medieval feast. Students experienced literature, music, costume, food, a castle-building contest, and museum-like displays during the months of December and January.

**Queens Library’s** Mail-A-Book Program has been named the 2011 recipient of the ASCLA Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), Keystone Library Automation System (KLAS) and National Organization on Disability (NOD) Award for its creative interactive programming for homebound library users.

**Cristine Riedel**, Dansville Middle School Librarian and a professional storyteller, will be one of the showcase tellers at the Riverway Storytelling Festival April 9th at the William K. Sanford Town Library.

**Ellen Rubin** is the New York State Coordinator for the 2010-11 Empire State Center for the Book’s Letters about Literature competition, a nationwide literature and writing based competition.

**Amanda (Miryem-Khaye) Seigel**, a Librarian at the New York Public Library Dorot Jewish Division, will be a lecturer and performer in residence in Melbourne, Australia in May 2011. She will lecture on Yiddish-language topics and present musical performances of her original and adapted Yiddish songs.

**The Sidney Memorial Public Library** is hosting the travelling exhibit Visions of the Universe, March 18th through May 20, 2011. The exhibit, developed in cooperation with the Space Telescope Science Institute Office of Public Outreach and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, celebrates astronomy and its contributions to society and culture.

**The Southern Tier Library System** has received a “Learning On-The-Go” Wireless Pilot Project from the FCC.

**Dave Wang**, Principal Librarian, is the new Manager of Queens Library at Laurelton.

**In Memoriam**

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Free Downloadable Music at the Library

by Sally Gillich

The new downloadable music service called Freegal is one of the most quickly expanding services in public libraries. The ability for libraries to offer a large selection of downloadable music has proven challenging for many years due to the limited selection, the difficulty in downloading, and the digital rights management. Freegal must be doing something right because it looks as if every day another public library is adding this new service.

Freegal offers patrons access to downloads of DRM free MP3 music tracks from the Sony Music Entertainment catalog. Sony includes more than 50 labels, in over 100 genres ranging from rock and country to rap and classical, providing library patrons with access to hundreds of thousands of songs. Unlike many downloadable audio and eBook services, there is no software required for patrons to install and no download manager. Using a patron’s browser, they can click on “download now” and save a simple MP3 file anywhere on their computer. The file can be transferred to personal devices such as iPods, mp3 players, Smartphones, etc. and the files never expire. Freegal works with Apple, Android and Blackberry devices and many other devices.

Library Ideas, the private company that operates Freegal, offers different download plans for libraries. Depending upon the plan chosen by a given library, each patron gets a determined limit of downloads per week. Many libraries seem to be settling at paying for 3-5 downloads per library card per week. The purchasing library can also select to pay for an overall library-wide weekly download limit or can opt to pay for unlimited downloads. A notable feature of Freegal is that when one or more patrons download a particular song, it does not preclude any other patron from downloading the same song at the same time.

Some New York Libraries offering Freegal include the Clifton-Park Halfmoon Public Library, Guilderland Public Library, The New York Public Library, Northern Onondaga Public Library, Chappaqua Public Library, Buffalo and Erie County Library. Patrons from the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library have many positive things to say about the new service including the ease of use. 2690 songs have been downloaded in the first month of the new service.

Library Director, Alex Gutelius says, “Using Freegal downloadable music is one more way that the library is able to provide patrons with the material they want in the format that they want and in such an easy way.” The Chappaqua Public Library has had such positive results that they recently chose to increase their subscription level to provide the highest levels of downloads permitted. Library Director, Pamela Thornton is very pleased with the service and said, “The library never could have purchased the number of song tracks that this music service provides. One of our patrons has downloaded many, many songs in French--something that our library never could have afforded to purchase in CD format. Freegal downloadable music makes us more available to our patrons and we can serve a whole segment of the population that might not be able to get to the library during the typical work week. Those patrons can now sit down at their computers at midnight or anytime, connect to the library and download their music selections. This helps to make us more relevant to our patrons and their lifestyles.”

While Freegal is an exciting new service, it is not without its drawbacks. The navigation and indexing are not as stellar as librarians and savvy patrons have come to expect when working with libraries. While the selection is great compared to previous library downloadable music options, Sony and their labels only cover a certain percentage of artists worldwide and patrons will notice that not all of their favorite artists are available. Freegal definitely challenges our concept of the lending model by offering free digital content for patrons to keep rather than to “borrow,” but it is similar to the concept of files that libraries offer to patrons through other databases and some downloadable eBooks.

The evolution of downloadable music service for libraries is going to be very interesting to watch. Clearly as electronic media continues to develop, public libraries will need to stay apprised of the latest developments and watch for those companies offering the best services for their patrons. For now, Freegal seems to be one company that is providing a downloadable music service that many New York libraries are finding valuable to patrons.
NYLA Welcomes First-Time Members 7/1/10 – 12/31/10

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Kathy Armbruster
Kimberly Brahfeld
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Lauren Comito
Liana Coletti
Lori Murtuga
Lynda Kennedy
Marcy Byrne
Melissa Fried
Mirele Davis
Rhonda Todtman
Richard Ashby
Susanna VanSant
Tina Master
Victoria Shimmons
William Hastings
Wonda Miller

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Alette Seales
Alexandra Spencer
Alexi Galica-Cohen
Alexis Alfase
Allison Ritchey
Amanda Perrine
Angelic Wright
Anna White
Bernadette Pasek
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Cary Gouldin
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Ellen Winger
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Shelley Diaz
Simona Torregrossa
Stacy Wesley
Tamara Williams
Tessa Brawley
Thea Atwood
Timothy Wood
Trisha Adamus
Val Perceslo
Veronica Stork
Victoria Clingan
Victorja Kramer
Wayne Walters
Interview with Michael Nyerges

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“I believe library systems and their members, along with NYLA and other professional organizations need to develop answers and strategies to these and other existential threats. We need to leverage the economies of scale to reduce the costs of library service, something library systems in New York State have been doing for 50 years,” stated Michael.

I asked about his new position and the challenges/opportunities faced there and he replied, “I believe Mid-Hudson has the talent to help address these challenges. I think the tough fiscal decisions have been made and positions Mid-Hudson, with any luck, to grow and strengthen the leadership, education and service it provides its member libraries, which indirectly benefits the residents these libraries serve. And I want to be part of this effort and to help ensure that public libraries have a future in a fast changing and uncertain world.”

Michael is just finished reading Cold: Adventures in the World’s Frozen Places by Bill Streever and Days of Atonement by Faye Kellerman. He just started Social Animal by David Brooks and is slowly reading through the 2010 Best American Science and Nature Writing, edited by Freeman Dyson.

New NYLA Benefit: Discounted Subscription Rates for Library Journal and School Library Journal

Begins April 1st, NYLA members can get a discount on both new and renewal subscriptions to Library Journal, School Library Journal, Library Hotline and The Horn Book Magazine. NYLA offers two ways to save money on this new member benefit.

For those who have their employer pay for subscriptions, we offer two options:

**Subscriber Basic** (includes NYLA Membership and either Library Journal or School Library Journal)
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- Renewing Subscriber: $200

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- First Time Subscriber: $220
- Renewing Subscriber: $290

For those who pay individually, we offer the following rates:

**School Library Journal**
- First Time Subscriber: $75
- Renewal: $115

**Library Journal**
- First Time Subscriber: $85
- Renewal: $130

**Library Hotline**
- First Time Subscriber: $62
- Renewal: $96

**The Horn Book Magazine**
- First Time Subscriber: $50
- Renewal: $58

Visit www.nyla.org and click on Membership to download form to send in or contact Lois Powell at membership@nyla.org for more information.

Congratulations to the 2010/2011 Dewey Scholarship Recipients

Whitney Owen – Pratt Institute
Damary Gonzalez – St. John’s University
Alison Hosier – University at Albany
Elizabeth Archer – University at Buffalo
Erik Sommer – Palmer School/Long Island University

Special thanks to the generosity of NYLA members who contributed to the Scholarship Fund and the Lake Placid Educational Fund for their financial support that makes it possible for NYLA to provide these scholarships to a future generation of librarians.
Legislators,” and “Sample Advocacy Letters.” There are also
links to advocacy radio spots and a wealth of statistics, graphs
and charts. From the NYLA Homepage, click on the
Advocacy button on the blue tool bar across the top.

This will be a difficult year for all of us and many librarians
will see their jobs eliminated. I am one of those librarians. I
know what you are going through. We will keep our chins up
and continue educating the legislators and the Governor about
library services. As of the writing of this letter, Senator Farley’s
office called NYLA to announce that he is proposing the resto-
ration of all library aid. It’s not over yet! ♦
After a natural disaster strikes, getting back to normal may seem impossible.

BEYOND WORDS SCHOOL LIBRARY RELIEF FUND

Since 2006, the American Association of School Librarians, with funding from the Dollar General Foundation, has given more than $800,000 in grants to over 95 school libraries across the country affected by natural disasters. We’ve also created a website with tools to help with other areas of the recovery process.

Apply for a Beyond Words Grant: www.ala.org/aasl/disasterrelief
From the President...

I want to thank the 850 librarians, library clerks, library trustees, and library supporters for attending the Library Advocacy Day on March 1 in Albany. Although the news from the legislators is grim, we of the library community stood strong and united sending an important message that libraries and library services are vitally important, especially in the current economic climate. Our presence in the state capitol is important, now more than ever. Please continue to communicate with your legislators about library funding letting them know how important the services provided by your library are to your patrons, whether they are students, community members or job seekers. Libraries have been cut five times since 2008. The state budget should not be balanced on the backs of the state’s libraries; we have done our fair share and another 10% cut is unfair. School aid was only cut 7.3% and aid to municipalities was only cut 2%. Why should library funding be continually hit so hard?

The New York Library Association joined with a coalition of other organizations at the capitol on March 1 to support the continuation of the high earners tax, more commonly known as the millionaire’s tax. This coalition, known as GrowingTogetherNY, includes PEF, Hunger Action, AFSCME, the Statewide Senior Action Council, the Empire State Economic Security Campaign, New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness and several other organizations, is asking the legislators to continue this tax, bringing in over $4 billion in revenue, almost half of the entire state budget deficit. It is imperative that this tax on the state’s wealthiest citizens continues for the sake of all New York citizens. Please contact your legislators and request their support for the continuation of this tax.

There is a wealth of advocacy information on the NYLA webpage. Some of it is found on the NYLA Advocacy Day page. There are links to documents such as “Protocols for Meeting with...