A Message from the ASLS President

“You are never strong enough that you don’t need help”

Cesar Chavez

New York libraries recently realized a victory, with a record increase of $20 million in additional state library aid, the largest increase in library aid ever. It took much effort, persistence and passion to achieve this victory.

Through the efforts of NYLA’s advocacy campaign, ably led by NYLA Legislative Committee Chair (and former ASLS President) Kathy Miller, along with Jennifer Morris, NYLA President, and Michael Borges, NYLA Executive Director, New York’s libraries will reap the benefits.

The work continues!

To build on the momentum of the work done to date, the NYLA Legislative Committee has created a Task Force that is gathering input from NYLA sections, affiliates and others, to help NYLA develop its legislative priorities for the next year and beyond. The goal of the task force is to have a reasonably affordable proposal that over a period of years provides for help in meeting the needs of New York's libraries.

The ASLS board put forth these proposals on behalf of the ASLS membership:

- Increases in Coordinated Collection Development Aid (CCDA) for Academic Libraries
- Funding toward high-end STM [science, technology, medicine] databases
- Funding toward general databases to increase scope of NOVEL resources
- Funding to support a statewide delivery service

The Task Force will review all input and develop a draft proposal over the summer, which will be shared with the membership and others in the fall.

What can you do to contribute to NYLA advocacy efforts?

- Send thank you notes to your state legislators for their support
- Contact your legislators to encourage ongoing support for libraries (use the convenient NYLA Online Advocacy Center on the NYLA web site)
- Let us know what we missed above and if ASLS focuses should be redirected. Contact Jean Sheviak (jsheviak@cdlc.org), your Legislative Committee representative
- Learn from the “experts”: plan to attend the next NYLA Lobby Day (March 13, 2007) and shadow experienced library representatives, or consider speaking on behalf of libraries yourself

In the words of Thomas Jefferson, “I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.”

May all of the hard work pay off!

Kathleen Gundrum
ASLS President
The 2005 Ridley’s Book Bindery Internship was awarded to the Documentary Heritage Program of the Capital District Library Council. Sean Heather McGraw, a student in the Department of Information Studies at the University at Albany was selected to work with CDLC Regional Archivist Susan D’Entremont on the internship project. The article below is excerpted from Sean’s summary report.

The Capital District Library Council’s Documentary Heritage Program Advisory Committee wanted to develop goals, guidelines and recommendations to aid teachers in the direct use of historical documents. The intern determined that this project would consist of three parts: a review of New York State Education Department Content Standards, a brief literature review of selected curriculum packets containing historical documents currently produced by certain local archives, and a survey of teachers and librarians for their current opinions.

The New York State Social Studies Content Standards specify that there are eight “critical dimensions” which all social studies activities taught in New York State schools must use to teach students the ability to understand the “historical, social, cultural, geographic, economic, political” nature of the world. Archivists can use these Standards to create effective activity suggestions and document-based questions, which will enhance the teacher’s understanding of an archivist’s collection and give the teachers the information they need to properly teach their students according to the standards. Typical curriculum packets were reviewed and found to be composed of four parts: 1) an explanation of the packet, with related Content Standards and directions for teachers; 2) facsimiles of historical documents; 3) an explanation of the documents containing difficult vocabulary, enumeration of concepts, clarification of illegible or confusing texts; and 4) questions and/or activities for students which request them to analyze the documents, infer conclusions and write explanations of the related themes and concepts.

The survey of teachers and librarians was not a statistical analysis and is qualitative. Survey respondents were located through librarians on lists provided by the regional School Library Systems. The primary conclusion from the survey is that teachers and librarians are using the internet as their first source of historical documents. Textbooks, other books and other teachers are their second source of historical documents, and local archival repositories are their third source of historical documents. A corollary conclusion is that digital documents are easy and less time-consuming for teachers and librarians to use, especially as it is easier to find documents on the internet than in local repositories. Therefore going to local archives is not always seen as necessary. A second conclusion is that local archival repositories, including school library service centers, are used and needed but are not as effective as they could be in assisting teachers and librarians to be aware of and use documents in local collections.

The information gleaned from the survey reveals that there are several ways an archivist can be more effective: 1) Know your educators and their needs; 2) Market your repository; 3) Create and modify curriculum packets; 4) Give tours and classroom demonstrations; 5) Create websites; 6) Continually talk with your educators; 7) Regularly note documents in the collections that are useful for educators; 8) Design projects with teacher and library science education programs; 9) Provide more open hours and reference staff.

In conclusion, educators need archival resources and collaboration between archivists and educators is essential to providing access to those resources. Educators want to use historical documents; they just don’t always know where to find them nor do they have very much time to search for them. The regional archival community should make a collaborative effort to uniformly offer more services to local educators and thus improve the use of local collections and the knowledge of local educators and students. Historical documents are not only a fascinating way to understand history; ultimately they are the only way to understand history. 

Sean Heather McGraw

For further information about this project contact Susan D’Entremont (sd’entremont@cdlc.org).
Treasurer’s Report

First Quarter 2006
January 1, 2006 – March 31, 2006

STARTING BALANCE $8,954.59

REVENUE
Dues $1,180.67
TOTAL REVENUE $1,180.67

EXPENSES
NYLA Lobby Day $ 200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES $ 200.00

CLOSING BALANCE $9,935.26

ASLS started off the year with approximately $200 less than it had in January 2005. Some first quarter expenses were delayed to the second quarter due to processing errors.

The second quarter will see income of $1000 for the 2005 Ridley internship as well as dues. Expenses will include travel and meetings for the 2/6/06 and 6/2/06 meetings, $1000 for the CDLC/Ridley intern, and newsletter expenses.

Elaine M. Lasda Bergman
ASLS Treasurer

Newsletter editor(s) needed:
Are you interested in making a real contribution to ASLS? Do you want to have some fun while doing that? Why not think about working on the ASLS newsletter! Yes, the very same publication that you are reading right now. The current editors have been at this for a number of years, and we’d welcome some new ideas and new people. Contact Jean Sheviak (jsheviak@cdlc.org) or Chris Walker (cwalker@cdlc.org) for more information.

2006 BOARD ROSTER

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ASLS Announces Candidates for 2006-2007

The Board of Directors of the Academic and Special Libraries Section of NYLA is pleased to announce a slate of officers for the 2006-2007 program year. Additional nominations may be sent by September 6th to the Nominations Committee c/o Jane Verostek, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Email: jmveros@esf.edu. Biographical information on the candidates is included in this newsletter. Ballots will be mailed in September.

Incumbent officers include:

**President**
Deborah Emerson  
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Phone: 585-223-7570  
Email: demerson@rrlc.org

**Past President**
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**Director**
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Candidates for new officers include:

**Vice President & Conference Programmer/President Elect:**
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Rakow Research Library  
Corning Museum of Glass  
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**Director:**
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Skidmore College  
518-580-5542  
eputnam@skidmore.edu

Aprille Nace
Aprille Nace is the Public Services Team Leader for the Rakow Research Library at The Corning Museum of Glass, a position she has held since 2003. Previously Aprille served as Information Literacy Librarian at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she received a Service Excellence Award in 2003. She began working in libraries in 1992 and has worked in circulation, interlibrary loan, archives, instruction, reference, and collection development. Aprille earned a M.L.S. in 1999 and a M.A. in American Studies in 2002, both from the University at Buffalo. She has worked in oral history and folklore as well.

She is currently active in ARLIS/NA on the Standards Committee and the Travel Awards Committee and was invited to contribute to the forthcoming publication Handbook of Art Museum Librarianship. Aprille is also a participant in the NYLA Leadership & Management Academy. Her professional interests include non-traditional library partnerships, using interdisciplinary models to examine the changing role of reference librarians and library services, and the impact of tightening intellectual property regulations on creative expression and intellectual freedom in the arts and the responsibility of libraries/librarians in that discussion.

Statement of Interest: “If elected, I would welcome the opportunity to both share my experiences and to bring together the experiences of others to foster a vital and engaging atmosphere within ASLS and NYLA as a whole. I believe being a librarian is an empowering and powerful profession and would look forward toward contributing to the shape of that profession through serving the New York State library community as VP/Conference Programmer for ASLS.”

Elaine Lasda Bergman
Elaine Lasda Bergman has experience that is very beneficial to ASLS in that she works at both an academic library (UAlbany's Dewey Graduate Library) AND a special library (Healthcare Association of New York State's Hayt Memorial Library). She has been an active member of ASLS since 2002, when she was first elected to the Board of Directors. Elaine is the current Treasurer of ASLS.

Statement of Interest: Elaine states: "I

(Continued on page 5)
(Continued from page 4)

welcome the opportunity to continue as Treasurer. I have worked hard to keep accurate track of our income and expenditures, and contribute to the conference programming efforts of ASLS. Complete and up to date knowledge of our finances helps ASLS prioritize our activities and set achievable goals.”

Lorraine M. Wies
As a Program Director in the Human Services field for many years, Lorie was afforded many opportunities to serve a “greater good” by joining and actively participating in statewide organizations related to her field. Since graduating from SUNY-Albany’s School of Information Science and Policy in 1999, she has continuously sought opportunities to further her library experience and knowledge through her daily tasks as the Acquisitions and Periodicals Librarian at Union College and to expand her service to include a wider community.

Statement of Interest: “For the past two years, I have been privileged to have had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors for ASLS as well as serving as a Councilor-at-Large on the NYLA Council. To these entities, I believe I have brought my enthusiasm and strong work ethic. I believe my varied background - Social Worker, Administrator, Academic Librarian and Local History Librarian at the Saratoga Springs Public Library- contributes to my ability to view ideas and tasks from a variety of perspectives. I would very much appreciate an opportunity to continue as an ASLS Director for the next two years.”

Nancy Virgil Morgan
Nancy Virgil Morgan is Reference Librarian and Coordinator of Circulation Services at Utica College's Gannett Library. From 1997-2005, she was Assistant Director of the Education Digital Libraries Initiative, a U.S. Department of Education funded project, which included The Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM) and the Virtual Reference Desk (VRD). As AskERIC Coordinator (1993-1997), she was responsible for managing the AskERIC Virtual Library gopher and web sites. Previous to this, she worked in academic libraries. Nancy completed her M.L.S. degree at Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies.

Statement of Interest: “I returned to academic librarianship in September 2005 and attended my first NYLA Conference in October, where I was greatly impressed with the quality of the sessions that were offered and the networking opportunities. As director, I would bring my experience in planning and coordinating national meetings to the position, and look forward to actively contributing to the professional development of special and academic librarians through my involvement with NYLA and the conference.”

Rebecca Rich-Wulfmeyer
Rebecca Rich-Wulfmeyer has worked in cultural heritage management for twenty years in libraries, archives, and museums. Currently she is the Chief Librarian and Archivist at the Albany Institute of History & Art, where she has worked for three years. Prior to this position she served as the Curator of Archives and Manuscripts at the Austin History Center in Texas. She has a B.A. in Anthropology and an MLIS, both from The University of Texas.

Statement of Interest: “I think that we often tend to pigeonhole ourselves as academic, public, special, corporate, or school librarians. NYLA provides the opportunity for all New York librarians to come together to discuss and learn from the differences in our professional tracks, but also to realize that we have many of the same goals: supporting and instructing our patrons, using technology effectively, maximizing our funding, staying current in the field, promoting our collections, our services, and our libraries. As an ASLS Director, I will work to ensure that the conference program reflects the needs and interests of the ASLS membership and at the same time highlights the many ways in which our concerns reflect those of librarianship as a whole. I will consistently do all that I can to support and promote ASLS and NYLA, both within the association and the world at large.”
ASLS Programs at the NYLA Annual Conference

Plan now for the annual conference in Saratoga! ASLS has an exciting mix of conference sessions planned. Academic and special librarians are sure to find several interesting programs sponsored by ASLS.

On Thursday, November 2 at 1:30 pm there will be a session on “Creative Uses of Powerpoint.” This is an opportunity to learn about some new uses of the popular presentation software, going beyond the basics and exploring some creative ideas. Later in the afternoon, ASLS provides a discussion on “Issues in Managing the One-Person Library.” Many special libraries are "one-person" operations. If this is of interest to you, mark your calendar for 5:15 pm on November 2. Then join your colleagues at the ASLS General Membership meeting Thursday evening at 6:00 pm. You don't need to be a member to join us for refreshments and networking with your fellow academic and special librarians.

What is it like to work with researchers who have very specialized information needs? Three librarians make up a panel, for the program “Is a Researcher a Researcher?” talking about the collections and patrons in their very special libraries. That's Friday afternoon, November 3 at 2:15 pm.

Round out your conference with two ASLS programs on Saturday morning. It's worth staying around for “Skills You Didn't Learn in Library School” at 9:30 am on November 4. There are lots of things new librarians need to know that are not part of the library school curriculum. Finally, learn how you can use statistics as a marketing tool in our presentation, “Statistics: Numbers That Add Value to Your Library” on November 4 at 11:30 am.

While these programs are planned especially for people who work in academic or special libraries, many of the topics are of general interest. Please encourage your library colleagues to take advantage of the fine programs ASLS has planned for the Annual Conference!

Help Needed for New York Libraries

A number of libraries in the Southern Tier, Mohawk Valley and Mid-Hudson Valley sustained serious damage by floods in June. NYLA is collecting financial donations to assist libraries to repair damaged facilities and replace necessary equipment. NYLA Executive Director Michael J. Borges commented, “The Council and members of the New York Library Association contributed funds last year to help libraries impacted by Hurricane Katrina. This year we need to help libraries in our own backyard.”

The funds collected by the New York Library Association will be distributed proportionally to those libraries impacted by the flooding and who request assistance by the end of August. All of the donated funds will be expended to help the damaged libraries. No funds will be kept by the Association for administrative expenses. Anyone who would like to make a tax deductible donation can send a check to: New York Library Association – Disaster Relief Fund 252 Hudson Avenue Albany, New York 12210
**Tips for New Librarians: Becoming an Active Association Member**

We are so happy that you are an ASLS member! Professional associations provide a means for learning, sharing and networking. Joining and participating in library organizations, like the New York Library Association, will help you in your library career. Active association members experience richer relationships with other library colleagues and quickly learn about the profession and pertinent library issues. Here are some tips for becoming an active member:

- Read the newsletter and check out the organization web page
- Join the listserv and post your thoughts, techniques and theories on library issues – you bring a fresh perspective to the profession
- Attend regular association meetings
  - LISTEN – you’ll find out lots this way
  - INTRODUCE yourself – we want to know you
  - CONTRIBUTE – your ideas are invaluable!
- Participate in association conferences
  - Serve as a session moderator
  - Sign up to spend some time at the professional booth – networking
  - Attend presentations for current information in your area of interest
- Ask about serving on a committee – there’s always a need for more assistance
  - Help select a project that’s important to you
  - After a year or so, chair the committee – leadership opportunity
- Run for a position on the Board
  - Start small as the secretary or treasurer
  - Build up to vice president/president

*Brought to you by the ASLS Membership Committee*

**Cut this out and pass it along to a new colleague**