A message from the ASLS President …

As summer draws to a close, the annual NYLA conference is just around the corner. The ASLS board has put together an impressive array of programs, with we hope something for everyone. Whether your background brings you from an academic, special, public, another type of library, or a library consortia, you’ll be pleased to find topics ranging from getting the most out of your library statistics, to research occurring in New York’s special libraries, to creative uses of PowerPoint. There are many more programs too; see inside for additional information and to plan your conference schedule.

Also to take place during the conference is the ASLS annual membership meeting on Thursday evening at Lillian’s Restaurant. Please stop in to socialize with your colleagues, and to meet ASLS board members.

In addition to the membership meeting, you will want to stop by the ASLS booth during conference to put your name in for a quilt raffle. This handmade quilt, generously crafted and donated by Cara Molyneaux from Union College, and a former ASLS president, will be on display. If you are unable to attend the conference, raffle tickets are available from any ASLS board members [see inside for roster].

The ASLS board conducts its next board meeting at the conference. The meeting is open to all ASLS members and is a good opportunity for you to see how the organization functions and to learn more about the behind-the-scenes work of the board. I invite you to attend this meeting on Wednesday evening to learn more about what we do.

This meeting kicks off our programming for the 2007 conference, giving us an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and to develop a slate of programs that will have wide appeal for the 2007 conference, to be held October 17-20 in Buffalo.

Also at this meeting we will be discussing the future of the ASLS newsletter. Our co-editors, Jean Sheviak and Christine Walker, have for many, many years compiled and contributed articles, offered ideas for articles and graphics, and oversee the print and production of the newsletter we rely on to keep the ASLS membership informed. A special thanks to Jean and Chris for the great job they’ve done!

We’re interested in getting more involvement from the membership, and if you have ever been interested in serving as an editor or contributor to the newsletter, now is the time to do so. Stop into the board meeting, or contact Jean or Chris to express your interest or to learn more.

Finally, I’d like to thank our board members and our committee members for all of the work they continue to put into ASLS. The time they take from their daily jobs to ensure a strong ASLS section is one of the key foundations of this organization. Broader membership involvement is the other. The board looks forward to meeting many new and familiar faces at the conference; we’ll see you in Saratoga!

Kathy Gundrum
ASLS President
Academic and special librarians often say they don’t know about legislative issues and they don’t know how to advocate for libraries. Several programs at the NYLA conference in Saratoga can help you learn! The NYLA Leg Committee is sponsoring “Low Cost, High Return Advocacy,” which will focus on effective advocacy, on Friday from 2:15-3:30. New York State Commissioner of Education and State Librarian Janet Welch will talk about library funding and libraries pivotal role in statewide educational initiatives at 8:00 on Friday morning. That program is followed by a discussion on how to keep library needs and issues in the forefront on funding at 9:30. Leading that program will be Janet Welch, Carol Ann Desch (Coordinator of Statewide Library Services), and elected officials.

Why is this important? The NYLA Leg Committee will develop legislative priorities based on input from the Taskforce on Legislative Priorities which was discussed in the last newsletter. Some of those priorities will directly impact academic and special libraries. Others will impact the public libraries we use or the schools where our children are educated. If we understand these issues and how important they are we can join together to speak with one library voice in educating our legislators. So – come and learn!

Then put your new-found knowledge to work: join your colleagues in Albany for NYLA Lobby Day on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

Jean Sheviak, Chair
ASLS Legislative Committee

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YOU ARE INVITED!

WHAT:  ASLS Membership Meeting
WHEN:  Thursday, November 2, 2006
       6:00 - 7:00 pm
WHERE:  Lillian’s Restaurant
        408 Broadway - Downtown Saratoga Springs

Join us for some fun and some down time after a day of conferencing!

Meet new people!

Hear the announcements of the winners of the Spirit of Librarianship Award and the NY3Rs/Ridley’s Book Bindery Internship Award!
Treasurer’s Report

Academic and Special Libraries Section
Second Quarter, 2006 (April – June)

STARTING BALANCE $9,930.26

REVENUE
Dues $ 301.29
Ridley Internship 2005 $1,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE $1,301.29

EXPENSES
Ridley Internship (2006) $1,000.00
Publications $ 398.60
Travel and meetings $ 364.43
TOTAL EXPENSES $1,763.03

CLOSING BALANCE $9,468.52

Our expenses were not out of the ordinary this quarter. We had a newsletter, a board meeting, and we both received money for the 2005 Ridley Internship and paid out for the 2006 Internship. We will make an effort to get the 2006 internship money in November or December of 2006 this year, to try to correct the delay in reimbursement for future years. Upcoming expenses are mainly for the conference, another newsletter and board meetings.

Respectfully submitted
Elaine M. Lasda Bergman
ASLS Treasurer

2006 BOARD ROSTER

Kathleen Gundrum, President
Nylink, State University of New York
Phone: 800-342-3353
Email: gundrumk@Nylink.suny.edu

Deborah Emerson, Vice-President/Conference Programmer
Rochester Regional Library Council
Phone: 585-223-7570
Email: demerson@rrlc.org

Jane M. Verostek, Past President
SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
Phone: 315-470-6718
Email: jmveros@esf.edu

Erin Rushton, Secretary/Web Liaison
Binghamton University
Phone: 607-777-2706
Email: erushton@binghamton.edu

Elaine Lasda Bergman, Treasurer
University at Albany
Phone: 518-442-3598
Email: lasda.bergman@gmail.com

Lisabeth Chabot, Director
Ithaca College
Phone: 607-274-3182
Email: lchabot@ithaca.edu

Karen Gardner-Athey, Director
SUNY Office of Lib & Info Services
Phone: 518-443-5755
Email: Karen.gardner-athey@suny.edu

Lorie Wies, Director
Union College
Phone: 518-388-6689
Email: wiesl@union.edu

NJ Wolfe, Director
Fashion Institute of Technology
Phone: 212-217-5590
Email: nj_wolfe@fitnyc.edu

The ASLS Newsletter is published three times a year by the Communications Committee of the Academic and Special Libraries Section of the New York Library Association, Jean Sheviak and Christine Walker, Co-Editors. ADDRESS: ASLS Newsletter c/o Capital District Library Council, 28 Essex Street, Albany, NY 12206; Phone: 518-438-2500 Fax: 518-438-2872; email: jsheviak@cdlc.org or cwalker@cdlc.org.
ASLS Programs for the 2006 NYLA Annual Conference

ASLS has a full slate of programs lined up for the Annual Conference, designed especially for our academic and special librarians and presented by your colleagues from around the state.

First off, on Thursday, November 2 at 1:30 p.m. is Beyond the Bulleted List: Creative Uses of Powerpoint. The creative experts from computer training firm Microknowledge will help you discover new uses for this popular presentation software.

If you’re in charge of a one-person library, be sure to attend Issues in Managing the One-Person Library on Thursday at 5:15 in the afternoon. Two solo librarians share their ideas for staying connected with others in the field and keeping current with the ever-changing library world.

We hope you’ll join us for our Membership Meeting, Thursday evening at 6 p.m. Enjoy hors d’oeuvres and good fellowship with your colleagues from other academic and special libraries. It’s a fun group and this is always a good gathering.

On Friday, November 3, plan to join us at 2:15 p.m. for Is a Researcher a Researcher? Anyone who works with researchers will appreciate this discussion. Three librarians join us to talk about their libraries, their collections and their users.

Are you a new librarian in an academic or special library? Did you learn everything you need to know in library school? If you think there are some things that were never discussed in your classes, you might want to come to this presentation where an academic library director and a special librarian team up to present some new ideas on how to negotiate library culture and politics. Hold the time – Saturday, November 4 at 9:30 a.m.

If you have an interest in statistics, you should plan to attend Statistics: Numbers That Add Value to Your Library. Our two presenters from the College of Computing and Information at the University at Albany will talk about the use of statistics for public relations and marketing purposes. This is our final conference program, at 11:30 a.m. on November 4. It’s well worth staying around for!

WANT to CONNECT WITH COLLEAGUES? READY TO WORK WITH A TEAM? ANXIOUS FOR SOME FUN?

Sign up to help staff the ASLS Booth at the 2006 NYLA Conference

For more information, contact Carol Anne Germain
cg219@albany.edu
518-442-3590
Other Conference Programs of Interest to ASLS Members

Like ASLS, other NYLA sections and other organizations have been hard at work developing excellent programs for Saratoga. Take a look at these examples:

- NYLA is sponsoring a discussion by faculty members from New York library schools on issues impacting the library profession on Thursday from 1:30-2:45.
- The Rudy Weiss Lecture will address emerging technologies. This program, sponsored by SMART, is on Thursday from 4:00-5:15.
- LAMS has invited people from Google to talk about the Googlization of librarianship. They’ll speak from 4 to 6 on Thursday.
- Iranian author Nahid Rachlin will discuss her book and the creative process in an ESRT-sponsored program on Friday at 9:30.
- Hear success stories about the information commons in academic libraries at an NY3Rs-sponsored program on Friday from 9:30-1:45.
- RASS Best of Reference (Thursday, 1:30-2:45)
- Learn best practices for equipment loaning and management on Friday from 8:00-8:45 (sponsored by SMART).
- Does instant messaging work in academic reference? Find out at “IM on the Reference Desk” on Thursday at 4:00. (RASS)
- Learn how to search public records online on Saturday from 11:30 to 12:45. (GIRT)

And don’t forget Keynote Speaker, Diane Ravitch, revisiting and updating her book, *The Language Police* on Thursday at 9:30.

Metadata, organization structure, diversity, mysteries…and more! Browse through the preliminary program to see what might interest or intrigue you!
Spotlight on a Special Library:  
The Rakow Research Library at Corning Museum of Glass

Founded in 1951 as an independent, nonprofit, educational institution, The Corning Museum of Glass is home to the world’s most comprehensive and celebrated collection of glass. Dedicated to the art, research, history, science, and exhibition of glass and glassmaking, the Museum houses more than 45,000 objects representing 3,500 years of glass craftsmanship. The Juliette K. and Leonard S. Rakow Research Library, in keeping with the Museum’s charter and mission, has been a part of the Museum since its opening day. Recognized as the world’s foremost library for the art, history, and early technology of glass and glassmaking, the Rakow Research Library is home to over 400,000 items on glass and glassmaking, representing more than 40 languages, with materials dating back to the 12th century.

The collections of the Library span a broad range of materials from extensive archival and audio-visual collections to ephemera files, trade catalogs, auction catalogs, and art on paper to traditional monographs and periodicals. Recent significant acquisitions include the complete archive of The Cummings Stained Glass Studio; the notebooks of Frederick Carder; an original Louis Comfort Tiffany watercolor; and a first edition family copy of “Rare English glasses of the XVII and XVIII centuries” (1925), by Joseph Bles. The Library engages in custom cataloging and recently became a partner in the Northern New England Subject Authority Funnel Project of the Library of Congress Cooperative Cataloging Program.

Reference Librarians use the vast and varied collections of the Library to serve guests worldwide. The librarians respond to reference queries from an array of Museum staff, school children, college students, studio artists, libraries, collectors, independent researchers, scholars, the public at large, and even television and game shows. In 2005 the Library joined the QuestionPoint – 24/7 Reference service, realizing an immediate increase in the volume of reference queries. The Library also formalized an extensive Outreach Plan in 2005 and saw an 80% increase in visitation. Guests are welcome and need no appointment to use the Library, which is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and occasional Sundays.

Submitted by Aprille C. Nace  
Public Services Team Leader  
Rakow Research Library  
Corning Museum of Glass

Incoming NYLA President Wants To Visit Your Library

Rachel Baum, incoming NYLA President, is undertaking a huge project and she needs help from academic and special libraries! In her words: “When was the last time someone visited your library, wanting only to listen to what YOU have to say? Ok, and maybe to take your picture, too? As incoming president of the New York Library Association, I am planning to travel around the state in 2006-2007 on a Library Learning Tour. Most people will tell you that I am a much better listener than I am a speaker (!) and that's what I plan to do.”

Rachel plans to travel around the state visiting libraries and listening to library staff to “hear about your issues, your concerns, your thoughts and plans and hopes for the future.” She will be reporting back to NYLA membership - and to NYLA Council - with a monthly email that will describe - in words and photos - a bit about the people and libraries encountered while on the tour.

If you are interested in being a part of this project please contact Rachel R. Baum, Assistant Dean, College of Computing and Information University at Albany, President-elect, New York Library Association - rbaum@uamail.albany.edu.
Tips for New Librarians: 
Building a Mentor/Mentee Relationship

Good mentoring relationships benefit the mentee as well as the mentor. They help foster collegiality and professional growth for both. Several studies have reported that mentoring can improve career satisfaction and success. New librarians find that mentors can be invaluable resources with helping to learn more about this exciting profession.

So how does one go about getting a mentor? Many libraries offer mentorship programs, but if your institution does not, many library associations, including NYLA (http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=214), provide mentor assistance. You may also opt to select an “unofficial” mentor – in most cases there will be plenty of advisees willing to offer help with your career goals!!

To help with the process you should know that a good mentor will:
♦ Guide you with professional options
♦ Answer questions relating to your job and needed skills
♦ Help get you connected with other library professionals and organizations
♦ Make professional recommendations
♦ Enlighten you about the library world
♦ Discuss new library topics and concerns
♦ Provide a confidential exchange

A mentor may:
♦ Walk you through your first professional conference
♦ Read one of your manuscripts and provide suggestions
♦ Watch you rehearse an upcoming presentation
♦ Co-author, co-present, collaborate

As a mentee, you should:
♦ Initiate contact when you need it
♦ Organize questions/comments so you can make the best use of time together
♦ Show your mentor that you are staying “on track”
♦ Appreciate this special relationship

Brought to you by the ASLS Membership Committee

Share these tips with a colleague

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Please support ASLS!

Visit the website at: http://www.nyla.org/content/user_9/ASLS44.pdf.

Candidate information can be found in Issue Number 44 of the ASLS Newsletter distributed in Summer 2006.

For your convenience just fold the ballot address side out, seal, stamp, and mail by October 10, 2006.

Thank you!