A Message from the ASLS President

Aprille C. Nace, ASLS President

At the past few ASLS Board meetings we have discussed ideas to get our members more involved (and we have quite a few), but what we really need is to hear from you. How would like to be involved? What opportunities can we offer? What professional topics would you like to see covered? Would you like to see ASLS offer a spring conference/workshop as some other sections do? What are your concerns for the future of libraries in New York State? Where do you think our strengths lie and how can we build upon them? As academic and special library folks, what benefits would you like to see included in NYLA/ASLS membership? This is your chance to let us know what we can do for you. Send your comments to me at naceac@cmog.org.

Many of you will remember that last year while Debby Emerson was ASLS President she embarked on a campaign to increase the number of academic institutions who are members of NYLA/ASLS. This year, continuing in that vein, I am interested in seeing an increase in the number of special libraries that are institutional members of NYLA/ASLS. The library world is a small place and there are many things we can learn from each other, regardless of the type of library we work in. Pulling more special libraries into the discussion can only be of benefit to us all. Encourage your institutions, your colleagues, and your friends to join ASLS and become a part of the discussion.

In other news, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the newly elected members of the ASLS Board. Regan Brumagen of The Corning Museum of Glass, will join the board as our new vice-president and conference programmer for the 2009 NYLA Annual Conference & Trade Show in Niagara Falls, NY. Elaine Lasda Bergman of University at Albany, is transitioning from treasurer to director. Kathryn Frederick of Elmira College, joins us as treasurer. Rounding out the new faces is Sheryl Knab of the Western New York Library Resources Council, who has been elected as a director. The final newly elected position goes to Nancy Virgil Morgan of Utica College, who has been elected to another term as a director.

On a final note, conference preparations are underway; that includes putting together another fabulous raffle basket for you. All I can say is that this year’s raffle will surpass the 2007 raffle. Look for more raffle information in the Fall ASLS Newsletter due out in October. In the meantime we look forward to seeing you in Saratoga Springs this November for the Annual Conference.

Spotlight on Your Library

For the past few years we have been featuring a special library in our newsletter. Now we want to turn the spotlight over to you. We would like to hear from special libraries, librarians, and library staff. Tell us about your library or tell us about yourself—here is your chance to let your colleagues know what’s so special about “special libraries.” Any academic folks feeling left out? Well, we want to hear from you too!

So let’s connect with each other and make the library world a bit smaller; all you ASLS members out there (and there are nearly 400 of you) gather your thoughts and put together a few words about yourself (or your library) and we will share your story in an upcoming ASLS newsletter. Send your thoughts, words, and questions to Aprille Nace: naceac@cmog.org.
Ridley's Book Bindery Student Internship Grant

ASLS offers an annual $1,000 student internship grant to a New York State academic or special library. Sponsored by Ridley's Book Bindery (Ithaca, NY), the grant enables the recipient to conduct a project planned by the library and implemented by a student currently enrolled in a graduate-level library studies program. The purposes of the grant are to:

- Provide a practical and meaningful work experience for a graduate library studies student interested in pursuing a career in academic or special librarianship.
- Stimulate interest among graduate library students to pursue a career in academic or special libraries.
- Support professional development of graduate library studies students for careers in academic and special libraries.

CRITERIA for internship projects:
- Internships may be in any area related to academic or special librarianship, including direct service, special projects, or analysis of services and operations.
- Internship projects must be supervised by an individual with an MLS from an accredited school of library science.
- Internship projects must involve at least 120 hours of service to be completed by the intern prior to the end of the academic year 2008/2009.

ASLS will distribute the project funds for the purpose of providing a stipend to the intern selected by recipient library. The recipient library will be responsible for disbursing grant funds to the intern. The entire grant of $1,000 must be distributed to the selected intern.

CRITERIA for applications (weighted equally):
- Strength of the applicant's statement of project need, the clarity of project goals, and the presentation of an achievable work plan.
- Evidence of value to the student in preparation for professional work in academic or special libraries.
- Evidence of value to the student through the successful implementation of a project that has the potential for significant impact on the host library's programs or services.

Applications for the Ridley Student Internship Grant are due by September 5, 2008. The successful library applicant will be notified in mid-September. Complete information about the grant, and the application form, are available at www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=299.

Treasurer's Report

1st Quarter, 2008
(1/01/08 -3/31/08)

Previous Balance $ 13,197.31

Revenues
Dues $ 1,437.25
Ridley Internship $ 1,000.00
Accounting Error $ 35.40
TOTAL REVENUES $ 2,472.65

Expenditures
Conference out - S. Abram $ (319.41)
Lobby Day $ (250.00)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES $ (569.41)

Net Gain $ 1,903.24

Second Quarter Balance $ 15,100.55

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine M. Lasda Bergman
ASLS Treasurer
Lasda.bergman@gmail.com
One For You, One For Me

Currently ASLS membership stands just under 400 members. We believe we can increase membership to 450 members by the end of this year. The ASLS Board is here to speak for you and by becoming a member of ASLS we can represent your voice regarding the opportunities, the challenges, and the place of academic and special libraries in New York State. We would like you to spread the word about ASLS and encourage your friends and colleagues to join. As an incentive we will give away a very hip ASLS t-shirt to any member who is responsible for a new ASLS membership. For added fun we will throw in a t-shirt for the new member as well! Supplies (and sizes) are limited and the offer is good only as long as supplies last. For more information contact Aprille Nace naceac@cmog.org.

Election Results

Congratulations to your Newly Elected ASLS Board Members*

Vice President/President Elect
Regan Brumagen, The Corning Museum of Glass

Treasurer
Kathryn Frederick, Elmira College

Directors
Nancy Virgil Morgan, Utica College
Sheryl Knab, Western New York Library Resources Council
Elaine Lasda Bergman, University at Albany

*Positions will take effect at the Annual NYLA Conference & Trade Show this November.

2008 BOARD ROSTER

Aprille C. Nace, President
Corning Museum of Glass
Phone: 607-974-8644
Email: naceac@cmog.org

Erin Rushton, Vice President & Conference Programmer/President Elect
Binghamton University
Phone: 607-777-2706
Email: erushton@binghamton.edu

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

Amy Pass, Secretary/Web Liaison
The Sage Colleges
Phone: 518-292-1701
Email: passa@sage.edu

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

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

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

Nancy Virgil Morgan, Director
Gannett Library, Utica College
Phone: 315-792-3151
Email: nmorgan@utica.edu

Elizabeth Putnam, Director
Skidmore College
Phone: 518-580-5542
Email: eputnam@skidmore.edu
Conference Tips

There is quite a bit of advice on the Internet and elsewhere about getting the most out of library conferences. Here are some of the “best of the best” tips from around the web, as well as some helpful NYLA hints.

Before the Conference:
“Think about why you are going to the conference and what you would like to get out of it. New developments or products? Networking or employment opportunities? It is easier to schedule your most important events if you know your priorities.” (ALA NMRT)

“Put in writing what you want to accomplish at the conference.” (SLA/Siess)

“Go over the preliminary program very thoroughly; marking every event that you might want to attend. You can weed it down later... Make a chart with each day and time period and list all of these sessions. That way you'll have alternatives.” (SLA/Siess)

Survival Basics:
“Take comfy walking shoes. You are going to be walking a lot.”

“Dress in layers. It may be hot outside, but those conference rooms can be downright frigid.”

“Survival includes aspirin, Advil or ibuprofen, water bottle... “(Lighthouse)

“If you have questions about the city or want to find a good restaurant, check the hospitality booth.” (SLA/Siess)

Librarians from Saratoga will be manning the booth to answer any questions about the conference location.

“Don't be tempted to stay at a hotel far from the conference venue in order to save money...Pick a close hotel and share a room with friends or colleagues. (You can find a roommate through some of the electronic lists.)” (SLA/Siess)

Programs:
“...[Y]ou want to attend a few programs about your specialty, but … look for a program or meeting about something totally out of your scope. You'll learn something new and the faces will be different.” (Disorganized Librarian Blog)

(Continued on page 5)

ASLS Awards

ASLS Spirit of Librarianship Award
Each year ASLS presents this award to a section member who clearly exemplifies an exceptional and unique spirit in academic and special libraries. Nominees must be NYLA and ASLS members. To nominate someone, send a one page nominating letter and include a brief biography on the nominee, explaining why you feel this person exemplifies the "spirit" of ASLS librarianship. Nominations are due September 5, 2008 and the winner will be announced at the 2008 Annual Conference. Take this opportunity to see that your colleagues get recognized for the wonderful work that they do! For more information visit the NYLA web page at www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=297.
Submit nominations to:
Deborah Emerson, Past President
Rochester Regional Library Council 390
Packett's Landing Fairport, NY
Phone: 585-223-7570
Email: demerson@rrlc.org

ASLS Conference Scholarship
ASLS offers a scholarship that covers the cost of a full NYLA conference registration package. If you are a NYLA and ASLS member who provides "front-line" service to users in your library, you are eligible for this award. You may nominate yourself, or a library colleague. This is a great opportunity to save on your conference registration! Applications are due September 5, 2008 and the scholarship recipient will be notified by September 15, 2008. For more information and an application form, please visit www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=298.

Even if you have already registered for the conference, you can still apply for the scholarship. Just indicate on your application that you have already registered.
Conference Tips, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

“Make sure you get your tickets early for ticketed events. If you miss out on one event that you desperately want to attend, check out the ticket exchange for extra tickets.” (Lighthouse) NYLA’s New Members Round Table operates the Ticket Exchange Booth, at conference, which is usually located near the Trade Show.

“Fill out the conference evaluation forms. That's how your input gets to the conference planning teams who can make a difference.” (Lighthouse)

Exhibits:
“Don’t pick up everything just because it's free. If you don't think you, your library, or your friends could use it, don't pick it up. You'll regret it later when you're lugging around a heavy bag all day.” (ALA 2006 Wiki)

“Attend the exhibits early in the conference before vendor giveaways run low.” (ALA NMRT)

“Learn a stump speech about you and your employer to answer the booth staff's questions. They are trying to learn about YOU in order to make sure that they can give you the information you need in context.” (Lighthouse)

Networking:
“Bring business cards. You will meet a lot of people...It's also helpful to have address labels with your address so you don't have to write it down to add your name to vendors' lists.” (ALA 2006 Wiki)

“Ask friends and colleagues what they are involved in and what they enjoy. Try to attend meetings or programs with them at the Conference. Suggest that they introduce you to people.” (ALA NMRT)

“In general, assume anyone who's wearing a ribbon is extra-approachable. They will tend to be people who have volunteered to make the conference a success. Help them by networking with them. “(Lighthouse)

Attend events such as the ASLS Reception, the Vitality Event, the 3M NYLA Network Breakfast, and alumni receptions to mingle with colleagues in a relaxed and fun setting.

Getting Involved:
Stop by the ASLS booth and let us know you would like to get involved!

“…[A]ttend… the Annual Business Meeting. It's where you can see the real work accomplished by the Association's leadership and volunteers … [Association] staff works hard for us every day and at the Conference. Meet them and thank them.” (Lighthouse)

“Now that you're all revved up and excited about your association, take this chance to get involved… You can start small, as a member of a division committee. Who knows, you may rise all the way to association president someday--making contacts all the way.” (SLA/Siess)

After the Conference:
“When you get home, share what you learned... This goes beyond writing a report. Talk with other staff members about what you learned. If possible, share exercises from meetings. See what you might want to implement in your neck of the woods.” (Disorganized Librarian Blog)

References


Compiled by Elaine M. Lasda Bergman
Bibliographer, Reference and Gerontology
University at Albany
ASLS Treasurer
The Rudolf Steiner Library, founded in 1928, is the national research and lending library of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Located in Ghent, New York, in a converted nineteenth-century carriage house, the library provides bibliographic research and mail-order lending services to its members throughout the United States. The library’s collection (approx. 27,000 volumes) includes all the works of Rudolf Steiner in English and German, and related works on anthroposophy; as well as books pertaining to Western and Eastern spirituality, and the Western intellectual traditions.

Two projects for the Rudolf Steiner library—1) a disaster plan, and 2) a preservation action plan—were created using Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) materials. Both plans were the first of their kind for the library, and are subject to revision and approval by the library director and the administrative council of the Anthroposophical Society in America.

Of course, we hope never to have to use the disaster plan, but the plan’s usefulness goes beyond emergency actions: by consolidating information about vendors and contractors, maintenance schedules, insurance and information technology, the plan is also helpful as a reference guide. The plan is scheduled to be updated yearly in May.

The preservation action plan was prepared according to Sherelyn Ogden’s Preservation Planning: Guidelines for Writing a Long-Range Plan, published by NEDCC in 1997. It creates a three-year schedule of preservation activities for the library. The plan is based upon recommendations made by Karen E.K. Brown in her 2007 preservation survey of the Rudolf Steiner Library (funded by the New York State Department of Education Conservation and Preservation discretionary grant program); and also includes preservation tasks identified by the disaster plan.

The plan required prioritizing recommended activities, and creating a realistic schedule for the library, given the limitations of staff and funding. Included is an estimate of the total costs of the preservation actions recommended, and a summary timeline of activities by season. The plan is scheduled to be updated yearly in December.

The preservation plan, including reading the Ogden Guidelines manual and inventorying the collection included in the plan, required 75 hours to complete, as did the reformatting of the disaster plan required, for a total of 150 hours spent on the two projects.

**Preservation Action Plan: Executive Summary**

The major activities outlined in this action plan are institution-wide rather than collection specific. The most important means of preserving a collection of library books and journals is the stabilization of temperature and humidity conditions under which the materials are stored (Banks, 2000; Ogden, 1994; Ritzenthaler, 1993). Installation of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment is thus the priority preservation action to be taken by the Rudolf Steiner Library.

The installation of standard powder-coated steel library shelving for book and journal storage, to replace the existing wooden shelving, is the next most beneficial preservation action to further the life of the collections at the Rudolf Steiner Library.

The library has severe space limitations, some of which may be alleviated by establishing a weeding and de-accessioning program, as part of an overall collection development policy. Such a policy can be produced by the library director and assistant librarian, in conjunction with the library’s advisory board.

A consultant recommended the installation of an integrated library system (ILS) to automate circulation and cataloging. Installation of an ILS would allow the catalog of library materials to be searchable over the internet, and would free valuable staff time from manual circulation tasks, to allow for preservation activities such as the writing of preservation grant proposals, re-housing and rebinding journals and pamphlets, and preservation photocopying.

In summary, the highest priorities for implementation are as follows:

- to install HVAC equipment to stabilize temperature and humidity conditions throughout the library
- to install standard steel library shelving to replace existing wooden shelving
- to revise the existing collection development plan, and establish an ongoing weeding and de-accessioning program
- to install an integrated library system to automate circulation and cataloging.

Implementation is scheduled to begin in May 2008 and continue through the winter of 2011, with annual reviews to be prepared in December of each year. The bulk of funding for these activities will need to come from institutional support and individual donations, however, state and federal grant programs are also available. Lower cost items will be funded through the library’s operating budget.

~Judith Kiely
Tips for New Librarians from Baby Boomer Librarian

Bill Drew 6/17/2008 1:01:39 PM

A friend of mine in the SUNY system suggested that I write a post with advice for new librarians. While what I am about to say is targeted at new librarians, it applies to us veterans as well. Here is my list of what to do to keep it in a positive vein. This list is not in order of importance.

1. All libraries have a history and a way of doing things. Show respect for that but do not settle for "its always been done that way." Ask why.
2. Learn to be your own mentor and seek out a mentor for yourself.
3. Question authority, including your own.
4. Keep your eyes and ears open when you start a new job. Learn the politics and the lay of the land before trying to change things.
5. Knowledge of and a interest in technology is not dependent on age. Many veteran librarians have been using computers and new technologies for many years.
6. No one knows everything, including me.
7. Be willing to change and to live with change. It is the new constant in libraryland.
8. Study how people and institutions become and remain innovative.
10. Learn to accept ambiguity. Most things are not black and white.
11. Write a blog and participate in social networks.
12. Join and participate in ALA. Become a virtual member of an ALA committee.
13. "Learn, Play, Succeed, Fail, Share, Lead, Innovate!" -- Joe Janes at SUNYLA conference

Bill Drew 6/17/2008 12:01:00 PM

There are many ways to encourage and nurture young librarians. I feel I have done that here during my tenure as interim director. We had one newly minted librarian here as an adjunct. She is now moving out of the area and so is no longer with us. Here are some things I did or believe can be done easily:

1. Encourage attendance at workshops and conferences. Provide funding!
2. Allow everyone time to play with new technologies.
3. Let all librarians work outside of their job descriptions from time to time.
4. Realize that not all young librarians are techies or interested in technology.
5. Listen to the new librarians as much as you listen to the old timers.
6. Encourage interaction between new librarians and your user communities.
7. Allow people to fail without fear of reprisal. We all learn more from failure than we do from success.
8. Give credit where credit is due. Do not take credit for the work of others!
9. Be open to new ways of thinking.

-Bill Drew
Tompkins Cortland Community College
babyboomerlibrarian.blogspot.com

Welcome New ASLS Members

Ken Burns, The Corning Museum of Glass
Elizabeth Carrature, New York State Library
Kenneth Distler, New York Institute of Technology
Briana Falconer
Miriam Gurowsky, Dr. Robert L Yeager Health Center
Robert Johnston, Le Moyne College
Mary Keller, St. Joseph’s College
Valerie Lang

Cyril Oberlander, SUNY Geneseo
Douglas Petric, Groveland Correctional Facility
Deborah Quinn, St. Joseph’s College
Joan Ryan, St. Joseph’s College
Sreedevi Satyavolu
Joy Schnupp
Melissa Spangenberg, H. W. Wilson Company
Wendy West, University at Albany
TO:

New York Library Association
ASLS/Academic & Special Libraries Section
c/o Southeastern NY Library Resources Council
21 S. Elting Corners Road
Highland, NY 12528

The 2008 NYLA Annual Conference
Connecting, Collaborating, Cooperating
November 5—8, 2008
Saratoga Springs, NY

For registration and conference information, go to: www.nyla.org