The Newsletter

EXPAND YOUR WORLD

Fall 2009 Volume 14, Number 3


NIAGARA FALLS BECKONS

Conference time is quickly approaching, and ESRT is making final arrangements for its many activities in Niagara Falls.

Be sure to come visit us in the exhibit hall at Booth: 0328. There you will find friendly and helpful ESRTyans, and lots of enticements, including our newest bibliographies! This year we are happy to present a bibliography Glimpses of the World in Graphic Novels, and three Irish bibliographies: Essential Irish Books, A List of Works Old & New, Irish & Irish-American Women Authors, Selected Books and Contemporary Irish Cinema, Selected Films. And don’t forget the renowned ESRT Raffle! We’ll be raffling off, among other prizes, a collectible UNICEF plate and an African statue, and necklaces from Latvia, each with an amber stone.

ESRT is again sponsoring the Tea Party during the Trade Show hours on Thursday, between 4:30 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. Do not miss the chance to have a cup of a refreshing tea and to mingle with new friends!

A Message from the President

Dear ESRT Members:

ESRT/NYLA has an excellent future if we attend to the fundamentals that make any volunteer organization effective: we need committees that function, more people who volunteer and people to join, and more publicity. There is plenty of work for everyone!

The ESRT General Membership Meeting will take place on Thursday, October 15th, from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Highlights of the meeting: 2009 ESRT Professional Award presentation, an overview of the past year’s activities, and brainstorming for ideas for next year’s conference programs. Your participation in our membership meeting during the conference is an excellent way to be part of ESRT: you meet other members from around the state, you get to know the ESRT board members, and you can get involved in some ESRT activities right away. Please show your support by coming to our meeting and talking about the ESRT programs to your colleagues.

I’d like to thank Izabela Bozek for her assistance with conference arrangements; Kacper Jarecki for our smashing website; Elizabeth Olesh and Irina Kuharets for the newsletters; Michael Brice for his continuing work on bringing in more members; Alla Makeeva-Roylance for her support as Past President; Susan Gitman for working so hard on the Awards Committee; Louis Muñoz for administrative support, and Fred J. Gittner for keeping our budget and financial paperwork. This work, while invisible to most, is vital to the well-being of our roundtable. THANK YOU!

I hope to see all of you at the 2009 Annual NYLA Conference in Niagara Falls!

Galina Chernykh

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Libraries play an important role in providing services to all ethnic groups. We offer a unique blend of information, publications, and aid, which have indispensable value whether the patron is a recent immigrant or is from a family that has been here for many generations. We are presenting three exciting programs. In 2 presentations, we explore the roles of traditional (paper) and electronic (Web 2.0) media for providing ethnic information and services. The last presentation increases cross-cultural awareness with a discussion of the challenges and rewards faced by foreign-language speaking immigrant authors who write in English.

**ESRT CONFERENCE PROGRAMS- WE’LL SEE YOU THERE!**

**WILL THE ETHNIC PRESS IN AMERICA SURVIVE?**
*Thursday 3:15 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.*
Crowne Plaza, Sapphire

Ethnic newspapers today are at risk of becoming extinct due to a combination of the rise of the Internet and even more importantly, the severe economic recession. There are about 200 magazines and newspapers published in at least 36 languages in New York State. Readers come from more than 50 nations or ethnic groups. There are also a number of newspapers that serve African-Americans. There are two issues to discuss: how do these publications help immigrants to "adapt" to a new culture and what is their future?  
*Participants:*
  *Masood Khan*, editor of *The Eastern News*  
  [www.easternnews.ca](http://www.easternnews.ca)  
  *Mulukien Muchie*  
  [http://www.hawarya.net/](http://www.hawarya.net/)  
  *Roger Puchalski*  

**TRANSCENDING CULTURAL BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE**
*Saturday 11:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.*
Conference Center, IV-Olmstead

*This program is organized by PLS. Among the major barriers to effective customer service are: anti-immigrant sentiment, miscommunication because of unrecognized cultural differences, and the traditional corporate culture dominant in many libraries. Practical case studies in transcending these barriers will be discussed.*  
*Speaker:*
  *Edana McCaffery Cichanowicz*, Brentwood Public Library

**ESRT MEMBERSHIP MEETING & AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**
*Thursday 6:00 P.M.- 7:00 P.M.*
Conference Center, A-Adams

*Speakers:*
  *Galina Chernykh*, The New York Public Library  
  *Izabela Bozek*, Brooklyn Public Library

This is a meeting of all current and prospective members of ESRT. **All are welcome!**

**ESRT Board Meeting**
*Friday 5:15 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.*
Conference Center, C-Tubman

**WEB 2.0: A BOON FOR IMMIGRANTS?**
*Saturday 8:00 A.M. - 9:15 A.M.*
Conference Center, A-Adams

Can librarians take advantage of Web 2.0 while organizing programs and activities for immigrants and newcomers?  
*Speaker:*
  *Kristen Lindtvedt*, College of Staten Island (CUNY)  

**FOREIGN-AMERICAN WRITERS: UNEASY IN TWO WORLDS**
*Saturday 9:30 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.*
Conference Center, A-Adams

Three writers/poets are invited to discuss how they manage to write in a different cultural world and what it means to a writer to leave his/her own country and language.  
*Participants:*
  *Vasyl Makhno*, Ukrainian-American poet, who lives in NYC. More information at:  
  *Andrey Gritsman*, Russian-American poet, who lives in NYC  
  [http://www.bibliobuffet.com/content/view/145/287](http://www.bibliobuffet.com/content/view/145/287)  
  *Goran Simic*, Bosnian-Canadian poet, currently living in Toronto  
FROM THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Did you submit an article for the new upcoming edition of ESRT’s book, Bridging Cultures: Ethnic Services in the Libraries of New York State?

If you didn’t, why not? We are sure you are providing some sort of wonderful service, programs, or materials for ethnic populations in your community. And we want to tell the world about it.

If you did submit an article, THANK YOU. We received many wonderful articles and are still in the process of evaluating them. We will be in touch with each of you soon.

There is still space for more articles, and we want everyone included – every part of the state, every type of library, and every ethnic group. Please encourage your colleagues and rack your brains for an idea that you can develop into inspiring article.

See the Criteria and Guidelines for Submission on ESRT webpage. Contact Irina Kuharets, Brigid Cahalan, and Fred Gitner if you have any questions.

A look back at multicultural IFLA:
Attending the World Library and Information Congress:
75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, in Milan, Italy, August 23-27, 2009

By Fred Gitner
Coordinator, New Americans Program/Special Services & International Relations, Queens Library

Although I have attended IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) conferences from time to time over the years as an observer and twice as a presenter, this was the first time I was attending as a working member, since I had been elected several months ago to a four year term as a standing committee member of the Section of Library Services to Multicultural Populations, a very active section. I was required to attend at least two of the three section meetings scheduled for 7 hours over three days, including one meeting at the Goethe Institut-Milan. Since I arrived early and was planning on staying in Italy for a few days after the conference, I was able to make it to all three.

The standing committee consists of 20 members plus the chair, Ms. Mijin Kim, Library and Archives Canada. Almost half of the members this year were newly elected, due to the expansion of the committee to spread out the workload. Committee members come from a wide variety of countries in addition to the U.S. and Canada — Australia, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. During the meetings we discussed current and future plans for poster sessions, conference programs, and

And the Winner Is...

Gennady Yusim

THE WINNER OF THE 2009 ESRT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD
pre- or post-conference satellite meetings, the midyear working meeting which will take place in Moscow at the end of February, the section newsletter, and several ongoing long term projects, such as the “Multicultural Library Manifesto” (http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s32/pub/MulticulturalLibraryManifesto.pdf) which has been approved by IFLA and is now being considered for adoption by UNESCO, and “Multicultural Communities: Guidelines for Library Services” 3rd edition, 2009, a 32 page handbook to assist in planning and implementing library services for communities with distinct cultural and linguistic backgrounds. (http://www.ifla.org/files/library-services-to-multicultural-populations/Guidelines-en.doc) By the end of the meetings I had already become an active member, having been appointed to the Planning subgroup for the 2010 Conference program in Gothenborg, Sweden and the Planning subgroup for a 3 day 2011 pre-conference study tour of libraries in New York. I will be working with Standing Committee member and fellow ESRT member Tess Tobin from New York City College of Technology, CUNY on this event. In addition I was asked to co-edit the next issue of the section newsletter, working closely with the new editor from Toronto Public Library.

The Section also provides a home for the newly formed SIG (Special Interest Group) on Indigenous Matters, chaired by former ALA President, Prof. Loriene Roy, U. of Texas at Austin. They will also organize a program at the next conference, and create a Facebook group to enhance visibility and communication.

The theme of the Milan Conference was "Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage.” Our section presented the program, “Creativity and the arts: libraries building on multicultural heritage”, with speakers from Norway on a wonderful traveling program for children they developed on Islamic Art; Serbia on developing a digital collection on the European Romani (gypsies); the United States on “Memory, Authenticity and Cultural Identity: the role of library programs, services and collections in creating community;” and Romania on how a Library helps the Russian minority in a small Romanian village preserve their traditions online. Over 150 people attended and learned how libraries in different parts of the world advocate for all members of the community, striving to preserve the various histories and artifacts of the minority cultures in their countries.

In addition to committee meetings I attended several programs, including a lively open forum on “How to Be a Library 2.0, “where I learned that this is both a set of rules and a mindset, where the library is seen as both a consumer and producer of information. We discussed what was being done in countries such as Scotland, where the Scottish Library Association is promoting Library 2.0 technology through their web site, and heard more about use of sites such as Flickr, Delicious, Twitter and Facebook.

Another interesting session was conducted by the outgoing President of IFLA, Claudia Lux, Director of the Central and Regional Library of Berlin, Germany. The topic was IFLA and the Economic Crisis, with speakers from the U.S., Brazil, the United Kingdom, and China, each describing the effect of the economic crisis on libraries in their country, and the importance of getting media attention for what the library can do for the community during difficult times. There were many questions and a lively discussion on how libraries can be more proactive and the need to be more flexible in providing service to a new generation of users.

But the conference was not all meetings. There were library visits, cultural evenings, including a concert at the Duomo (Cathedral) and museums open until midnight for the librarians, and an unforgettable evening at La Scala. This was my first trip to Northern Italy and my first trip to Italy in many years, so it was hard to say Ciao, Milano! when it was time to leave.
Volunteers needed!

ESRT is seeking volunteers to help at its booth at the Annual Conference in October at Niagara Falls for Thursday, October 15th from 12PM-6PM and Friday, October 16th from 9AM-1:30PM

Volunteers are needed to greet conference attendees at the booth, encourage visitors to become ESRT members, sell raffle tickets and dispense information about ESRT, ESRT bibliographies and our conference programs.

If you can spare an hour or more and would be interested in helping, please contact Michael C. Brice by e-mail michael.c.brice@queenslibrary.org or phone (718-465-7355).

ESRT Officers 2008-2009

Galina Chernykh, President <gchernykh@nypl.org>
Izabela Bozek, Vice-President-President Elect / Conference Programmer <i.bozek@brooklynpubliclibrary.org>
Alla Makeeva-Roylance, Past President / Nominating Committee Chair, a.makeeva@brooklynpubliclibrary.org
Fred Gitner, Treasurer <fred.j.gitner@queenslibrary.org>
Louis Muñoz, Secretary <l.munoz@brooklynpubliclibrary.org>
Michael Brice, Member-at-Large / Membership & Public Relations Chair <michael.brice@queenslibrary.org>
Susan Gitman, Member-at-Large <sgitman@nypl.org>
Irina Kuharets, Member-at-Large / Publications Chair <ikuharets@nypl.org>
Elizabeth Olesh, Newsletter Editor <elizabeth@nassaulibrary.info>

Congratulations to the winning candidates for ESRT Executive Board offices, 2009—2010:

Vice-President/President-Elect—Brigid Cahalan

Treasurer—Fred Gitner (re-elected)

Member-at-Large—Manuel Figueroa

INTERESTED IN WRITING?

Pursue your interest and help ESRT by submitting an article for the next newsletter.