Greetings from the President!
by Kacper Jarecki, ESRT President

The 2011 NYLA Conference at Saratoga Springs was a big success. ESRT made history by presenting a speaker via Skype for the first time at a NYLA Conference.

This year's theme was *NY Libraries Rock*. Manny Figueroa, our Vice President, made a very thematic ESRT booth display featuring rocks from all over the world. Manny even gave away Pop Rocks candy. ESRT gained 9 new members and made over $100 in raffle ticket sales.

Our history making program with Skype was *Immigration Services, At-Risk Youth, and Re-entry Programs*. The speaker via Skype was Helen Pundurs from *The Door*. She talked about how some immigrants come into the USA undocumented with their kids. The kids grow up going to school, making friends, and thinking they are American – only to find out later on that they are in America undocumented. For more info go to: [www.door.org](http://www.door.org). The other speaker was Debbie Boar, from the Harlem Community Justice Center. She was at the conference in person. She talked about America's high incarceration rates, and how valuable libraries are to help recently released folks get educated and find jobs. For more info go to: [www.courtinnovation.org/project/harlem-community-justice-center](http://www.courtinnovation.org/project/harlem-community-justice-center).

As we approach ESRT’s 30th Anniversary in 2012, we want to sign up 30 new members. We already signed up 9 members at the conference, so we need just 21 more. Ask a friend or colleague to sign up for ESRT today. Just visit NYLA’s website at: [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org) to join. If you want to get involved, you can help organize a general meeting, write an article for our newsletter, write an essay for our book, or even publish your own bibliography. The opportunities are diverse, get involved today. And that’s an order — from the President!
Untold Story of Blacks and Latinos Who Came Through Ellis Island
by David Nochimson, ESRT Member-at-Large

ESRT and co-sponsor REFORMA presented a pro-
gram at this year's NYLA Annual Conference enti-
tled "Untold Story of
Blacks and Latinos Who
Came Through Ellis Is-
land." The featured spea-
kers were Margaret Gibson,
from Queens Library, and
Sarah Aponte, from the
CUNY Dominican Studies
Institute. Margaret spoke
about her ongoing research
project documenting black
immigration to the United
States from the Caribbean
during the late 19th and
early 20th centuries when
Ellis Island was the main port of entry for immi-
grants into the country. Sarah talked about similar
research she has been conducting on Dominican
immigration to the U.S. during the same period, as
well as on the influence of the Dominican popula-
tion on New York City life and culture. The
widely accepted picture of immigration through
Ellis Island has been that it was overwhelmingly
European, and both of these projects seek to dispel
that perception and to
reveal the full scope of
immigration during
that time period. The
program sparked a
lively discussion with
the audience, ranging
from the challenges of
interpreting census
data to the sometimes
ambivalent attitudes of
first generation Ameri-
cans to their heri-
tages. One audience
member revealed
that her husband's family, relatives of the actress
Cicely Tyson, had emigrated from the Caribbean
during the Ellis Island era, offering Margaret a
fresh source of information for her project.

Bilingual Occupy Wall Street March
by Kacper Jarecki, ESRT President

On November 7th, 2011, Black
Solidarity Day, I marched with
Occupy Wall Street.

The march started on 181st
Street in Washington Heights,
Manhattan, which is a pre-
dominantly Dominican and
Hispanic neighborhood. The
march was very unique be-
cause it was bilingual: chants
were in both English and
Spanish. I was marching to-
gether along with Billy, a Dominican-American
who works at the New York City Welfare Office,
Valerie, a Canadian student, and Mark, an unem-
ployed African American electrician. Billy, who
lives in Washington Heights, was telling me how
now it's becoming a more popular neighborhood
and rents are increasing. Many Dominicans with
low income now have to move to the Bronx. He
also said that at the Welfare Office, he services
more people with Master's degrees
because they simply cannot find
work and need help. Valerie, who is
pursuing a graduate degree in envi-
ronmental protection, is enrolled in
Queens University – in Ontario, Can-
ada. She was in New York and
wanted to show her support. Mark
brought his resume to the march be-
cause he is looking for a job. I told
him to come to the library where we
offer job search programs.

The march ended 5 hours later on Wall Street.
Everyone was cheering, smiling, and taking pic-
tures of us.
ESOL 101: English @
Your Library
by Thomas Brogan, ESRT
Secretary

Peggy Kyrkostas O’Hanlon and Sherin Hamad led an interesting, interactive, and fun discussion on how to create a successful ESOL, or English For Speakers of Other Languages, program at your library at the New York Library Association Annual Conference on November 4, 2011. Ms. O’Hanlon is the ESOL Coordinator at the Port Washington Public Library in Port Washington, Long Island and Ms. Hamad is the ESOL Coordinator for the Queens Library in Queens, N.Y. Ms. O’Hanlon whose library is funded by the school district of Port Washington led with an interesting ice breaker, “Find a Person Who.” The audience was asked to find a person who “loves reading in Barnes & Noble or learned English as a Second Language,” for example.

Ms. O’Hanlon asked in Greek and the audience repeated after her, what is your name in Greek as she threw the pillow to someone in the audience. The audience member repeated after Ms. O’Hanlon in Greek, my name is, answering in English.

Ms. O’Hanlon asked in Greek and the audience repeated after her, what is your name in Greek as she threw the pillow to someone in the audience. The audience member repeated after Ms. O’Hanlon in Greek, my name is, answering in English.

Ms. O’Hanlon explained the steps necessary to creating an ESOL program for your library from Determining Need, to Library Support to Recruiting Volunteers, to Evaluating the program. After determining need, she found out that a big step was soliciting the support of her library director and the Library Board of the Port Washington Public Library. She wrote a proposal for an ESOL program asking for funding. Her Board asked her how she was going to teach English with immigrants from the community speaking so many different languages. With a pillow and a few phrases in Modern Greek, Ms. O’Hanlon demonstrated how to learn each others name.

Ms. O’Hanlon suggested purchasing ESOL books from Delta Publishing and Alta Book Center.

Sherin Hamad spoke next. She manages 46 ESOL classes at 32 Community Libraries in Queens, N.Y., and supervises a staff of 35 teachers. The

Queens Library’s ESOL program falls under Adult Learner Program. The ESOL classes teach the reading and writing of English and are supplemented by English Conversation Classes which just concentrate on the speaking of English. Queens Library also has Family Literacy classes to help parents get more involved in their students education, Computer Literacy, Health Literacy to learn about health related topics and Youth Literacy. The Literacy Zone for youth features all kinds of literacy, case management, and referrals to other organizations.

For recruiting ESOL teachers, Ms. Hamad gets in touch with TESOL major college students. TESOL stands for Teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Ms. Hamad was a supervisor of a TESOL program at Teachers College at Columbia University in NYC. Ms. Hamad tests the ESOL student’s English proficiency level with the Best Plus Test and has them placed in a beginner or intermediate class. I found it interesting that Ms. Hamad occasionally changes the level of the ESOL class at a library to better meet the changing needs of the prospective students.

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For funding, she applies for grants such as the NYS Adult Literacy Services grant, money from the NYC Operating budget, and private funding. Ms. Hamad suggested the website: www.foundationcenter.org for possible private funding.

As an ESOL resource, she recommended the DVD, “We Are New York.” This DVD was created by the New York City Mayor’s Office of Adult Education and the City University of New York and covers such topics as Family, Success, Love, Hope, Community, and Friendship. This DVD is available for free on the website: www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish.

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**Member Spotlight**
by Michelle Marcus, ESRT Member-at-Large

My name is Michelle Marcus. I am the new Member-at-Large of ESRT Roundtable. I am happy to be the board member of an interesting roundtable. I have been a children’s librarian for seven years, nearly six of them at Queens Library. I recently accepted the position of Membership Chair. I am excited about discovering the different issues relating to ethnic services in libraries. I am also interested in reaching out to new members and engaging in discussions with other library professionals. Furthermore, I look forward to conversing with students about issues in ethnic services for children’s librarians. This year we should be visiting some interesting sites relating to ethnic services and discussing a number of relevant topics for libraries in New York. One issue that interests me is multicultural education in libraries. While reading is an important way to learn about cultures, storytelling can also introduce children and their families to other cultures and countries. These storytelling activities introduce methods, such as participatory activities, to bring the stories and lives of people from all over the world. I have learned through my education in Queens College, some useful techniques to do storytelling programs in libraries for families. These techniques include doing interactive stories that are ideal for younger and older children alike. It is hoped that the children who attend these activities are encouraged to read more stories about these cultures and perhaps even perform some storytelling activities with other children. I performed some of these activities in another library and I hope to shortly bring this experience to my current library.

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**Meet the ESRT Board Members:**

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