THE NEW YORK BLACK LIBRARIANS CAUCUS (NYBLC) is a collection of professionals, who believe that they are the “culture keepers” of history, tradition and community. We represent the library community’s collective interests. The Caucus works to expand professional, economic and networking opportunities for librarians, library support staff, board of trustees, institutions and those that love libraries.

By joining the Caucus, you will be united with professional men and women, who together ignite a powerful torch of strength, enthusiasm and imagination. NYBLC offers scholarships, books awards, and a host of services provided for Caucus members including programs, job listings, and so much more. You can benefit tremendously from the numerous executive offices, committees, presentations, and professional development workshops.

The CAUCUS needs your support and energetic involvement as we continue working to make progress in the library community. Together we will make a difference.

INSIDE:
President’s Letter 2
History & Did You Know 3
NYBLC Joins NYLA 4
NYBLC’s 50th Anniversary 5
President Profile 6
Member Recognition 7-8
NYBLC “Out & About” 9
Scholarship Info. 10
Committees 11
50th Anniversary Gala 12-13
PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Dear Members,

Many wonderful things are happening inside of NYBLC. Membership has increased and it is now our favorite season, scholarship season! A big part of our work is ensuring that those wishing to pursue education in this field, are able to do so. Through advocacy as well as our scholarship program we seek to help those that we can. Whereas each year we provide 2 students; one library science student and one undergraduate looking to pursue a degree in library science, with a scholarship. Check out our scholarship page for more information!

New initiatives taking place, our book club kicked off in May with “Becoming” by Michelle Obama. We are also looking to expand our reach by incorporating more meet and greet events to gather together beyond our bimonthly membership meetings. These additional gatherings will allow for more fellowship, networking and idea building opportunities for members and prospective members. Lookout for these and other announcements via our Facebook page, Instagram @NYBLCCroundtable or on our website.

For our new member’s welcome; to current members, we are so glad you continue to join us year after year. I encourage all, new and seasoned to participate in committee work, enhancing your volunteer experience is enriching and beneficial to both you and the community at large. From marketing and communications to membership and fundraising, there is a place for everyone looking to do more for the caucus.

We are also gearing up for our 50th anniversary, over the next few months be prepared to hear a lot more about the fundraising gala that we will be hosting in order to commemorate this incredible milestone. I look forward to working with you all for the remainder of the next two years. Stay tuned for more exciting things from the NYBLC!

Dana M. Sinclair
President, NYBLC
2019 - 2021

Our History

In 1970 a group of Black Librarians met to address the problems resulting from widespread racism in their profession. The problems fell into two major categories: Libraries in Black communities were most often inaccessible, had neglected facilities, and inadequate staffing and resources. It was increasingly evident that minority communities were being left behind in terms of access to the avalanche of information so indispensable in a rapidly changing technological society.

The Black Librarians’ professional advancement was consistently blocked by blatant restrictions. The members of the group that met over 40 years ago decided to take collective action. They founded an organization and named it the Black Librarians’ Caucus of Queens, since most of its members lived or worked in that borough. The problems that this group rallied around were so persuasive that librarians from the greater New York area soon joined the founding members. In 1975, the organization’s name was changed to the New York Black Librarian’s Caucus Inc.

Today, the Caucus is still a thriving, vital organization that strongly advocates for quality library services in all communities, broad professional opportunities for Black Librarians, bridging the Digital Divide and other important issues. Through the annual Donna Hoke Scholarship award, the Caucus assists at least two Black graduate students in pursuit of the master’s degrees in library and information science.

Did You Know...

NYBLC Scholarship recipients who became NYBLC Presidents:
Margaret Gibson (2005) President 2009 - 2011

NYBLC members who became BCALA Presidents:
Stanton Biddle, 1994 - 1996
Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako), 2004 - 2006
Richard E. Ashby, Jr., 2018 - present
NYBLC Joins NYLA

On February 1, 2018, New York Library Association (NYLA) welcomed NYBLC into its organization as a roundtable.

The initiative to join NYLA was led by NYBLC’s Immediate Past President, Sandra Michele Echols. Her exceptional leadership and steadfast efforts to push the cause led to NYLA’s unanimous vote of approval. The voting consensus was for NYBLC to join as a roundtable.

NYLA Roundtables are focused on trends and issues in librarianship. Most importantly, they offer members an opportunity to share interests and educate others through gatherings and programs. This incorporation into NYLA provides state support to NYBLC and offers the caucus a broader reach, as quoted by Ms. Echols:

“We are excited to continue this work [caucus objectives] under the NYLA umbrella to broaden our impact throughout the state.”

Caucus Objectives

*The Caucus is an affiliate of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association

- Promote professional growth
- Support library professionals
- Disseminate information to improve the quality of library service in Black communities
- Work for legislation that relates to libraries and librarians
- Work for equal job opportunities

Celebrating NYBLC’s 50th Anniversary

We are excited to announce that NYBLC is being updated to coincide with the New York Black Librarians 50th Anniversary in 2020. It all began with the 35th Anniversary celebration in 2005, where a brief history summary was printed in the Jazz Brunch program. This updated document will be published in the upcoming 2020 Journal.

NYBLC Presidents, all twenty-two of them will be highlighted by decade, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s. Included will be photographs, short biographies, and a timeline of accomplishments during their terms of office.

NYBLC has an illustrious history. Members included Elected Officials, Administrators, Department Heads, School Library Leaders, and high-ranking members of their respective libraries. This information from librarians in the various Generations: Traditionalists or the Silent Generation (born 1945 and before) and the Baby Boomers (1946-1964) needs to be shared with Generation X (1965-1976), Millennials or GenY (1977-1995) and Generation Z/Centennials (1996- ). Many of the issues former generations faced are still issues today with current generations in the library field.

We hope you are excited too! Here is a sampling of what will be included:
President Profile: Dana M. Sinclair

Meet Dana Sinclair, current NYBLC President and the Electronic Resource Librarian at SUNY Old Westbury. After graduating with a bachelor’s in history from Adelphi University, Dana decided that she would take the path down the road of librarianship.

Upon completion of her Masters in Library Science at CUNY Queens College she accepted a position at Lakeview Public library where she was able to gain a wide range of experience in the public library setting; including program facilitation, reference services and a host of administrative duties. As a result of time spent at Lakeview, she obtained a second Masters in Urban Studies at CUNY Queens College and an advanced certificate in Public Library Administration at Long Island University.

The advancement in scholarship inspired her to enroll in the Information Studies doctoral program at Long Island University where she is currently studying trends in Information Poverty, and how technology has affected social movements. Dana’s passion for community involvement has led her to become a yoga teacher and personal trainer; in addition to becoming a curator for New York Library Association’s annual conference and Vice President of the N.Y. Black Librarian’s Caucus. Dana’s dedication to librarianship and personal development motivates her to continue to strive for even greater things.

“Don’t be afraid to fall! There is nothing wrong with falling as long as you have a plan when you get up.”
— Simone L. Yearwood

One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised.
— Chinua Achebe

Member Recognition

Simone L. Yearwood is an Associate Professor at Queens College (CUNY), having earned tenure and promotion in 2018. She began working at Queens College in 1997 as support staff in the Circulation Department. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology in 2004; a Master’s degree in Library and Information Studies in 2007; and a Master’s degree in Urban Affairs in 2009, all at Queens College.

In her current role as Deputy Chief Librarian, Simone represents the Library at all levels (campus, university and national), on issues and policies relating to research and scholarly service delivery and communication. She has leadership, management, policy, budget, planning and implementation responsibilities. She also teaches a 3-credit course at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science Program at Queens College (LBSC701) in addition to a 1-credit information literacy course (LIB100).

Simone has published in a number of journals, including the Journal of Access Services (2017), College & Research Libraries News (2015), and Communications in Information Literacy (2015), to name a few. Simone was honored as the 2019 recipient of the Alumna of the Year Award from the GSLIS program at Queens College on May 30, 2019 and is the current Holder of the Chair of the Academic Senate at Queens College. In 2015, she was elected as one of the “Woman of the Year” by the Association of Black Educators of New York (ABENY).
Rochester native, Jamia Williams received her Masters of Library Science from North Carolina Central University and is currently the Librarian and Diversity Fellow at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Jamia’s journey to librarianship was not a direct one; after receiving her Bachelor of Science at SUNY Brockport, she entered the field of human services. Jamia became a case manager and this was fueled by her strong desire to help marginalized communities.

She eventually pursued her dream career, librarianship, and graduated with her MLS in 2018; Jamia’s area of focus was academic librarianship. Today she is an extremely active member within the library world! She currently serves on the NYLA board as one of the directors on the Academic and Special Libraries Section of NYLA. She is also an active member of ACRL’s Residency Interest Group (RIG).

Jamia’s many accomplishments include being awarded the ACRL Early Career Scholarship and the Central New York Library Resources Council (CLRC) Professional Development Award. Both allowed her to attend ACRL’s National Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Her scholarship includes presentations at the 2019 Filling in the Spaces (FiTS) Conference and the 2018 Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Inclusive Libraries Conference. Jamia shares her story in these great online features: WOC (Women of Color) + lib, ACRL Member of the Week, Alternative Voices and The Living Library.
Scholarships

The Donna Hoke Scholarship

The Donna Hoke Scholarship was established by the New York Black Librarians’ Caucus Inc. to encourage students of African descent to enter the field of librarianship. The fund was named in honor of a young librarian who was an active member of the New York Black Librarians’ Caucus Inc. and other professional and civic organizations. Donna Hoke was deeply concerned about the issues confronting minority communities and was committed to bringing about positive change.

Ms. Hoke began as a page in the Queens Borough Public Library, and went on to receive her Master’s degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois. Because of her interest in children, she became a specialist in children’s services. At the early age of thirty, Donna Hoke succumbed to Hodgkin’s disease.

DEADLINE: August 1, 2019

NYBLC Andrew P. Jackson Support Staff Scholarship

This scholarship is offered in recognition of 36 years of dedicated service to the library profession by Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako), Director Emeritus at Queens Library’s Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center. Past President of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. (2004-2006), Andrew is an Adjunct Instructor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at Queens College (CUNY) and the Black Studies Program of the History & Philosophy Department at York College (CUNY). He is also a Library Consultant/Advisor.

The NYBLC, Inc. welcomes membership by any persons who work in the library profession, not solely MLS degree librarians. This scholarship is created specifically for library support staff. The scholarship seeks to encourage library support staff to work towards and earn an undergraduate baccalaureate degree, in any discipline, from an accredited face-to-face or online academic program.

DEADLINE: August 1, 2019

To find our more about our scholarships go to our website at www.thenyblc.org

NYBLC Committees

*All members are encouraged to serve on committees. For more information about joining please visit www.thenyblc.org and review our Committees page.

Fundraising

Fundraising Committee plans and implements activities to raise funds for the programs and general operations of the NYBLC. The committee also raises funds by soliciting individuals, businesses, and corporations.

Chair: S. Michele Echols

Membership & Recruiting

Membership and Recruiting Committee promotes membership in the NYBLC. Establishes general policies, programs, and procedures to secure new members; Implements aforementioned programs; Coordinates membership promotion activities, makes recommendations concerning membership dues; prepares and maintains a Membership Directory; welcomes new members by recommending ways to acknowledge them and to encourage participation in NYBLC activities.

Chair: Simone L. Yearwood

Programming

Program Committee proposes, plans and implements programs for the benefit of the NYBLC membership and the community; reviews and select presentations.

Chair: Emma Antobam

Public Relations / Publicity

Public Relations Committee orchestrates all aspects of organizing and disseminating information about NYBLC events and activities to the community via the listserv, website, social networking platforms and other promotional materials.

Chair: Rebecca Rodd

Scholarship

Scholarship Committee publicizes scholarships to potential candidates, library schools, etc. Evaluates the nominees for the scholarship and selects the recipients; coordinates the formal presentation of the scholarship award(s) at the Annual Luncheon Fundraiser. The committee also serves as a mentoring body to support the growth and development of scholarship recipients and applicants.

Chair: Jhenelle Robinson

By-laws

Bylaws Committee reviews and updates the Bylaws and recommends needed changes to the Executive Board and membership.

Chair: S. Michele Echols
50th Anniversary Gala

**Gala & Scholarship Fundraiser**

*Save the Date*

**Saturday April 25, 2020 6:00 pm - 11:00pm**

LOCATION: Alhambra Ballroom
**2116 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. New York 10027**  
At corner of West 126th Street**

The Illustrious New York Black Librarians Caucus  
A New York Library Association Roundtable

We cordially invite you to our  
Golden (50) Anniversary Gala / Scholarship Fundraiser

We are currently seeking journal ad sponsors to be placed in our commemorative journal to culminate the past 50 years of scholarship and service to the library community.

*Cost per Ticket: $100*

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50th Anniversary Gala

**Gala & Scholarship Fundraiser**

*Saturday April 25, 2020 6:00 pm - 11:00pm*

We are proud to sponsor a commemorative Gala Journal Ad

Sample pricing is as follows:
- Full page Advertisements (B&W) $175.00
- Half page Advertisements (B&W) $85.00
- Quarter page Advertisements (B&W) $45.00
- Business card Advertisements (B&W) $25.00

Front inside cover and back inside cover pricing available upon request

Color pricing available upon request

Contact Us: NYBLCroundtable@gmail.com

Make All Checks Payable to NYLA
NYBLIC Officers

Dana M. Sinclair
President

Jhenelle Robinson
Vice President/President Elect

Rebecca Rodd
Recording Secretary

Phyllis Mack
Treasurer

Sandra Michele Echols
Immediate Past President

Interested in becoming a member? Looking to renew your membership?
Go to www.nyla.org. Join NYLA & add NYBLC roundtable to your membership.

2019 Caucus General Meetings

July 27, 2019
Location: Queens Public Library, Cambria Heights Branch

September 21, 2019
Location: TBA

November 2019
Location: NYLA Annual Conference - Saratoga Springs

Note: All meetings begin at 11am sharp.

Save the Date Events

NYLA Annual Conference & Trade Show
November 13 - 16, 2019
Saratoga Springs, NY

NYBLC 50th Anniversary Gala
April 25, 2020
New York, NY

BCALA Conference
August 5 - 9, 2020
Tulsa, OK

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE
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