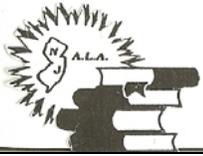


NJALA QUARTERLY REVIEW

A Newsletter for Library Assistants

A Publication of the
NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS



Fall 2007 Vol.9 No.4

Annette Tyler, Editor in Chief
Marilyn Jack-Brown, Managing Editor

Message from the President

Happy fall; I hope all of you had a happy and healthy summer.

The Conference Planning Committee is already at work on our next conference, which is being held at The Enterprise Center at the Burlington County College on June 9 & 10, 2008.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the conference survey. Your comments are always welcome. We will try to address all the concerns, especially the ones pertaining to the food served. According to the surveys the overall conference, including the food, was rated high. We work very hard to put this conference together and are doubly pleased when you think it is an important part of your professional life.

Chatur Patel from the Teaneck Public Library is the winner of one day free attendance at the 2008 NJALA Conference. As announced at the 2007 conference, a winner is pulled each year from all the surveys turned in at the Annual Conference. Congratulations Chatur!

Once again I extend an invitation to you to join our Conference Planning Committee. We'd love to see new faces and new ideas. Please come to one of our meetings and see what you can do to make the next conference even bigger and better. If you would like to attend a meeting please check our schedule listed on page 2, or contact our Conference Co-Chairs Cathy Lynch, 609-698-0572 or Connie Reese, 732-269-2144.

I will be travelling to the City of Brotherly Love (Philadelphia PA) to attend the American Library Association's Mid-Winter Conference on January 11-16, 2008.

Please note the special announcement on page 3: The next newsletter will be e-mailed to all members. Those of you who have not given your e-mail addresses to our Membership Secretary Heather Rivera hrivera@npl.org need to do so before the next edition comes out in January. We will continue to mail the newsletter only to those of you who do not have e-mail addresses.

May you have a joyous, prosperous, and healthy holiday season.



Marilyn Jack-Brown
Montclair State University
brownma@mail.montclair.edu

In My Life

Meet Suzanne Ridzy. She lives in Bridgewater in a full household. In addition to her husband and four children there are a yellow lab, a chocolate lab, two princess cats, two noisy, beloved rats, and a bearded dragon.



Suzanne was born in Philadelphia but grew up in Wyncote, Pennsylvania. She enjoys knitting, baking, reading, kayaking, fishing, and walking on the Delaware and Raritan Canal towpath.

Before beginning her career in library work, Suzanne was an assistant teacher and a claims adjuster for the Department of Labor and Industry. While her children were growing up she had an in-home day care business.

In 1994, Suzanne began working in the Somerset County Library System, at the Bridgewater Branch, as a part time clerk in the Circulation Department. She became a full time employee in 2000 as a Library Assistant. Currently she is Head of Circulation at the Mary Jacobs Branch in Rocky Hill. She said she “enjoyed working with the many wonderful people” in Bridgewater and now is “lucky enough to work with and supervise a fantastic group of people” in Rocky Hill.

Suzanne Ridzy has been a member of NJALA for five years and enjoys attending the conference each year. She was a 2007 Conference Co-chair. She said she “felt it was a huge challenge but thanks to the dedication of the whole team it turned out to be a big success.” She was just elected to the NJALA Executive Council as Corresponding Secretary.

NJALA affords her the opportunity to meet Library Paraprofessionals from around the state. She is able to “share challenges and joys that all encounter in their careers.”

Suzanne closed with an invitation. She said, “I invite and encourage folks to join the Conference Planning Committee. It is a big job to organize the annual conference, but it is also rewarding to see the conference come together, plus it is fun to get to know others from around the state that are in the same line of work that you are in.” Conference meeting dates are June 9 and 10, 2008. Information about the conference will be listed on the association website: www.njala.org/. Check it out!

Beverly Porter, Retired
Somerset County Library, Bridgewater



MEETING DATES

November 30 - Brick Branch, Ocean County Library

December 12 - Metuchen Library, Somerset County Library System with a Christmas lunch to follow including a grab bag gift \$15-20; we will pick names at the November meeting.

January 17 – Hillsborough Branch, Somerset County Library System

February 22 – Walsh Library, Seton Hall University

March March 18 - Brick Branch, Ocean County Library

April 16 - Mary Jacobs Branch, Somerset County Library System

May 15 - location to be announced

June 5 - Enterprise Center, Burlington County College

Big News

about our newsletter:

The Executive Board of the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants has reviewed the monetary expense and the time frame of producing and postal mailing the newsletter and has determined that it would be advantageous to institute a new process, which follows:

WEBSITE

The official arrangement is that starting with the Winter 2008, Volume 10 No. 1, edition the *NJALA Quarterly Review A Newsletter for Library Assistants* will be published on our website www.njala.org. As an experiment the Summer 2007 edition, Volume 9 No. 3, and this one, Fall 2007, Volume 9 No. 4, are already posted on the web. Thank you webmaster Gwenn Laisie!

E-MAIL

If your address is on file you will receive a copy of the newsletter via e-mail. If you did not include your e-mail address on your membership registration form please contact Membership Secretary Heather Rivera hrivera@npl.org and give her your information so she may enter it into the data base, and you will not miss a copy of the newsletter.

SNAIL MAIL

If you do not have an e-mail address or access to our website please contact NJALA President Marilyn Jack-Brown, Montclair State University, Sprague Library, 1 Normal Avenue, Upper Montclair NJ 07043, 973-655-5119, and let her know that you need a paper copy of the newsletter.

A Baby BOOM!

The Ocean County Library System is having a mini baby boom among the NJALA grandmothers.

Nancy Schramm of the Lakewood Branch has a new granddaughter born on September 10, Dolores Marino of the Waretown Branch has a new granddaughter born on September 28, and my daughter gave birth to a baby girl on August 17.

Ellen Brewer
Principal Library Assistant



A Busy Writing Group

The Logan Township Branch of the Gloucester County Library System (GCLS) has an active writing group. The group first met in May 2006 for a six week memoir writing seminar facilitated by Narcissa Weatherbee of Woodbury, NJ. The funding for the memoir writing seminar was provided by a grant from the Karma Foundation. Catherine M. Sampson, Senior Library Assistant at the Logan Branch suggested the grant project and wrote the successful grant application. Catherine is a member of the writing group and acts as the library liaison to the group. The Logan Library Writing Group is the only writing group currently offered by GCLS. The group is open to writers of every genre. Members enjoy the opportunity to share their work with others in a supportive environment. The Logan Library Writing Group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 7 – 8:45 p.m. in the library's meeting room. The group will not meet on December 26, 2007.

If your library sponsors a writing group and you would be willing to share resources – or if you are interested in joining our group, please contact Catherine Sampson at the Logan Township Library at 856-241-0202 or csampson@gcls.org.



A Sad Note

William Payne, 67 of Beachwood NJ passed away October 27, after a short illness. Bill is survived by his wife of 31 years, Dolores (Dee), and by his children and grand-children. Dee was one of the early, active members of NJALA. She served on the Executive Board as Conference Co-Chair, President, Immediate Past President, and Treasurer.



HELP WANTED

Join Our Panel

We are looking for library assistants who are either currently in library school or have recently graduated. Students who are in campus study or those in on-line programs are needed.

This type of presentation was requested in the 2007 conference survey. We especially would like to know about your work load— is it hard to juggle or easy? How did you get started on your quest for your graduate degree? What special tips can you give us?

Ginger Cairns, Long Beach Island, will be coordinating this panel. Please call her, 609-494-2480. Students from outside of Ocean County are welcome to join in the fun. You may also call me at 732-269-2425 to sign up for the panel.

Connie Reese
Berkeley Branch, Ocean County Library

Let the TIGER be with you

Just a little history ... the memory of the Tiger goes deep into the roots of our organization. I imagine that a number of you wonder each time you receive the newsletter, "What on earth is that tiger doing there? Did NJALA originate on the campus of Princeton University?" The following explanation may set you straight and give you an appreciation of how much we value our founding members.

The following is a reprint of a letter that Rita Hilbert had published in the Spring/Summer 1998 edition of the *L.A. Times*. Rita was the first president of NJALA, and even though she went on to earn her Master of Library Science degree and quickly became a library director, she still keeps in touch with our organization. Her latest association with us was as a keynote speaker at our June 2007 conference.

During the early years of NJALA's development many people touched the organization in myriad ways. Carolyn Brenner was one of those people. Ever eager to participate she was one of the first members to have a letter raving about the conference, a poem or two, and always a drawing available to the Newsletter Committee for each issue. You could always count on Carolyn! Her enthusiasm for the Association was immense, and she willingly took on the monumental task of contacting each state to begin to develop a dialogue with each existing or proposed group of library assistants.

Carolyn was a young woman when she died, and her death was a milestone in our history. Just so we don't forget our past, I went back into some papers I saved and found the following from the

L.A. Times The Library Assistants Times
Volume 2 No. 1, Winter/Spring 1990

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of one of our cherished members.

Carolyn Brenner of the N.J. Division of Economic Assistance Library in Trenton

passed away suddenly on Sunday, February 11th. She leaves a husband Robert and a daughter Robyn.

Carolyn was a frequent contributor to our newsletter. She was currently working as NJALA's Association Liaison and Investigation Manager and was responsible for contacting associations of library assistants in other states in an attempt to organize a medium for inter-state communications.

Shortly after Carolyn's death the Executive Council of NJALA met. At that meeting it was decided that the tiger submitted by Carolyn for an earlier issue of the newsletter would become the newsletter mascot. The tiger would then appear in every issue of the newsletter varying in size dependent upon the amount of news that was reported.

Carolyn's husband and daughter were informed by letter of the Executive Council's decision and were truly appreciative that her memory would live on through her drawings.

Rita Hilbert
Mount Olive Library

Editor's note: As any of you who are regular readers of the *NJALA Quarterly Review* have probably noticed: the tiger is a noticeable part of our masthead. Starting with the Spring/Summer 1998 edition of our forerunner the *L.A. Times* the tiger has been in evidence. Originally we did stick the tiger in wherever we could. Sometimes the graphic would take up most of a page, and sometimes it would be rather small. You never could figure out where it would end up. Finding a place for the tiger could be an interesting but nerve wracking process until one day the editorial staff decided to find a permanent spot for the tiger as part of the masthead. It now sits proudly guarding each publication.

Annette Tyler
Morristown & Morris Township Library

Without your help, we'll lose 11 major databases

Access to 11 important databases will cease on February 28, 2008. Urgent help is needed to restore a \$1 million cut in this year's New Jersey state budget for the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative (NJKI).

The NJKI is a NJ State Library program to fund science, technology and business databases to higher education, small businesses, and public libraries. The NJKI pays for the following 11 databases made available to Seton Hall and other institutions:

- Biomedical Reference Collection
- Business Source Premier
- CINAHL (Nursing)
- Pre-CINAHL (Nursing)
- MEDLINE
- Nature Online Journals
- Nursing and Allied Health Collection
- **OVID Selected Core Medical Journals**
- RefUSA
- Regional Business News
- Wiley InterScience Journals

If the \$1 million is not restored, database access to faculty and students, higher education institutions, and the small business community in New Jersey will cease on February 28, 2008.

Please contact Governor Corzine and your state legislators, and tell them it is critically important that we continue to have access to these databases.

Call the Governor's Office 609-292-6000, and tell them you are calling **in support of**

reinstating \$1 million to the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative. Or send email to the governor advocating for NJKI at the following Web site:

<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html>

Select the topic: "Commerce" and title the email "Support NJKI."

You can obtain the contact information for your New Jersey state senator and assemblypeople by using this form:

<http://capwiz.com/for/state/main/?state=NJ&view=myofficials#0>

Everything that you need in terms of talking points and contact information is available right on the NJKI website. Go to:

www.njki.org

and click on the link:

"Help US keep helping YOU!
KEEP NJKI GOING AFTER 2/28/08
VOICE YOUR SUPPORT FOR NJKI
NOW!"

In order to keep track of advocacy efforts, we would appreciate notices of phone calls, e-mails, or copies of letters. Please let either of the following at the New Jersey State Library know that you have contacted the governor or a legislator:

Norma Blake

E-mail: nblake@njstatelib.org

or

Kathleen Peiffer

Email: kpeiffer@njstatelib.org

Thank you for your assistance in maintaining access to these 11 valuable databases.

NJALA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2008

As an NJALA member you receive newsletters, invaluable networking opportunities, discounts on workshops, and an annual two-day conference. To join now return this form to our Membership Secretary:

Heather Rivera
North End Branch Library
722 Summer Ave.
Newark NJ 07104

Name: _____

Title/Dept: _____

Library: _____

Library Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Area of Expertise: _____

Renewal
 New

Regular Dues \$20 (support staff, i.e.: library assistants, clerks, technicians, paraprofessionals, etc.)

Associate Dues \$15 (all those who do not qualify as regular members)

Please make sure to update your contact information – especially your email address so that you will be able to receive the *NJALA Quarterly Review*.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NJALA



DEADLINE
for the next

***NJALA Quarterly
Review***

is January 7, 2008.

Feel free to send your articles or other
information anytime before this date.

NJALA Quarterly Review

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MARK Your Calendar

We hope your experience at the 2007 NJALA conference was a pleasant one. If you happened to have missed it, be sure to mark your calendar for 2008. The conference will be held June 9 and 10 at The Enterprise Center at Burlington County College, Mt. Laurel, NJ.

Contact Co-Chairs Cathy Lynch at the Barnegat Library, 609-698-3331 or Connie Reese at the Berkeley Library, 732-269-2144 if have any suggestions or topics you are interested in for the next conference.

Cathy Lynch

**Montclair State University
Sprague Library
Attn: Marilyn Jack-Brown
Normal Avenue & Valley Road
Upper Montclair NJ 07043**