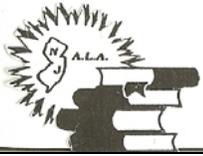


NJALA QUARTERLY REVIEW

A Newsletter for Library Assistants

**A Publication of the
NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS**



Summer 2007 Vol.9 No.3

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

Message from the President

Happy summer everyone; I hope you are also having a safe and healthy one.

Thanks to everyone who attended this year's NJALA conference, which was held on June 11 and 12 at the Enterprise Center at Burlington County College. Thanks also to the Conference Planning Committee, especially the Conference Co-Chairs Suzanne Ridzy and Barbara Barbano for doing such a great job.

On June 21 I attended the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference held in Washington D.C. Even though I have been a member of ALA for over ten years and have gone to six annual conferences, this was my first Empowerment Conference, which is a conference within a conference for support staff. This conference was awesome! I came away rejuvenated with so many positive thoughts and ideas.

I attended a workshop for "Better Salaries and Pay Equity." This presentation by ALA/APA, an organization for the advancement of library workers, was very interesting as it showed that we should be paid for the work we do. Some people have the same title and do little or nothing, while others do more work and have more responsibilities. We were given kits on ways to evaluate this phenomenon.

I also attended a workshop presented by a husband and wife team "Understanding Yourself and Others (Only if You Want to be Successful)." Using the most popular personality instrument in the country, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, you gain understanding about how to achieve successful relations on the job by addressing personality differences among individuals while developing an effective communication system.

Later I went to "Oh I Wish I'd Said ..." This workshop also known as "Dealing with Difficult People" showed you what to say and do when dealing with difficult people. The techniques taught here increased your confidence and decreased your blood pressure.

"Leadership by Opportunities Taken" dealt with leadership development for support staff.

I attended a breakfast given by Scholastic, which featured the author Dayle Hinman, who is also a criminal profiler. I attended several other presentations by authors.

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For me the best workshop was “X-TREME Customer Service.” Even though I pride myself on being very good at customer service this workshop took me to the next level. It showed me how to become a “customer activist.” We learned how to tame the angriest customers and have them say, “WOW, your service was unbelievable. Thank you!”



We have lost several committee members due to retirement, so we need new people to help plan next year’s conference. If you would like to join the Conference Planning Committee you may contact the Conference Co-Chairs Cathy Lynch, 609-698-0572 and Connie Reese, 732-269-2425 or me, Marilyn Jack-Brown, 973-655-5119.

We also need articles for our newsletter; we would like to know what is happening in your library. Send in your favorite recipe, a poem, or very short story. This is your newsletter, and we want to hear about you.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Marilyn Jack-Brown 
brownma@mail.montclair.edu



Winners for Now

As Chairman of the Honors, Awards, and Scholarship Committee, it was my pleasure to present the Awards at NJALA's 21st Annual Conference.

The winner of the Kehnast Award, the award given to a dedicated library assistant who makes a significant contribution to the profession or to his/her library and actively participates in career development or activities in New Jersey, is Annette Tyler. Annette has been the NJALA Newsletter Editor since 1992 and has done an excellent job. It is only fitting that we honor her. It was unfortunate that this is the first year she was unable to attend the Conference and wasn't present to receive her award.

The winner of the NJALA Recognition Award, the award given to a dedicated Director, Trustee, or Librarian in a New Jersey Library or Libraries who encourages and supports participation in career development or activities for library assistants in New Jersey, is Chung-hei Lone of Montclair State University. She has been very supportive of our current President, Marilyn Jack-Brown, who is beginning her third term as President of NJALA.

The winner of the Rita L. Hilbert Scholarship Award is Gwenn A. Laisie of the Burlington County Library. This scholarship is offered to a library support staff person who would like to pursue any degree or certificate program that enhances work skills. Gwenn is the webmaster of our NJALA website.

Congratulations to all the winners! If you applied for an award, or made a nomination, and did not win, please do not be discouraged. The candidates were all worthy, and the decision was a difficult one, but we can only choose one winner each year. Please apply again in the future.

John Guido
East Orange Public Library

In My Life

Meet Kathy Falco. She is the Immediate Past President of NJALA and has been a member of the association for 15 years.



For the past 17 years Kathy has lived in Barnegat, NJ with her husband Mike and daughter Jessica. Jessica is a recent graduate of The College of New Jersey. Kathy enjoys being with her friends, swimming, and traveling.

Before Kathy found her way to library work she was a temporary employee at Bay State Bank, where she processed mortgages. Kathy began working in the Ocean County Library System in 1991. She has worked at several of the system's branches and is currently at the Forked River Branch. She is a Supervising Library Assistant in charge of the circulation desk. Kathy said, "It's only because of the work of those I supervise that makes me a success!!" She added "The library staff are extremely dedicated to their jobs and take pride in their work." The camaraderie among staff and customers makes coming to work everyday enjoyable for Kathy. "If you are ever down the shore drop in and see me!"

During the 15 years Kathy has been a member of NJALA she has only missed one conference. She has been Vice-President, President, and for the past 3 years served as Conference Registration Chair. Kathy remarked, "There are many members on the board, who have been participating for many years and have such knowledge and skills to share that you can not help but learn from them."

One accomplishment Kathy talks about is The Cartwheelers. The Cartwheelers are a book cart drill team and cheerleaders for the library. They have performed at local parades and at an NJALA conference. She got the idea to form the group from a library in Washington State. She contacted a librarian there, who gave her the tools needed to start a team in Ocean County. Call Kathy if you would like information about starting your own team.

Beverly Porter, Retired
Somerset County Library, Bridgewater Branch



Meet the Winners

Kehnast Award winner Annette Tyler has been employed by the Morristown and Morris Township Public Library since 1985. Before this time she worked at libraries in New York state and in Illinois. For the last 19 years Annette has worked in the Local History and Genealogy Department, which recently had a name change; it is now known as the North Jersey History and Genealogy Center.

Annette was born with a red proofreading pen in her hand! For more information about our newsletter editor please read "Up Close and Personal" in the summer 2004 Vol. 6 No. 2 issue of the *NJALA Quarterly Review*. This column is now known as "In My Life."

NJALA Recognition Award winner, Chung-hei Lone has worked as a cataloging librarian at Montclair State University's Harry A. Sprague Library for over 20 years.

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She has been Acting Department Head of the Multi-Media Resources Department for over two years. Chung-hei is very supportive of her staff in outside programs and in their plans for further career development and has been very instrumental in Marilyn Jack-Brown's continued involvement in NJALA.

The winner of the Rita L. Hilbert Scholarship Award is Gwenn A. Laisie of the Burlington County Library; she applied for the scholarship in order to take an online course in XHTML/CSS – The Joy of Code, available at a discounted rate through the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative (JRLC). Gwenn is the webmaster for the NJALA website and wants to improve her web editing skills. She decided that with guided instruction she would be certain to set aside some time each week to work on this task. While she was wondering about covering the cost of the course she received information about the Rita L. Hilbert Scholarship.

Gwenn has been employed by the Burlington County Library System since 1979 and has enjoyed working at the Pinelands Branch and at the Evesham Branch in the Interlibrary Loan Department, as Circulation supervisor at the Headquarters location, as Automation assistant (part time while Circulation supervisor), as the Interlibrary Loan Department supervisor (and part time Automation assistant), as an Automation assistant (full-time), and finally as the Integrated Library System Manager (Horizon). She has worked at every branch and member library in the system at one time or another, training and preparing staff for converting to the automated system. Her career has been diverse and continues to be

interesting. When her job seems to be getting too lackluster she makes sure to volunteer for some extra activity on a committee.

On a personal note Gwenn loves to cook, read cookbooks, and try out new recipes. She also enjoys gardening and always plants a few herbs to add to her experiments. When spring arrives she loves to get out in the yard, start clearing, weeding, and getting it all ready and looking perfect for the deer to come and feast! Gwenn enjoys feeding the birds and watching them while she sits and has breakfast. She appreciates relaxing at home with her eleven year old “puppy” Phoebe and her foundling cat Gyp. Together they share a house in the woods, on the creek in a floodplain, and there's always an adventure awaiting, either animal or weather related.



Congratulations Madel!

Madel Tisi, Circulation Supervisor at George T. Potter Library, Ramapo College of New Jersey, and an MLIS graduate student at Rutgers University, received the American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Scholar Award and the Turock



Family Endowed Scholarship during the award ceremony at Rutgers University on May 15, 2007. With Madel is Dr. Betty J. Turock, Professor Emeritus, School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, Rutgers University.

One Way to Beat the Heat

The Atlantic City Free Public Library holds an annual end-of-summer customer appreciation day. Luau @ the Library includes games for children, live entertainment, movie showings, free giveaways, and great prizes. Besides having a great time library members are granted a one-day amnesty on fines with up to \$3 per item waived when the overdue materials are returned. For more information check www.acfpl.org or call 609-345-2269, extension 3112.



Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer

At academic libraries, we are all busy trying to get our summer projects completed before the Fall Semester begins, and we don't have a minute to do anything other than react to student, faculty, and staffing needs. Returning reserve items to faculty, shelf reading, and shifting can take up a major portion of our day.

It is also a time for communicating with staff on the goals we want to set for ourselves in the coming year, including particular areas of interests and trends among the library borrowers. We are reviewing student workers and assessing staffing gaps within our work week, especially during the historic vacation and flex time periods of summer.

Burlington County Community College Library also serves the public, which has access to our collections and services. This summer we are adding a service we hope will benefit less fortunate members of our community.

We are participating with the Catholic Charities in a "Bagging Summer Hunger" campaign, to collect food for bag breakfasts and lunches for area children. When children get out of school for approximately 10 weeks during the summer, a percentage of them are faced with not eating a healthy and nutritional breakfast and/or lunch. During the school year, the safety net is the public school system, but during the summer, the children are left to their own devices.

We are kicking off our summer food drive and ask our borrowers to bring in a can or box of food for each \$5.00 in fines they have accrued. Lost books, of course, must be returned, but we will waive fines. We had great success last year with our food drive; people brought in supplies even if they didn't have fines. We anticipate the same outpouring of generosity from our community again this year.

Michelle Heinert
Burlington County Community College Library



DEADLINE

for the next

***NJALA Quarterly
Review***

is October 2, 2007.

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

NJALA Quarterly Review
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Time to Pat Ourselves on the Back

The 21st Annual Conference went off without a hitch! We stressed about it during the year, but in the end it was a true team effort and a great success thanks to the entire conference planning committee.

We had lots of happy attendees and presenters. The classes were informative and varied. In all, there were 17 programs ranging from a Deans' Panel, hands-on Excel training, Digital Photography Basics, Children's and Teen's programming, and the very participative Sensitivity to Older Adults. Program presenters were very pleased with the well-equipped classrooms and attentive Enterprise Center staff.

Our keynote speakers this year were exceptional. On Monday we enjoyed meeting Carol Higgins Clark, who was warm and down to earth and welcomed audience questions. On Tuesday it was nice to see and meet old friends when Rita Hilbert and Paul Pattwell entertained us with antidotes and memories from the formative years of NJALA.

The Enterprise Center at Burlington County College in Mount Laurel is an excellent venue, boasting a comfortable, all-inclusive environment, helpful staff, and food that is both delicious and plentiful.

We encourage anyone who has not attended the NJALA Annual Conference to look forward to next June and make plans to join us for one or both days at the Enterprise Center. We also hope to welcome back past attendees.

Thanks again to everyone who made this year's Conference a huge success!

The following are some comments from the conference attendee's surveys:

The most valuable part of this conference was:

- ❖ Both classes were helpful, and I will use the information at my job.
 - ❖ Meeting new people
 - ❖ Meeting and connecting with other library assistants...great facility too
 - ❖ Tuesday's keynote speaker, because this is where you hear inspiring true life accomplishments; it encourages you to continue your education.
 - ❖ I really enjoyed Carol Higgins Clark. She did a great job and was very interesting. I also loved the Children's programming.
 - ❖ The entire conference was valuable and beneficial to all.
 - ❖ I thought the day was a great opportunity for staff learning. The programs offered were relevant and interesting; the day was well-organized, and the facilities were wonderful.
 - ❖ Our staff had a very positive experience. And the food was good too!
 - ❖ I appreciated the chance to be a presenter at this event.
 - ❖ Thank you for asking both of us to present at NJALA. We had two wonderful sessions filled with lots of great discussion. In addition, a number of people would like us to visit their libraries also!
 - ❖ This was one of the best I ever attended!
- It's to the advantage of all paraprofessional support staff to attend the Conference to meet co-workers from libraries throughout the state. It also enables them to expand their knowledge by attending the many programs offered at the conference.

Suzanne Ridzy and Barbara Barbano
Somerset County Library System
Conference Co-Chairs

The Official Results

The ballots for the New Jersey have been turned in and counted.

Barbara Ward is our new Vice President/President Elect. Barbara is the Supervisor of Interlibrary Loan at the Walsh Library at Seton Hall University. She has been working for Seton Hall since 1993 and has been active in NJALA since 2003. Barbara has been Vice President and President before and helped out wherever she could.

Anita Kosinski has been elected to the position of Liaison. She has been working in the library field for 34 years; her places of employment include the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh PA, the Plainfield (N.J.) Library, the Scranton (PA) Public Library, the Raritan Valley (NJ) Community College Library, the Somerville (NJ) Public Library, and the Somerset County (NJ) Public Library, where she is currently. She has worked in every department of the library from Acquisitions to Periodicals. She has been actively involved in NJALA for 14 years and has been President twice, Conference Chair three times, and Corresponding Secretary. Anita has recently been elected to the Library Support Staff Interest Round Table (LSSIRT) section of the American Library Association.

Heather Rivera has been re-elected as Membership Secretary. She is Supervising Library Assistant in charge of Children's Services at the North End Branch of the Newark Public Library. Heather has been a member of and an active participant in NJALA for 21 years. She has been a member of the Executive Council for all that time, holding several positions including President.

Our new Corresponding Secretary is Suzanne Ridzy. Suzanne has been employed by the Somerset County Library System since 1994. Currently she is Head of Circulation at the Mary Jacobs Branch in Rocky Hill NJ. She has been a member of NJALA for five years and was Conference Co-Chair for 2007. She welcomes the opportunity that NJALA affords to meet other library para-professionals from around the state and to share challenges and joys that they all encounter in their careers.

Ellen Brewer has been re-elected as NJALA Treasurer. She has worked at the Ocean County Library since 1987 and has been a member of NJALA since 1989. Ellen has held the position of President, Conference Chair, Corresponding Secretary, and has been a member of the Conference Planning Committee for 16 years.



Tut Arrives at Mary Jacobs Branch

The overnight book drop at the Mary Jacobs Branch of the Somerset County Library System rendered a surprise one recent



morning when none other than King Tut's sarcophagus turned up. The lid of the sarcophagus was in one book drop, while the bottom was in another, and believe it or not, a cotton-wrapped stick

figure mummy was in a third! We suppose his former owner didn't want to risk breaking the treasure by having the pieces fall on each other.

Suzanne Ridzi
Somerset County Library System

Help Wanted

Technical Services/Acquisitions Clerk
Part Time Position

The College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown NJ is seeking applicants for a part time position in the Technical Services/Acquisitions Department. The duties include processing books, notifying faculty, basic keyboarding skills, assisting the acquisitions clerk, and filing. This is a 20 hour a week job. The hours will be worked out, but mornings to early afternoons four weekdays a week are preferred. There are benefits based on the twenty hour week. If interested e-mail Bruce Marthaler at bmarthaler@cse.edu . No phone calls please.



Are You Ready for the 21st Century

Due to the cost of printing and mailing our newsletter the Executive Council has decided to post future editions of the *NJALA Quarterly Review* on our website www.njala.org/. We ask that all members who didn't put their e-mail address on their membership forms send their e-mail addresses to Heather Rivera at hrivera@npl.org .

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