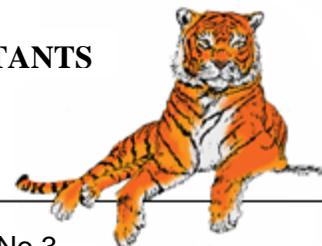


NJALA QUARTERLY REVIEW

A Newsletter for Library Assistants



A Publication of the
NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS



Editor: Annette Tyler
Distribution Manager: Heather Rivera

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Message from the President

Greetings to all library assistants; I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the summer months.

Our last Conference was just fabulous thanks to our great planning committee; a special thank you goes out to our two Conference Chairs Connie Reese and Cathy Lynch. The weather was great, and the attendance was very good. **We have a change of dates for our next conference; the new dates are Monday and Tuesday, June 8 and 9, 2009 at The Enterprise Center at Burlington County Community College in Mt Laurel, NJ.** The Conference Committee also extends a THANK YOU to our terrific workshop presenters and to our sponsors. They of course help make the conference a great experience. Next year's theme will be "Today's Choices Affect Tomorrows Dreams." We know how important that is even in our every day activities.

The next conference planning meeting of NJALA will be held on Friday, September 5, 2008 at the Mary Jacobs Library located in Rocky Hill NJ. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. If directions are needed, please feel free to contact me at wardbarb@shu.edu. Now is a wonderful time to get involved in YOUR association and make some choices that can affect your dreams of tomorrow.

I've just returned from a great American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. While there I attended a lovely and notable Empowerment Conference; this is a "Conference Within the Conference," which is only open to Library Assistants. Many

exciting and rewarding topics were discussed at the meetings I attended. This year a first was "Dinning Around." Restaurants were picked with different ethnic groups in mind. I met many charming people from around the country, and we shared dinner and conversation. The Scholarship Bash was held on Saturday night at Disney World. It was a great opportunity to see the park, share in its activities, have dinner, enjoy fire works, and of course do some shopping. On Sunday after I attended a few programs and a lovely lunch with the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT), I witnessed the "Book Cart Drill Team World Championship" sponsored by DEMCO. It was a lot of fun to watch and to see the judges evaluate the teams. Out of eight teams in the competition the winners were the "Well Stacked Sci-Brarians" representing the Santa Monica CA Public Library. They were a delightful group of women, who were dressed all alike including white hair wigs; the carts were decorated too. This contest was such a success that the late night news station aired some of the cart drill for its viewers. On Monday I attended the LSSIRT meeting; the committee talked of the year ahead and made plans for the future. It is very interesting to sit in on and listen to what Library Assistants from around the country have to say.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer with family and friends.

This is a great opportunity for me to thank you also for your support as I begin my second time as president of such a great organization. Please feel free to contact me at any time at the above e-mail address.



Barbara Ward
Walsh Library, Seton Hall University

In My Life



Meet Barbara Ward. Barbara has just begun her second term as NJALA President and has worked at the Walsh Library of Seton Hall University for the past 15 years.

Barbara has worked in the Interlibrary Loan Department for all the time that she has been with Seton Hall. She started out as the lending person for five years and then became the supervisor of the Interlibrary Loan Department for the last 10 years.

Barbara feels that it is an interesting job, since there is always a quest to find research material for professors to aid in teaching their classes, for graduate students working on their masters' degrees, and for undergraduate students doing papers for classes. There is constant interaction with staff from libraries in New Jersey and also nationwide. It is always a challenge to meet deadlines daily and to satisfy the demands of patrons. Barbara is in charge of one staff person and a number of student workers.

Before coming to Seton Hall Barbara worked for ITT in Clifton on aero-space projects for the United States government. She did this job for 10 years before her position was down-sized. After the Berlin Wall came down the Defense Department laid off workers across the county. Barbara then was given a certain amount of money from the government to go to school to find another trade. She chose to go to Katherine Gibbs Secretarial to pick up an office job. This school has since been given the status of a college. The electronics world had changed too much to stay in it, so Barbara chose to

find a new field of work. She found this turning point scary so late in life, but she discovered that anything can be accomplished if you have the desire to take the step in another direction.

Barbara's hobbies are gardening, shopping, and traveling--especially to California to see one of her daughters. Barbara's husband works for Continental Airlines, so she gets to travel quite a bit.

Barbara has been married for 39 years to her husband Michael. She has two daughters, one living in New Jersey and working as an Assistant Administrator for Wyeth Pharmaceutical and another in San Francisco, California, who works in the advertising field as a Public Relations Supervisor for Gap. Barbara has a 3 ½ year grandson, who lives in New Jersey, that she enjoys being with. Another grandson is due to be born the beginning of November.

Barbara has been a member of NJALA since 1994 and joined its Executive Board in 2003. She is at the beginning of her second term as President. Involvement in NJALA has allowed her to visit many libraries throughout the state and attend conferences in other states. She just returned home from attending the ALA conference in Anaheim, California. See "President's Message" on page 1 for more information about this trip.

Information for this column was gathered by Ellen Brewer of the Ocean County Library. Thank you Ellen for doing this work, and thank you Madel Tisi for sending the photo. Ellen and I would love to have you volunteer to help out with future *In My Life* articles. If you have ideas for subjects for this column or for any other articles for our newsletter please contact me:

Annette Tyler
Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org

30 X 30

Since I spent a good deal of my childhood summer vacations in Atlantic City I was intrigued by an article in a recent publication of the Atlantic City Free Public Library: *Discovery A Bimonthly Newsletter Connecting People to the World*.

30 Years, 30 Voices to Tell Story of Atlantic City's Casino Era reads the headline. "The opening of Resorts International in May 1978 forever changed Atlantic City--and its skyline."

I can't believe it is only 30 years, but I certainly agree that A.C. and its skyline have altered dramatically from what I remember of the area. I would be hard-pressed to count the hours I spent on the Steel Pier watching the diving horse, The Supremes, Frankie Avalon, and movies. I even got to watch my "baby" sister and her dance class perform with Tony Grant's Stars of Tomorrow. When I wasn't on the pier I was in the water being swept away by the undertow or on the beach marveling (?) at the horseshoe crabs and the starfish. For a number of years, since I grew up, got married, and had kids I was astounded at how hard it was to find anyone on the beach, since the casinos held such sway. Imagine an uncrowded beach on the Jersey shore! (On a recent trip I noticed that the beaches have been rediscovered.)

The library project will consist of 30 people or groups being interviewed about what they have witnessed since 1978. The library staff hopes that these people will represent the entire community. The interviews will eventually be stored and archived in the library's Alfred M. Heston Collection Room of Atlantic City History.

For further information please read the entire article in the July/August 2008 edition of *Discovery ...*, and contact Heather Halpin at 609-345-2269, ext. 3062.

Annette Tyler
Morristown and Morris Township Library

Summer Madness

(To the tune of "Jingle Bells")

Dashing through the stacks,

DVDs in hand

Checkouts to the max

Get 'em while you can

CHORUS

Sandybooks, crates stacked
high

Overdues & holds galore

Children whining for their
prize

When they run in the door

Summertime is here

Reading clubs are on

Families need new cards

School reading lists are gone

Suzanne Ridzy, Mary Jacobs Branch,
Somerset County Library System
Jacqui Ridzy, Bound Brook Branch,
Somerset County Library System

Participation Equals Awards

This year there were some very familiar people on the stage receiving awards at the NJALA annual meeting.

Kathy Falco received the AnnaMarie Kehnast Award given to “a dedicated library assistant in a New Jersey library who has made a significant contribution to the profession or to his/her library and actively participates in career development or activities in New Jersey.” Kathy is a Supervising Library Assistant in the Ocean County Library (OCL). For NJALA she has been President, Immediate Past President, and an active member of the Conference Planning Committee for several years, including a stint as Conference Registration Chair. To learn more about Kathy please read the winter 2008 and summer 2007 issues of the *NJALA Quarterly Review*.

Zarita Mattox, on the right with Marilyn Jack-Brown, is the recipient of the NJALA Recognition Award, which “is 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.” Zarita is a Principal Librarian for OCL, Lakewood Branch. She annually participates in the NJALA conference, either as a presenter or keynote speaker. Zarita is considered a role model for her staff and is always spoken highly of by people who attend her workshops at the conference. She is also active in her community.

Nadya Santiago has been a Senior Library Assistant at the Newark Public Library, North End Branch, since November 1993. She is presently attending Essex County College, majoring in Education. She wants to get her degree in the library field and work with children.

Conference Comments

If you filled out a conference survey this year you may win a free day at next year's conference. The winner will be announced in the next edition of the *NJALA Quarterly Review*

Conference Co-Chair Cathy Lynch supplied us with the following comments from the conference surveys completed in June:

The two day conference is very valuable. The workshops are very informative. The speakers are great, and the NJALA Executive committee is phenomenal. Great job!

The workshops each year get better and better. They are coming up with workshops that are in tune with Library Assistants' needs.

Networking with other library assistants was the most valuable part of this conference. The programs I attended were enjoyable and informative.

The most valuable part of this conference was Norma Blake.

The most valuable parts of this conference were networking, seminars and Norma Blake.

The classes I took were very informative: Customer service seminar/resolving conflict. I got good tips on how to deal with certain situations.

The most valuable part of this conference was learning, connecting with others.

Are We Having Fun Yet? YES!

Kathy Falco, of the Ocean County Library, Conference Registration Chair, and Heather Rivera, of the Newark Public Library, Membership Secretary of NJALA, are ready for conference attendees at the Enterprise Center in June.



Ginger Cairns and Ellen Brewer, of the Ocean County Library, also served on the Conference Planning Committee this year. This

was Ginger's first year on the committee, but Ellen, who is also NJALA Treasurer, has been delighted to help out with the conference for many years. They would love to have you join in the fun this coming year.

Marilyn Jack-Brown, soon to be Immediate Past President, is displaying the beautiful magnetic bookmarks that she selected for this year's Ways



and Means sales. We also had a number of NJALA shirts and practical tote bags left over from past conferences.

Please Save the Dates

The first meeting of the Conference Planning Committee will be held

on September 5 at the Mary Jacobs branch of the Somerset County Library System located in Rocky Hill NJ at 10 a.m. At this meeting we will welcome newcomers; we'd love to see more men participate, and set the schedule for the planning meetings for the rest of the year. This is your chance to get in on the ground floor in helping to plan our next conference. Have we done something at a past conference that you would like to have repeated? Have we done something that you absolutely hated? Do you have ideas that we haven't covered yet? This is your chance to add your two cents—or more.

CHANGE of DATE



The next NJALA conference will be held on Monday and Tuesday, June 8 and 9, 2009 at The Enterprise Center at the Burlington County Community

College in Mt Laurel, NJ. Please note that this is a change of date from the announcement at the 2008 conference.



DEADLINE

for the next

NJALA Quarterly Review
is October 6, 2008.

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

NJALA Quarterly Review

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