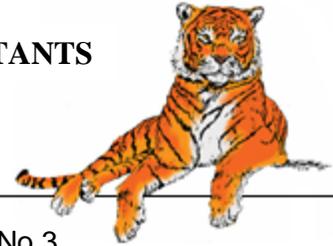


# NJALA QUARTERLY REVIEW

## 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*

Wow what a great 2009 Annual Conference!!

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make our conference a success. Thanks to all the NJALA members who attended. Networking and reconnecting are always the best parts of the two days. A special thanks to Deborah Blackwell, Supervising Library Assistant of the Ocean County Library Brick Branch. At the last minute Deborah graciously stepped in as the Keynote speaker when the scheduled speaker became ill and was unable to attend. Deborah spoke about the term "keynote" and how we all can be the keynote in our own work environment and lives.

The conference committee is already at work planning for next year so if you have any hidden talents contact a committee co-chair with your ideas. We especially need someone to work on recruiting speakers or supplying us with speaker suggestions, including contact information on a person you think would be a great keynote speaker for the 2010 event. The co-chairs for the next conference are Jacqui Ridzy of the Somerset County Library System: - [jridzy@sclnj.org](mailto:jridzy@sclnj.org) and Ginger Cairns of the Ocean County Library: [gcairns@theoceancountylibrary.org](mailto:gcairns@theoceancountylibrary.org) .

**Be sure to vote on the slate of officers for the coming year. Your ballot will arrive by e-mail (not snail mail); so cast your vote as soon as possible.**

We could use some more help with the newly redesigned webpage. Many thanks to Gwenn Laisie for all the work she did on this project. If you have further ideas or expertise in web design be sure to contact Gwenn at [glaisie@bcls.lib.nj.us](mailto:glaisie@bcls.lib.nj.us) .

Another way you can participate in this organization is by becoming a part of the Bylaws Committee. If you are interested in working with an ad hoc committee to review and consider possible amendments to our system of governance please contact our Second Vice President John Guido at [jguido@eopl.org](mailto:jguido@eopl.org). John is our Parliamentarian and Bylaws Committee Chair.



Connie Reese

[creese@theoceancountylibrary.org](mailto:creese@theoceancountylibrary.org)

**Today's Choices Affect Tomorrow's Dreams**  
Conference 2009

It was another amazing year, and I hope you had a memorable NJALA experience.

On behalf of the entire NJALA Conference Committee, I hope you enjoyed gathering with other library assistants at the Enterprise Center and got a chance to network with your friends and discover some new insights.

Remember, it's not too late to send in suggestions for programs you are interested in for the next conference. And if you want to join our committee please send us an e-mail. We meet monthly to share ideas. You are welcome to join our team.

Here's what some of the conference attendees had to say:

The most valuable part of the conference was "meeting new and interesting people." "I had a great time at the conference."

"Enjoyed the interview prep session (presented by Zarita Mattox of the Ocean County Library) and *Movers and Shakers* (presented by Tara Marcus of Dillon Marcus Executive Retreats)--both useful for networking and professional development."

"Keynote speaker was outstanding."

"All was of great value both personally and professionally."

"I love the workshops. This conference is smaller and more intimate than NJLA. I always learn something new."

The most valuable part of the conference was "networking with other library assistants to share ideas."

We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Cathy Lynch  
Conference Co-Chair 2009



*She's Got Her Travelling Shoes*  
**Report from the Liaison**

From July 9 through July 13 I represented NJALA at the American Library Association (ALA) annual conference in Chicago IL. I attended the two-day Empowerment Conference which is a conference within a conference sponsored by LSSIRT.

For those of you who do not know LSSIRT stands for Library Support Staff Interest Round Table. It took many years for a group of support staff members/library assistants from all over the United States to get our own round table and to be recognized not only at our state level but on the national level. I've been a member of ALA since 1999; when I first joined ALA the annual membership was something like \$130.00. With the hard work of the LSSIRT board working with ALA the membership fee is now only \$46.00 plus \$10.00 for LSSIRT membership.

The conference this year focused on leadership and library support staff certification. Some of the workshops I attended were: "Leading from any Position," "Leadership for Library Support Staff," "Leadership = Vision + Communication + Empowerment," and "What Does Certification Have to do With Me?"

*Liaison* continued on page 3.

*Liaison* continued from page 2.

In January 2010 the ALA Western Council of State Libraries and several divisions and round tables of ALA: Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), Public Library Association (PLA), Library Leadership Administration & Management Association (LLAMA), Reference & User Services Association (RUSA), Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), Library Support Staff Interest Round Table (LSSIRT), and Committee on Education (COE ) will launch, on a voluntary basis, **The Library Support Staff Certification Program**, in five states. Please note that New Jersey is not one of the states being used for this pilot program, however anyone can apply to participate. You must meet several competencies to be considered. The fee is \$350.00 for non ALA members and \$325.00 for ALA members. The fees may change. Candidates will have four years to satisfy all competencies and two-four years after that to get certification.

To keep our own Round Table in ALA I urge all of you to join and continue to let our voices heard. For any information about joining ALA and LSSIRT please e-mail me at: [brownma@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:brownma@mail.montclair.edu) .

Marilyn Jack-Brown  
Montclair State University



## BEYOND THE LIBRARY WALLS

The latest edition of *The Second Century* the newsletter of the Newark Public Library informs us that three employees of the library have each volunteered over 200 hours in connection with the High School Academic Support Program.

Lyndon Brown, Wilhelmina Holder, and Erika Jackson provide Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) preparation, college fairs, and assistance with college applications; this program has been going on for ten years, and more than 500 students have benefited from it. These three people were recognized with the Service Award for a Group by the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA).

According to a press release written by Mimi Lee, Outreach Coordinator, The Atlantic City Free Public Library has a program called “Atlantic City Library To Go,” which provides library drop-off sites with book displays and information. Special programs are also presented at sites around the community.

The Morristown and Morris Township Public Library can’t wait until its new bookmobile arrives sometime this fall. The library has had bookmobile service since 1923, and of course there have been modern vehicles, but the current one is well overdue for replacement. MMT is currently the only library in Morris County which still provides this direct service.

Different age populations are served, although the focus is on young children at the beginning of their journey in literacy. The bookmobile visits various day care situations (public, private, corporate and a nearby homeless shelter). There are also stops at the Morris School District's after school child care program provided at the elementary schools. During July and August the schedule changes direction, and the bookmobile visits playgrounds, swimming pools, and summer programs.

The above blurbs are only a small sampling of ways libraries reach out beyond their physical plants. If your library has an interesting outreach program that you would like us to know about please contact the *NJALA Quarterly Review* editor, Annette Tyler at [Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org](mailto:Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org) .

## Stars in our Galaxy

As Chairman of the Honors, Awards, and Scholarship Committee, it was my pleasure to present the Kehnast Award, the Recognition Award, and the Rita L. Hilbert Scholarship Award at our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference.

The Kehnast Award, presented to an outstanding Library Assistant, was given to Deborah Blackwell of the Ocean County Library. Deborah is a Certified Public Manager and an award winning leader and trainer for her library system. Her main areas of focus are in diversity and cultural management and in the facilitation of race and gender relations. Ms. Blackwell has conducted training at national conferences, such as the American Library Association, and she consults for the Literacy Volunteers of Ocean County in the area of strategic planning and community partnerships. She is a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team for Ocean County. Deborah is truly deserving of this award, and again showed us why when she agreed to give Tuesday's keynote address at the annual NJALA conference with only two days' warning when the originally scheduled keynote speaker became ill. This situation occurred before Deborah knew she was receiving this award. She goes above and beyond the call of duty and is very supportive of her peers.



The Recognition Award given to an outstanding Director, Administrator, or Librarian, was presented to Kathleen Hughes of Montclair State University. As a supervisor, she is very supportive of Library Assistants and encourages them to better themselves. She received her Master of Library Science degree from Rutgers University and a second Masters degree in Liberal Studies from New York University. Ms. Hughes has worked as a cataloger at Montclair State since 1979 and

became Head Cataloger in 1988. Among other accomplishments she coordinated the reclassification of the collection from the Dewey Decimal System to Library of Congress classification.

The Rita L. Hilbert Scholarship Award was presented to Sudha Sankar of the Mary Jacobs Branch of the Somerset County Library. Sudha is completing a Library Assistant's online certification program at Rutgers University. She has worked at Mary Jacobs for about three and a half years. She also volunteered at the Montgomery Public School Library for almost three years. Her goal is to attain an associate degree as a Library Technician.

Congratulations to all the winners!! Remember, anyone may apply for these awards. Check future newsletters and our website for details.

John Guido  
Second Vice President  
East Orange Public Library

photo of Kathleen Hughes and John Guido  
courtesy of Nancy Dowd and Flickr



## DEADLINE

for the next  
*NJALA Quarterly Review*  
is October 5, 2009.

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

### *NJALA Quarterly Review*

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