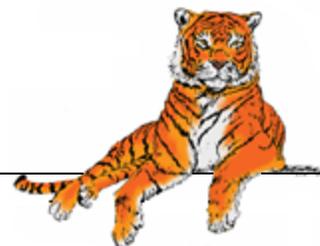


# NJALA QUARTERLY REVIEW

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*

I hope everyone had a great time at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual NJALA Conference. I found the workshops to be very informative, and I also had an opportunity to learn from and connect with other library assistants from New Jersey. Our keynote speakers, Robin Gaby Fisher and Megan McCafferty, were excellent. I appreciate the time that they took out of their busy schedules to share information about their lives and writing careers with us.

As your new President, I am looking forward to the planning of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference next year. The theme for next year's conference is "NJALA 25 Years of Connection and Commitment." In the face of challenges yet to come it is important that we continue to support our organization and its goal of uniting all support staff in the state of New Jersey. The conference co-chairs will be Ginger Cairns and Jacqui Ridzy who have graciously consented to continue in these positions for another year. If you have not completed the conference questionnaire you still have time to do so. Your feedback is very important to our planning for future conferences. Plus, you also have the opportunity to win a free one-day attendance for next year. You may mail the survey or fax it. Please check your next quarterly newsletter for the conference dates and location for 2011.

I also say thank you to my supervisor Gigi Hayes at Ocean County Library for nominating me for the Kehnast Award. The Kehnast Award is named for AnnaMarie Kehnast who served as President and Liaison of NJALA.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. Stay cool and remember to use sun block!



Cathy Lynch  
Ocean County

## **Congratulations to Our Award Winners**

At our annual conference the following awards were presented:

### **Kehnast Award**

Cathy Lynch, who is the current NJALA President, has also served as Conference Co-Chair and Vice President -President Elect. Cathy, a Principal Library Assistant, has been employed by the Ocean County Library for nearly 22 years. According to Givane N. Hayes, Branch Manager, Cathy is the ultimate professional. Cathy started as a circulation assistant and quickly became a circulation supervisor. Cathy has mentored library assistants and librarians and is very knowledgeable about library system history, interpretation of policies, and about the community she serves.

### **NJALA Recognition Award**

Amy Kearns was the Program Coordinator for the Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative and also a part time lecturer for the School of Communication, Information and Library Science at Rutgers University. She received a BA in philosophy and her master of library and information science degrees from Rutgers. She has worked in the publishing industry in Manhattan, in public libraries in New Jersey, and she has coordinated and facilitated webinars for Web Junction. She is active in the New Jersey Library Association and is President of its Information Technologies Section. Amy was just named Assistant Director/Manager of Adult Services at the Middletown Township Public Library.

John Guido  
Second Vice President  
Chairman, Honors, Awards, & Scholarship Committee

## **Our Representative in D.C.**

I attended the American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference held in Washington DC this June. I have attended many ALA conferences, but I think this was truly the busiest one so far.

I attended the Library Support Staff Interest Round Table (LSSIRT) Steering Committee and membership meetings and an EBSCO Publishing for Academic Libraries Luncheon. This luncheon had over 1,000 people in attendance and lasted one hour. You can imagine that it was difficult to hear about the topic of databases for academic libraries, since there were that many people eating and talking in one room. After the EBSCO luncheon I went to a workshop, *Communication Skills for Front Line Library Staff*. This workshop focused on those library employees that the patrons see first. Topics included: "Behavior has Consequences." The way you send a message and the way it is received, your facial expressions, the way you speak (tone), and hand gestures may present a problem for the person receiving your message, whether you realize it or not.

I went to the *Library Journal's* Para Librarian of the Year reception. NB: After a lot of research the *Library Journal* has adopted the term Para Librarian. After the reception I participated in the LSSIRT *Night Out*.

An OCLC breakfast featured "How Libraries Stack Up."

A workshop, "Not so Extreme Makeover," basically stated that even if there are no dress codes in many libraries we should be aware of what a patron thinks of us when we look just like them—wearing clothing such as t-shirts and shorts... It is a good idea to dress in a professional and approachable manner.

After being elected as a Member-at-Large on the LSSIRT Board I was encouraged to attend some of the ALA meetings, so the rest of my

time was spent attending ALA membership and ALA Council meetings, which I have never done before.

My last day was spent at the Library Advocacy Day Rally, which took place on Capitol Hill. I had a meeting scheduled with my Congressman so that I could discuss with him the importance of getting more federal funds to help the libraries in New Jersey. Since he was not there we spoke with his Congressional Aide, who assured us that she will forward all of our information to him. I do have contact numbers and will follow up on this situation.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Marilyn Jack-Brown  
Montclair State University Library  
NJALA Liaison  
LSSIRT Member at Large



## ***Flying Up and Down the Shore***

To celebrate the centennial anniversary of airshows in New Jersey the Atlantic City Free Public Library and the Asbury Park Public Library are presenting exhibits at various sites this summer.

The world's first major international flying meet was held in France in 1909, but a year later airshows were hosted in Atlantic City and in Asbury Park.

For further information please contact the Atlantic City Historical Museum, 609-347-5839, the Atlantic City International Airport, 609-645-7895, or the Township of Ocean Historical Museum, 732-531-2136.

You may also visit the following websites:

[www.acfpl.org](http://www.acfpl.org)

[www.asburyparklibrary.org](http://www.asburyparklibrary.org)

Or see the online exhibit at:

[www.njairshow1910.org](http://www.njairshow1910.org)

## **Libraries and the State Budget An Update**

The 2011 state budget is finally in!

We understand that there were 70,000 emails, 80,000 postcards and over 70 legislative visits. Thanks to NJLA and NJALA for all your help in garnering support for libraries. The State Library is still affiliated with Thomas Edison State College, not merged with Rutgers University. The Per Capita State Aid program, although cut in half, has been returned from the Department of Community Affairs. The 74% loss in statewide library funding has been reduced to 43%. A 35-person All-State Committee met on July 6 to determine how the statewide funding would be spent. Connie Reese represented NJALA well at that meeting.

\$4.299 million dollars, which retains our maintenance of effort for federal funding is in the Network Aid budget line. Federal funding will not be lost for the Talking Book and Braille Center. There is enough money to fund the operating expenses of one statewide cooperative with some area-based staffing, Jersey-CAT interlibrary loan, delivery (at the same frequency for now), the EBSCO suite of databases and the RefUSA database. Some smaller programs such as the statewide summer reading club and statewide reference/ILL centers will be funded. Lower priorities such as the Heritage Quest database, federated searching, Get a Library Card Online, One Book NJ and National Reading Club Month will be lost. Also lost were positions in NJSL's Library Development Bureau and the Law Library. The group also looked at technology needs, and possibilities for future grants and training opportunities.

The EBSCO databases include the publishing package, Academic Search Premier and Business Search Premier for VALE, k-12 schools and public libraries, Newspaper Source Plus which replaces GALE custom newspapers and Referencia Latina which replaces Informe.

There will be an event in the fall to celebrate the many accomplishments of the regional library cooperative directors, staff, board and members over the past 25 years. We hope we can once again grow this structure in good times. Cheryl O'Connor, director of the yet-to-be-named statewide cooperative will have Joanne Roukens serving as her Assistant Director. New staff will work closely with their counterparts in the State Library's Library Development Bureau. The cooperative is responsible for delivery, database negotiations, a website/listserv, CE, cost-sharing opportunities and QandANJ. The State Library will be in charge of interlibrary loan, technology and the database negotiations as well.

The State Library will continue to keep you informed about the budget and other projects, such as the awarding of the federal broadband grant of \$7.5 million dollars to NJ State Library, through the [www.njstatelib.org](http://www.njstatelib.org) website, webinars and listserv messages. As always, thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,  
Norma Blake, NJ State Librarian



## **Crisis in Morristown**

On May 3, 2010 the Morristown and Morris Township Library was rocked by an explosion that did much damage to the original wing, built in 1917.

The day started out with lights flickering and phones being totally inoperable. Luckily the decision was made to not open the building to the public, so when the fire alarms went off the staff was able to quickly and safely flee. When we got outside a policeman was already on duty, since someone had reported seeing smoke coming from a manhole cover in the street next to the library. As we were running away from the library we heard an explosion, but because it was underground we had no idea of the extent of the devastation. Doors and windows blew out, and an 8-inch concrete floor in the reference department buckled.

During a previous explosion in 1994 we had asbestos abated, but the explosion in May blew some of the remaining asbestos throughout the oldest wing and into the 1930 wing, which includes our circulation, tech services, and cataloging departments. Between the removal process and cleaning and repair the library will be closed to the public until sometime around Labor Day. It will take a number of months more to have the entire building back in order.

The Episcopal Church across Miller Road from the library has been very generous in allowing us to use their space for computer work and staff training classes, children's programs, meetings, and our two "Jazz in July" concert fundraisers. The owners of the Dublin Pub have given the library a discounted rental on the storefront in front of the restaurant, across South Street from the library. Our "branch" at 88 South Street is open seven days a week and there is a small collection of books and dvds for borrowing and also some reference services. Luckily, although libraries in Morris County are autonomous we have a cooperative

System, and patrons may use their library card at any of the public libraries in the area.

At the moment the cause of the explosion has not been determined, but there are ongoing investigations, and our insurance company has been very co-operative in keeping us operative. The mayors of Morristown and Morris Township, as well as the Councilpeople have also been very supportive.

Annette Tyler



**DEADLINE**  
for the next

***NJALA Quarterly Review***  
is October 4, 2010.

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

***NJALA Quarterly Review***

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The NJALA website is <http://www.njala.org>.

The NJALA ballot will be e-mailed shortly. Don't forget to exercise your right as a regular member.

**VOTE**