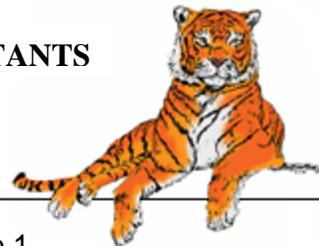


NJALA QUARTERLY REVIEW

A Newsletter for Library Assistants



A Publication of the
NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS



Editor in Chief: Annette Tyler

Managing Editor: Marilyn Jack-Brown

Winter 2008 Vol.10 No.1

Message from the President

I hope everyone is having a happy and healthy new year.

I have just returned from Philadelphia PA where I attended the American Library Association's (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference. Of course I have been networking and trying to line up people for our next conference.

The highlight of the ALA conference for me was the Presidents' Program; the keynote speaker was all-time basketball great and author Kareem Abdul-Jabar. After his wonderful speech I got a chance to catch him just as he was leaving the stage. I told him, "I haven't seen you in 42 years," and he said, "That's a long time." Then I reminded him that we graduated from high school in the same year—1965, and I went to his going-away party that was held in a ballroom in the Bronx NY. We laughed, and he took my hand, and then he told me to stop by his booth the next day, where he was signing copies of his book on compact disk. When I got to the booth the next day of course all of his CDs were gone, but I did get an autographed picture.



Since many of you completed the survey at the 2007 NJALA conference you may remember that one of the questions was "What type of workshop would you like to attend?" We would like to get even more

feedback from you, especially if you know someone, who would be willing to speak to us pro bono. Please give this information to the Conference Co-Chairs Cathy Lynch, 609-698-0572 or Connie Reese, 732-269-2425. If we cannot make arrangements for your proposed speaker at the 2008 conference we will certainly contact him or her for the 2009 conference.

The Conference Planning Committee is coming up with great suggestions and putting together this year's conference, which we hope will be even better than last year's gathering. The conference will again be held at the Enterprise Center at the Burlington County College on Monday, June 9 and Tuesday, June 10.

You may have noticed some of the same people working on the Conference Planning Committee for a number of years, but we have been lucky over the last two years to have a number of people join the committee with new and different ideas. If you look in the mirror you might even find someone else who is ready to join in and contribute to this lively group. Please feel free to contact Cathy or Connie, at the numbers listed above, or me at 973-655-5119 or brownma@mail.montclair.edu.

I wish you all good health now and in the future.



Marilyn Jack-Brown
Montclair State University

Our Stars Do Shine

Congratulations to Kathy Falco, Supervising Library Assistant, for being recognized as Ocean County Library's Library Assistant of the year 2007.

You may know Kathy as a past President of NJALA and also as a Conference Chair. Not only does she work hard at the state level, but she is very instrumental at her branch and in the Ocean County Library System (OCL) as a whole.

Her accomplishments include organizing the Cart Wheeler Team at OCL. This group goes to parades and local events and performs stunts with the everyday book cart, which is not a small feat by any means. This endeavor is a very good example of Kathy's living up to the OCL's vision - Connecting People, Building Community.

Both staff and colleagues look forward to Kathy's positive attitude and of course her wonderful greeting, "Hello Beautiful!" Because of her upbeat disposition Kathy is a great mentor to OCL's new Principal Library Assistants. Her continued striving for excellence makes the leadership team very strong.

Not only does Kathy encourage staff to further their education she herself is currently attending Stockton State College. Be on the lookout for a new librarian.

Connie Reese

Principal Library Assistant, Berkeley Branch
Ocean County Library



New Jersey State Librarian, and strong supporter of NJALA, Norma Blake has been chosen as Librarian of the Year by the *Library Journal*.

In choosing Ms. Blake as their Librarian of the Year *Library Journal* mentioned that an important part of her leadership has been to convince people from all walks of life that strong libraries are central to the future of their states.

Marilyn Jack-Brown and I recently received a thank you note from Norma Blake for the information on the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative that we included in our last edition of *NJALA Quarterly Review* at the request of our Vice President-President Elect Barbara Ward.

Before Norma Blake became our State Librarian she held a number of posts within New Jersey, including Director of the Burlington County Library System.

In 1995 NJALA chose Norma Blake as the winner of the Ray Murray Award, which is now known as the NJALA Recognition Award. This award 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.

Ms. Blake was a mentor to one of NJALA's most active members Linda S. Porter. Before her retirement Linda held many positions in NJALA, including that of President. In 1998 Linda received our Kehnast Award, which is 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. This award is named for AnnaMarie Kehnast who served as President and Liaison of NJALA. In 2004 Linda was chosen as *Library Journal's* Paraprofessional of the Year.

For further information about the Librarian of the Year you may read the January 2008 edition of *Library Journal*.

Annette Tyler

Morristown & Morris Township Library

In My Life



Meet Marilyn Jack-Brown. Marilyn has been a member of NJALA since 1993. She was born in New York City, the eldest of seven children. She received

her education in the New York school system and graduated from high school in 1965. Marilyn attended Malcolm-King College in Harlem, and she earned two certifications from Cornell University, one for Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and one in Labor Management.

Marilyn is married to her best friend Tony who she affectionately calls "Big Daddy." Their two children live in Maryland. Their daughter is an elementary school principal, and their son is a Personal Banker. "I'm still waiting for grandchildren," said Marilyn.

In her spare time she enjoys reading, putting together jigsaw puzzles, and collecting dolls.

Before she began her library career, Marilyn worked in New York for the Department of Social Services.

After relocating to New Jersey she began working at the South Plainfield Library, where she remained for four years. Marilyn has been at the Sprague Library at Montclair State University for ten years. She currently holds the title of Senior Library Assistant. Her responsibilities in the Multi-Media Resources Department include a combination of behind-the-scenes work (such as processing materials before they go to circulation and managing overdue notices) and working with the public at the Circulation Desk.

Marilyn refers to herself as a "people person," which leads well to her favorite part of the job - interacting with the patrons - except for the times when she has to use the word "NO" as a rule enforcer! The most rewarding aspect of her position is seeing the students she has helped graduate and knowing that many of them are now doctors, dentists, and teachers.

Marilyn is in her third term as President of NJALA. She has been Conference Chair twice. Involvement in NJALA has allowed her to travel throughout New Jersey and many other states, visiting libraries, networking, and meeting many people. She credits NJALA with her increased confidence as a public speaker. Receiving the Kehnast Award was her biggest professional accomplishment.

Beverly Porter,
Retired Somerset County Library, Bridgewater



Thank you to all who agreed to be interviewed for the "In My Life" column. My final column appears above.

My husband and I put our house up for sale in January 2008 and plan to move in the late summer. This year appears to be a very busy one for me. Already time has become a precious commodity in coordinating this move.

It has been a privilege to be part of NJALA since the early 1990s and in my retirement.

Beverly



Editor's Note:

Beverly Porter was my right hand woman for many years as a contributor and as Managing Editor of this newsletter. She dreamed up the **In My Life** column as a way to keep in touch after she retired from the Somerset County Library, Bridgewater. Now that she is really retiring from library and NJALA work we do hope that someone will take over her column. Please contact me if you can help.

Annette Tyler
Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org

RITA L. HILBERT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD 2008

The NJALA Scholarship Committee is proud to announce our annual scholarship award of \$250.00 for the 2008-2009 academic year. This scholarship will be offered to a library support staff person who would like to pursue any degree or certificate program that enhances work skills.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant must be a legal resident of New Jersey.
2. Scholarships are available to current NJALA members only.
3. Recipient must attend any accredited college program or certified post-secondary program.
4. Recipient must use the award in a job-related field.
5. Applicant must enclose a 150 word essay explaining how this scholarship will help her/him reach career goals.
6. If the Scholarship Committee deems a personal interview necessary the applicant must be available to meet with the committee.
7. Tuition payment will be sent directly to the institution of enrollment along with the recipient's registration application. Proof of completion of course is required.

If you have any questions or would like an application please contact the Scholarship Committee Chairperson:

East Orange Public Library
Attn: John Guido
21 South Arlington Avenue
East Orange, NJ 07018
Phone: 973-266-5601 or
E-mail: jguido@eopl.org

All applications must be postmarked by May 2, 2008.

RITA L. HILBERT 2008 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

1. NAME: _____
(Please Print) (Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Legal Residence: _____
(Number) (Street)

(City) (State) (Zip)

Phone: _____

3. Post Secondary:

Have you applied for admission to any school(s)? Yes: _____ No: _____

Specify school(s): _____

Have you been accepted for any school(s)?

Specify: _____

Are you presently attending a post secondary school? Yes: _____ No: _____

4. Education: _____
(College) (Year)

(Degree) (Major) (G.P.A.)

Post Graduate Education: _____
(College) (Year) (Degree) (Major)

5. Work Experience: (Most recent employment first)

A. _____
(Employer's Name) (Address)

(Position/Title) (Employment Dates)

B. _____
(Employer's Name) (Address)

(Position/Title) (Employment Dates)

I understand that it may be necessary to be interviewed for this scholarship and agree to make myself available for this interview if so requested by the scholarship committee. I understand that in order to be considered for this scholarship I will be required to submit proof of course completion.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

NJALA RECOGNITION AND KEHNAST AWARDS Application

Each year at the conference of the **New Jersey Association of Library Assistants** the NJALA Recognition (formerly the Ray Murray Award) and Kehnast awards are presented.

The NJALA Recognition Award 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.

The Kehnast Award is 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. This award is named for AnnaMarie Kehnast who served as President and Liaison of **NJALA**.

To submit a candidate for either award please include the following:

Your information:

1. Name: _____
(Please print.) (Last) (First) (Middle)
2. Library name & address: _____
(Street or P.O. Box #)

(City) (State) (Zip)
3. Title: _____ 4. Phone: _____

Candidate information:

5. Name: _____
(Please print.) (Last) (First) (Middle)
6. Library name & address: _____
(Street or P.O. Box #)

(City) (State) (Zip)
7. Title: _____ 8. Phone: _____
9. Award you are applying for: _____

Include an essay of no more than 200 words explaining why the candidate deserves this award. This application along with the essay must be postmarked by May 2, 2008; send them to:

East Orange Public Library
Attn: John Guido
21 South Arlington Avenue
East Orange NJ 07018
Phone: 973-266-5601
Email: jguido@eopl.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 25-29, Public Library Association (PLA) National Conference, Minneapolis, MN

April 29-May 1, New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) Annual Conference, Ocean Place Conference Center, Long Branch NJ

June 4-6, New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA) Annual Conference, Liverpool NY

June 9-10, New Jersey Association of Library Assistants (NJALA) Annual Conference, The Enterprise Center at Burlington County College, Mt. Laurel NJ

June 26 – July 2, American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Anaheim CA

Oct. 23-24, Virginia Library Association (VLA), Annual Conference, Williamsburg VA



Liaison's Corner

I wish a Happy New Year and a pleasant winter to all of our members.

Marilyn Jack-Brown and I just returned from the American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Meeting in Philadelphia PA. We both attended the Library Support Staff Interest Round Table (LSSIRT) meeting on Saturday morning, bright and early at 8:00 a.m. It was a three hour meeting, and many subjects were discussed. There was a presentation honoring Gene Kinnaly's retirement from The Library of Congress and from LSSIRT. Gene was a keynote speaker for NJALA at Seton Hall several years ago and is a founding member of the Library Support Staff Interest Roundtable;

We were introduced to the two ALA Presidential Candidates, Camila Alire and J. Linda Williams. Work on programs for the Empowerment Workshops at ALA Annual was presented; and most importantly, there was a discussion on Support Staff Certification.

I also spent two days visiting the vendors in search of items to give away at our Annual Conference in June. Several good books and bags will be part of the give away, so please attend the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 10.

Anita Kosinski

Somerset County Library, Bridgewater



News about Paraprofessional Certification

The American Library Association (ALA) has been discussing a certification program for Support Staff for more than 20 years. Certification will be used to increase knowledge of a broad spectrum of library services that would be nationwide. Those who would like additional training to become eligible for promotions to more responsible positions in the library are the most interested in this development.

At the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. in June, 2007, a Salary and Certification Committee meeting was held to discuss the work that is being done to bring Paraprofessional Certification to reality. Certification has now moved out of the Congress on Paraprofessional Education (COPE) to a joint ALA/APA (Allied Professional Association) endeavor. Nancy Bolt is the coordinator of this phase of the project. A grant was obtained for \$400,000 to pay for her services and support the ongoing process of certification.

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At this time, we hope to have a certification plan ready in three years. Nancy Bolt, meeting with the Library Support Staff Interest Roundtable (LSSIRT) section of ALA in Philadelphia in January, described the process that is being undertaken.

The Library Support Staff Certification Project Task Force is being assembled to discuss major issues relating to certification of Support Staff. The Task Force will review Competencies for Support Staff based on work done by the Western Council of State Librarians; they will then develop a model of how such a certification program might work and make recommendations for future action.

The proposed program will be voluntary. It will be made up of learned tasks and those taught by regular library job orientation, Community Colleges, Regional Co-ops, and ALA divisions.

LSSIRT has two representatives on this committee: Sandy Olson from the University of Central Arkansas and Dorothy Morgan from the Liverpool Public Library, Liverpool, N.Y.

Future information will be announced through our NJALA newsletter.

Anita Kosinski



DEADLINE

for the next

NJALA Quarterly Review
is April 7, 2008.

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

NJALA Quarterly Review

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