

Connections

Spring/Summer 2008



Eastern New York State
School Library Media Association

Building Meaningful Relationships through ENYSLMA

Liz Bailey, ENYSLMA President

In the past year, I have faced the challenge of supporting a loved one fighting an aggressive form of cancer. Currently I am working through the sad days of supporting my sister, now a young widow, and her seven children ages 3 to 18. Since my sister's family lives in southern Maine and both my siblings are also hours away, we have relied on the goodness, selflessness, and collective power of our eHope community consisting of friends, family, neighbors, church members, and some people who simply seemed to materialize out of nowhere to help this family. The relatively new foundation named eHope was the idea of a Maine entrepreneur and technology buff, Jeffrey Wood, who left his corporate job in order to create caring communities for individuals and families dealing with life threatening illness. Using the power of interactive web 2.0 technology, a password-protected site is set up for each community, with blogging capabilities for communication as well as calendars for posting meals, cleaning and childcare needs and the responses to those needs. It has been this group of incredible people, who for the most part began as strangers to one another, that has taught me the greatest lesson I've ever learned about the collective power of community and the relationships that naturally emerge.

Just like this eHope community, joining ENYSLMA began with an individual decision to make a personal investment of time and energy to a group consisting of mostly strangers on behalf of a common purpose. At the first few events that I attended, I talked to only a few people, but was attracted by the possibility of getting to know these school librarians as individuals with interesting lives beyond bookshelf walls.

After I was invited to serve on ENYSLMA's board, the combination of time and shared experiences turned many colleagues into friends. Our board now regularly shares a meal together every so often as we make plans for programs and discuss how we can best support the librarians here in Eastern New York.

Jeffrey Wood has told my sister that an eHope community never dissolves until they are directed to by the family receiving the support, even if that is long after the recovery or death of their loved one. The friendships that have come out of sharing the common experience of caring for my brother-in-law and his family have been a rich and rewarding side effect of working together toward a common goal. I am finding the same benefit while investing energy and time to our local school library affiliate. The side effect of building relationships is richly rewarding.

The power of relationship sets our group apart. I have not found the personal aspect that ENYSLMA enjoys at any other library conference I have ever been to, no matter how big the conference or how persuasive the keynote speaker. ***Neither AASL or ALA can offer what we can find right here in our own backyard: an energetic group of school media specialists who are extending themselves beyond their own schools in order to improve the local level professional development opportunities using the powers of community, collaboration, and relationship.***

Come and get to know your colleagues by attending some of the events announced in this newsletter!

Introducing...

Hello. My name is Sonji Greenaway-Chandler, and I would like to introduce myself as the new Capital Region BOCES Representative. I graduated from the University at Albany's Library Science program in December 2004.

I am a librarian at Albany High School in Albany, New York. Though I am not a native of Albany, I love my "new hometown" and enjoy being a librarian. I have a strong sense of appreciation for what we do – how we promote reading across all levels which helps to increase the student achievement and integrate the *21st Century Skills* in our library programs. We are the "unsung heroes," so we must be willing to stand together and support each other. We want to make the *right choices* and I believe that ENYSLMA is leading in the right direction. I am very pleased to be one of your local representatives.

My goals are quite simple: to share information with you, to create opportunities for dialogue, to be a voice of reason, and to help develop strong programs for you. I want you to know that I am committed to helping you and all future members. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail Sonjija@yahoo.com.



Best regards, Sonji Greenaway-Chandler

SLMS Report

Beth Davis

The 2008 SLMS conference is coming up soon. It will be held May 1-3, 2008 at the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown, NY. With over 35 diverse workshops and speakers including Richard Peck, Robert J. Lackie, Charles R. Smith Jr. and Richard Elizabeth Levy, this conference is sure to have something for everyone. There is still time to register at the early bird rates. For more information or to obtain a registration form please go to the conference web site at http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=1344



Retiree News

Terri Moran is conducting a survey of retired school library media specialists to determine their interests and to invite them to join ENYSLMA and to participate in our programs and events. If you know of a retiree who might be interested, please send Terri an e-mail at temlibrary@aol.com.



Legislative Report

Jill Leinung, SLMS Legislative Representative

The Governor's Budget cut the \$5 million in supplemental system aid that the Legislature added last year. Funding for library materials stayed at \$6.25 per student. Overall, school aid is increased by \$1.46 billion. We need to focus our advocacy efforts on having the Legislature restore the system's aid and increase library materials aid from \$6.25 to \$10 per student. Each of us should have examples of what the School Library System does for us, plus examples of what the lack of adequate funding does not allow us to do, when we visit our legislators. Follett gave a presentation, set up by Michael Borges, NYLA's Executive Director, to Legislative and Budget staff. Collections from different regions of NY were analyzed by Titlewise. The average age of books in our collections dated from 1987 and the average number of volumes per student was about 25. This supports NYLA's request to increase Library Materials Aid as well as amend the Contacts for Excellence to allow the extra aid that high need school districts receive to be spent on hiring school librarians and purchasing current library materials.

Lobby Day

Lobby Day is March 11 in Albany. You should try to be there. The Legislative Breakfast Starts at 8:30 and this is when the Legislators come to have their pictures taken for the READ posters. This is a great opportunity to speak with them as they wait. At 11:30, there will be a rally in Meeting Room 6 on the concourse where NYS Library Leaders and Legislators will speak. If you can't make it, please consider joining us for SLMS Virtual Lobby Day. Use the Contact Your Elected Officials Button of the NYLA Home page and join us virtually on March 10 when we hope to flood our Legislators with faxes promoting our Budget Priorities which are: restore the \$5 million in supplemental system aid and increase Library Materials Aid from \$6.25 to \$10 per student. Also consider bringing your students to Lobby Day. They are our patrons and our biggest advocates!

NYLA's Advocacy Efforts for School Libraries

The radio ad has been running on two radio stations (WGY 810 and WRVE 99.5) in the Capitol Region over the past three weeks. You can hear it on the SLMS and NYLA home pages. A letter to superintendents has gone out with the new brochure, preliminary findings of the Syracuse study, and an updated Scholastic School Weekly. Please use this opportunity to open a dialogue with your administrator about what a full-time, certified School Library Media Specialist can do for a school.

Zogby Poll

The poll asked whether libraries deserved more state funding and 57% responded in the affirmative. Eighty-two percent responded favorably when asked whether the state should provide increased funding for libraries to specifically purchase books. The poll was conducted January 2-7, and surveyed 708 NY adults. This, too, supports our budget initiatives.

We have a busy and challenging time ahead, but we have some valuable tools to work with, thanks to NYLA, Michael Borges and our SLMS affiliates. Let's put all that support to good use.



ENYSLMA SPRING PROGRAM

Get Into Book Talking!

A relaxing way to hear about many of the newest and best historical fiction for children and young adults

Presented by

Gail King

School Media Specialist, St. Mary's School, Ballston Spa

Saturday, March 29, 2008

Brunch

Desmond Hotel & Conference Center

660 Albany-Shaker Rd.

Albany, NY

10:00– 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$18.00 for members \$20.00 for non-members

See www.mapquest.com for detailed directions to Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany-Shaker Rd., Albany, NY

Registration due by Friday, March 14, 2008

Please send your reservation response and check made payable to ENYSLMA to Donna Smyth, 4 Homer Ave., Queensbury, NY 12804 by **Friday March 14.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Questions: please call Cathy Casler at 668-9554 or e-mail cathycasler@yahoo.com

EXTRA! EXTRA!

ENYSLMA members garner great PR

From *News Channel 13*

Educator of the Week

“Elise Rosenberry is the media specialist at Sacandaga Elementary School in Scotia, where the library is probably not like your old elementary school library because of the influence of technology.”

[link to the video: <http://wnyt.com/article/stories/S338568.shtml?cat=10126>]



And an excerpt from the *Schenectady Gazette*:

Devices to read along with kids

Guided reading program aimed at fostering better literacy skills By Pam Allen

About 200 fourth and fifth graders at Shenendehowa’s Okte Elementary School will take part in a guided-reading program designed to give them the support necessary to read above their reading level. The support will come in the form of digital players called Playaways. Instead of playing songs, the tiny, iPod-like devices hold the contents of one book...The school will use a \$1,000 grant from the Capital Region BOCES School Library System to buy about 30 of the players.

“There are many children’s books that are classics. The problem for fourth-graders is that while developmentally they’re written for their age level, the reading levels [of the books] are not always at the level at which the kids are reading,” said Elizabeth Bailey, Okte’s media specialist. “The dual concept is especially helpful for students who struggle with their reading skills, Bailey said.

Each student involved in Bailey’s “Newbery News Book Project” selected a book from a list of Newbery Medal-winning authors. “It’s just one more way to get them excited about the best that we can offer in children’s literature,” she said.

[http://www.dailygazette.net/standard_try/ShowStoryTemplate.asp?Path=SCH/2008/01/24&ID=Ar01400&Section=Local_News]

Judith Stott
Library
Shaker Junior High School
475 Watervliet-Shaker Road
Latham, NY 12110

**ENYSLMA Annual Bus Trip to NYC
Matinee of Broadway Musical
Cry Baby**



Wednesday, July 23, 2008

This trip is open to all ENYSLMA members, family, friends and fellow teachers!!!!

Cost: ENYSLMA member \$109 nonmember \$114

Departure: 6:00 am from Wilton Mall-side parking lot by Dicks.
6:20 am from Crossgates Mall upper lot by Macy's.
6:50 am from Exit 20 parking lot off the Thruway.

New York City anticipated arrival 10:30 am

Join us for a complimentary hour tour of the New York Historical Society Library. We can accommodate 25 for this Professional Development Tour.

OR

Tour the NY Historical Society Museum on your own. Admission is \$7 for educators and senior citizens and \$10 for all others.

OR

Be dropped off at Bryant Park at 42nd and 6th to explore the city.



Matinee of Cry Baby

2 pm at Marquis Theatre 45th St. & Broadway

This is a musical by the creators of *Hairspray*. It is based on a film from the early 90's of the same title and is about the love between the local good girl and the boy from the wrong side of town. Only 40 tickets are available!!! So sign up early!!

OR

Plan your own agenda for a day in NYC Cost for the Bus ONLY: Member: \$35 NonMember: \$40

We have 15 seats available for those who wish to explore the Big Apple with drop off at Bryant Park on 42nd and 6th.

Return: 7:00 PM from Bryant Park on 42nd St. & 6th Ave. **SHARP!!!!**



**Please return the form below with a check made out to ENYSLMA to:
Barbara Zuccaro, 56 Helen Dr., Queensbury, NY 12804**

Name: _____ **Home Phone:** _____

Address _____

Summer E-mail _____

I would like to tour the NY Historical Society Library Yes No

I will be departing from: Wilton _____
Crossgates _____
Exit 20 of Thruway _____

Bus & Cry Baby Ticket	ENYSLMA member \$109	# of Tickets _____
Bus & Cry Baby Ticket	NonMember \$114	# of Tickets _____
Bus Trip Only	ENYSLMA member \$35	# of Tickets _____
Bus Trip Only	NonMember \$40	# of Tickets _____
	Total	_____