

CONNECTIONS

Winter 2006

Eastern
New
York
School
Library
Media
Association



Meet the Board Members

President – Barbara Zuccaro

This is my 13th year with the South Glens Falls School District and I have worked as the elementary, middle and, currently, the senior high librarian. I am married with 4 children and am active as a leader of my youngest daughter's Junior Girl Scout Troop.

Past President – Cheryl Cufari

I am the librarian at Glenduff Elementary School, Niskayuna. This is my 25th year as a SLMS having worked in Auburn, Oneida City and Oriskany. I have 3 grown children - 2 sons and a daughter. I love soccer (coached rec soccer when my children were small for many years) and have recently discovered the pleasant sounds of jazz music.



Treasurer - Donna Smyth

I'm married with 3 grown children and presently live in Queensbury. I've been the treasurer for ENYSLMA for the past 3 years and somehow was roped into becoming the treasurer for Vermont Educational Media Association (VEMA) 2 years ago. I've always said that librarians aren't mathematicians, so I'm not sure how I became so lucky to be treasurer for 2 organizations. I am presently the SLMS at Proctor Elementary School VT, which is a K-6 building with 190 students, and have been here for 3 years now. Prior to this position I was a SLMS in the Glens Falls City School District.

Retired Librarian – Barbara Sharpley

I'm retired after 33 years as a SLMS in the Albany City School District. I started in elementary schools and moved to the high school after my daughter was born. I am divorced and Allison is my only child. My "mental health therapies" are gardening in the summer and baking cookies in the winter.

Hamilton County Rep - Christine Suhr

This is my 16th year as a SLMS at Wells Central School. I've been a member of ENYSLMA and the Hamilton County Rep for most of those years. I'm also on the HFM BOCES SLS Advisory Council and served twice as Council Chair. I received my MLS from SUNY Albany in 1990.



Region IV Coordinator - Maggie McCabe

I am a December 2005 graduate of UAlbany School Library Media Program and am completing 2nd year as SLMS at Mayfield Elementary School. I am a mother of 5 and grandmother of 4; married and recently relocated to Saratoga Springs from Woodstock NY.

WSWHE Rep and Program Committee - Cathy Casler

Being a SLMS is a 2nd career for me after serving as a hospital administrator. I've been teaching for 3 1/2 years and am currently at Sanford and Kensington schools in Glens Falls. I just celebrated my 34th anniversary (hard to believe anyone could put up with me for that long!!!) and have two daughters living in NYC, which makes me a nervous wreck!! I'm currently serving on the Program Committee.

Program Committee - Jaclyn Adler

I am a recent graduate of the School Library Program at SUNY Albany. I am 25 years old and live in Queensbury with my fiance, Kirt. I look forward to seeing many of you at the exciting programs we are planning for this year!

Newsletter - Judi Stott

SLMS at Shaker Junior High School (grades 7 and 8) in the North Colonie District. This is my sixteenth year at the Junior High, after receiving my degree from SUNYA in 1990. I still enjoy the variety of the job from research to working in our production studio.



ENYSLMA Listserv

If you have not already done so, please consider signing up to be a member of our listserv by contacting Melissa Bergin our webmistress at: mcb@missabears.com.

Calling all Advocates – NOVEL, SLS, Per Pupil Aid Needs YOU!

By Mary Ratzer



The New Year jumps into gear and the New York State Legislature goes into session! Unless New York's library community speaks out with enthusiasm, 2006 will be the last year of access to NOVEL databases. Unless the legislature funds NOVEL, the grant for NOVEL expires this year. Now is the time to get out your **ADVOCACY TOOLKIT** and go into ACTION for NOVEL, SLS services, per pupil aid and NYLA's Legislative Agenda. The School Library Systems Association of New York has an updated resource for your advocacy endeavors at www.crbsls.org/slsa or www.slsa-nys.org.

As the white landscape and gray skies make us think about curling up with a good book, 2006 unfolds as a vital, far-reaching legislative year for all libraries and library systems. Action is essential! Keeping potential coalitions in mind, advocates are encouraged by NYLA to join forces and carry the message forward that libraries make a difference for all! Equity, access, and success are only words unless SLMS can breathe the life of real kids, real problem solving, and real outcomes into letters, emails, phone calls and visits to legislators.

Testimony forms for SLMS, teachers, students, parents, and administrators are in the toolkit. Print, share, and forward to your SLS coordinator! For a visible and unified impact on legislators, **print on yellow paper** where possible, on bright yellow as an investment in quality library services. As a grass roots movement, the WSWHEBOCES SLS is posting **sunflower pictures** on their website at www.wswheboces.org/sls/sunflowerimages.htm. Cutting and pasting these free images into your email, onto letters, onto testimony forms, into cards, we hope to catch the attention of busy legislators who are known to respond to patterns of communication and colorful symbolic images. Bring your legislator a sunflower or some sunflower seeds. What's the tag line for these sunflower motifs?

School libraries make the sun shine on everyone. Equity, access, success!

The kit also features:

- Legislative Contact Information
- Strategies for SLMS
- What Legislators Need to Know
- Summary of Legislative Issues
- Links to NYLA's Legislative Agenda
- Links to NYLA's website
- Talking Points
- Excel graphs (showing zero growth in funding for 14 years, comparisons of school and library aid)

The **tools** are at your finger tips. The cost of inaction is unthinkable!
Need help with planning a legislative visit? Email Mary Ratzer at mratzer@wswheboces.org

What does NOVEL mean to learners when it is their only point of database access, or a trusted adjunct to other information tools? School libraries and library systems in general are in the 14th year of static funding with almost yearly cuts that require ground swells of testimony to reverse. Some are closing. Some are threatened. Sharing of resources is cost effective and improves every student's access to quality information. Eleven million database searches and 500,000 interlibrary loans in 2003-2004 tell the tale. Increases in per pupil aid is under consideration, raising it from \$6 per pupil to \$9. NOVEL funding is up for renewal in NY. The legislature has supported libraries in the past. To assure their ongoing support they need to hear from you. Response goes to those who speak, write, and show up.

To succeed, learners need your voice!

Schenectady County School Media Specialists by Cheryl Cufari



Schenectady County Public Library has launched a "One County One Book" project centering around To Kill a Mockingbird and Roll Of Thunder Hear My Cry for younger children. A picture book bibliography is also available allowing participation in some way for all levels of readers. An online book discussion is occurring, an essay contest is being organized, and a service project is taking place as well. Check the website (<http://www.onecountyonebook.org/index.htm>) established for the project as events are planned. Some exciting library projects can be initiated with this countywide idea.

Students across New York State just completed the required grade level testing. So much of what we do helps support the preparation of these tests. Big Six guru Mike Eisenberg writes on this topic which can be found at:
http://www.big6.com/files/Eisenberg_4.pdf



From Barbara Sharpley, retiree representative

I worked as a Media Specialist in the Albany City Schools for 33 years. (The first 6 years were at the elementary level at School 6 and Arbor Hill Elementary School.) The last 27 years were at Albany High School. As the retiree representative on the Board, I'd like other retirees to contact me to brainstorm ideas for future projects or events. Collectively, we have a great deal of experience and knowledge that can still be used in the area's school libraries. Please contact me at bshapr11@nycap.rr.com.



Join us for an
Author Dinner
With Special Guest

Jennifer Donnelly

Author of A Northern Light,
Tea Rose and Humble Pie.

Wednesday March 15th
5:00 p.m.
Parkside Diner
Parkwood Plaza, Rt. 9
Clifton Park, NY

\$23.00 dinner
Cash bar

Please choose from the following menu choices:

- Baked Scrod
- Stuffed Chicken Breast
- Pasta Primavera

Send reservations and check to
Donna Smyth
4 Homer Ave.
Queensbury, NY 12804

If you would like to pre-order books, please send your order form, at right, and check to Donna Smythe.

DEADLINE: February 24, 2006



Order Books by Jennifer Donnelly!

A Northern Light - Winner of the Carnegie Medal, the L.A. Times Book Prize, the Borders Original Voices Prize, and a Michael L. Printz Honor, A Northern Light is a coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of a true murder, which took place in the Adirondacks in the summer of 1906. A Gathering Light is A Northern Light's British title and is the winner of the Carnegie Medal, the UK's most prestigious prize for children's literature.

If you would like to order a copy of A Northern Light, please fill out the form below and mail it with your reservation **no later than Friday, February 24th** to Donna Smyth.

NAME _____

Email _____

A Northern Light Hardcover \$13.00

number of copies _____ Cost _____

Paperback \$7.00

number of copies _____ Cost _____

Total _____

Two other books may be available through your own online source.

Humble Pie - illustrated by Caldecott winner Stephen Gammell, is a picture book for naughty children and pie lovers of all ages, an ode to the classical fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm.

Tea Rose - A novel for adults is one of the Romantic Times Book Club Top Pick

In the tradition of an epic historical novel, Ms. Donnelly's tale pulls the reader into its emotional depths and refuses to let go. Fiona Finnegan is a remarkable heroine, remaining true to her principles no matter the cost. A sequel is currently being worked on!



**SAVE THESE
DATES!!**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2006

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

SHARE MEETING

TIME: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: TBA

**DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PRESENTATION?
ARE THERE NOVELS THAT YOU HAVE READ AND
WOULD LOVE TO DISCUSS? IS THERE A
RESOURCE IN YOUR LIBRARY THAT YOU JUST
CAN'T DO WITHOUT? WE ARE PLANNING A DAY
MADE JUST FOR YOU! CALL OR E-MAIL US WITH
AN IDEA FOR A WORKSHOP YOU WOULD LIKE TO
GIVE OR SEE.**

CONTACT:

**JACLYN ADLER
E-MAIL: WINSLER2003@HOTMAIL.COM
PHONE: (518) 222-0223**

**CATHY CASLER
E-MAIL: CCASLER@GFSD.ORG**



WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

BUS TRIP TO NYC

FOR A BROADWAY MUSICAL

**DETAILS
COMING SOON!**

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

