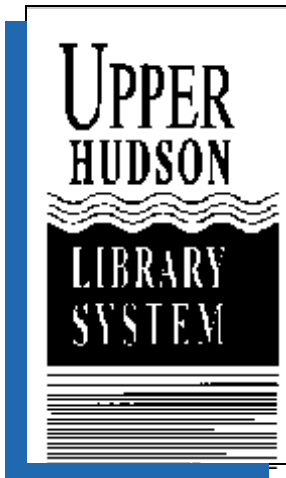


The Latest Edition



[The Latest Edition](#) is a regularly published newsletter for the public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

MANAGING EDITOR
Heidi Fuge

Upper Hudson Library System
28 Essex St.
Albany, NY 12206
www.uhls.org/uhls

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| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| UHLS News | 2 |
| Upcoming Events | 3 |
| Grants & Funding | 3 |
| Professional News | 4 |
| Worth Noting | 5 |
| People | 5 |
| Library Programs | 6 |
| Calendar | 7 |



Librarians and library supporters visit with Assemblyman Ron Canestrari during the March 2004 Library Lobby Day.

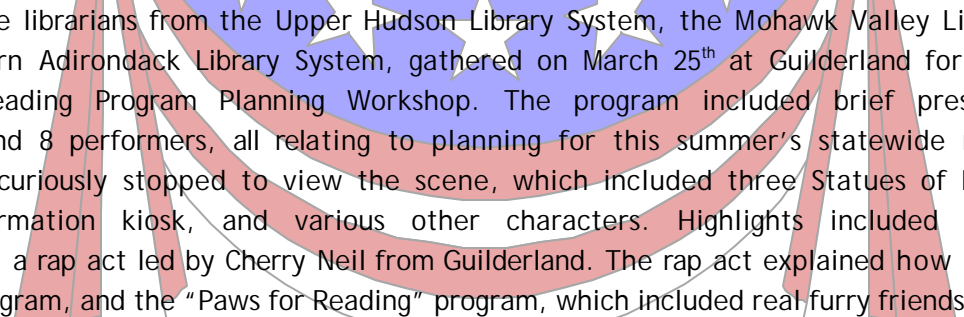
Standing: Gail Sacco, Ron Canestrari, Deb Canzano, Barbara Nichols Randall
Seated: Carol Clingan, Chris Walker, Pat Spohr

NYLA LEGISLATIVE DAY

Fifteen hardy individuals represented UHLS as they attended the annual "lobby day" on Tuesday, March 16, 2004, and met with their local legislators. The Day began with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver starting the "Library Rave" by speaking to a standing-room-only crowd of 600 library activists who braved a blizzard to attend. Assembly-member Sandra Galef, Chair of the Library and Technology Committee, and Senator Hugh Farley, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Libraries, also encouraged us to continue our advocacy efforts. It was noteworthy that everyone with whom we met said that the proposed 5% cut in state aid would probably be restored, but there was not much optimism for an increase in state aid.

UHLS NEWS

NEW YORK IS READ, WHITE, and BLUE



Seventy-five librarians from the Upper Hudson Library System, the Mohawk Valley Library System and the Southern Adirondack Library System, gathered on March 25th at Guilderland for the third annual Summer Reading Program Planning Workshop. The program included brief presentations by 15 speakers and 8 performers, all relating to planning for this summer's statewide reading program. Passers-by curiously stopped to view the scene, which included three Statues of Liberty, a human tourist-information kiosk, and various other characters. Highlights included *Cherry and the (W)rappers*, a rap act led by Cherry Neil from Guilderland. The rap act explained how to publicize the summer program, and the "Paws for Reading" program, which included real furry friends.

LOGGING MILES IN SKY CAMP

Students participating in the LSTA grant *Sky Camp*, are connecting their learning about aviation to meteorology, biology, and history. Middle school students in Castleton, Voorheesville, Lansingburgh, and Guilderland have been instructed about weather, lost swans and female aviators through programs presented at their schools. Speakers from the National Weather Service taught kids how weather impacts flying, and how pilots find out about and assess weather patterns. Elinor Osborne, photographer and author of *Project Ultra Swan*, showed slides and discussed the scientific project in which ultra-light pilots helped young trumpeter swans learn their migration pattern. Storyteller Nancy Payne characterized cigar-smoking female aviator Pancho Barnes and other women aviators of the early 20th century. Programs open to the public will take place in May and June. During the summer, participating libraries will hold a three-day aviation camp for 20 students. The culminating event will be an "Aviation Celebration," including plane rides, at the Schenectady County Airport.

OUTREACH RETREAT

In March, UHLS sponsored an Outreach Retreat with a full day of speakers on various outreach topics, including *Services to Speakers of Other Languages*, *Communicating with Persons with Disabilities*, *Attracting Literacy Volunteers*, *Serving Geographically Isolated People*, *Assistive Technology for the Visually Impaired*, and *Persons without Homes*. The event was held at the Wellington-Lay House on the campus of the Emma Willard School in Troy and was attended by 30 people, including many representatives of the UHLS member libraries as well as Outreach specialists from other public library systems in New York.

REQUEST TRACKER

The UHLS Automation Services Department is rolling out this "helpdesk" application on the Horizon server, which will allow the UHLS staff to track its support activities and problem resolutions more efficiently. This should allow the staff to keep track of outstanding problems and build a knowledge base of resolved issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERLIBRARY LOAN FIELD DAY

The Interlibrary Loan Field Day II, sponsored by the Capital District Library Council, will be held at BOCES in Saratoga Springs, NY on Tuesday, May 25th. The day will include panel discussions, training, software updates, and an opportunity to exchange ideas. The \$15 registration fee includes lunch. To learn more, visit www.cdlc.org and click on "Calendar". Under the program date you will find the registration form. Registration deadline is May 14th.

NYLA POSTER CONTEST

NYLA will host a poster session at the Annual Conference in Rochester. The session will be Friday, October 22, 2004 from 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM. Develop a proposal for a poster to tell others about a project: how you did it, what results you got from a project, or how you improved a service. Proposals should be sent in by May 28, 2004. Instructions and the proposal form are available online at: www.nyla.org/content/user1/NYLAPosterSessionForm16-1.doc

JOIN THE MAJOR LEAGUES @ YOUR LIBRARY

This program, developed by the American Library Association and Major League Baseball, celebrates two of America's oldest institutions -- baseball and libraries. The program officially kicks off at the end of May, but libraries can register now at www.ala.org/@yourlibrary/jointhemajorleagues. One program poster will be sent to each library or library branch that registers, while supplies last. An online baseball trivia contest will challenge participants to use the resources at their library to answer baseball trivia questions developed by the librarians at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Participants will be vying for the grand prize trip to a game of the 2004 Major League World Series.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

SHUBERT LIBRARY EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award was established to recognize the achievements of small, medium and large libraries and library consortia in New York State. In 2004, this Award will be co-sponsored by the EBSCO Information Services and funded by that organization in the amount of \$1,000. The Award will honor a library or library consortium that has taken significant steps within the past 2 years to improve the quality of library service to its users. Previous applicants are encouraged to re-apply. Projects nominated for the Award should document measurable progress in identifying user needs, taking steps to meet those needs and evaluating the results. Visit the web site www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/advscns/rac/index.html for a copy of the application, and examples of past winning applications. Return 4 copies of the completed application and all attachments by May 3, 2004, to Patty Case/ Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award/ New York State Library/ 10D45 Cultural Education Center/ Albany, NY 12230/ Phone: 518/474-1195; FAX: 518/486-2152; e-mail: pcase@mail.nysed.gov

VERIZON FOUNDATION OFFERS \$500,000 IN GRANTS

Nonprofit organizations in New York are invited to compete for \$500,000 in grants offered by the Verizon Foundation. Verizon is soliciting proposals that address literacy, English as a second language, and basic computer skills in the communities the company serves. The grants, ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000, will be announced July 22. Proposals must be submitted through the Verizon Foundation Web site, www.verizon.com/foundation, by May 5, 2004. Applicants should click on the New York RFP link and type invitation code 513PYFW7SY.

PRESERVATION GRANTS

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers grants of up to \$5,000 for the preservation of materials in libraries. The application deadline is May 14, 2004. The application is available on their website: www.neh.gov or call (202) 606-8570.

NYLA ADVOCATE AND SERVICE AWARDS

Every year, the New York Library Association offers the *Outstanding Advocate of Libraries Award* and the *Outstanding Service to Libraries Award*. The purpose of these awards is to honor those who work on behalf of New York's libraries. In addition, the people who nominate individuals or organizations for these awards also benefit by association. The NYLA Awards present a good publicity opportunity for both nominee and nominator. Information about these awards and nomination forms are available at www.nyla.org. The deadline for submission is May 30, 2004.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD

The Intellectual Freedom Committee of the New York Library Association is calling for nominations for the 20th annual NYLA /ProQuest Intellectual

Freedom Award. Nominees can be individuals or groups in New York State who have met and resisted attempts at censorship or have otherwise furthered the cause of intellectual freedom. Nominations should include the following information about the nominee:

- the duration of the nominee's support of intellectual freedom;
- noteworthy incidents during the nominee's support of intellectual freedom;
- support from local and state organizations, community members, etc.;
- newspaper articles, letters of commendation, etc.;
- names, addresses and phone numbers of two people who will be contacted for evidence and support for this nomination.

Please note that members of NYLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee are not eligible for this award. A plaque and a \$500 check from ProQuest, will be presented at the NYLA Conference, in Rochester, on October 22, 2004. Forms can be obtained from the NYLA office or downloaded from NYLA's web site www.nyla.org and mailed by June 15, 2004 to: Ellen Rubin/ 29 Queen Anne Lane/ Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 (845) 221-0249

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

CONFIDENTIALITY INFORMATION

Increased visits to libraries by law enforcement agents, including FBI agents and officers of state, county, and municipal police departments, are raising concern among the public and the library community. These visits are not only a result of the increased surveillance and investigation prompted by the events of September 11, 2001, and the subsequent passage of the USA Patriot Act, but also as a result of law enforcement officers investigating computer crimes, including e-mail threats and possible violations of the laws addressing online obscenity and child pornography. The American Library Association has a section on its website entitled *Confidentiality and Coping with Law Enforcement Inquiries: Guidelines for the Library and its Staff*. Information is available at www.ala.org/ala/oif/ifissues/confidentiality.htm and www.ala.org/ala/oif/iftoolkits/toolkitsprivacy/privacypolicy/privacypolicy.htm.

SEARCH WARRANT

Under the Patriot Act, if a library is served with a search warrant, that library and its

employees can seek legal advice concerning the warrant and request that the library's legal counsel be present during the search provided for by the warrant. If you or your library are served with a warrant issued under this law, and wish the advice of legal counsel, you can obtain assistance from the Freedom to Read Foundation's legal counsel. Simply call the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) at 800-545-2433, ext. 4223, and inform the staff that you need legal advice. You should not disclose the reason you need legal assistance or the existence of the warrant. OIF staff will assure that an attorney returns your call.

STATE LIBRARY LAUNCHES OUTREACH WEBSITE

The Coordinated Outreach Library Services program has a new web resource. The web page, Public Library System Outreach Web Resources, can help anyone locate library and System web pages offering services to special populations in New York State. The resource is also intended to help the library community promote services; allow the library systems to easily see web page tools that other systems have created; and to facilitate collaborative efforts among the systems. To reach the new web page, go to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/outreach/links.htm>.

WORTH NOTING

The Watervliet Public Library has been awarded a grant from Stewarts for the purchase of a secure DVD display case and a start-up collection of juvenile DVDs.

PEOPLE



Noralee Itchoak and friend, Flat Stanley, at UHLS retirement party

Noralee Itchoak, Resource Sharing Coordinator, retired on April 16th. The UHLS staff said "Happy Retirement" and "Have Fun" at a retirement party on April 13th.

Philip Ritter, Executive Director of the Upper Hudson Library System, recently announced that after an extensive search and interview process, Jo-Ann M. Benedetti has accepted the position of Manager of Information and Outreach Services. She will

begin work on May 5th. She is a native New Yorker and has received a BS in Art History from SUNY-Oneonta, an MA in German from Middlebury College, and an MLS from the University at Albany. She served as an Information Specialist with the National Small Business Development Center Research Network in Albany and as an Education and Technology Librarian at the Schaffer Library of Health Sciences at the Albany Medical College. She is currently the Head of Health Information Services at the Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, NY.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

ALBANY MAIN:

CLIFFORD'S READING FUN FAIR: Preschool children and their families are invited to participate in games and activities at the library. Meet Clifford the Big Red Dog! To register, please call 427-4310. This event is made possible by Albany County Headstart, WMHT, and Charles Touhey of Touhey Associates. Saturday, May 8th, from 10:00 AM to Noon.

ALBANY INDEPENDENT FILM FORUM: *Life or Liberty*, by Konrad Aderer. This documentary about Muslims in America following 9/11, features Albany

resident Shokriea Yaghi whose husband was imprisoned for ten months before being deported. Konrad Aderer and Shokriea Yaghi will answer questions after the screening. Saturday, May 15th, at 2:00 PM.

ADIA MILLET, SCULPTOR: will present a slide program and discuss her work. This program is sponsored by APL and Albany Center Galleries and is free and open to the public. The artist has a MFA from the California Institute of the Arts and has work in many museums including the studio Museum in Harlem. Adia Millett is a 2004 Artist Fellowship Recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts(NYFA). This presentation is co-sponsored by Artists and Audiences Exchange, an NYFA public program. May 16th, at 3:00 PM.

WILL'S GARAGE - LEARN HOW TO BUY YOUR FIRST USED CAR: Librarian and former mechanic, Will Takach, will guide you in buying your first used car. This will be the first in a series of programs this summer where you can learn how to change your own oil, a tire and the basics of automotive care. A question and answer period will follow each program. Join us as we hit the road. Saturday, May 22nd, at 11:00 AM.

ALBANY INDEPENDENT FILM FORUM: *Love and Diane*, by Jennifer Dworkin. This documentary takes us inside the relationship between a mother, Diane Hazzard, and her daughter, Love, over several years. Jennifer Dworkin and Diane Hazzard will answer questions after the screening. Wednesday, May 26th, at 7:00 PM.

DELAWARE:

LOCK REPAIR/HOME SECURITY: Handivan workshop presented by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tuesday, May 4th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

HOWE:

HOME MAINTENANCE & CODES: Handivan workshop presented by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tuesday, May 11th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

ALTAMONT:

ANNUAL BOOK SALE: Saturday, May 8th, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

GUILDERLAND:

SUBURBAN SOUNDS SING BROADWAY: Dance, music, and comedy for the whole family when Suburban Sounds Community Chorus of Guilderland performs at the Library's spring concert. The 30-member chorus will present Broadway favorites from Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Stephen Sondheim

and others. Refreshments will be served at intermission. Sunday, May 23rd, at 2:00 PM.

AREA PREMIER! of the award-winning film *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer*: Dr. Said Shah will host a screening and discussion of Aparna Sen's film about a Muslim man's and a Brahmin woman's fateful cross-country bus trip to Calcutta. Dr. Shah has worked for the United Nations, the governments of India and Canada, and has taught in the US, Canada, UK, Algeria, Senegal, Egypt and India. Register at the Reference desk. Monday, May 24th, at 6:30 PM.

TROY:

CAREER and LIFE IMPROVEMENT SERIES: All of the programs are open to the public. Call the library, 274-7071 for reservations. The **Resume Workshop**, will be conducted by Anna Watkins, Certified Professional Career Counselor, Saturday, May 1st, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. She will also teach the **Cover Letter Workshop**, Wednesday, May 5th at 6:15 PM. Dominic Cataldo, Technical writing specialist and grant writing instructor, will hold a **Grant Writing Workshop** on Saturday, May 8th, from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Carol J. Wilsey and Anna Watkins will present the program **Develop Your Networking Know-How**, Wednesday, May 19th, at 6:15 PM.

CALENDAR

MAY 2004

- 7 Directors Association 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 10 Tech Advisory Council 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 10 Administration Committee - CANCELED
- 12 Services Committee 3:00 PM at UHLS
- 12 Finance Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 12 Board of Trustees 4:30 PM at UHLS
- 14 Deadline for information for the June issue of *The Latest Edition***
- 25 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 27 Youth Services Advisory Council at Nassau Free Library
 - 9:00 - 10:00 AM Small library concerns discussion group
 - 10:00 - Noon Meeting
 - Noon - 1:00 PM Large library concerns discussion group
- 31 UHLS closed for Memorial Day

JUNE

- 4 Directors Association 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 7 Administration Committee - CANCELED
- 9 UHLS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING at the Albany Country Club
Speaker: Michael Borges, Executive Director of the New York Library Association
- 15 Deadline for information for the July-August issue of *The Latest Edition***
- 22 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS

JULY

- 2 Directors Association 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 5 UHLS closed for Independence Day
- 12 Administration Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 14 Services Committee 3:30 PM at UHLS
- 14 Finance Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 14 Board of Trustees 4:30 PM at UHLS
- 27 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT: Philip Erlich (Rensselaer)
VICE-PRESIDENT: Charles Diamond (Watervliet)
TREASURER: Mary Alice Molgard (Berne)
SECRETARY: Jeffrey Cannell (UHLS Directors Association)

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Erin Apostol (Albany) | Robert Ganz (Guilderland) |
| LouAnne Lundgren (Poestenkill) | George O'Connor (Troy) |
| Lois Prenovost (Brunswick) | Paula Read (Bethlehem) |
| James Reilly (Voorheesville) | Mary Ellen Schroder (Valley Falls) |
| Pat Spohr (Altamont) | Hawley Zwahlen (William K. Sanford) |

TRUSTEE EMERITI:

Harry Howansky
Katherine Wells
David Worden

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Philip Ritter

MISSION STATEMENT: The Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS) coordinates programs and activities to assist and complement the resources and efforts of its twenty-nine member libraries to improve library and information services in the local communities of Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

VISION STATEMENT: Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS) and its twenty-nine members will operate as a consortium and be a part of a dynamic statewide and national network, operating in cooperation and collaboration with educational and cultural organizations, community human service agencies and the business community to provide library and information services to the people of the Capital Region of New York State.