

ASAC Meeting

12/16/25 9:30am at UHLS

In Attendance: Judith Wines (UHLS), Jill Kobayashi (RCSC), Meg Kelly (APL), Kyle Keefe (BETH), Susan Palmer (APL), Melanie Sheldon (CAST), Emily Viscuso (GUIL), Michele Beutel (GUIL), Jane Chirgwin (RENS), Alexis Mokler (EGRN)

Guests: Jack McEneny- Albany County Revolutionary War Commission - contact: 518-438-7519 (home phone)

Erin Plonka and Mary Moller - Albany Guardian Society

Minutes from September Meeting

Introductions

American Revolutionary War Commission - Programming Updates - The Honorable Jack McEneny (Ret.)

- Small grants may be given to libraries for programming (festivals, signage, speakers' program) from the local commissions.
- Back in 1976, the big celebrations were all centered around July 4th, and then observance died down. The American Revolution was an 8 year war, so the programs can and should be spread out. New York State had more battles than any other state, in addition to the largest and bloodiest battles, so focusing programming on this as the local history that it is.
- Call up local commissions or county historians for more information. HVCC may also have speakers.
- UHLS might organize field trips to Battle of Normanskill or Battle of Bennington sites.

E-Content Updates

Hoopla

-As of January 1, UHLS will not grant Hoopla access to temporary online cards and UHLS patrons (with no home library). APL is dropping Hoopla in January, and CAST and RENS are dropping Hoopla in February. There may be patrons who try to get cards at other libraries to get access to Hoopla, so be aware.

ComicsPlus

-Live access to ComicsPlus for staff testing should begin on 12/17/25. A link to a how-to demo will be sent. 16 libraries signed up for their own statistics, otherwise it will be aggregated UHLS [stats](#).

OverDrive Subscriptions

-We are hoping to continue All-Access Romance subscription (it was popular and a low CPC). We are crowdsourcing the funding for the Romance collection and OverDrive's new All-Access

Mystery subscription. If these are both popular, for next year the funding will be built into the funding structure for 2027.

Potential Collaborations with Albany Guardian Society (with Erin and Mary from AGS)

-AGS provides over 100 free classes and programs each year. No residency requirements or age restrictions for these programs. Resources include residence and transportation directories (available online or as physical brochures).

-Classes are almost always offered both in-person and on Zoom.

-Past programs in collaboration with libraries include yoga classes, technology classes, book discussions, classes on what NYS Office of Aging can offer

-Jill: RCSC has a large television that broadcasts live classes for community viewings. So far there hasn't been a large turnout, but the program is still new and more marketing needs to be done for it.

-AGS can partner with libraries to help with marketing their events.

-AGS plans programs a few months in advance, although they do gauge interests from the community and may add programs to the calendar

-Greg Olsen at NYSOFA can help libraries get a license to broadcast "world tours" (e.g. Slovenian Christmas markets, Germany, Mexico, veteran tours of Washington DC, etc.)

Wall Street Journal

-The contract has been signed. It will work the same as NYT, but access codes will last longer and it is much cheaper than NYT. Hopefully it will be live before January 1 but the vendor is not very responsive.

March Manga Madness

-A systemwide initiative where patrons can vote for their favorite manga series (out of a list of 10) via ranked-choice voting. Each library can opt to participate with in-person voting or programming/displays. We are partnering with League of Women Voters in Albany and Rensselaer Counties, and they will offer optional civics programs focusing on Ranked Choice Voting. Voting will be done in-person or online. Libraries that opt to do programming or displays will be given a modest stipend to buy more manga titles.

Unique UHLS Resources

-This shares what libraries have resources that anyone can come in and use in-person (including online databases, services, accessibility equipment, etc.). Information was taken off of library websites. Please let us know what we missed, and if we put in items that shouldn't be advertised to non-patrons. We will currently keep this as staff-use only.

Library-to-Library Item Loaning

-Are there things at your library that you would be willing to loan to other libraries for programming (not to the general public)? E.g. games, equipment, etc.

Book Discussion Winners

-If you are a person who facilitates book discussions, was there a title that you did in this past year that you thought was especially great?

GUIL: Annihilation (Jeff VanderMeer)

EGRN: West With Giraffes (Lynda Rutledge)

Digital Equity Updates

-There is a Capital District Digital Equity Coalition. Do libraries ever do programs that fall under the digital equity umbrella and an occasion/holiday (e.g. Earth Day, Labor Day)? If you hear of any programs, let Judith know.

Open Forum

-RENS has a student intern from the SUNY social services program who is holding office hours for people who need help filling out forms, need resources, etc. She can also do things like de-escalation trainings.

Collection Development with GUIL's Emily Viscuso

Weeding Nonfiction

-Ad Hoc Reports → Circ by Call Number Prefix (what call numbers are popular)

-Ad Hoc Reports → Weed by Call Number

-Under "Call number prefix", just put the first digit (6) or a range (610-619)

-Download Excel spreadsheet

-You can enter the Excel spreadsheet into ChatGPT and ask it to analyze the collection

-Decision Center has a weeding report; it would be helpful to have a session on how to use Decision Center

Save the Dates:

January 14th at 2 p.m. - Adult Program Swap: programming for adults with dementia and their caregivers (on Zoom)

January 28th P.M at UHLS. In-person workshop on digital accessibility with Sarah McFadden from NYSL. Details forthcoming!