

SENYLRC Matters

SENYLRC, 21 S Elting Corners Rd, Highland, NY 12528-2805
<http://www.senylrc.org> (845) 883-9065 845-883-9483 (fax)

Survey of Oral History Collections

Does your organization have any oral histories? If so, we would really like to hear from you! But don't feel left out if you don't have any oral histories in your library. We want to hear from you too! The more organizations that send in survey responses, the more information we will have to plan, digitize and increase access to these valuable resources. We have heard from 100 organizations and hope to hear from the remaining libraries, historical societies, and museums in the Hudson River Valley region.

The date to complete the survey is extended until January 31, 2009. To complete the survey, simply follow the link below.

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=u9ALy2GUTee_2b2R0_2fobl6tw_3d_3d

Please ask the person at your organization who can best answer questions about your oral history collections to complete the survey. The survey consists of 24 questions and will take between 10 – 30 minutes of your time depending on the size of your oral history collections.

Voices of the Hudson Valley: Digital Reformatting and Access Planning Project is an Institute of Museum and Library Services federally funded collaborative planning initiative by the Sound and Story Project of the Hudson Valley, the Southeastern NY Library Resources Council, and the Greater Hudson Heritage Network (formerly called the Lower Hudson Conference of Historical Agencies and Museums). The goal is to plan for the identification, digital reformatting, and increased accessibility of sound recordings that document the history of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (from Saratoga County north of Albany, to just north of New York City). You can read more about the project at voicesofthehudsonvalley.wetpaint.com/.

A key component of this planning project is to identify existing oral history collections through the completion of an on-line survey. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact project director, Eileen McAdam at emcadam@hvc.rr.com.

–Tessa Killian

Governor Proposes Drastic Reductions in State Aid to Libraries and Library Systems

Governor Patterson, in his 2009/2010 budget proposal to the New York State Legislature, includes an 18% reduction in state aid to libraries and library systems. This will have dramatic impacts on how library systems provide services to its member libraries.

How will this impact SENYLRC? If the Governor's library aid reduction proposal is adopted by the New York State Legislature, SENYLRC could lose approximately \$175,000. The general operating fund will realize a cut of approximately \$125,000. The Regional Automation Program (RBDB), the fund that is used to partially subsidize databases and support the Hudson River Valley Heritage digital repository, will be reduced by almost \$30,000. The Hospital Library Services Program will be reduced by \$15,500. And finally, the Medical Information Services Program (MISP) will realize a reduction of about \$5,600.

The academic library Coordinated Collection Development Aid Program (CCDA) will also be reduced by 13% to 18%. For example, if a college library annually receives \$6,000 in CCDA funds, that grant would be dropped to \$4,920 under an 18% reduction scenario.

While, the library community realizes that it should shoulder part of the burden to help the state recover from its severe budget crisis, an 18% reduction is much larger than the Governor is targeting to school districts and other non-library programs and agencies.

What can be done? The library community and its supporters must now focus their attention on convincing the New York State Senate and Assembly that an 18% reduction is far too excessive. We need to convince the legislature, in its negotiations with the Governor, to reduce the percentage of the reduction.

How can you help? By contacting your senator and assemblyperson in your hometown. The easiest way to do that is to go to the New York Library Association's website and click on the button "Become a Library Advocate... Contact Your Elected Officials" to electronically send a fax. Or, click on www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=925.

In this letter, you can point out that, in times of economic duress, libraries of all types are used even more. More people use libraries to search the Internet; to search for jobs; to borrow books and audio recordings that, in better economic times, may have been purchased.

It is anticipated that the budget negotiation process will continue through March. The state fiscal year begins on April 1; however it is conceivable that, because of the difficult decisions that have to be made by our elected officials, the budget negotiating process could extend into the new fiscal year which will result in a new fiscal year without a budget. Also, an unknown is whether or not the state of New York will benefit from additional federal monies in the form of a bailout. A final budget agreement may be delayed until it is known if federal monies will be coming to the State. The situation is so fluid, that it is difficult to predict the final outcome. What is known however, is that the fiscal health of library systems is in severe jeopardy.

Thank you for your help in contacting your state legislators.

—John Shaloiko

SENYLRC Welcomes New Members

The following libraries and cultural heritage organizations have been accepted as members to the Southeastern NY Library Resources Council since October 2008. For a complete list of SENYLRC's Governing and Affiliate members: www.senylrc.org/members/directories/members.htm

Affiliate Members

Maybrook Railroad Historical Society
Maybrook, New York
(Suzanne Isaksen)

Senate House State Historic Site
Kingston, New York
(Richard Goring)

The Nyack Library
Nyack, New York
(James Mahoney)

Trinity Pawling School
Gardner Library
Pawling, New York
(Amy Foster)

Information Commons 2.0 Coming Your Way in May

Information Commons 2.0: Lessons Learned and Moving Forward, a full-day workshop will be held Thursday, May 7, 2009 at The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park, NY. Morning keynote speaker, Dr. D. Russell Bailey, is the co-author of *Transforming Library Service through Information Commons: Case Studies for the Digital Age*. The 2008 ALA publication showcases the 20 year-old movement as an exciting model of library innovation that blends new technologies and human expertise across newly reconfigured spaces to better help the library user in pursuit of learning.

While the workshop may be of special interest to academic librarians, other types of librarians will also find the concepts significant as information commons areas are now being included in public, school and medical center libraries.

Speakers for the event include

- Dr. D. Russell Bailey, Director of the Phillips Memorial Library at Providence College as our keynote speaker;
- David Murray, Executive Director, Bankier Library at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ;
- Gail Wood, Director of Libraries, SUNY Cortland
- Randall Ericson, Couper Librarian, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY.

These library directors will share lessons learned from the process of implementing an information commons in their respective libraries. There will be ample time for audience members to ask questions. We also are inviting a small number of architect firms and space designer experts to showcase their concepts.

Register online at www.senylrc.org/reg/.

Workshop fees:

- \$40 SENYLRC Governing Members
- \$50 SENYLRC Affiliate Members
- \$60 All others

This event and Nylink's Annual Meeting are scheduled back to back at The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park, NY. For more information about Nylink's Annual Meeting to be held on May 8, 2009 go to www.nylink.org/.

Personal Information on the Web Workshop taught by Robert Lackie

Popular trainer Robert Lackie, Rider University, returns to SENYLRC to teach ***Detecting and Protecting Your Digital Footprint: Identity Theft and You – Yes, You!*** The class will be held at SENYLRC on March 16, 2009 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Social networking sites, personal information and general purpose search engines, and your own home, work, and public-use computers provide considerable information on you—your digital footprint. And even though identity fraud and identity theft are on the rise (i.e., 79 million data records were breached in 2007 in the U.S. alone, 4 times more than in 2006), many people are not vigilant in protecting their privacy, identification, and good name, even though a lot of free, quality help is available to them. This session will give you information on who is at risk, the forms of ID theft, and provide a sample of the notable online identity and privacy sites. Various resources and protection organizations will also be discussed so that you can learn how to detect and protect your own digital footprint.

There will be hands-on computer time during the class. Two people will share a computer.

About the trainer:

Robert J. Lackie is an Associate Professor-Librarian at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey where he co-leads the Library Instruction Program and serves as Reference Collection Development Librarian. Recently, he was selected for inclusion into the 60th Diamond Anniversary (2006) Edition of *Who's Who in America* and in June 2006 he received the American Library Association's "2006 Kenneth Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship".

Workshop fees:

\$45 SENYLRC Governing Members

\$55 SENYLRC Affiliate Members

\$65 All others

For more information and online registration, go to www.senylrc.org/ce/.

Collaboration, Communication Showcased

"BEST program ever! I have been to numerous programs over my 15 year career...Thank you."
"The format was great- this could have been a full

day!" "This should be an annual program- continued in the future!" "Probably the most useful workshop I've attended in years!"

The cold weather and snow forecast did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the 38 librarians gathered at SENYLRC January 13 to discuss *Transitioning to College: Information Literacy Skills for the College Freshman*. Regional expertise took the center stage during the panel presentations as two high school and four academic librarians shared their experience as teachers, mentors, and instructors with the audience-participants who were fully engaged in comments and questioning.



Figure 1 Panelists Livia Sabourin, Fallsburg High School, and Ron Crovisier, Dutchess Community College

The interactive program, planned and co-sponsored by Dutchess, Sullivan, and Ulster School Library Systems and SENYLRC, demonstrated the desire of regional librarians from secondary schools to better understand the expectations of their students. The many excellent suggestions made will be available by SENYLRC to participants and other interested librarians in the form of a wiki-based forum to allow the continuation of the collaborative efforts. Look for more on this initiative in the future as this forum identified needs and the creation of a collaborative wiki will help develop more collaborative solutions.



Figure 2 Panelists Edward "Rus" Springer, SUNY New Paltz; Kathleen Kurosman, Vassar College and Angel Falcon, Mount St. Mary College. Not pictured, the program's moderator Patricia Mayo, Red Hook High School.

Does Your Library Have A Plan To Deal With Emergencies?

Regional medical librarians work together to cover colleagues in emergency situations, and the need for a more formalized Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Plan to ensure continuity of service was recently demonstrated when a member of the HLSP Emergency Preparedness Committee was hospitalized in an emergency situation. Chair of the Emergency Prep subcommittee, Sue Ben Dor, was able to step in providing backup service, supported by SENYLRC staff and several other regional colleagues to ensure that the staff of the hospital continue to have needed document delivery, reference and expert searching support.

The local planning effort is being encouraged by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Medical Library (MARL) based at NYU and by the National Library of Medicine. The excellent new National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) **Emergency Preparedness & Response Toolkit**, <http://nmlm.gov/ep/> is a rich resource which could be well used by libraries of all types in disaster planning. The focus is on developing a service continuity plan for libraries and information centers regardless of the type of disaster or emergency. The NN/LM emergency planners take an “all seasons” as well as an “all hazards” approach to preparedness! Winter weather has brought some of the most memorable disasters to libraries (see the Jan. 29, 2008 post on water damage at Renne Library, Montana State University) because of frozen and bursting pipes. It poses danger to library staff who face slick roads and sidewalks, and power outages for libraries, staff and patrons (see article on last week’s ice storm in NY, NH, MA and ME). In addition, the CDC’s “Winter Weather” tip this week details how the cold can endanger one’s heart.

Some activities to consider in preparation for the winter weather:

1. Make sure your communication information is up to date—cell and home phone numbers for key staff and administrators.
2. Think about how you can provide information services from home if you can’t get to work; proxy account? software installed? alternate voice mail ready for your phone?
3. Need any plastic sheeting for protecting your print resources or equipment in case of a water leak?

For leisure reading try “Stories Told” on the Library Disaster Stories page on the toolkit, as librarians across the country share tips and observations on their experiences that can help all of us prepare for events we hope will never occur.

- Patricia Carroll-Mathes

IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf

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Museums, Libraries, and Archives Are Urged to Apply for Free IMLS *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf* – Apply between January 5, 2009, and March 9, 2009

Based on the enthusiastic response from museum, library and archive professionals throughout the country, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will offer a third, and final, round of competition to distribute an additional 1,000 copies of the IMLS *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*. Online applications can be submitted to the **American Association for State and Local History** (AASLH) between January 5, 2009, and March 9, 2009, at www.aaslh.org/Bookshelf.

The IMLS Bookshelf, supported in the third application period by the Henry Luce Foundation, is a core set of texts that are essential for the care of collections. Valued at approximately \$800, the bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections. The final set of recipients will also receive a recently published book by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC).

The AIC Guide to Digital Photography and Conservation Documentation is a comprehensive guide to photographic equipment, software, and processing for those who use digital photography for conservation documentation. The complete Bookshelf bibliography and the list of application questions are available for review at www.aaslh.org/Bookshelf/.

Recipients of the IMLS Bookshelf will also receive two guides: *The Bookshelf User's Guide* and the *Guide to Online Resources*. Both documents are available on the IMLS Web Site at www.imls.gov/collections.

For more information, email Terry Jackson at jackson@aaah.org or call 615-320-3203.

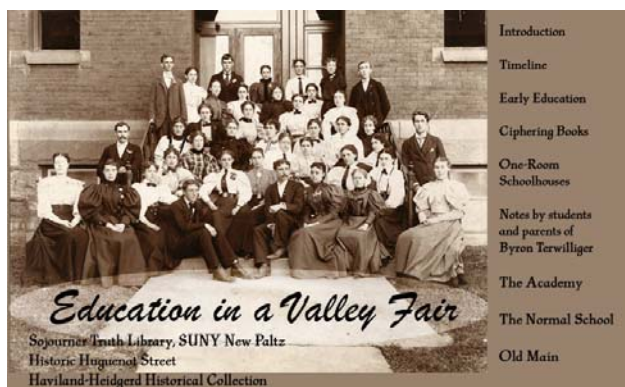
HRVH Digital Exhibits & Collaborative Collections

Many stories can be told about the people and communities in the Hudson Valley through materials housed in library, archives, and historical society collections. Some organizations that contribute digitized items to Hudson River Valley Heritage (www.HRVH.org) have taken an additional step to provide context to their digital collection. The resulting exhibit organizes the various digital items to tell the complete story, thereby giving more meaning to that HRVH collection. Here is a sampling that can be found on www.HRVH.org/exhibit/.

Education in a Valley Fair

www.hrvh.org/exhibit/educationvalleyfair/

This exhibit explores the growth of education in the New Paltz area. It is a collaborate effort of the Haviland-Heidgerd Historical Collection at Elting Library, Historic Huguenot Street and the Sojourner Truth Library at the State University of New York at New Paltz.



A Notion to Sew

www.hrvh.org/exhibit/notiontosew/

Using photographs, letters and other archival materials, this exhibit examines a group of talented and energetic women whose family history goes back to the earliest days of settlement in New Paltz and offers viewers a glimpse of their handiwork.

The Missing Chapter: Untold Stories of the African American Presence in the Mid-Hudson Valley

www.hrvh.org/exhibit/aa07/

This online exhibit contains images of historic documents and descriptive text concerning the African American presence in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

HRVH Atlas Collection

www.hrvh.org/exhibit/hvatlas/

This collection contains 19th and early 20th century historical atlases for several Hudson Valley counties, including Greene, Orange, Rockland and Sullivan.

People and Libraries in the News

Susan Stessin-Cohn, Archivist at Historic Huguenot Street, was featured on *StoryScape Hudson Valley*, broadcast on WAMC on January 16, 2009. *StoryScape Hudson Valley* was produced by Eileen McAdam and narrated by Jim Metzner. Listen online at:

www.soundandstory.org/gallery4.html?site_id=550&id_sub=30808&page_id=41018&productgallery_id=1

The Mid-Hudson Library System was awarded the 2008 Joseph E. Schubert Library Excellence Award for their "Health Information Project."

The Hastings Center recently published *From Birth to Death and Bench to Clinic: The Hastings Center Bioethics Briefing Book for Journalists, Policymakers, and Campaigns*. The book contains 36 overviews of issues in bioethics of high public interest. It is available in print and a free online version: www.thehastingscenter.org/publications/briefingbook/.

Former SENYLRC Board Member, Joanne H. Rein died at home November 27 after a four-month battle with lung cancer. A lifelong New Yorker, Joanne earned her BA from the University of Wisconsin. She married Samuel Rein in 1949. They moved to the Hudson Valley in 1952 and resided there until Joanne's death. In 1959, she went back to work, then went on to earn her Master's degree in Library Science from the State University of New York (SUNY) while working full time and carrying on with her responsibilities as a wife and mother. She retired from the Sojourner Truth Library at SUNY New Paltz as the head of the Acquisitions Department after more than 25 years of service. Joanne served for ten years from 1982 – 1992 on the Southeastern Board, including five terms as Vice-President and three terms as President. After retiring, Joanne served on the Board of Directors of the Barrett Art Center, and worked in the library and chaired the library committee at Vassar Temple/Congregation Brethren of Israel. Whatever Joanne did, she brought her level-headed intelligence to the task at hand. She loved books and beautiful things and tried to do a mitzvah every day.