

SLAWNY Direct



Get Your Baskets Ready! 2011 SLMS Conference Update

Make sure you've got May 5-7, 2011 marked on your calendars for the 2011 SLMS Conference that is being held at the Adam's Mark Buffalo-Niagara. Since the conference is being sponsored by SLAWNY, we will be looking for lots of volunteers to help make this the best conference yet.

One way members are being asked to help is to come together as school districts to make a theme basket to raffle off at the conference. Not sure what kind of basket to make? Pick your favorite book and build a theme basket

around it! Proceeds from the raffle will be used to defray conference costs. Beth Stancl will be collecting baskets from February through April. Thank you in advance to all participating districts!

Check the SLAWNY website, www.slawny.bfn.org, for more information. To volunteer, contact conference co-chairs Jim Clark (JClark@opschools.org) and Beth Stancl (bstancl@clar.wnyric.org). Any marketing ideas for the conference are also welcome.

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Spotlight on... Ryan Ayers

-Kristin Platko, SLMS Maryvale Primary School, Maryvale

As someone who used to "hate reading," Ryan Ayers is forever grateful to his mother (and Harry Potter) for tricking him into reading and "igniting the spark of life," that not only keeps him turning pages, but also inspired him to become a school librarian.

For the past three years, Ryan has worked as the library media specialist at Orchard Park High School. Working with Sue Ketzer, Ryan has described himself as fortunate to "work with a woman whose vision and determination have built a powerhouse library program." Working with Sue has not only been an enlightening and rewarding experience for Ryan, but he also de-

scribes her as a great friend for years to come.

At the high school, Ryan embraces the opportunity to collaborate with teachers in bringing new forms of technology to the staff and students. He credits teachers like Todd Robida (AP Gov.) for bringing an enthusiasm that help him to facilitate an array of Web 2.0 tools.



When he's not busy being a library media specialist, Ryan likes to travel. At least once a year, he tries to

answer the call of the strange and exotic places of the world that beckon him. He describes it as a thirst that cannot be quenched. He also enjoys spending time with his family at their cottage on the beautiful Keuka Lake.

When asked the obligatory librarian question of what is your favorite book or author, Ryan happily obliges with the answer, "why not both?" For its passion, adventure, fortune, and revenge, he names The Count of Monte Cristo as his favorite book. His favorite author is Steven Coffman from Dundee, NY. Coffman's writings about his life in the Finger Lakes bring back found memories of Ryan's own childhood.

West Seneca East's Hometown Heroes Program Honored

-Sandy Eichelberger, SLMS West Seneca East High School, West Seneca



West Seneca East High School's Hometown Heroes Day has been awarded the Western New York Library Resource Council's Outstanding Program/Service Award for 2010. This program began 7 years ago and has been coordinated by Sandy Eichelberger, the school's librarian. Each year this award is given to one program that demonstrates "excellence either in service to patrons and libraries, or for specific library programming." Mr. Winnicki, East's Assistant Principal, was instrumental in getting this honor by submitting the program to WNYLRC. This is the first time a school library program has been honored with this award.

Hometown Heroes Day is celebrated around Memorial Day, and each year it involves about a dozen veterans who served in a war or conflict. These war veterans spend the day in the library in informal discussion groups with small groups of students. Approximately 400 students are able to hear the veterans during a single day and the intimate atmosphere lends itself to a meaningful dialog. There have been almost 40 different veterans, both male and female, who have participated in this

event over the years and many are returnees who wish to share their stories again and again. The veteran speakers often have a connection to the West Seneca Community and many are former graduates of East, residents of West Seneca, or relatives of students and staff. It is a rewarding experience for the students, the teachers and the veterans themselves.

Sandy Eichelberger has been impressed by the way the veterans and the community embrace this program. The veteran guests are most appreciative and have shown their thanks by donating items such as books and medals to the library. These donations are an important addition to the annual display. Each year the library commemorates the sacrifice our veterans make by displaying photographs, uniforms, military patches, and medals of family members of East's staff who have served in the military during wartime.

"...the souls of our veterans are the window to our past and the glimmer of hope in their eyes lights the way for the next generation."

Listening to the firsthand accounts of wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Gulf War, Vietnam, Korea and WW II, students can make connections to their curriculum. The program has truly extended beyond the walls of the school to become a com-

munity event that is eagerly anticipated by the school as well as the veterans. Sandy Eichelberger appreciates the honor from WNYLRC but acknowledges that the event is a team effort which includes donations from the administration and the Student Council, the hard work of the library support staff and custodial crew, the FACS students' culinary contributions, the cooperation of teachers and students and also of the Library Book Club students who assist with the day. This past year, East's concert band played a mini concert of patriotic songs that was a moving tribute to the honored guests.

Hometown Heroes was formally recognized at the WNYLRC Membership Meeting held at the Pearl Street Grill and Brewery on Oct. 6th. Sandy received a commemorative award and the program will be recognized on a plaque permanently displayed at WNYLRC headquarters. WNYLRC noted in its' award notification: "The involvement of the community, the pride felt by the veterans and certainly the first-person education witnessed by your students is a glowing example of what a school library can offer all ages." Mr. Braunscheidel, East's AP American History teacher summed up the importance of this event by saying: "Like grandparents, the souls of our veterans are the window to our past and the glimmer of hope in their eyes lights the way for the next generation."

Meet the Board & Committee Chairs

President: Leslie Occhiuto

The Park School

Leslie has been a member of SLAWNY since she was a library student in the early 1990's. Members would be surprised to learn that she is married to a former professional soccer player!

President-Elect: Donn Meadows-Riggs

Alden Middle School, Alden Central School District

Donn has been involved with SLAWNY for about 13 years. Members might be surprised to know that she considers herself a French hillbilly! She was born in Kentucky and her mother is French. She has lived in 3 counties and 10 states. She also attended 13 different schools, ending at UB.

Secretary: Lydia Wrobel

West Seneca West Middle School, West Seneca Central School District

This is Lydia's 4th year in SLAWNY. Members might be surprised to know that she collects and DJs vinyl records, but only house music (club/dance music).

Treasurer: Pat Kotz

D.B. Bunce Elementary School, Pavilion Central School District

Pat has been a SLAWNY member since the 1998-1999 school years. Members might be surprised to learn that she likes to fish. Her dream is to go deep sea fishing some day.

BSLA Representative: TBD

DLIS Representative: Christie Waterman

University at Buffalo

This is Christie's first year in SLAWNY. Something surprising about Christie is that she climbed a rope ladder to swing on a trapeze, all while being afraid of heights!

Membership Chair/Publicity: Tina Pierce

Arcade Elementary School, Pioneer Central School District

This is Tina's 4th year in SLAWNY. Members might be surprised to know that librarianship is her second career. She spent 8 years working in local television news in Buffalo, NY and Charlotte, NC before entering the SLMS program at UB.

Past-President: Debra Kozlowski

Holland High School, Holland Central School District

Debra has been a member of SLAWNY for 15 years. Members might be surprised to know that she has a turtle who turned 30 on November 4th and a cat who will be 18 in May!

Historian: Pat Burgstahler

Jefferson Elementary School, Ken-Ton Union Free School District

Pat has been a member of SLAWNY since around 1990 when she was a student at UB. Members would be surprised to know that she fell out of a helicopter on her honeymoon and she has ridden over 50,000 miles on a motorcycle with her husband!

Awards: Ann Marie Wik

Lancaster High School, Lancaster Central School District

Ann Marie has been a SLAWNY member for 22 years. Members would be surprised to know she took two of her grandchildren to Wilmington, NC and visited all the places the show *One Tree Hill* is filmed. Unfortunately, they did not see any cast members!

Webmaster: Emily Kordasiewicz

Ledgeview Elementary School, Clarence Central School District

Emily has been a SLAWNY member for about 24 years. Members might be surprised to know that she studied in Valencia, Spain for a semester in college.

Publicity: Maria Muhlbauer

Warsaw Middle/High School, Warsaw Central School District

This is Maria's 5th year in SLAWNY. Members might be surprised to learn that she is playing Mary Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life* at the Springville Center for the Arts next month.

Publicity: Kristin Piatko

Maryvale Primary School, Maryvale Union Free School District

This is Kristin's 4th year in SLAWNY. Members would be surprised to know that she is currently experiencing the ups and downs of renovating her first house.



SLAWNY Stars

-Compiled by Maria Muhlbauer, Warsaw Middle/High School SLMS, SLAWNY Publicity Committee

Gretchen Baldauf (Edison Elementary School, Kenmore-Tonawanda) is a current member of the NYS Reading Association's Charlotte Award Committee. This committee is charged with developing the 2012 ballot for the Charlotte Award in these categories: picture books, intermediate novels, young adult novels. The Charlotte Award is given every two years to quality literature as voted on by NYS students. Gretchen has been reading, evaluating and communicating with other committee members across NYS for the past year and a half. The committee meets regularly at NYSRA meetings and will announce its ballot in April 2011 at the NYSRA annual conference in Saratoga Springs. She is interested in getting input from other librarians and teachers in Western New York about the nominees. Gretchen is also willing to speak to interested groups about the award and the selection process.

Brendan Fallon and Sandy Stone (Orchard Park Middle School) hosted a successful author visit this September. The school's library and English Department, working with funding from the PTO, invited Tim Green, author and former NFL football player to their school. Tim held everyone's attention as he spoke of his experiences growing up in central New York State, avidly playing sports, loving reading and writing, and eventually joining the Atlanta Falcons for a pro-football career before becoming a lawyer, an author, and raising a family of five. His animated delivery, enthusiasm and honesty about life's realities and values was appreciated by students and teachers from all curricular areas and really sparked a reading frenzy for his well-written and engaging middle school novels. Of note, too, is the fact that Tim waves his speaker's fee, asking that the money be used to purchase his books to be given out to the students. Brendan and Sandy chose *Baseball Great* for entering 6th graders and a selection of his other books for all 7th and 8th grade English classrooms. Visit www.timgreenbooks.com for more information about Tim Green.

Carolyn Giambra (Retired Instructional Specialist, Williamsville Central School District) has been chosen to be a judge for the national Letters About Literature contest. Other judges include Ellen Rubin, Sara Kelly Johns, and authors Elizabeth Levy and Charles R. Smith, Jr. To learn more about this contest go to www.lettersaboutliterature.org. At last count there were less than ten entries from New York students, so the odds of winning are really good!

Stephanie Kreutter is the new library media specialist at William Kaegebein Elementary in the Grand Island Central School District.

Megan Moelbert (Hamburg Middle School) hosted an Olympic Athlete, featured at Hamburg Middle School's Family Reading Night! The 6th annual Family Reading Night took place on Friday, November 5, from 6:30 – 9 pm. There was exciting activities, live music by Hamburg students, door prizes, refreshments, and more. Considering this year's guest speaker - Matt DePeters, Vancouver Olympics athlete and Hamburg graduate, the theme was "ONE WORLD, ONE DREAM."

Maria Muhlbauer (Warsaw Middle/High School) was awarded tenure in September 2010. She was recently spotlighted at a Warsaw School Board meeting for her use of Voicethread technology in the library.

Roger R. Paolini (Williamsville South High School) was awarded the New York State Theatre Education Association's Rod Marriott Award for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre Education on October 2, 2010 in New York City at the annual NYSTEA conference. Roger has been a NYSTEA member since 1984 and a member of its Board of Trustees since 1994. He has served as President for six years and is currently Vice-President. Roger has taught at Williamsville South for thirty years. He also promoted South's fall production of *Our Town*, to be presented November 4-6, and the school's upcoming production of *Les Miserables*, which will be staged February 10-13, 2011.

Kristin Piatko is the new library media specialist at Maryvale Primary School.

SLAWNY Membership Chair **Tina Pierce** is the new library media specialist at Arcade Elementary School in the Pioneer Central School District.

SLAWNY Secretary **Lydia Wrobel** was awarded tenure in September 2010. Lydia spent her first year at West Seneca West High School before moving to West Seneca West Middle School, where she is currently starting her fourth year. Her portfolio is online and available at www.lydiawrobel.com.

Networks and Groups

-Maria Muhlbauer, Warsaw Middle/High School SLMS, SLAWNY Publicity Committee



SLAWNY offers a variety of networks and groups that meet periodically throughout the year to discuss issues in school librarianship. These groups are located throughout Western New York and are open to any SLAWNY member.

Northtowns Elementary Network

Contact: Carole Brox - broxhawk@gmail.com

A discussion and interest group, this network meets on select Saturday mornings at Heritage Heights Elementary School in Amherst from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Although the focus has been on elementary school librarianship, this network has become a group that discusses all levels. The 2010-2011 meeting dates are as follows:

Saturday, November 20, 2010: Field Trips – Working within a Budget
 Saturday, March 5, 2011: Author Visit Options
 Saturday, April 2, 2011: Cataloging and “Catnapping”
 Saturday, May 21, 2011: Weeding – The Best Criteria

Northtowns Elementary Network

Contacts: Carol Palumbo - Central Avenue Elementary, cpalumbo@lancaster.wnyric.org
 Heidi Ginal – Heim Elementary, hginal@williamsvillek12.org

This group is primarily composed of members from K-3 and K-5 schools. Discussion centers upon lessons that have worked well, research project ideas, great stories, management techniques, reading incentives, character education, and much more! Each person attending is asked to bring one or two ideas to share with the group. Meetings are from 3:45 PM until 6:15 PM.

Monday, November 29, 2010 at Jefferson Elementary (Ken-Ton)
 Monday, January 24, 2011 at Heim Elementary (Williamsville)
 Monday, February 28, 2011 at Maple East Elementary (Williamsville)
 Monday, March 28, 2011 at William Street Elementary (Lancaster)
 Monday, May 23, 2011 at St. Gregory’s School (Williamsville)

Southtowns Elementary Network

Contacts: Jim Clark – Windom Elementary, jclark@opschools.org
 Jessica Kornacki – Ellicott Elementary, jkornacki@opschools.org

This network meets in the Meeting Room at the Orchard Park Library at 4570 South Buffalo Street in Orchard Park. Meetings run from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM. All are welcome for an open discussion about elementary library topics on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
 Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Networks and Groups (continued)

-Maria Muhlbauer, Warsaw Middle/High School SLMS, SLAWNY Publicity Committee

Middle School Network

Contact: Becky Silverman, Sweet Home Middle, rsilverman@shs.k12.ny.us

Are you ready to re-invigorate yourself, re-charge your library program, and re-connect with others? Join the Middle School Network! This network usually gathers at a restaurant or at a network member's library. If you have topics you would like to discuss or ideas about where to meet, be sure to contact Becky.

Tuesday, December 7, 2010 – How to do More with Less

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 – Topic TBA

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – Topic TBA

High School Network

Contact: Sandy Eichelberger - West Seneca East High, seichelberger@wscschools.org

Traveling to various high school libraries around Western New York, the High School Network will be discussing issues facing high school libraries. All meetings will run from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Locations for these meetings are to be determined at a later date.

Tuesday, November 30, 2010 – Budget Allocation Discussion

Thursday, March 3, 2011 – AASL Standards

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 – Promoting Reading

Travel Group

Contact: Sandy Eichelberger - West Seneca East High, seichelberger@wscschools.org

The SLAWNY Travel Group is a small group of librarians who visit cultural and historical sites in the local area. Some of the outings in the past have included walking tours of Parkside and Williamsville, visits to the Pan Am display at the Historical Society and a tour of Forest Lawn. Just this past summer, the group took an Open Air Architectural tour of Buffalo. These visits are coordinated by Sandy Eichelberger but participants must pay for their own tour ahead of time. The next excursion will be a Holiday Stained Glass bus tour of local churches. The tour is on Saturday, Dec 4th from 9AM-3PM.

YA Book Club

Contact: Sandy Eichelberger - West Seneca East High, seichelberger@wscschools.org

The purpose of the YA Book Club is for librarians to discuss their favorite YA books of various genres. Instead of members reading the same book, members read a variety of books and bring a list of their favorites to share with the group. These lists are compiled into a spreadsheet which members may use to assist in readers' advisory. All meetings will take place from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM at locations to be determined. The topics for the year are:

Tuesday, December 7, 2010 – Dystopian/Post-Apocalyptic

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 – Physical Challenges/Illness/Disabilities

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – Newer Problem Novels (2008-2011)

Elementary Book Suggestions



-Charlie Kelly, SLMS School #8, Rochester City Schools & SLMS Region VII Coordinator

As a new elementary school librarian, I have used the following books in lessons and found them to be great read alouds for students!

***Miss Brooks Loves Books (and I don't)* by Barbara Bottner Illustrated by Michael Emberley**

Before I started to read this book, I asked the students if they liked to read. And surprise, surprise...some students said NO! Miss Brooks, the librarian, in the story is quite excited about reading and the 1st grade girl who narrates the story is not. Students will laugh at the antics of Miss Brooks during story time and how the 1st grade narrator resists finding a book to share during book week. The narrator even asks her mother if she can move to another town to get out of the assignment.

***Calvin Can't fly: The story of a Book-worm Birdie* by Jennifer Berne Illus-**

trated by Keith Bendis ISBN-13: 978-1402773235

This humorous and colorful illustrated picture book will receive plenty of chuckles from your students. Calvin, a bird, enjoys reading and spending time in the library instead of learning how to fly is teased by his family. Many students may understand being teased because they love to spend time in the library. When the family is ready to fly South, Calvin is unable to fly. His family helps him by rigging up a way to tow Calvin. When bad weather strikes, Calvin with all of his knowledge from reading book is able to alert his family that it is a hurricane and directs his family to safety. In the end, Calvin, realizes he can fly even though he spent so much time in the library. This book is great because it supports how reading can take the reader to places of wonder.

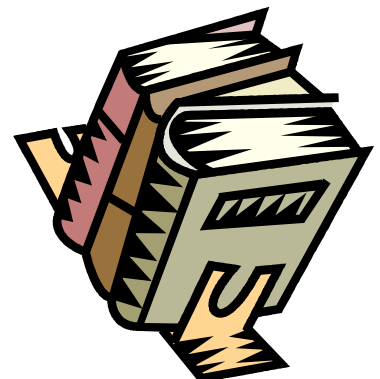
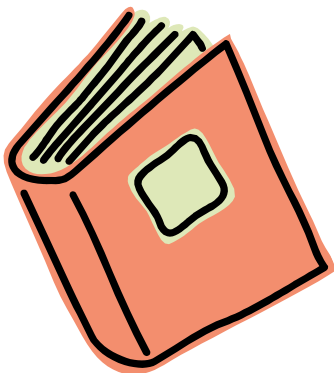
***The 13 Days of Halloween* by Carol Greene Illustrated by Tim Raglin ISBN-**

13: 978-1402230967

Students will be delighted to sing along to this book when sung to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas". But to forewarned, if you are like me and you can't sing it's better to read the book! Students will still be able to recognize the patterns in the book.

***Scaredy-Cat, Splat* by Rob Scotton ISBN-13: 978-0061177606**

Another hilarious Splat the cat book to add to your collection. Splat wants to win the prize for being the scariest cat for Halloween but as the illustrations show he looks more silly than scary! Even Splat's pumpkin has a smiling face. His teacher, Mrs. Wimpydimple, reads a story with the lights turned down to the class and scares everyone. All of the cats including Splat are scared and his jack of lantern lands on his head. Now everyone is afraid of the floating pumpkin head. Guess now who wins the prize for being the scariest!



School Librarians' Association of Western New York presents...



Maria Scrivani
and

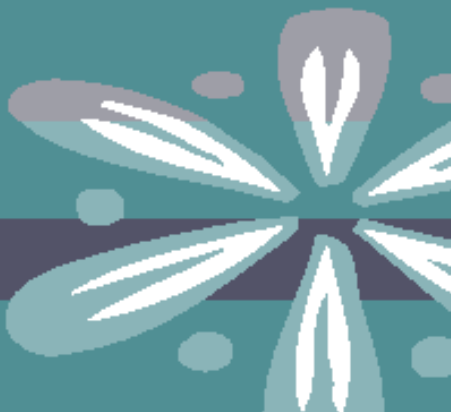
Kimberly Thompson

Maria Scrivani, local author and journalist, and Kimberly Thompson, author of *Toulouse on the Loose*, will be speaking about their experiences as authors. Limited copies of Scrivani's latest book, *Brighter Buffalo: Renewing a City*, will be available for purchase (\$21.70, checks preferred).

Wednesday, November 17th, 2010 at 4:30 pm

**Nichols School Reading Room (Albright Hall)
1250 Amherst Street
Buffalo, NY 14216**

For more information, please contact Leslie Occhiuto
at leslieo@theparkschool.org





"Learning4Life@ your Library"



Writers needed!

Did you go to a great event? Do you have a lesson that is out of this world? Or do you have advice for a new school library media specialist? SLAWNY Direct would like you to write about it for our next issue! Contact the Publicity Committee for details!

Maria Muhlbauer, Warsaw Middle/High School, Warsaw Central School District

Kristin Piatko, Maryvale Primary School, Maryvale Union Free School District

Tina Pierce, Arcade Elementary School, Pioneer Central School District

SLAWNY.Publicity.Committee@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
<http://slawny.bfn.org/>

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 4:30 pm @ Nichols School, 1250 Amherst Street, Buffalo, NY 14216. We will meet in the Reading Room to *LEARN* from local author and journalist Maria Scrivani. Limited copies of Maria's latest book *Brighter Buffalo: Renewing a City* will be available for purchase (\$21.70).

November 21-24, 2010 - NY-SCATE Conference, "Impact the future - Sharing Responsibility for Tomorrow" in Rochester, New York. Keynote speakers: Steve Berlin Johnson & Heidi Hayes Jacobs.

Thursday, February 10, 2011 4:30 pm @Lancaster High School, 1 Forton Drive, Lancaster, NY 14086. "Weeding Buddies." *LEARN* from an expert. Sue Bartle will offer a brief tutorial on weeding and then lead us in a hands-on weeding session. Participants will work with a weeding buddy to actually begin weeding a section of the Lancaster Library. Don't miss this opportunity to *LEARN* how to develop and maintain a collection that will motivate and attract your students, faculty, and staff.

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 4:30 pm @ The Karpeles Museum, 220 North St. (corner of Elmwood & North) Buffalo 14201. *LEARN* about the museum, the historic documents, and the educational resources offered.

May 5-7, 2011 - SLAWNY presents the Annual SLMS Conference in Buffalo New York!! "Learning4Life@YourLibrary." Keynote speaker: Dr. Marcia Mardis from Florida State University; Knickerbocker Winner: Linda Sue Park. Also: Buffy Hamilton, The Unquiet Librarian, AND MUCH MORE!!

