

## President's Corner

With the arrival of 2015, I want to wish everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The New Year will bring about many changes, as is always the case; especially in the library community. ALA will once again thrust itself into the politics of doing whatever it can to support library workers and the institutions they represent but most importantly ALA will fight to serve and protect libraries. As we struggle to see the financial support of and for libraries change throughout the country; we will forever do our best to stay true to our mission of serving all with dignity and respect. And to protect the basic rights of freedom of expression and speech. We will continue to work at helping the many to gain intellectual freedom and with the increased demand on technology we will strive to be technology havens.

Here in New York City we are working on various fronts and with various partners to truly attempt something that has only been discussed and dreamt of. "Financial freedom!" No more counting pennies to see if we can even open our doors, improve our technology, assist our communities and the list goes on. The Financial Freedom to know that we will always have the funding we need to make sure we never have to scale back on programs and services that our communities and our patrons; not only want but need. The Financial Freedom to repair what has been neglected and broken; with the goal to make all of New York City's libraries beacons of light into the future.

Support your library!

Support the American Library Association!

Support Library Workers!



**LSSIRT President  
Valentin Colon**

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# New LSSIRT Board Members

## Jennifer Dale

Member-at-Large (2015/2017)

from Forsyth County Public Library, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Biography to follow in the next issue.

## Miguel Magos

Member-at-Large (2014/2016)

from City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, California.

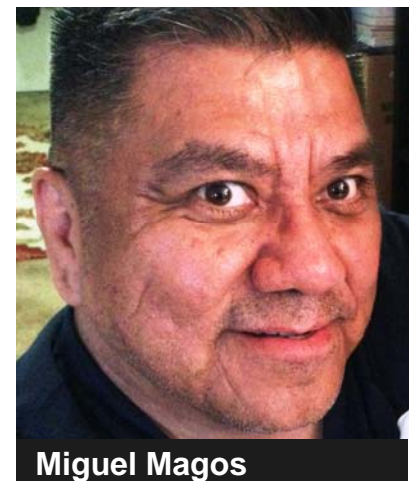
Biography below.

## A Brief Bio of Miguel Magos

My name is Miguel Magos and I was born and raised in central California. I have been involved in the library field for 32 years beginning with my first job right out of high school. Throughout the years, I have worked in all levels of libraries from K-8, high school, law, public and even put in some time working for an EPA Superfund library here in San Francisco. Approximately 15 years ago, I moved to San Francisco to take on a position with the Daly City Public Library where I gained much of my experience in libraries and even had an opportunity to run a branch in our system.

Six years ago, the opportunity to work at an Academic library came along, and I took on my current position at City College of San Francisco, which is where I have been since. I started as a Circulation Staff member with my main duties centered around serving the students, staff & public on our campus. Just this month, I took over the position of Acting Supervisor for the Circulation Department at the main Rosenberg Library, and look forward to leading the direction for our department.

Becoming involved with ALA has always been a dream of mine, and I look forward to involving myself in helping to create a direction where all support staff in the field feel welcome, can participate, and can involve themselves in the future of ALA.



# LSSCP Update

More Than 100 Graduates! The ALA-APA is very excited to announce that during the month of December 2014, the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program surpassed 100 graduates! We would like to thank all of our graduates, current candidates, providers, and ALA committee members for helping us reach this milestone. To find out more about the LSSC Program, please visit the [LSSC web site](#).



ALA-APA

## Brief Report on NYLA 2014 by Valentin Colon

This year's NYLA conference was held in beautiful Saratoga Springs, NY from November 5-8. It was a pretty good conference but unfortunately in my opinion NYLA needs to do more to improve its commitment to "all" library workers.

The keynote speaker on November 6, Rich Harwood, founder and president of The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, spoke to a standing room only crowd. And it was a great session. It was inspirational and helped to set the tone for what should have been a fantastic conference; but I guess I didn't see it that way after the conference was over.

A new mission statement for NYLA was approved by the membership.

"NYLA leads, educates, and advocates for the advancement of the New York library community"

Excitement was in the air on the morning of November 7, when the electricity in half the conference hotel went out and a mad dash to not only find the problem but to help keep workshops going ensued. One workshop in particular didn't really need any help, "Rethinking Library Space". This workshop took place in what turned out to be the WRONG room; it was way too small for the crowd that was in the room. I believe the workshop was in violation of the fire codes for the room occupancy. This workshop was unfortunately in such demand that many more prospective participants were turned away due to overcrowding and unfortunately poor planning. Well, this room lost electrical power but it did not lose participants; who actually started to use their cell phones to light the room. This is a hot button topic that is affecting every library in the country.

Some workshops were well attended while others really didn't really keep crowds interested. One issue that I have was the fact that presenters are not told to make their presentations geared to a mixed crowd of "library workers"; we are not all librarians. It's hard to be a representative of the support staff yet the workshops are done with only librarians in mind. Hopefully the powers that be at NYLA will take my survey comments into consideration when planning next year's NYLA conference; to be held October 21-24, 2015 in scenic Lake Placid, NY. And by the way, NYLA will be celebrating its 125th anniversary!

# LSSCP Graduate Spotlight

Name: **Sheila Tawney**

Employer: Williamsburg Regional Library

Job Title: Technical Services Professional

LSSCP Graduation Date: July 2013



*What aspects of the program were beneficial to you?*

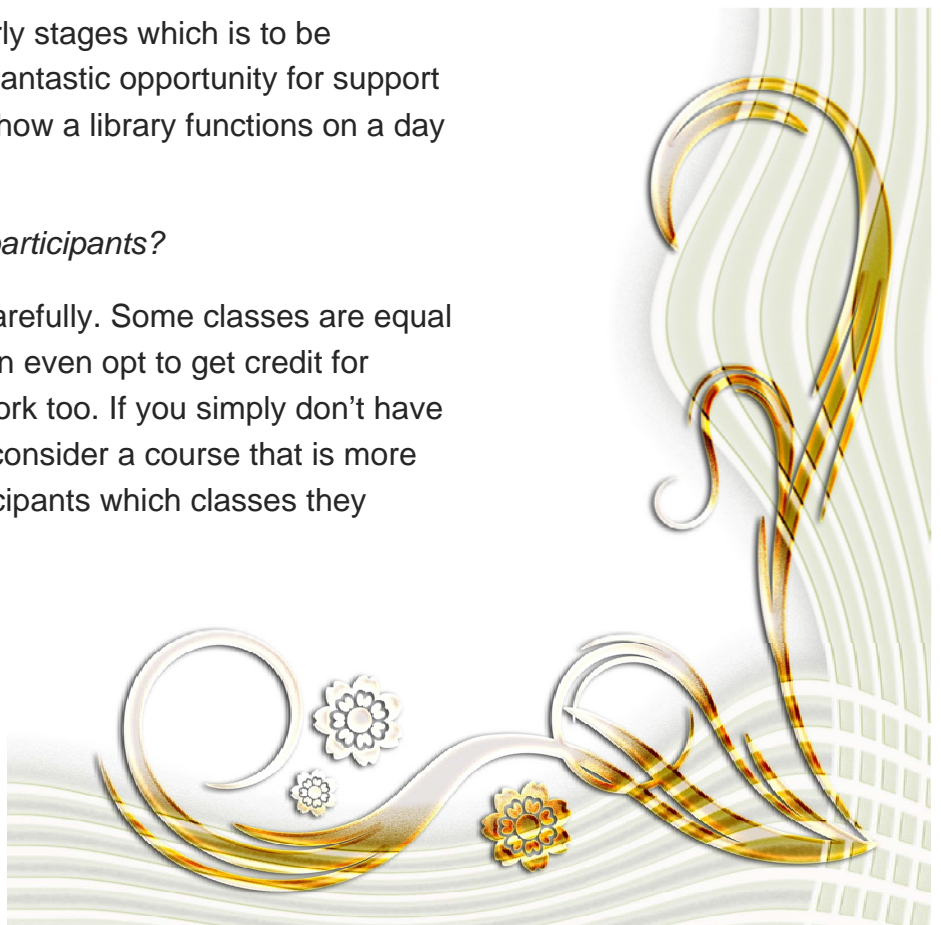
I was one of the first people to join the program. There weren't that many courses to choose from at the time. However, they were all quality courses. I learned so much about the other departments in my library, how decisions were made and why. I did not receive a pay raise or promotion for taking the program but I did receive lots of accolades. I gained invaluable knowledge.

*Since you were one of the first participants in the LSSC Program, how has the program progressed over the years?*

There are many more courses to choose from now and the prices are quite a bit cheaper. The program has been streamlined and is much more efficient than in the early stages which is to be expected. I think the program is a fantastic opportunity for support staff to grow in their knowledge of how a library functions on a day to day basis.

*What advice would you give new participants?*

Look over the course curriculum carefully. Some classes are equal to taking an MLS class and you can even opt to get credit for them. But you have to put in the work too. If you simply don't have the time for that then you need to consider a course that is more time efficient. Also, ask other participants which classes they recommend.







## LSSIRT Meeting at ALA Mid-Winter

The LSSIRT Steering Committee will be meeting on Saturday January 31st at 8:30am-11:30am in the Hilton Chicago Private Dining Room #2 on the 3rd floor of the hotel. We welcome visitors and look forward to you joining us.



## Hungry in Chicago? By Jennifer Kutzik

UNO, DUE, LOU: For the food-lover in me, visiting Chicago always rates a red alert! I dream of Frango mints, beef dogs and of course, the ultimate decadence of deep-dish pizza. Mama Mia! Did you know that Americans eat approximately 100 acres of pizza each day, or 350 slices per second? But who really makes the best pizza in town? Residents of the Windy city maintain steadfast allegiances to 3 top destinations: Pizzeria Uno, Pizzeria Due (pronounced Doo-A) and Lou Malnati's. Having previously eaten at Unos and Dues, it was time to try Lou's. In addition to being named the number one pizza in Chicago by AOL City Guide, they boast their pizzas are made according to the family's original, five-decades-old, deep-dish pizza recipe. That distinction is important, because Lou's dad, Rudy, used to work for Ike Sewell (the owner of Uno's and Due's and considered the originator of Chicago deep dish pizza). Some say Rudy stole Ike's crust recipe when he left Unos. Nevertheless, when it came time to sample our pie, we weren't disappointed – just overwhelmed by a pizza the size of a truck tire dubbed "The Deluxe." The menu described it as "Sausage, mushroom, onion & green peppers: All that is good." As the steaming pan was delivered to our table, I searched in vain for the meat, the Italian pork sausage (after all, we were in the Midwest, home to all things pork!) My brother, a Chicago resident and Lou aficionado, pushed aside the myriad of toppings to reveal a solid layer of sausage. Unbelievable! It brought tears to my Hoosier-raised eyes. Suffice it to say that after only one wedge, I was too stuffed for even a tiny Frango mint for dessert. The true genius of the sausage layer became crystal clear when I read about Lou's new "Crustless Pizza." For those who are gluten intolerant or following a low-carbohydrate diet, this pizza "crust" is made totally from sausage and then topped with tomato sauce and fresh mozzarella cheese. It's another Chicago first! You can read all about it on the Web, or even order your own! [www.loumalnatis.com](http://www.loumalnatis.com).



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Our mission is to provide an arena within ALA for programming, communication and networking for library support staff.



**Sign-up for the LSSIRT Members-Only E-list!**

For timely updates and for networking with LSSIRT colleagues, be sure and sign-up for the very low volume LSSIRT e-list.

To sign-up, send an e-mail to Lorelle Swader at...

[lswader@ala.org](mailto:lswader@ala.org) with your ALA membership number and ask to be subscribed.

