

Local 1321 News

DISTRICT COUNCIL 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
 125 Barclay Street New York, NY 10007
 (212) 815-1188 • Spring 2015 Vol. 15, No. 1

Queens Office:

Local 1321
 Woodside Community Library
 54-22 Skillman Avenue
 Woodside, New York 11377
 (718) 779-0787

DC 37 Office:

Local 1321
 125 Barclay Street
 New York, NY 10007-2179
 (212) 815-1188

E-mail: local1321@gmail.com

www.local1321.org

twitter: @local1321

President

John Hyslop

Executive Vice President

Margaret Gibson

Vice President Clerical

Roma Ramdhan

Vice President Blue Collar

Thomas Wynn

Vice President Librarians

Kerline Piedra

Vice President Professional & Technical
 (Non-Librarian)

Kyle Douglas

Secretary

Ann-Marie Josephs

Treasurer

Chinyu Lin

Chief Steward

Deborah Wynn

Blue Collar Representative

Michael Nooney

Clerical Representative

Barbara Holloway

Librarian Representative

Elizabeth "Pat" Eshun

DC 37 Delegates

**Dorrett Hextall, Nazima Mohammed,
 Mike Wong, Deborah Wynn**

Trustees

**Linda Bannerman-Martin,
 Sharon Diamond-Velox**

Safety and Health Committee

**Mike Nooney, Mike Wong,
 Elizabeth "Pat" Eshun**

local1321safetyhealth@gmail.com

President's Message—

This Fiscal Year Is Our Year...If We Take Ownership



John Hyslop
President

FOR the past seven years, New York City has suffered through the Great Recession. This had a direct impact on our working lives. It gave our previous director the excuse to lay off 44 of our brothers and sisters. It prevented the library from hiring any public service staff. It led to our materials budget being cut to a bare minimum. It drastically affected us, our work and the services we provide.

This year is different. For the first time since 2008, New York City is expecting a budget surplus. Every city agency will be clamoring for more money. The three library systems have told the politicians that they need \$55 million and have committed to hiring hundreds of staff. Queens Library committed to hire 250 staff.

This is basic politics, in the most positive sense. Our City Council members and mayor need to craft a budget. They need to decide what city services are going to get extra funding. If we want to get the extra funding we need to make ourselves heard. They need to know that the work you do is vital to sustaining, strengthening and supporting their council districts. They need to know that our work has a direct and positive impact on their constituents.

To make the strongest case for us, Local 1321 re-formed its Budget Action Committee.

(Continued on page 2)

Local 1321 Speaks at City Council Budget Hearing



Branch Manager Sharon Banks, standing, with Mattie Bell, center and Veleste Hannah at the Pomonok branch library.

THE New York City Council's Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and the Sub-Committee on Libraries kicked off FY 2016 budget politics with their hearing on March 20, 2015. On behalf of all of us, the three libraries' directors, employees and supporters testified about how inadequate library funding is not meeting our growing demand.

Local 1321 members Christian Arff-

man, Kane Noel, Vesna Simon, Mike Wong, Deborah Wynn and Thomas Wynn all talked about the how important our services are to our communities and told the City Council that we do not have enough staff and material to meet our customers' demands. Friends Groups from Cambria Heights, Corona, Laurelton, Jackson Heights, Lefrak City and Richmond Hill also came out to testify.

This was an important step in our budget advocacy efforts.

President's Message continued from page 1...

We will work with the library administration to support you in your advocacy for our budget. We will assist you with your efforts, offering ideas and suggestions, and will encourage you to take ownership of your future. Start thinking about how the branch you work in can have an impact. If you have a popular program, invite your City Council member to it.

If you want to have a rally, invite the City Council member. Our City Council members need to fully understand the impact our public library has on the lives of their constituents.

Take ownership of our destiny and be involved.

In solidarity,
John Hyslop
President

We Will Miss Bona Soanes—

One Tremendous Loss for Adult Education

By Michelle Brown-Johnston

BONA SOANES was a kindhearted educator who always found time to give back. Bona was always the first to volunteer to facilitate tutor trainings, ABE trainings, and staff development workshops, when all others in the room hesitated. She had a flair for dramatic presentations, although she never spoke much louder than a whisper. She embodied dedication to her craft. She knew that she could make a writer out of any student she took the time to get to know. Their personal stories fueled her passion to give the voiceless a voice.

Her zest for life and creative interpretations in her lessons and staff development kept her busy for hours long after the work day was done. She would collect items overlooked in our daily lives to re-introduce them as lively stimuli for literacy lessons. Who else could design a semester's curriculum around a leaf?

Bona Soanes was exhilarated by defying all odds, learning new cultures, sharing knowledge, and empowering the learner. She was the creative force behind many programs that continue in the Elmhurst Adult Learning Center today:

- **Student Showcase** (*a week-long celebration of student talents and abilities*)
- **Student Writing Presentations**



(a celebration of students' completed writings, read by the students at a podium before an audience of their peers)

- **International Food Exchange** (*staff and students prepare recipes from a culture unlike their own and bring in the dishes to be sampled and introduced*)

- **Audiobook Club** (*a book club that presents audiobooks so that all learners, ESOL and ABE alike, are on an equal footing—they must use their ears to “read”*)

That's why, after retiring in July 2013, Bona continued to volunteer at Elmhurst Adult Learning Center, which she had managed for over 27 years, for as long as her health allowed. She longed to see students in leadership roles, so she spent the last year of her life training students as Language Partners, volunteers who are still honing their literacy and ESOL skills.

We'll miss Bona Soanes for her active participation in Queens Library's Adult Learner Program, NYC RAEN Coalition, various conferences on the local and national level, and most of all, for the role she played in each of her students' lives. As her Assistant Center Manager and mentee for over 9 years, I feel the deep impact of her absence in my life.

Bona Soanes lost her battle with multiple myeloma on Thursday, February 26, 2015.

R.I.P Jose Lorenzo— A Legacy Never Forgotten

By Roberto Lorenzo

MY Dad, Jose Lorenzo, was so many things to so many people – to family, to co-workers and to many other people he has been in contact with along the way. He was funny, street-smart and, most important of all, one of the toughest guys I ever knew. Through various health complications throughout his 17-year career with the Queens Borough Public Library, he fought to stay in the game as long as he possibly could like only a champion can do. He was a man whose work ethic was rivaled by few and was appreciated by everyone who worked alongside him. I would like to thank everyone for reaching out to send their condolences to our family and I would like to extend my deepest sympathies for all those who have built extremely close friendships with him during his career at the Queens Borough Public Library.

Jane Jacobs Retires & Bonnie Hodes Volunteers

JANE JACOBS RETIRED! As many of you may not know, besides being an excellent cataloger who made Queens Library's Cataloging Department one of the best in the world, Jane made our local better. For over twelve years Jane has been active in Local 1321 as the Executive Board's Librarian Representative and then Publicity Chair. In those capacities she did a variety of tasks. She sat on promotion boards, ensuring they were done accurately and without bias. She created the Local's orientation presentation and gave new hires accurate information about their rights and benefits. She edited our newsletter ensuring its content was accurate, and communicated with DC 37 to ensure it got published. Jane was a helpful sounding board, she provided sage counsel, and her work will be missed.



Bonnie Hodes

Bonnie Hodes volunteers! Bonnie has volunteered to be the Local's Publicity Chair. As many of you may not know, Bonnie is the Library's Interlibrary Loan Librarian and has been active with the Local for years. We look forward to working with Bonnie on publishing our newsletter.

Local 1321 Grievances

THESE past few months, the local filed grievances on behalf of three groups: Central Library Librarians, Junior Library Custodians and Local 1321.

For the **Central Library Librarians' grievance**, their supervisor asked them to give classes on Microsoft Office products. They strongly believe that this work is out-of-title based on the City's Senior Librarian Classification and the library's job description. The classification and job description states that they should be teaching classes on Virtua and databases, and providing programs at which outside instructors provide instructions. However, they should not be required to teach these classes and this should stop.

For the **Junior Library Custodians' (JLC) grievance**, their supervisors continually ask JLCs to clean Assistant Library Custodian and Library Custodian branches. This is out-of-title work. If the JLCs are required

to clean these branches, they must be compensated at the appropriate level when doing so.

For the **Local 1321 grievance**, the administration has required the Customer Service Supervisors/Office Associate (CSS) to be the person in charge of the branch when the Community Library Manager/Principal/Supervising (CLM) and Assistant Community Library Manager/Supervising/Senior III (ACLM) are out. This is out-of-title work based on the City's Office Associate Classification and the library's CSS job description. The CSS does have supervisory duties and does have some branch-wide responsibilities, but nowhere in the city classification or job description does it say they are the supervisor of the branch. In all of the Librarians' city classification, the Librarians are given that responsibility.

We filed these grievances at Step 3 and are working with the administration to schedule hearing dates. We will provide updates when appropriate.

Municipal Employees Legal Services



Sonia Jackson, left, provides assistance to a member.

MELS is There for You

Having trouble with your landlord? **MELS** can help. Need to draw up a will for a loved one? No problem. Have questions about your immigration status? Contact **MELS**. Our lawyers and social workers are ready to help you with free legal assistance.



Call us at 212-815-1111 and make your appointment today.

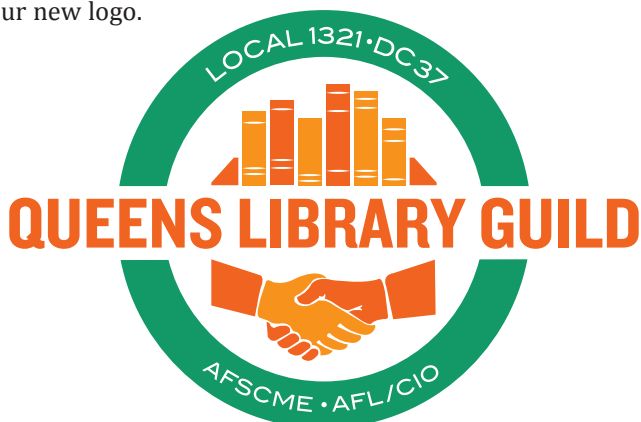
Marching at St. Pat's for All Parade in Sunnyside



For the second year in a row, Local 1321 joined hundreds of marchers on March 1, 2015 in the annual and inclusive St. Pats for All Parade. It was a cold and snowy march up Skillman Avenue in Sunnyside, but we were warmed by the community's applause. All of us had a great time representing Queens Library Guild Local 1321 and celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

How do you like our new logo?

In October 2014, we formed the Logo Creation Committee to redesign our logo. Working with Design Action, a union graphic design company, we created our new logo.



Our new logo incorporates our parent unions and includes the AFSCME green. It is bold and strong. Its symbols represent our work and our fraternity. We are Queens Library.

From the New Vice President of Librarians

DEAR LIBRARIANS,
In December 2014, I was elected the new Vice President of Librarians. My predecessor Kacper Jarecki, who had been with Local 1321 for many years, left us for new endeavors. We wish him well and thank him for his hard work and great service in our fight for job security and good pay.

My union activism started in 1998 when I was approached by then Local 1321 President John Socha to serve as one of the trustees, a position I held until December 2014. I co-chaired the Budget Action Committee during our budget crisis, when 44 of our members were laid off. Through our continued efforts, non-stop activism and lobbying of our elected officials, some funds were restored.

I will use the same zest to fight alongside our elected members on the Executive Board to represent each and every



one. This is our union and we need to work together to make it better.

The fight is not over, it has just begun. All over our nation for the past number of years some politicians have waged a new battle against unions. We do not want New York to become the next Wisconsin. So it is up to all of us to get involved and keep our union

strong. Stay active by attending our monthly general membership meetings, attending rallies and participating in a variety of other union events.

I hope to serve you well for many years to come. Please keep in touch and feel free to contact me either by phone at (347) 437-5113, or through our Facebook page.

In solidarity,
Kerline Piedra
VP Librarians


Stay Connected With Local 1321



Check out the latest union news on the Local 1321 website.
Like the local on Facebook page and share posts with your friends.
Follow the local on Twitter and retweet the union's posts.

Website: www.local1321.org

facebook Queens Library Guild, Local 1321

 @local1321

Email: local1321@gmail.com

Contact Checklist 2015

THE following checklist is designed to assist you when planning an event at your community library. Below you will find a list of who to contact when inviting the

press or requesting equipment (i.e. lectern/podium, video recording, etc.). **Note: The Director of Communications should be contacted before any press is invited.**

Contact Assistant Director of Government Affairs

Camille Barrett (GCA) 718-990-8583, Camille.T.Barrett@queenslibrary.org

Why: To discuss the program and invite community leaders and politicians

When: After you have determined the date of your event

Contact Community Affairs Manager

Larry Gallegos (GCA) 718-990-8501, Larry.Gallegos@queenslibrary.org

Mobile Phone 917-615-7874

Contact Director of Communications

Contact the following:

Joanne King 718-990-0704, Joanne.king@queenslibrary.org

Why: To help create press releases and media consultation

When: After you have determined the date of your event

Contact Audio Visual Aide Technicians

Help Desk: 718-990-0734 or 718-990-0735

Why: To order audio-visual equipment

When: At least two weeks before the event

Contact Local 1321 BAC

Kerline Piedra 347-437-5113, Kerlinepiedra@hotmail.com

Mike Wong 718-721-2462, mikelibrep@yahoo.com

Why: To help spread the word, facilitate the event and support the staff during the event

When: Now!

Contact your local press

Found on the tipsheet on your Community Library available from Local 1321

Why: To bring attention to our budget crisis

When: The Monday a week before the event

Contact your local politicians and their SCHEDULER

Found on the tipsheet on your Community Library available from Local 1321

Why: Their schedulers will make sure your event gets added to his/her schedule; include them in your event

When: As soon as you set the date

Rally Checklist (A Work in Progress)

FEEL free to do as many of the items below as you can in the fight for library funding. The more people you contact, the more successful the rally or event will be!

Contact information is available on the accompanying sheets, in your rally packet or online at <http://www.local1321.org> (click on “BAC committee” on the left).

- Permission from CLM
- Contact BAC
- Contact GCA
- Contact MCD
- Contact - Elected officials, Community Board
- Contact - Friends group
- Contact - Media
- Contact local businesses (or corporations) for giveaways or to advertise the rally
- Setup AV equipment (contact AV staff, submit form(s))
- Poster collection (available from Local 1321)
- Signs (make your own)
- Supplies (pens, etc.)
- Petition sheets
- Cameras for photo ops
- Contact cards/sheets for customers with elected officials' contact info. (available from MCD or Local 1321)
- Postcards for customers to sign (if you need more or don't have, please contact GCA or Local 1321)
- Put the event on the Local's website
- Script of what to say to people and politicians (samples are available) Optional
- Contact - Authors, poets, literary persons (esp. native Queens residents)
- Contact - Civic Associations, Tenant groups, schools, churches, etc.
- Noisemakers (determine if noise will deter customers and/or disturb community)
- Colored paper and supplies for kids to make cards or posters

Fit Kids February



By Kerline Piedra, *VP Librarians*

FIT Kids is about making healthy choices for our children. As a busy mother of three, I know that challenge all too well: coming home after a long day of work and not knowing what to make for dinner. The key is to plan ahead and shop smart by buying affordable healthy foods. Having had premature twins, with digestive problems, I had to re-learn how to grocery shop and prepare healthy meals for my children. I have adopted a gluten-free diet, incorporated portion control, and we make it a point to eat together as a family as often as possible. It is very

easy to settle for the readily processed food item or the diet coke filled with saccharine or the fried chicken or pizza with saturated fat.

I must tell you, eating healthy is not that hard. It is about incorporating fresh vegetables and fresh ingredients into your daily cooking. Below is an example of an easy and fast recipe that can be prepared at the end of the day. For me, cooking is about experimenting and tasting so I eye-ball everything and do not care much about measuring. The key is to have fun with it and enjoy!

Organic Brown Rice Quinoa Spaghetti Gluten-free Pasta with Vegetables

2-organic tomatoes on the vine, 1-broccoli bunch

1-red pepper, 1-bunch asparagus trimmed and cut

2-small zucchini, 1-small onion diced and 2-cloves garlic

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook pasta until al dente.
2. Meanwhile, sauté all vegetables over medium heat for 15 minutes. Add garlic, onion, salt, and pepper.
3. Drain pasta into a bowl and add all the vegetables, top with basil and olive oil.
4. Bon appétit!



Budget Action Committee Back in Action!

LOCAL 1321 has revived the Budget Action Committee to mobilize everyone for the budget fight for fiscal year 2015. We are asking everyone to tell our elected officials to invest in libraries for the benefit of all New York City residents.

Please ask Mayor Bill de Blasio, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and the New York City Council to:

- Invest in libraries,
- Hire more public service staff in all titles,
- Fund 6-day service in every library, in every neighborhood, and
- Fully fund the 10-year capital plan.

Here are other ways you can help the campaign to fund New York City libraries:

- Plan a rally in your library.
- Invite local politicians to your library programs for children, young adults and adults. Events like these will allow our elected official(s) to see firsthand what we do and how important our services are to the community. Do not forget to contact GCA to let

them know that you are inviting local politicians, and contact MCD about informing the press.

- Engage all your customers. Mobilize your Friends of the Libraries. Have co-workers call the Mayor's office and elected officials. Reach out to customers many of whom are community leaders and have connections. Reach out to newly arrived immigrants. If you speak their language, engage them in the fight, letting them know that their voices matter.
- Last but not least, be creative in your advocacy - have boardwalk marches; have rallies; participate in street fairs; and organize whatever eye-catching event draws attention to the plight of our libraries. Attend a City Hall event, a Flushing Library event. To maximize your efforts, utilize the BAC's handouts available on the Local's website in the coming weeks.

In Solidarity,
**Budget Action
Committee**

DC 37 photo by Molly Charboneau



Local 1321's Budget Action Committee can help you mobilize for this year's budget fight through events like this April 18, 2015 march and rally at the Corona Library, a joint effort by the Local, the Corona Friends of the Libraries and the community group La Fuente.

Queens Library Guild
Local 1321 News

DC 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
125 Barclay Street, New York, NY 10007

