Sojourner Truth Library will start the fall semester with several new staff members following staffing changes in the past year. We have hired three new Librarians and four new Clerks. Please help us welcome them to NP.

Mandy Babirad arrived at STL just in time for the fall semester. A native of the Hudson Valley, she comes to NP from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA where she worked as a Research and Instruction Librarian. Prior to that, she worked in the Bronx as a Reference Librarian at the College of Mount Saint Vincent and as an Information Literacy Instructor at ASA College in Brooklyn. She holds a BA in International Relations from SUNY New Paltz (Class of ‘10 Go Hawks!!) and an MSIS from SUNY Albany. For fun, Mandy reads, gardens, and hikes the Adirondacks with her husband, Matt.

Cathy Cooper began working at SUNY New Paltz as a Circulation Supervisor at STL in July, 2014. Prior to this, she worked for 18 years as the Finance Manager at the United Way of Ulster County. Her prior NY State service was with the Department of Corrections and Community Service, also working in a library. Major factors in her decision to come work at STL were her love of books and her appreciation of the college student experience. She has two grown daughters, one of whom graduated from SUNY New Paltz. Her favorite part of the job has been connecting with our students, both those working at the library and those using our services as patrons.

Karl Groneman, originally from Athens, NY, recently started working with Interlibrary Loan (ILL) at STL with 20+ years of library work experience, having started as a student worker at SUNY Potsdam in the early 90s while earning his Bachelor’s in Art History. He has since been employed in various departments in both public and academic libraries, with his last stint as the Evening Circulation Supervisor for Southern CT State for 11 years, followed by a return to NY to take a break for a few years in the private sector. Besides enjoying what the Hudson Valley has to offer for outdoor activities and events, Karl is a prolific reader, music collector, museum nerd, and avid gamer (for The Horde!).

Bill Hennessey began work with ILL in February of this year, and supports the work of the Friends of the Library as part of his responsibilities. Bill transferred to the library last February from the NYS Department of Corrections where he was a vocational instructor for two and a half years. Before this, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army from 1976 until retiring in 2007. While in the service, his career fields were Artillery, Supply/Logistics, and Administration. Bill met his wife through music, as he is a bagpiper and she's a drummer. They have five children.

9th Annual Dennis O'Keefe Memorial Lecture
Linda Greenow, Prof. Emerita, Geography & Latin American Studies
“The Potato and the Personal in Peru”
September 17, 5pm
Coykendall Science Bldg. Auditorium
Free and Open to the Public

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Charlene Martoni started working full-time at STL in February as the Night & Weekend Circulation Supervisor after having worked in the Circulation Department for four years during her undergraduate studies here at SUNY New Paltz. She holds a BA in Secondary Education and in Journalism, and she just started a graduate program at SUNY Albany that combines an MA in English Studies with an MSIS in Information Studies. In addition to her work at STL, Charlene writes freelance articles for several Hudson Valley publications and serves as the webmaster on the One Book/One New Paltz Committee. In her down time, Charlene enjoys camping, hiking, and traveling with her friends and crafting natural soy candles and bath products as gifts. She’s looking forward to a great school year at the library, and she wishes everyone a successful semester.

Heather Shimon is excited to finally make it to the East Coast! A Midwesterner for all of her life, mostly living in Wisconsin, she’s ready to experience another part of the country. She comes from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she received her MA in Library and Information Studies and has worked for the last two years as an Information Services Librarian and course instructor at the campus engineering library. Before that, Heather worked for seven years as the assistant to the UW System Women’s Studies Librarian, where she was responsible for the online publication Feminist Periodicals and contributed film reviews to the print publication Feminist Collections. At UW, she also spent a brief time as the Media Librarian for the film department. Prior to that, Heather worked at the Missouri State Library in Library Development. Heather’s research and professional interests include the affective domain of instruction and how to incorporate the library into the college experience for all students. Outside of work, she enjoys exploring new places, great live music, and well-told stories.

Lydia Willoughby comes from the library at SUNY Plattsburgh, where she was the Visiting Asst. Librarian on the instruction and reference services team with a research focus in online learning. Lydia has a MS LIS from Long Island University, as well as an MA in English Literature from The University of Montana. She is a graduate of Bard College and is happy to be back in the Hudson Valley! Her scholarship addresses critical theory, feminist pedagogy, and gamification in education. Prior to librarianship, she worked in NYC in program planning and grant management for nonprofits that served incarcerated and court-involved individuals. In 2013, Lydia was selected as one of Library Journal’s “Movers & Shakers” in the community builder category for her advocacy with rural libraries in Vermont. In 2014, she was awarded the Vermont Pride Award for Activism in the LGBTQ community and she continues to bring community-based activism to the area. Outside of work, she may be walking the rail trail with her dogs, coproducing performance arts events with her wife.

STL Textbook Collection for Current Classes is Growing

Initially started a few years ago, the STL Textbook Collection more than doubled this summer thanks to efforts by our library circulation staff and a generous donation made by Sean Mulloy, the campus bookstore’s manager. This semester, there will be more than 165 textbooks on reserve at the Checkout Desk, a cover value of over $7,000.

The Textbook Collection is a donation-based program which aims to provide students with free access to course texts through our Reserves service. If you’d like to help out, consider donating gently used textbooks to STL by bringing them to the Checkout Desk at the entrance to the library and filling out a short form. For more information, contact Charlene at martonic@newpaltz.edu or 257-3650, or visit http://newpaltz.libguides.com/textbooks.

Main Floor of STL Will Be Reopening Soon!

Renovation work on the main floor of the library has moved rapidly over the summer. We are hoping for a reopening in late fall but do not have a solid date yet. Keep an eye on the Library web page for upcoming announcements.