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BULLETIN

of
THE RHODE ISLAND
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 44- No. 5

December 1971



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— EXPRESS YOUR OPINION —

Contribute an Article or Comment
to YOUR Bulletin

Mrs. Elsie Straight, Librarian, of Academy of the Sacred Heart in Portsmouth has become the Bulletin's artist, commencing with this issue.

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No REGIONAL NEWS was received in time for the monthly deadline.

THE CRANSTON
STORY

by
James T. Giles

On September 13th, Mr. John P. Byrne, a father of a twelve year old boy, was referred to me by the mayor's office where he had complained that his son had brought home dirty books from the Knightsville Branch. He objected to Love Story by Eric Segal for dirty language and Hair by Gerome Ragni for vulgarity. Mr. Byrne wanted these books removed from the open shelves so youngsters would not have access to them. He refused our offer to cooperate with him to prevent his son from taking home objectionable materials. He filed a written complaint (The NCTE Complaint Form) with us and asked if he could appear at the next board meeting.

A week before the September board meeting Mr. Byrne was back in my office complaining about The Sensuous Woman by "J" which he found on the paperback rack at the Knightsville Branch. He felt that the display of this book violated State Law and asked that it be

removed from the open shelves. Mr. Byrne's second visit was apparently prompted by his attendance at the Anti-Smut Rally at the LeFoyer Club in Pawtucket. Mr. Byrne announced at that Rally that smut was being made available to children in Cranston's libraries. He filed a second written complaint. His complaints were the only ones filed after two and a half years of operation under the Book Selection Policy.

At the September 28th board meeting, Mr. Byrne read passages from The Sensuous Woman, claiming the library was violating State Law, and again requested that the three books Love Story, Hair, and The Sensuous Woman be removed from the open shelves. The trustees eloquently defended the library's Book Selection Policy. The board acted, first, by voting to review the Book Selection Policy in light of the complaint and, secondly, by voting to ask the City Solicitor for an opinion on whether the book should be available for general circulation in light of the recent obscenity legislation H 1607.

Mr. Byrne didn't wait for the board to review its policy or even for the City Solicitor to voice an opinion. On October 4th he addressed an emotional letter to Mayor Taft concerning the "hard core pornography" in Cranston's libraries and requested that he be given the opportunity to testify on the subject at the October City Council meeting. Copies of this letter were released to the press as well as to many community leaders and organizations.

After Mr. Byrne found The Sensuous Woman at the Knightsville Branch, he apparently spent an enormous amount of time and energy showing what he felt to be its most objectionable passages to as many key people in the community as would give him a hearing. His promotion had results. One city councilman toured a half dozen supermarkets checking on The Sensuous Woman. He found it openly displayed and learned from store managers that sales of the book had zoomed.

At the October 26th board

meeting the trustees reaffirmed⁴ the Book Selection Policy. They also voted that restrictive shelves and labeling were not practical nor desirable.

That same evening Mr. Byrne, Representative George Marshall, and Harold Doran of IBEW 1203 spoke before the Cranston City Council. After listening to forty-five minutes of invective speechmaking which included a demand that the library trustees resign, Council President Frederick Lepore appointed a committee to seek a solution to the problem. Mayor James L. Taft, Jr., delivered an impromptu speech in which he supported the Council President's action, defended and praised the work of the trustees, and helped considerably to restore a climate for a rational discussion of the issue.

On November 4th the committee composed of six councilmen, the City Solicitor, the Mayor, two trustees, Mr. Byrne, and myself met at City Hall. The Mayor proposed a plan that calls for two children's cards. Parents would indicate on

the library card application at what age they wish their child to have unrestricted use of the library. Until the child reaches that age he would have a restricted card.

Committee members generally agreed to Mayor Taft's proposal. One councilman suggested that parents be notified that they might consider some of the reading material in the library objectionable for their child. All agreed to this suggestion.

The library board will vote on the Mayor's proposal at their regular November meeting. Hopefully a solution has been found.

In the opinion of Attorney General Richard Israel the State Law H1607 prohibiting display of obscene, lewd, or indecent publications or materials in places frequented by minors does not apply to libraries. The court could differ with the Attorney General and the legislature could amend the law to include libraries. Whether the law applies to libraries or not, no book should be removed from public view, until, "an

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

TRUSTEE NEWS

Nov. 10th: The outstanding fact which developed from this small but interesting meeting, is that we are not reaching our 500 public library trustees, or that most of them couldn't care less about their trustee responsibilities beyond their own institutions. We had 7 out of 9 of our trustee committee attend Nov. 10th, at DSLS, and they are the best and most concerned of any group I've seen in R.I. since 1966. Outside of one curious trustee from Warwick no other trustees responded!!!!

Director Elizabeth Myer and Deputy Jewel Drickamer made strong presentations about Trustee responsibilities under the State Library Law.

Miss Dolores McKeough has resigned as Vice President and commences her new position in New Jersey at the Matawan Joint Free Library on Dec. 1.

Miss Beth Perry and Miss Gretchen Eichholtz have joined the staff of Rhode Island College as Reference Librarians. Miss Perry received her MLS from the University of Washington in 1971; Miss Eichholtz earned her MLS from Drexel this year also.

Mrs. Sharon Schwerzel is now handling government documents at RIC.

The Charles Scribners Sons Awards will open an opportunity to librarians working with children to attend the next ALA Conference, June 25-July 1, 1972, in Chicago. Four gifts of \$250 each will be awarded to deserving librarians who hold membership in ALA Children's Services- or the American Association of School Librarians who have less than five years of experience and have not, until now, attended an ALA Annual Conference. Applicant's deadline is January 17, 1972, for submission of forms. Secure forms from the Children's Services of Scribners.

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH
LIBRARIES
6th ANNUAL CONVENTION
in ISRAEL
August 3 thru August 22, 1971

During our twelve days in Jerusalem we conducted our business sessions and attended lectures at Hebrew University Library School. Subjects included transliteration, cataloging, bibliography, classification and archives. We visited a cross section of libraries -- university, public, synagogue, Knesset (Parliament), Museum, Dead Sea Scrolls, bookmobiles and one of 60,000 volumes on a kibbutz in the Upper Galilee. Most of the libraries were as modern and as functional as our own. However, the most notable exception was their multi-lingual collections.

Our tour guide was a graduate of Hebrew University Archaeology School. His running commentary included history, especially, of Herod's Period to the problems of modern Israel. Truly a fascinating trip to another world!

Mrs. Maryland Estes (Delegate)
William G. Braude Library
Temple Beth-El

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From the GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS Committee:

1971 bills in committee &
subject to action at 1972
session beginning Jan. 4, '72.

S 48 Act increasing state
aid to free public lib-
raries (Arcaro and
Coman) Senate Finance

S 876 \$100,000 bond issue
for purchase non-
fiction books, Newport
Public Library (Taylor)
Passed Senate, in
House H.E.W.

H2392

H2392 Act making appropri-
ations Prov. Public Lib-
rary - skeleton bill
(Adamo) House Finance.

Passed (needs consideration):

H1607 (Chapter 30 P.L. 1971)
Act prohibiting display
of obscene, lewd or
indecent publications
or materials in places
frequented by minors.
See House Journal
April 14, 1971, and
Senate Journal April 28,
1971, for votes and
attempts to amend by
Low and Arcaro. Ques-
tion to amend or repeal.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, EXTENSION

George A. Dillavou, Dean of the Division of University Extension of the University of Rhode Island, has announced the inauguration of a revised program for Library/Media Technology. This program, leading to a Certification of Completion, will begin in the Spring, 1972, semester.

The Program was designed by a Committee, chaired by James S. Healey, Coordinator of the Program, and an Assistant Professor in the University's Graduate Library School. The Committee was composed of librarians from all types and sizes of Rhode Island libraries, students in the now superceded program, and educational personnel from the Division of University Extension.

The Certificate Program consists of six courses: An Introduction to Libraries, Technical Services I & II, Library Reader Services, Media Technology, and a Practicum. The program is open to any student possessing a high school diploma or its equivalency.

It should be noted that the Library/Media Technology Program is separate and distinct from the program of studies leading to an MLS that is offered by the Graduate Library School of the Univ. of R.I.

Further information may be obtained by writing to Mr. Healey, Coordinator of the Library/Media Technology Program, Division of University Extension, Promenade and Gaspee Streets, Providence, R.I. 02908.

The January Bulletin will continue the discussion of censorship with two articles by Providence Public Library associates: Mr. Tony Agostinelli, member of the Corporation, and Mr. Knight Edwards, member of the Board of Trustees and legal advisor to PPL and RILA.



Elsie Straight
'71

QUESTIONNAIRE, RILA FALL CONF.

In case you missed the questionnaire at the Conference, October 21, it is reproduced again here. The RILA is your organization and we want you to have a part in planning the 1972 Spring Conference. Please take a few minutes and answer the following questions.

1. Would you prefer the spring conference to follow one topic or theme (e.g., cooperation, intellectual freedom, etc.)
 YES NO, it should include a variety of topics
 If yes, can you suggest a theme?

2. Which type of meeting would you be most interested in attending during the conference:
 Lectures by well-known figures in library or library-related fields?
 Smaller workshops or discussion groups of special interests?
 A combination of both types of meetings?

3. If you indicated lecture or combination in question 2, do you prefer to hear a librarian, author, specialist, or other. Please specify and suggest specific speakers if you wish.

4. As you look back on previous conferences what one event stands out as important to you?

5. What continues to be an objection or disappointment?

6. Would you prefer future conferences to be held at one standard location or a new location each time?

7. If you have encountered problems with the items listed below please specify and make suggestions.
 a) registration b) meal tickets c) parking
 d) conference location e) other
 Suggestions:

QUESTIONNAIRE, Continued:

If you have any additional comments, questions, or suggestions please note them separately, and sign only if you wish.

Please mail to: Anne T. Parent, Conference Committee Chairman,
Rhode Island Library Association, c/o Pawtucket Public Library,
Pawtucket, Rhode Island, 02860.

TRUSTEE SECTION -- DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, December 15th, 1971 Palestine Shrine Club
1 Rhodes Place (off Broad Street) Cranston

THEME: "WHAT IS A LIBRARY TRUSTEE???"

with

MRS. EVELYN KENNEDY, Regional Representative
American Library Trustee Association

Social Hour 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Buffet Dinner at 7 p.m.
\$4.00 including tax and gratuity

Mail to Ernest F. Denomme, Chairman Trustee Sect., RILA
160 Bristol Ferry Rd., Portsmouth, R.I. 02871

or

Charles W. Crosby, Coordinator State Library Programs
Providence Public Library, 150 Empire St., Providence,
R.I. 02903

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ Reservations.
(Attendance at the Evening Program is limited to the Dinner Reserves)

Signed
Address

To be voted upon January 15 (Crossouts equal omissions
at the Mid-winter Meeting: from the original text, and
capitals equal new copy.)

THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Proposed Revision
of the Constitution, Winter
1971-1972

ARTICLE I -- NAME

This organization shall be called "The Rhode Island Library Association."

ARTICLE II -- OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Association shall be to promote library services in the State of Rhode Island and encourage interest in libraries and librarianship.

ARTICLE III -- MEMBERS

Section 1. The membership shall consist of Active, Institutional, Honorary, Life, and Affiliate members.

Section 2. Active member. Any person actually engaged in library work, or any member, past or present, of a library's governing or advisory body, or any student in a school of library science, may become an active member upon payment of the dues as provided in Article VII, and shall have the right to vote and to hold office.

Section 3. Institutional member. Any institution or library active in library service in Rhode Island may become a member upon payment of dues as provided in Article VII, and is entitled to have one vote on all questions which come before the Association.

Section 4. Honorary member. Any individual nominated by the Executive Board and elected by the membership shall be an Honorary member and shall enjoy all the privileges of an active member except the right to vote and to hold office.

Section 5. Affiliate member. Any firm, person, or institution interested in library work, and not eligible under Sections 2 or 3 above, may become an Affiliate member upon payment of dues as provided in Article VII, and is entitled to all privileges of the Association except the right to vote and to hold office.

Section 6. Life member. Any individual who has been a Life member before October 20, 1966, shall continue to enjoy all the privileges of an active member, and shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

ARTICLE IV -- OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. Officers.

- (a) The officers of the Association shall be President, Vice President (President-Elect), Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.
- (b) They shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year, and shall serve beginning at the close of the annual meeting; they shall so serve until their successors are elected and assume their duties. With the exception of the Treasurer, no officer shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 2. Duties.

- (a) The President shall perform the regular duties of the office; shall appoint with approval of the Executive Board, the chairmen of the standing committees; ~~and~~ WHEN POSSIBLE THE CHAIRMAN OF EACH HAVING BEEN A MEMBER OF THAT COMMITTEE DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR. In consultation with THE PRESIDENT, the respective chairmen SHALL appoint members of each committee.
- (b) The other officers shall perform the duties regularly pertaining to their respective offices. The Treasurer shall submit the Association's accounts AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR for annual audit AND TO BE REPORTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

SECTION 3. ELECTION.

THE MEMBERSHIP SHALL RECEIVE A BALLOT WITH NOTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING FOUR WEEKS PRIOR TO THAT MEETING AND SHALL VOTE BY MAIL FOR ONE OF TWO CANDIDATES FOR EACH OFFICE. BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING. A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES RECEIVED WILL BE CONSIDERED AS WINNING WITH THE WINNING CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Section 4. Vacancies.

- (a) Vacancies in office (~~except in the cases of President and Vice President~~) shall be filled by the Executive Board UNTIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD.
- (b) ~~The President-Elect~~ VICE PRESIDENT shall complete the unexpired term of the President in case of the inability of that officer to serve. If the ~~President-Elect~~ VICE PRESIDENT is unable to serve in this OR HIS OWN capacity, the ~~Nominating~~ ADMINISTRATIVE Committee shall present names of candidates for ~~these offices~~ EITHER OFFICE to the Executive Board. ~~These officers~~ EITHER OFFICER shall be elected by a majority of the membership voting ~~by mail~~ AT THE NEXT REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING.

ARTICLE V -- EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the Association, the immediate past-President, the ALA Councilor, and ~~two members elected from the membership at large~~ THE THREE CHAIRMEN FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES. Members of the Executive Board shall serve until their successors are elected.

Section 2. The duties of the Executive Board shall be to conduct business affairs of the Association between meetings of the Association, and to appoint an auditor, ~~at least two weeks before the annual meeting to audit the Treasurer's statement.~~

Section 3. The Executive Board shall meet at least four times each year at the call of the President.

ARTICLE VI -- MEETINGS

Section 1. The Association shall hold at least two meetings each year, one of which shall be the annual meeting to be held in the Spring.

Section 2. Ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VII -- DUES

The annual dues for voting and non-voting members shall be determined by the Executive Board and approved by the membership at the annual meeting. Persons with dues in arrears for more than two years shall be dropped from the membership.

ARTICLE VIII -- FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin May 1 and end April 30th of the successive year.

ARTICLE IX -- COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees.

The following shall constitute the standing committees of the Association, the size, ~~and~~ authority AND STRUCTURE of each being determined and stated in writing by the Executive Board for the chairman thereof. SUB-COMMITTEES MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

~~Conference Committee. To plan programs and make arrangements for the meetings of the Association.~~

~~Government Relations Committee. To consider all matters involving federal, state, or local action which affect libraries and librarians, keeping the Association informed of the implications of legislation regarding these matters and implement, with approval of the Executive Board, appropriate action in connection therewith.~~

~~Intellectual Freedom Committee. To recommend and implement, with the approval of the Executive Board, such measures as may be necessary to safeguard the rights of librarians and library users, in accordance with the United States Bill of Rights and the ALA Library Bill of Rights.~~

~~Library Education Committee. To recommend and correlate in-state activity for library education at all levels in cooperation with state, regional and national organizations and agencies.~~

~~Library Trustee Committee. To work with trustees in a continuing effort to help achieve excellence in library service.~~

~~Membership Committee. To attract new members and recommend ways of maintaining paid up membership in the Association.~~

~~Nominating Committee. To provide from the voting membership a single slate of officers, two members at large for the Executive Board, and the ALA Councilor, to be presented to the Executive Board not less than two weeks in advance of the annual meeting and to submit names of candidates for President and President-Elect, in case of vacancies, to the membership who shall vote by mail.~~

~~Public Relations Committee. To be responsible for arrangements for National Library Week and publicity in matters of concern to the Association and Rhode Island libraries.~~

~~Publications Committee. To publish the Bulletin, with the Chairman of the Committee serving as Editor and administer through subcommittees any other publishing activities approved by the Executive Board.~~

~~Scholarship and Recruiting Committee. To publicize scholarships available for library education and make recommendations concerning applicants, and to promote interest in librarianship as a career.~~

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) TO PLAN PROGRAMS AND MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION WHILE ALSO ENCOURAGING AND ASSISTING THE MEMBERS IN ANY PROGRAMS OF THEIR OWN DEVISING.

- (b) TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS AND RECOMMEND WAYS OF MAINTAINING PAID UP MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION.
- (c) TO PROVIDE FROM THE VOTING MEMBERSHIP TWO CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICES OF VICE PRESIDENT, RECORDING SECRETARY, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, TREASURER, AND THE ALA COUNCILOR, TO BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TOGETHER WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF EACH NOT LESS THAN SIX WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR INCLUSION IN THE BULLETIN.

PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE

- (a) TO CONSIDER ALL GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES INVOLVING FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ACTION AFFECTING LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS, TO INFORM THE ASSOCIATION OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THESE MATTERS, AND TO IMPLEMENT, WITH APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, APPROPRIATE ACTION IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.
- (b) TO RECOMMEND AND IMPLEMENT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, SUCH MEASURES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARY USERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES BILL OF RIGHTS AND THE ALA LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS.
- (c) TO RECOMMEND AND CORRELATE IN-STATE ACTIVITY FOR LIBRARY EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS IN CO-OPERATION WITH STATE, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES.
- (d) TO PUBLICIZE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR LIBRARY EDUCATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING APPLICANTS, AND TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN LIBRARIANSHIP AS A CAREER.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- (a) TO WORK WITH TRUSTEES IN A CONTINUING EFFORT TO HELP ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN LIBRARY SERVICE.
- (b) TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLICITY IN MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE ASSOCIATION AND RHODE ISLAND LIBRARIES.
- (c) TO PUBLISH THE BULLETIN, WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTING THE EDITOR, AND ANY OTHER PUBLICATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

~~Section 2. Additional standing committees may be created by majority vote of the Association upon recommendation of the Executive Board.~~

Section ~~2~~ 2. Special committees may be appointed by the Executive Board.

SECTION 3. COMMITTEES SHALL CONSIST OF LIBRARIANS, LIBRARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS (OR CLERICAL ASSISTANTS), STUDENTS AND TRUSTEES, AND SHALL BE DRAWN FROM PUBLIC, ACADEMIC, SCHOOL AND SPECIAL LIBRARIES. EACH MEMBER SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE OR MORE OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES.

SECTION 4. NO ONE MAY SERVE MORE THAN FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS ON THE SAME COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE X -- AFFILIATION WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Affiliation with other associations may be made by a vote of the majority of the members present at any annual business meeting of the Association, provided that notice of the proposed affiliation shall have been distributed to the membership at least thirty days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XI -- A.L.A. COUNCILOR

The Rhode Island Library Association is a chapter of the American Library Association and is entitled to one councilor. The Councilor shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for four years, or until his successor is elected and qualified AND SHALL AUTOMATICALLY SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE XII -- AUDIT

~~An audit of all accounts shall be made annually.~~

ARTICLE ~~XII~~ XII -- AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a 2/3 (two thirds) vote of the members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the members at least thirty days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XIII -- USE OF FUNDS

Section 1. No use of the funds of the Association shall be made in carrying out its purpose which is not charitable or educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or any similar provisions of any subsequent Internal Revenue Code or Act, so that such use will result in the loss of any exemption from the federal income tax otherwise allowable to the Association, or will result in the disallowance of any deduction for the purpose of the federal income tax, the federal estate tax or the federal gift tax otherwise allowable by a donor to the Association.

Section 2. In the event of the termination of the Association, all of the property of the Association shall be transferred to such educational and charitable organizations exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or any similar provisions of any subsequent Internal Revenue Code or Act, as the Executive Board in its discretion may direct.

Recommendations per the Ad Hoc Committee, 1971.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Mrs. Lillian Blotcher
139 Woodbine St.
Providence, R.I.
phone: 272-4374

She offers non-specialization and a June '71 degree with interests in medical libraries and public libraries.

\$\$\$\$\$

POSITION OPEN:

Coordinator with experience and an MLS. Salary is open. For a Northern R.I. town combining three small libraries into a central library plan.

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Contact: Claire Langlois
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Cataloger with experience and MLS. Salary \$8,000.

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Bourne, Mass.
Tel.: 617-759-3172

Head librarian in public library in University town, MLS required. 35 hour work week, 22 paid days vacation, sick leave, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, TIAA-CREF retirement plan. Experience desired. \$8500. Historic building, URI 1 mile, Narragansett 6 miles, Providence 28 miles.

Applications and references to Dr. Daniel Thomas, Vice President, Board of Trustees, Kingston Free Library, Kingston, R.I. 02881.



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THE BULLETIN STAFF IS
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AND EFFICIENT.....

as a result everyone expects
more and better things from us!
But to give more and better
things we could really use more
friendly and clever people to
help us.

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