

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

4-1988

Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 61, no. 4

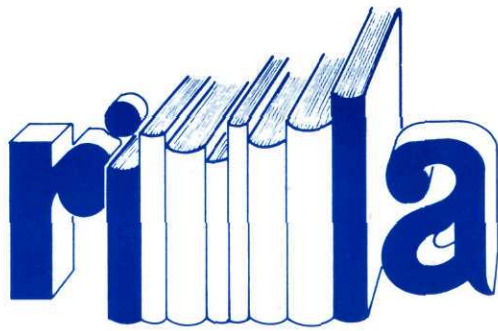
RILA

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin

Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 61, no. 4" (1988). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 147.
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/147https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/147

This Book is brought to you by the University of Rhode Island. It has been accepted for inclusion in RILA Bulletin by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu. For permission to reuse copyrighted content, contact the author directly.



Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

Volume No.

61 No.4

ISSN:0146-8685

APRIL 1988

EAST GREENWICH FREE LIBRARY - PRIVATE OR PUBLIC?

At the present time, the East Greenwich Free Library is undergoing a reevaluation by those connected directly with the library (the Librarian and the Board of Trustees) and by the Town of East Greenwich planners and other local officials. It all started about five years ago, in 1983. Karen Taylor, Director of the East Greenwich Free Library agreed to be interviewed by Tanya Trinkaus, editor, librarian, and resident of East Greenwich.

TT: How long has the East Greenwich Free Library (EGFL) been in existence?

KT: The Library Association was formed in 1869, when the books were kept in a private home. In 1915 the Association built the present building, on the "Hill" in East Greenwich.

TT: When did the Town of East Greenwich begin to help the EGFL financially? Did this support grow?

KT: The first funds were appropriated by the town in 1935 when \$750 was given to the library. In 1950 this was increased to \$1250, and continued to grow to the present (87-88 budget) sum of \$120,723, out of a total budget of \$159,923. The interest from the endowment plus state funding comprise the remainder of the budget.

TT: Has the town considered asking the library to become a municipal library since it pays so much of its operating budget?

KT: It has been mentioned by one or two town council members at annual town budget meetings, but never pursued. In 1987 the Library's Board of Trustees asked the town to take over the library as a municipal library.

TT: How did that come about?

KT: In 1983 the West Bay League of Women Voters surveyed residents of East Greenwich about their opinions on the library and its services. The results indicated that the library was lacking in reference materials, adult non-fiction, parking facilities (only 6 on-the-street places exist), and adult fiction. In addition, because it was required by the state in 1984, a Long-Range Planning Committee was established. It determined that the major problem of the library was "space." This was not available at the site on Peirce Street, nor did the Library have the funds to build elsewhere. If a new library were going to be built, the town would have to fund the project.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1988 DUES?

If you haven't, this is the last issue of the Bulletin that you will receive. Final renewal notices have been sent to members whose dues were still outstanding as of March 25th.

TT: What were the suggestions of this Committee?

KT: This committee, consisting of corporation members (local supporters and the governing board of the Library), determined that either the library could remain as it was and not grow to meet the needs of the residents, or the present building could be expanded, or a new site could be located and a new building built. It also suggested that a Friends of the Library group be formed and that the Association investigate the legal options available concerning the property and the endowment. Paul Drake and Rick Robbins did a preliminary space-use-study which determined that the present space was being used in its most efficient manner.

TT: Were there any further determinations made concerning the enlargement of the present building versus building at a new site?

KT: In the fall of 1986, library consultants, Anne Parent and James Giles, were hired to do a comprehensive study of library services in East Greenwich. In August 1987, the report recommended that the library become a municipal one and that a new building be built, with size, parking, handicapped access, and sites specified. The present site and building were determined to be too small and inflexible to allow for the enlargement, access, parking and flexibility necessary for a functional library. Fred Elias of Donald Prout Associates prepared a feasibility study on the expansion of the present building. He concluded that the overall cost to add and renovate the existing building would be similar to the cost of a new facility. There would, however, be no additional parking.

TT: How did the Board of Trustees feel about these recommendations?

KT: They agreed and declared their intent to change the library from an independent organization to a municipal library under the Town of East Greenwich.

TT: What does it entail, legally, for a private library to become public?

KT: 1. The Town Council needs to approve a local ordinance creating a public library.
2. The transfer of the Library Association's assets (building and endowment) to the town has to then be approved by the Rhode Island Superior Court. Any petition filed for such approval "involves notice to the Charitable Trust Division of the Attorney General's office."

3. The town would then be responsible for library services and the Library Association would be dissolved, leaving the officers of the Library Association free from liability.

TT: How do the town officials feel about these recommendations and the Board's decision?

KT: There are mixed feelings. Most Town Council members feel that the town needs a new library, but that it is not a priority right now. The town of East Greenwich is growing rapidly, and there are many planning issues to be sorted out. Finances are important considerations, too. The site suggestions for a new library have caused conflict. The Library Board proposed the East Greenwich Dairy site (reasonable price, plenty of parking and growth potential, and located centrally to the shifted resident population) and the town planner proposed a site next to the town hall (very limited parking, three-story structure).

TT: How much more would the town have to pay to support a municipal library than the \$120,000 it pays now?

KT: The interest and dividends from the endowment, which amount to \$36,000 plus benefits the town offers its other staff and would have to offer the library staff as new town employees.

TT: How do library salaries relate to equivalent positions in the town?

KT: School librarians make \$30-32,000 as opposed to EGFL librarians making \$17-23,000 working nights, Saturdays, and year-round. The part-time clerical staff make about the same. The full-time clerical staff makes about \$13,000 in town and \$11,000 at the library.

TT: How do you anticipate the staff's increasing with a larger facility?

KT: The staff would nearly double and their salaries would have to be increased to match town salary levels for equivalent positions.

Librarians - from 2½ to 4 full-time
Circulation Assistants - from 2½ to 4
Children's Assistant - from 0 to 1
Administrative Assistant - from ½ to 1
Library Aides - from 0 to 2
(Custodial staff may be supplied by the town's present workforce)

TT: How should the town determine where

to build a new facility?

KT: The consultants recommended sites based on the following criteria: "access, visibility, compatibility with neighboring facilities, proximity to the town's business center, characteristics of the site (size, zoning regulations, water, level, public utility availability), parking, and cost and availability of the lot." (Parent-Giles)

TT: What seems to be the location preference of the Planning Board and the public?

KT: The Planning Board wants to build a three story structure on town-owned land on the "Hill" near the present library, near the town offices and in the older part of East Greenwich. This site is too small to meet the consultants recommended site size of $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres. Many residents who live in the old center of town want the same site. Those who are more mobile, or who live in the newer areas in the central or western parts of town prefer a structure closer to them. The Library Board want a one-story facility with enough land for adequate parking.

TT: Are there any special interest groups who have expressed their preferences to you?

KT: Yes. The Hill and Harbor Commission wishes to keep the library downtown to preserve the integrity of the Hill and Harbor District. The School Librarians and PTA want a new building even if it is west, such as the East Greenwich Dairy property on Rt. 2. Nearby residents want the charming old library to stay as it is. Their emotional attachment to the building is more important than better library materials and services.

TT: What are the major improvements you want in a new building, Karen?

KT: The library needs quiet study areas, program space, and climate control for the Rhode Island Collection. The children's room needs to be much larger. Story hours should not be in the Reference Room! We need child-size furniture, more shelving, carpeting, media (toys, kits, etc.), and the Children's Room should be "kid-friendly."

TT: What improvements would you want to make in the collections?

KT: The library needs all kinds of audio visual materials: audio cassettes, video cassettes, talking books. I would love to have more computers, even computer rooms, but I know the latter is impossible. Ideally, we

should have 3 public access computers - 1 for young adults, 1 for children, and 1 for adults. The book collection should be increased from 30,000 to 45,000 titles.

TT: What would you like to do with your periodical collection?

KT: I would like more display space for current periodical issues and would love to build up the collection retrospectively on microfilm.

TT: Do you feel that all of these public meetings, meetings with the Planning Board and with the Town Council have helped to educate the residents of East Greenwich to realize the need for a new library? How do you feel about the publicity?

KT: I feel good. There has been lots of exposure by the press and the need for a new library is known throughout the town. Everybody is aware of our problems.

TT: Has anything else happened?

KT: One really great thing has occurred. My Board has never been so unified in purpose. But, we get discouraged because we are still treated as outsiders by the town government. We are still private, but have really been a part of the town for ages. We are the only library in town.

TT: Where do you go from here?

KT: Since our first attempt to obtain a site failed, we'll have to search for a new site. This time we hope to find a site that will meet the consultants' recommendations and will be acceptable to the Board and the town planner. The issue now is "what effect will the question of a new library and the site have on the negotiations to become a town library?"

EDITORIAL NOTE: The editors of the RILA Bulletin feel that the issues presented by the East Greenwich Library are illustrative of those faced by many libraries in the state. We are grateful to Karen and Tanya for bringing them to our attention, and look forward to hearing about future developments in both site selection and the proposed assumption of the library by the public sector.

THE REFERENCE SHELF 1988

- HOT TOPICS
- SHARP CONTROVERSY
- INCISIVE ANALYSIS
- ALL IN ONE INDISPENSABLE RESOURCE



Renowned As a Study-Aid for Three Generations

For more than sixty years college and high school students, teachers, and librarians have relied on *The Reference Shelf* for its objective and thorough coverage of vital and often controversial social issues and trends. The titles in *The Reference Shelf* provide timely information for:

- Research papers and oral reports
- Classroom or public discussion and debate
- Independent study
- General background reading to enhance understanding of today's headlines

Balanced Coverage of Leading Viewpoints

Each compilation of *The Reference Shelf* is devoted to an issue of contemporary concern, and covers historical background, current developments, and future implications. Important articles, speeches, and excerpts from magazines, newspapers, books, and government documents are selected to reflect the entire range of viewpoints on the topic in focus. Concise chapter introductions and a general preface guide the reader and provide background information. A bibliography of recently published material is included to aid independent research.

Preview of the Upcoming Topics Covered in *The Reference Shelf 1988, Volume 60*

The 1988 *Reference Shelf* will provide thorough, balanced coverage of these important topics:

- The Supreme Court and the U.S. Constitution
- The Problem of Waste Disposal
- The Soviet Union
- Free Trade versus Protectionism
- Gun Control
- Representative American Speeches 1987-1988

Enter Your Subscription to This Timely Reference Tool Today!

Subscribers to an annual volume of *The Reference Shelf* receive the six titles as they are published. An annual subscription costs \$48 U.S. and Canada, \$53 other countries. Single titles are \$10 each, U.S. and Canada; \$12 each, other countries. Individual *Reference Shelf* titles average 200 pages in length and are bound in soft durable covers.

To Order Call Toll-Free 1-800-367-6770

In New York State call 1-800-462-6060;
in Canada call collect 212-588-8400.



THE H.W. WILSON COMPANY

950 University Avenue, Bronx, New York 10452 • (212) 588-8400

RILA IS ALIVE: LET'S MAKE IT THRIVE

by Frances Farrell-Bergeron

As previously mentioned in the Bulletin, former and current members of the RILA Executive Board (EB) met on December 11, 1987, for a day-long brain-storming session. The purpose of the session was to identify long-range goals for the Association and some possible ways to achieve them. The day was characterized by lively discussion of many important ideas, and serious consideration of ways to implement them. This article is a report to the Rhode Island library community on the development and progress of one of the issues which surfaced that day.

Over the past few years, the question of whether or not RILA should hire an "executive officer" has been discussed. It arose again on December 11, and participants identified various areas in which such a position could be extremely valuable for the Association. The notion surfaced at subsequent EB meetings, and finally an Ad Hoc Committee was formed and charged with defining a specific role for the position of "Executive Officer" and outlining the advantages, to the Association and its members, of utilizing such a position. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee are: Howard Boksenbaum, Roberta A.E. Cairns, Jim Giles, Jon Tryon, and myself. The committee submitted a report with recommendations to the EB at its March 1, 1988 meeting. I will summarize that report here, so that you, the members of RILA, can become familiar with the issue, discuss its relative merits among yourselves, and begin to form your own opinions about it. RILA members will eventually be asked to vote on its implementation, and the sooner we can all engage in lively debate about it, the better our decision will be.

The Ad Hoc Committee began work by analyzing the Association's most pressing needs and how the Executive Officer, whom we named the Public Information Officer (PIO) could function to fill them.

First, RILA needs to establish itself in the community as the recognized voice on how library issues affect public policy, and vice versa. There should be someone in RILA who can react publicly to issues which affect, or are affected by, library services, programs and personnel. This same person could present to the public specific RILA policies and programs

or, in short, perform public relations work.

As an example: a local representative has recently introduced legislation to protect the privacy of persons borrowing videos from video stores and libraries. A RILA spokesperson, the PIO, could seize this opportunity to commend the representative's position and point out that libraries have always, on principle, protected users' privacy, and that RILA has indeed already ensured legal protection by working successfully to exclude library patron records from the 1983 Open Records bill.

RILA has been sensitive and responsive to such issues in the past. Yet, because RILA officers hold full-time jobs with demands on their time and energies, such efforts are sporadic. Responding publicly in a consistent manner requires both vigilance and flexibility from the organization. The annual turnover of officers and EB members, while beneficial for the Association in many ways, deprives RILA of continuity of public expression. The creation of PIO position would address this weakness.

The advantage, for RILA and its members, is that the Association would be more visible to the public as the official library "voice" in the community. The eventual effect would be a heightened esteem for RILA, for libraries, and for the profession, which would ultimately translate into greater, and perhaps more tangible, support for RILA's goals.

Another area suffering from lack of continuity is the management and organization of RILA policies and activities. The annual turnover on the EB means not only that there is not ongoing, recognizable spokesperson for the organization, but that the thrust or theme of major activities changes from year to year. These annual changes are by no means all bad; the enthusiasm and vision that different individuals bring to the EB each year help RILA to remain alive and lively. But every few years the EB finds itself grappling with an issue, either internal or external, which has already been dealt with in a substantive way by a previous Board. There is no ongoing "memory" of earlier experiences to assist decision-making in an ongoing fashion.

There should be an office within RILA which can collect information on policies and

activities, and which can advise the EB on matters of policy and public positions from a long-term, past or present, point of view. This same office could take direction from the EB in "following through" on major decisions. "Following through" would include serving as a vital link between and among EB members and the committees involved in particular projects. The creation of the PIO position would address this need.

The advantage, for RILA and its members, is that the organization would run more smoothly. Furthermore, RILA's growth in stature as a result of the activities of its PIO not only would increase membership, but would inspire that membership to become more enthusiastically involved on all levels.

The Ad Hoc Committee has recommended to the EB that it present this idea to the membership in various forums, including discussion in the Bulletin and at the May 23 Annual Spring Business Meeting. We have also recommended that the PIO be a paid position, to start in January of 1989. The membership will be asked to vote on these recommendations. What is your response? My personal one is that RILA is alive; the creation of the PIO could help it to thrive.

Frances Farrell-Bergeron was President of RILA in 1983-84, and Secretary in 1981-82. She is Assistant Director of the East Providence Public Library.

EAST PROVIDENCE REMEMBERS MARGARET MARYOTT

The Board of Trustees of the East Providence Public Library has instituted the Margaret Maryott Memorial Award which will be made to an East Providence Public Library employee who exemplifies excellence in public service. The award is named for Margaret Maryott, a librarian who served the East Providence Public Library for more than 35 years and who died in 1986. During those years, she inspired people to a love of books, knowledge, and libraries.

The first award will be made by the East Providence Public Library Board of Trustees on Sunday, April 17th at 2:00 PM at the Rumford Branch of the East Providence Public Library. Until that time the name of the recipient of the award will be a well kept secret. Everyone who knew Margaret is invited to attend the award ceremony and

celebrate the memory of this one-of-a-kind librarian.

Information supplied by Roberta A.E. Cairns, Director, East Providence Public Library.

people

The Providence Public Library is pleased to have **KATHERINE BURKE** and **RICHARD BIDNICK** join its Reference staff. Katherine's MLS is from SUNY-Albany, and Richard holds an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh.

DEBORAH SHEA PORRAZZO has recently been named Director of Library Information Services at the Bradley Hospital, East Providence. Deborah has held the position of Assistant Director for the library for the last ten years, and is a member of the North Atlantic Health Sciences Librarians.

STEPHEN L. THOMPSON, Librarian in the Reference/Collection Development Department at Brown and IFC Chair, will attend the Intellectual Freedom Leadership Development Institute in Chicago to be held May 5-7. Steve will join over fifty librarians from all over the country at the Institute, held at the Hickory Ridge Conference in Lisle, Illinois. His expenses are jointly provided by ALA and RILA.

JOAN GILLES began work as Slide Coordinator in the Architecture Library at Roger Williams College. Joanne previously worked in the Art Department Slide Library at Brown while earning her BA in Art History at Brown.

PETER CHASE is the new Director of the Woonsocket-Harris Public Library. He comes to Woonsocket from the Plainville (CT) Public Library, where he has been director for the past seven years.

MARGERY MATHEWS, retired Ponagansett High School librarian and local historian, has written a 14-page pamphlet about Rhode Island's only ghost and the Foster Woolen Manufactory, entitled Peleg's Last Word. The pamphlet may be obtained by sending \$3.50 to the Foster Preservation Society, Box 51, Foster, RI 02825.

The Bulletin apologizes to **STEWART SCHNEIDER** for the misspelling of his first

name on the membership renewal form that appeared in the January-February issue.

BRUCE DANIELS NAMED DSLS DIRECTOR

Bruce Daniels has been named by Governor DiPrete as Director of DSLS. Bruce has served as Acting Director since August 1986 when Fay Zipkowitz, now associate professor at URI's GSLIS, began a leave of absence teaching at the University.

With a BA from Western Michigan University and an AMMLS from the School of Library Science at the University of Michigan, Bruce began his career in libraries as a Young Adult Librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia in 1971.

Two years later, he became Head of the Library's Lawncrest and Haddington branches. His management skills, which included the formation of a Friends of the library group and the development of press relations, led to his appointment as Assistant Coordinator, District Services Office, of the Free Library in 1977. Such responsibilities as serving as liaison between the twenty-six district libraries and the State Library of Pennsylvania and coordinating the Free Library's services to libraries in Delaware County as well as extensive experience in administering the District Services' programs prepared him for his duties as Deputy Director of DSLS which he assumed in 1979.

Since then Bruce has been highly visible in the Rhode Island library community. From the coordination of automation activities for the Rhode Island Automated Library Consortium to his provision of consultant advice on library construction to the development and administration of a \$5 million operating budget and a \$9 million capital budget, Bruce's diverse and wide-ranging involvement in library activities have prepared him well for his latest assignment. RILA welcomes and wishes him well.

bulletin board

- The Department of State Library Services will be relocating to new headquarters at 300 Richmond Street in Providence. Tentative date for the move is May 31st.

- In celebration of Freedom of Information Day (March 16) the American Library Association released a comprehensive new packet of information entitled, "Information: The Currency of Democracy." The packet focuses on the work of the Coalition on Government Information, which was initiated by ALA in 1986 and is made up of 43 organizations concerned about freedom of access to government information. Central to the packet is a newly published update and compilation of the report, "Less Access to Less Information By and About the U.S. Government." Earlier editions of "Less Access" have won several awards and, in 1986, the report was named one of the most underreported stories of the year by Project Censored in Sonoma, California. Free copies of the packet are available by writing the ALA Washington Office, 110 Maryland Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002. A self-addressed mailing label will expedite delivery.

- "Librarians: Professional Commitment and Alternative Careers," is the featured topic of the Eleventh Annual Gathering of Alumni and Friends of URI's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. Keynote speaker for the day will be Susan P. Klement, librarian, educator, consultant, and researcher, who has operated her own business, Information Resources, since 1970. The program will run from 9AM to 4PM and is scheduled for April 23rd in the Galanti Lounge of the University Library. A \$20 registration fee also includes lunch. For more information contact the GSLIS at 792-2947.

- The New England Archivists together with the Boston Chapter of The Association of Records Managers and Administrators, has established the Richard L. Haas Memorial Award, in memory of Richard L. Haas, former treasurer of NEA and President of the Boston Chapter, who died in May of 1987.

The purpose of the award is to promote increased cooperation and understanding between the archival and records management professions. The jointly administered award, established in recognition of his contributions to this area, will provide financial support to individuals interested in the fields of records management and archives who seek to foster mutual development and cooperation between the two professions.

During a brief career of nine years, Richard Haas contributed significantly in performance and creative professional development to both the archival and records management professions.

Contributions to the Richard L. Haas Memorial Fund can be sent to Larry Cohen, Fund Administrator, P.O. Box 491, Somerville, MA 02143.

- The next meeting of the Conference Committee will be held at 6PM on April 12 at the Barrington Public Library. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Further information is available from Carol Drought, Secretary.

- The Bibliographic Control Department of the Roger Williams College Library sent approximately 6500 shelf list cards to OCLC for retrospective conversion of Library of Congress classification sections PJ-PS. Funds for the conversion came from a grant from a Special Research Center Enhancement Grant. Work should be completed within six weeks and improve the efficiency of handling inter-library loan requests. It should also be noted that the Roger Williams College Library has officially joined the HELIN consortium with URI, CCRI, and RIC.

- At its monthly meeting on March 1, the Executive Board voted to adopt a position of neutrality on the 1988 proposed legislation of individual funding for specific libraries. In addition, the Board requested that RILA President Catherine Alves draft a brief policy statement describing RILA's position and the reasons for it.

COLA HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Bruce Daniels, Director of the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services, was honored by Rhode Island's Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) at its fourth Annual Meeting, Thursday, February 11, in the Governor's reception room at the State House. The award, whimsically called the "Sweet-heart of the Year" Award, is given annually for service to COLA and to libraries.

Over eighty-five people attended the meeting which, based on a Valentine theme, was followed by a champagne reception. Joan Ress Reeves, Chair, reviewed COLA's successes of the year, which included promoting literacy

through a Governor's proclamation of "1987: The Year of the Reader." She announced that, as its newest service, COLA offers a videotaped tour of the Library of Congress, which organization members may borrow at no charge. Anna Caruolo, Chair of Friends and Trustees, reviewed the highly successful joint COLA/RILA workshops on "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Friends and Trustees But Were Afraid to Ask." She announced that COLA plans to expand its outreach to Rhode Island Friends of Library groups in 1988.


Joan Gelch of Providence and Catherine Stewart of Barrington were elected to the Board of Directors.

Governor Edward D. DiPrete sent greetings to the group:

On behalf of all of the citizens of Rhode Island, I extend to you warm greetings and a most cordial welcome to the State House. Your work on behalf of the libraries of Rhode Island continues to be an example of dedication, thoughtful concern and sensitive awareness of the role played by libraries for enriching all segments of our society.

Rhode Islanders are deeply proud of the access that they have to a wide variety of books that are diverse in their contents, and exceptional in their numbers. Additionally, the collections of rare books of great value provide a treasure of information for scholars, students, and bibliophiles of all ages. By your thoughtful support of the work that is being done by the staff of these libraries, you are making a significant contribution to our society, and I commend you for it.

Information provided by Joan Gelch, Board of Directors, COLA.



We encourage browsing.

Brown Bookstore
244 Thayer St.
Providence, RI
Mon-Fri 9-6
Sundays 12-6

HOW WE'RE DOING: A BREAKDOWN OF RILA MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

At its March 1st meeting, the Executive Board heard its quarterly reports from RILA committee chairs. Following is an excerpt from the Membership Committee chaired by Stewart Schneider.

ADDENDUM TO MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT SUBMITTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The figures below represent final 1987 membership statistics and include members who joined RILA or renewed their memberships at the 1987 conference.

<u>Personal Membership</u>		<u>Institutional Membership</u>	
Public Library	172	Public Library	29
Academic Library	84	Academic Library	6
School Library	44	School Library	1
Special Library	25	Special Library	2
Other	31	Other	<u>2</u>
Trustees	83	TOTAL	40
Retired	22		
Life	24		
Affiliate	18		
Student	<u>14*</u>		
TOTAL	<u>517</u>		

*The decline in student memberships is more apparent than real. Affiliations of students who obtained positions after graduation were changed to type of library categories.

Combined personal and institutional membership - 557

New personal members - 68

New institutional members - 1 (Previously reported as 2. It was learned that one of these had been an institutional member at an earlier date).

Dues Payments

206 personal members paid dues of \$ 8.00
17 personal members paid dues of \$12.00
28 personal members paid dues of \$16.00
266 personal members paid dues of \$20.00

7 institutional members paid dues of \$15.00
7 institutional members paid dues of \$30.00
15 institutional members paid dues of \$40.00
11 institutional members paid dues of \$60.00

123 personal memberships were paid by libraries

130 RILA members indicated that they also belong to ALA

27 members made a contribution in support of the ALA Washington Office

45 members contributed to the RILA Continuing Education Fund

RILA members are reminded that this will be the last issue of the Bulletin that you will receive if you have not paid your 1988 dues.

president's message

At its February meeting, the Executive Board voted unanimously to express its concern to Governor DiPrete regarding his omission of libraries in his State of the State address. President Catherine Alves was asked to write the Governor on RILA's behalf, stressing the role that libraries play in the state, their crucial link to the educational process, and the public affirmation of that role in the recently passed constitutional amendment. Her letter follows:

The Honorable Edward D. DiPrete
Governor, State of Rhode Island
Executive Chamber, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor DiPrete,

The Rhode Island Library Association would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the importance of libraries to the continued growth of our state, in light of both the State of the State Address and the people's mandate in our recent constitutional amendment.

Rhode Island libraries, in all their forms, are a highly organized system committed to many of the same goals our state has been charged to meet. We support formal education in the schools and continuing education for the citizen. We provide valuable information to Rhode Island businesses and businessmen to keep them up to date in a competitive and dynamic environment. We help to support and promote literacy efforts all over the state and have committed a considerable portion of our budgets to supply children with materials and programs. We cooperate with private industry and have developed partnerships that have enhanced our efforts and brought a closer sense of community.

We accept the challenges that face our state, and we see libraries playing a very important role in all the programs to which the state is committed. Libraries are the one location that can provide resources for education to families and communities. Our state government is now committed to the promotion of libraries, as mandated in the constitution, and we ask that libraries are given the support needed to fulfill their roles. The word **libraries** should always be linked closely with the word **education**.

Thank you for all of your support in the past and we look forward to a continued relationship beneficial to the whole state.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mello Alves
President

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY STUDY: STAGE A COMPLETED

Stage A of the Rhode Island Library Study has been completed. The tasks for Stage A were:

- Define library service needs
- Inventory and assess attributes of existing library services and standards
- Compare requirements with current services attributes and standards

Peat Marwick presented the Study's Management Committee with a paper titled: Stage A - Working Paper. The paper was a synthesis of the meetings, interviews, and discussions which were held in the fall with different target groups. Priority issues and concerns were identified as:

- Strong and efficient state library resources
- Direction and leadership for the State Library Agency
- Proactive state leadership
- Adequate support from public funds
- Needs of local communities and children and young adults
- Changing technology
- Statewide planning and coordination
- Governance and accountability
- Professional development

Future needs were identified as:

- Increased demand for library/information service tailored to specific groups
- Access to total Rhode Island, New England, and National resources
- Rapid accurate access to information

Five critical needs were identified in 1964 and continue to be important factors in the Rhode Island Library Community. These needs are listed below with their levels of achievement since 1964:

- A strong, efficient state library as an independent unit of government
 - * A coordinated program of library service and development has not emerged in State Government. Programs continue to be fragmented and poorly supported.
- Direction and leadership from the State for a program of library service in the public elementary and secondary schools
 - * There is currently no support for the development of school library media programs at the state level.
- Direction and leadership from the State for a program of community library service
 - * The 1964 objectives for improving local public library services have been met. However, the State's program is not meeting needs or providing leadership to continue aiding the development of public library service.
- Conviction that community library services should be supported by public funds, as distinguished from endowment materials
 - * There has been some progress toward increasing public support for public library services, but support is still an issue.
- Adequate library service to children and young people
 - * The overall quality of library service to children has improved considerably since 1964. However, room for improvement remains.

The next phase of the study, Stage B, is about to begin. Stage B includes continued analysis of data, and the beginning of the development of the service plan for the future. A written or oral presentation of the study and its recommendations is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 1988.

Three-quarters of the libraries I walk into are out of touch with today's teenagers. I sense a reluctance on the part of some librarians to accept teen culture. Whether that's its musical taste, its tastes in movies or in the television it watches, I've sensed that while some librarians feel an obligation to serve teens, they frankly prefer to keep all but the best-behaved teenagers out of their libraries.

Contrast Strasser's comments on young people ("Reading is no longer part of their self-image)" with Allan Bloom's concern in The Closing of the American Mind that the so-called "great books" which represent humanity's "fund of shared experiences" have become virtually obsolescent in our times, and that even college students lack a knowledge or awareness of our cultural and literary heritage.

Ginny McKee, Chief of Children's Services, PPL, introduced the panel of English teachers which included Kenneth Girard and Jim McCaughey of Classical High School, Bob O'Hara of the Wheeler Middle School, Michael Scanlon of LaSalle Academy, and acting as a balance to the panel, Bob Burford of Johnston's Mohr Library.

Based on the premise that "educated people read," the Classical representatives shared their lists and the rationale behind them with the group. The Classical list at present contains some six or eight titles (pruned from an earlier list of over 600), all in paperback and relatively inexpensive, with the school's providing a "pool" of additional copies for students reluctant to buy them. The list is composed of fiction and nonfiction and geared toward "fun reading" that is also allied to course curriculums in the fall.

Wheeler representative, Bob O'Hara, though his list contains such modern classics as The Red Pony, expressed an interest in trying to add "YA" fiction to such tried and true titles. For many who teach and to whom "YA" fiction still is The Old Man and the Sea, the newly-created field of "YA" titles represents a whole new area of expertise, and one in which librarians could enlighten the school community. (This interchange seems to pinpoint a basic conflict within youth-serving professions: the preconception that "YA" titles are basically for "slow" learners and that "fast" learners, or college-bound, still

must read The Vicar of Wakefield.)

Though the purpose of summer reading lists is to foster a love of reading, the teachers expressed concern over testing of summer reading in the fall. How can a teacher determine whether the student has read the book? One way the Classical teachers try to determine honesty is by eliminating titles on their lists that have been outlined by "Cliff's Notes." Another imaginative way was espoused by Michael Scanlon from LaSalle. Rather than a test, he uses "double-entry" journals, in which the student must write as they read. One side of the journal is an objective entry (number of pages, purpose of the author, etc.), and the opposite side of the journal is the reader's emotional responses to what he's read. Each time the student reads, he writes approximately five hundred words, a demanding requirement and difficult to fake.

Expressing the public librarian's frustrations, Bob Burford cited the fact that the Mohr Library serves six or eight secondary schools, many with identical lists, often carelessly assembled. Misspelled titles can make a CLAN computer search virtually impossible, and limited bibliographical information make a seemingly simple request for Homer's Iliad difficult to fill. Beyond bibliographical problems is the budgetary: how much of a book budget should be devoted to school lists? Especially in less affluent neighborhoods is the problem most keenly felt. It is here also that the conflict over what kind of book should be read is most clearly seen. Todd Strasser's concern over our ability to meet real needs comes into focus at the Knight Memorial Library.

At this point, the concerns of the group took a giant leap forward, from the clearly understood need for teacher-librarian cooperation to the basic problems of our culture as seen by Allan Bloom and E.D. Hirsch, Jr. Judith Mitchell, Associate Professor of English at Rhode Island College, spoke most eloquently to these problems. It is absolutely essential, she maintains, to provide young people with books that stimulate the "shock of recognition." It is doubtful that King Lear can do this in the 1980's. Asking young people to read on this level is as if we were making "kids with no legs to jump through hoops."

Though reading does reflect the "common pool" of cultural knowledge, it may well be that the "cultural pool" is changing. In the long run, it may be that the main goal of summer reading programs is the stimulation of the imagination. In these days of computer games, movies, and MTV, Mrs. Mitchell suggests, the human imagination is most likely to suffer the fate of the appendix. Somehow, we must find books that trigger the brain's ability to visualize experience. Marianne Heimbecker, teacher of English at North Providence High and also at RIC, described in very dramatic terms her reading of James Joyce's short stories to her classes, in an attempt to encourage seeing characters in the mind's eye.

The role that movies play in encouraging reading surfaced here. Though we may decry the fact that good books rarely make good movies, nevertheless, there is a correlation between TV and theater movies and what gets checked out of the public library the day after these are shown. Nonetheless, for a real reader or "visualizer," films are often a pale imitation of the "real thing."

Patti Folsom, school librarian at Ponagansett High School, concluded the afternoon's discussion on an upbeat note. She shared her

* * * * *

The following is an excerpt from the "Summer Reading Program," instructions given to students at LaSalle Academy.

Double-Entry Journal Procedure

- A. Select a notebook which you will use only for summer reading and which you will be prepared to hand in at your first class meeting in the fall.
- B. On one side only of your Journal page,
 - a. Write down a memory, belief, or personal association that you were reminded of by your reading.
 - b. Write down the most important thing that happened in that amount of reading.
 - c. On the facing page, write down why you felt the way you did at the end of that section
- C. After you have finished the book, write an imaginary scene using the characters in the book, or a letter to one of the characters in the book, in which you explain something which was left out by the author.
- D. At the end of each assignment, you should have written at least 500 words.

experiences as liaison to the English department, guiding them to titles for their reading lists, giving book talks herself to students, and fostering an atmosphere where anything in print is fair game for student reading. Patti's enthusiasm and the constructive advice from Cranston specialists, Linda Archetto and Gretchen Bernier, rounded off an afternoon in which a two-hour librarian's meeting became a forum for a real sharing of ideas and problems that moved from the philosophical to the practical and back again. It is this kind of exchange, based on good planning and preparation, and enhanced by a rare magic, that transforms the routine into a stimulating and exciting experience.

*Libraries Serving Youth: Directions for Service in the 1990's: proceedings of a New York State Conference, April 16-18, 1986. Youth Services Section, New York Library Association, pp. 33-34.

Judith Paster is a former English teacher, present Reference librarian and managing editor of the Bulletin.

**CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL
Summer Reading List 1987**

All incoming Juniors will read from the following:

1. Frederick Lewis Allen - Only Yesterday
2. Maxine Hong Kingston - The Woman Warrior
3. Anne Tyler - Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant
4. Jim Bishop - The Day Lincoln Was Shot
5. Leonard Bernstein - The Joy of Music
6. Tony Hillerman - The Ghostway
7. Neville Shute - Most Secret
8. Herman Hesse - Narcissus and Goldmund

All incoming Seniors will read from the following:

1. Joan Chase - During the Reign of the Queen of Persia
2. Richard Rodriguez - The Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez
3. Lillian Hellman - The Little Foxes
4. Lawrence and Lee - Inherit the Wind
5. Italo Calvino - Cosmicomics
6. Stuart Kaminsky - Murder on the Yellow Brick Road
7. Joshua Logan - Mister Roberts
8. Jean Auel - Clan of the Cave Bear

editor's notebook

Since none of us can get to every meeting we may be interested in, the Bulletin will try to cover meetings the editors feel have value for the entire membership. Following is an account of a recent Young Adult Round Table (YART) meeting this editor attended. Over the years, YART has consistently offered stimulating programs to public and school librarians. This meeting was special.

There are few areas of modern life that show more dramatically how greatly times have changed than the reading habits of young people. Though the computer takeover of many of our professional and domestic lives is more practically evident, the debate over what kids should read and how to get them to do it reveals great divisions among those of us whose lives are dedicated to books and the stimulation of reading. Teachers and librarians, both school and public, are faced with some crucial facts of modern life.

Many of us who teach or work in libraries are readers; we grew up in "Radio Days," when our basic recreational activities were listening to the radio and reading books. In the 1980's we are faced with a whole new breed of young person to whom MTV and "teen movies" are a way of life, and reading a deadly chore that is mandated by an English teacher but often avoided by "Cliff's Notes." (Witness any neighborhood drugstore's supply of these yellow and black pamphlets!)

It was this generational dilemma that brought twenty-seven concerned and articulate teachers and librarians to the North Providence Union Free Library on February 24. Under the auspices of RILA's Young Adult Round Table and hosted by Peg Bierden, Children's Librarian at North Providence, a program on "Summer Reading Lists" was given, featuring a panel of English teachers from local middle and high schools, and an audience comprised, not only of school and public librarians, but also reading experts from Rhode Island College and Young Adult specialists from the Cranston Public Library.

Peggy Shea, Supervisor of Adult Services at DSLS and moderator of YART, opened the session with two opposing contemporary viewpoints. Todd Strasser, a well-known "YA" author of such titles as Friends till the End and Rock 'n' Roll Nights recently addressed a New York State Conference on Youth Services, saying:

continued on page 14

The RILA BULLETIN is published 10 times per year by the Rhode Island Library Association. Managing Editor: Judith Paster, 52 Seaview Avenue, Cranston, RI 02905 (467-8898); Assistant Editor: Peter Bennett, Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI 02903 (521-8753); Co-Feature Editor: Norman Desmarais, Providence College, Phillips Memorial Library, Providence, RI 02918 (865-2241); Co-Feature Editor: Tanya Trinkaus, Roger Williams College Library, Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI 02809 (253-1040); News Editor: Frank Iacono, DSLS, 95 Davis Street, Providence, RI 02908 (277-2726); Technical Editor: Veronica Thomas, East Providence Public Library, 41 Grove Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914 (434-2453); Jobline: Charlotte Schoonover, Kingston Free Library, 2605 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI 02881 (783-8254); Advertising: Linda Walton, Butler Hospital, 345 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence, RI 02906 (456-3869). Subscriptions: Free to members; \$12/year in U.S.; \$20/year foreign. Deadlines: 1st of the month for features and 15th of the month for everything else. Features limited to four typed double-spaced pages and must be signed by author. Advertising: \$100 full page; \$50 half page; \$30 quarter page; \$10 business card size. Change of address: members contact the Membership Committee Chair and subscriptions contact the Managing Editor. Send claims to Managing Editor. For further information contact the appropriate Editor. Printing by Adams Printing Company, 1850 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905 (461-1020); LC 57-26438.

Rhode Island Library Association
150 Empire Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Providence, R.I.
PERMIT NO. 210

PROV COLLEGE ARCHIVES LIBRARY
PHILLIPS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
RIVER AVENUE & EATON STREET
PROVIDENCE RI 02918