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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

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In Memoriam

ELIZABETH FUTAS

Dr. Elizabeth Futas, Director of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, died February 6, 1995 in Philadelphia while attending the winter meeting of the American Library Association. While untimely and unexpected, it seems fitting her death came in the midst of activity that was the consuming passion of her life, the business of librarianship.

Liz, as she was universally known, came to the GSLIS in January 1986 just two weeks prior to being notified that the School had lost its accreditation and was in some danger of closing. Undaunted, she immediately supplied what had been the School's greatest need, leadership. On arrival, she promptly began to build alliances with the library community, revitalized the distance education programs in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and began to rejuvenate morale among the faculty and students. The School won back accreditation in the minimum time allowed.

In the nine years that Liz directed the School, she molded it into an institution

very much reflective of her own vision of librarianship. Through retirements and resignations she was able to recruit almost an entirely new faculty. At her death, only one member of the faculty had not been recruited by her. Those new faculty were like Liz, bright, dedicated, experienced, and hard-working individuals. By precept, example, and encouragement, she molded that faculty into effective educators and willing scholars. Indeed, this aspect of her leadership was felt by students and faculty alike. She had a deft way of getting individuals to do what they ought to do. Hers was a gentle, guiding hand often disguised in a gruff exterior.

Under Liz's leadership, the School accomplished a number of things: the curriculum was extensively revised, the program enlarged, NCATE accreditation was gained and financial support during hard times was maintained. Liz was a strong believer in collegiality and accomplishments were made through a unified effort by the faculty, but it was Liz's vision



Liz Futas (Photo by Joseph J. McGovern, Jr.)

and power of persuasion that provided the direction and the impetus for each move. Her insights were aided and abetted by a great and infectious enthusiasm and a zest for the job at hand. Often boisterous but never vitriolic, warm, caring, and humorous, she shaped the faculty into a cohesive group, united by a vital sense of mission.

Her exuberance was matched by her personal accomplishments, which made her a marvelous role model. As an administrator, she lobbied tirelessly and with great ingenuity for the resources the school needed; she maintained a high visibility within the College of Arts and Sciences (which she served as Acting Dean in 1990), in the University, and in the library community at large; and she managed to run the front office smoothly and efficiently. As a teacher, she was challenging, stimulating, innovative, supportive, and, above all, knowledgeable. As a scholar she was exceedingly productive: she published three monographs (one of which is in its third edition), sixteen journal articles, and seven chapters in books; delivered nineteen research reports and thirty-nine speeches; wrote book reviews; edited *RQ* 1989-1991; and she was on the editorial board of *Collection Building* since 1978. She was also active in consulting, most recently evaluating the collection at Smith College (1994).

With all this professional activity it seems impossible there could be more but, in fact, Liz was very active in professional associations, most notably the American Library Association. A member since 1970, she was elected and served on Council 1979-88 and was re-elected in 1992. While on Council she served on the Executive Board and also on nineteen committees, many of which she chaired. At the same time she was active in the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) where, from 1982, she served on seven committees, chairing two.

Liz earned her doctorate at Rutgers in 1980, got her masters in librarianship at the University of Minnesota, 1966, and earned her bachelor's degree at Brooklyn College in 1965. Prior to coming to Rhode Island she taught in the library school at Emory University beginning in 1978. Other professional experience included cataloging at the Ford Foundation and cataloging/reference work at Queens College.

Liz Futas' record is truly awe-inspiring and it leaves no doubt of the importance she had in the profession and suggests the loss that librarianship has suffered with her death. A mere recitation of accomplishments, however, scants the manner in which she did them. Everything she did was clothed in kindness,

warmth, concern and humaneness. She was a person whom it was enjoyable to be with, to work with and for, and who made one feel proud to be a colleague. This past November the GSLIS faculty nominated Liz for the 1995 Phi Beta Mu award for distinguished service to education for librarianship. The award committee voted her the award unanimously not knowing that, at almost the same time, she had been stricken. The nomination is indicative of the great admiration and deep affection in which she was held by her closest colleagues. The award is recognition of her greatness in the field of librarianship.

- Jon Tryon and Gale Eaton are members of the GSLIS faculty and colleagues of Elizabeth Futas.



Profiles in Library Advocacy

Library advocacy takes many forms — trying to persuade state legislators to make their support of libraries tangible; watching what our Washington senators and representatives are up to with regard to libraries and programs that fund libraries; spreading the word about libraries on a national, state or local level; or sharing the news of libraries' valuable services with fellow citizens — all are important efforts that "promote libraries as essential to the well-being of a democratic society."

What follows are (only!) four examples of library advocacy as it is practiced in Rhode Island: 1) Library Legislative Day, sponsored by RILA and other library advocacy groups on February 14th, 2) a profile of the Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA), 3) news from RILA's Federal Relations Committee and 4) an account of the Newport Public Library's Breakfast with Principals.

Library Legislative Day at the State House: The Way It Was

MARIA BAXTER

February fourteenth was a busy day at the State House because it was the last day House members could file public bills. Entering the back door we bumped into Bill and Bev Clay, legislative watch volunteers for Operation Clean Government. They've been here every day of the session keeping tabs on committee hearings. Making our way through the tunnel-like sub-basement hallway, we joined a clerk at the eleva-

tor who was leaning on a hand truck piled high with what looked like General Assembly journal updates.

Getting off on the second floor we entered a crowded arena, and were greeted by Dale Thompson and Peter Bennett, two amiable library promoters. They manned tables bearing light refreshments as well as promotional material on Intergrated Reference and Information Services (IRIS) describing how reference resources link the Providence central library with its 10 branches, and a first-rate brochure prepared by RILA's PR committee outlining local, state and federal funds invested in RI libraries and how much it would have cost library users to purchase the 5,787,497 books/materials that were borrowed in FY94. The \$18 million investment would have cost the taxpayers \$187,804,278!

The place was really jumping with librarians we recognized, as well as many legislators and lobbyists. Making our way over to the State Library, Tom Evans seemed engrossed in a conversation with a House member inside the library, while Kathy Ellen Bullard sat with Rep. Lauzon under the bright LTV lights all set to be interviewed by RILA Public Relations Chair Fran Farrell-Bergeron. We lucked out catching Joe McGovern between takes. "Yes," he said. He could meet us over by the House entrance for photographs around 4:45 pm. Joe takes the best photos on the face of the earth. Just outside the library, OSFN guru Mike Sylvia had just logged on to the Secretary of State's file. Right now the file is not searchable but promises to be in the near future. Pat LaRose stopped by just in time for a demonstration while Internet aficionado Sheila Carlson oversaw her own terminal and answered questions from an attendee about their concerns over the fate of DSLS.

Over by the State Room, Rose Ellen Reynolds and Joan Ress Reeves were gearing up for the evening's annual COLA meeting. People milled and chatted. *Providence Journal* political columnist M. Charles Bakst wasn't sure if he knew us but gave a polite nod as he passed by. I wonder if he'll ever do a column on libraries. I wonder what he would say if he did. He would probably focus on the uncertain future of DSLS and the political overtones.

It was time for pictures with my trustee and legislators. We headed back over to the House side and met Joe. It was no small feat getting our House and Senate members together in one place for the picture even though the appointment was scheduled ahead with them all. They can get preoccupied and distracted so easily. Considering it a small miracle, pictures were taken and we all smiled and said thanks.

On our way back to the State Room for the COLA reception, we stopped to chat with Dorothy Frechette, marveling at how well the day was going, how well-attended, and just how many bills were filed today? As far as library-related bills were concerned, the library community was mainly concerned with enforcing the 1989 legislation that says the state's financial share to support local public libraries "shall be gradually increased from the level of support in fiscal year 1990 until the state's share in fiscal year 2000 is equal to at least 25% of the amount appropriated and expended in the second preceding fiscal year by the city or town from local tax revenues." Results of the legislative survey revealed that most legislators support the concept. Are we finally getting somewhere? Time will tell. Kudos to Alan Axelrod and the entire COLA team for all their great lobbying efforts. They never missed a beat.

A number of appropriations bills were filed by House and Senate members on behalf of individual libraries, as well as several library-related bills:

- *By Carter, Winfield, Fox, Palangio, Simonian*
Joint resolution making an appropriation of \$500,000 for DSLS.
- *By Lauzon and Panciera*
House bill to empower municipal library boards of trustees to appoint and provide the compensation for all library personnel employed by the particular city or town.
- *By Pires, Fox, Lanzi, Naughton, Rose*
House bill that would require all public bodies including quasi public agencies to place public records on file with the Secretary of State's Office to be placed in the State House Library.
- *By Pires, Fox, Lanzi, Naughton, Rose*
House bill to require the coordinating council for state library, archival, and information services to create a plan for free state-wide computer-assisted public access to government information by March 1, 1996.

Disturbing questions remained concerning DSLS. Secretary of State Jim Langevin stated that Governor Almond has the right to construct his cabinet any way he wishes but did say he stressed to the Governor that DSLS should stay intact and not have funding reduced. He, after all, was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and lobbied at the time to strengthen libraries. He too is waging a battle of his own right now in his efforts to provide the public with access to legislative data. A number of interesting bills relating to access to government information have been filed as well as bills having to do with reporting

and/or filing certain data to the Secretary of State. These have been referred to committee.

Do libraries support the idea of DSLS retaining its cabinet level status? You bet they do. All you had to do was witness the thunderous ovation Barbara Weaver received from all of us when Alan asked her to stand and be recognized at the COLA reception. We all agree that this is the time to strengthen library services, not diminish them.

*- Maria Baxter is Director of
the Lincoln Public Library
and Chairperson of RILA's
Government Relations Committee*

Profile of COLA Its First Decade (and More)

JOAN RESS REEVES

"ACTION ALERT," COLA's February 16 mailing to its membership shouted, "SAVE DSLS!"

While COLA (the Coalition of Library Advocates), RI's grassroots library-support group, is in the business of general advocacy, not just crisis management, library crises have checkered its history of ten years of incorporation and three more of informal association.

Within weeks of the original group's formation in 1982, President Reagan had proposed zero funding for libraries in the federal budget. COLA collected over 7,000 signatures to protest the cut. COLA members presented the petitions to their Congressional delegation in Washington, DC, at Legislative Day that spring.

COLA as Advocates

Since then, COLA members have written dozens of letters to Washington on legislative and funding issues; they have testified at Congressional hearings, made hundreds of phone calls, sent mailgrams, visited legislators and their aides.

At the state level, COLA has supported libraries whenever support is needed. Governor Lincoln Almond recently proposed that the Department of State Library Services (DSLS) lose its cabinet-level status and be absorbed into the Department of Education. In "SAVE DSLS!" Chair Alan Axelrod asks COLA's members to urge the Governor to reconsider his proposal. "Let's Act —" Axelrod exhorts, "Write Now!"

COLA has always understood that laypeople are the best advocates because they are less likely to be perceived as having self-interest in promoting their cause.

Last spring, COLA members testified at hearings resulting in the addition of \$275,000 for resource sharing to the state library budget — a small increase, but one that has enabled 99 percent of Rhode Islanders to participate in CLAN. As the bill moved through the General Assembly, another ACTION ALERT asked members to contact their legislators and urge support of the funding bill.

This past fall, Axelrod wrote to candidates for state elective office, asking what they would do for libraries if they were elected. Those who replied had their written interviews published in COLA's newsletter just before the November election. Clearly, this was a remarkable way to focus the political process on the cause of libraries.

COLA is, perhaps, proudest of its role in helping to pass — by 68 percent of the voters — the 1986 RI Constitutional amendment mandating state support of public libraries. Rose Ellen Reynolds, a delegate to the Convention and later a Chair of COLA, shepherded the amendment through. This set the stage for the 1989 legislation that requires RI to fund its public libraries by at least 25 percent of operating expenses by the year 2000.

Education — Not Just Advocacy

COLA's mission is not just advocacy. It includes education. In the fall of 1994, the group, with RILA, brought the renowned — and side-splitting — Arch Lustberg to RI to teach laypeople and professionals techniques of giving testimony and persuading others.

Its earliest educational effort was a statewide library fair, held in Warwick Mall. Then-Director of DSLS Fay Zipkowitz, now Interim Director of the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, pranced around the mall in a (very hot) gorilla suit, urging shoppers to learn about library services at exhibits by all types of libraries and library organizations. There were television and computer demonstrations, film showings, a "Stump the RI Historical Society" exhibit.

Even more ambitious was a day-and-a-half-long conference, in 1984, on "Libraries in the Future of Education: A RI Perspective." The conference, chaired by Richard Olsen, Director of the James P. Adams Library at Rhode Island College, was the library community's response — the first such state conference in the nation — to *A Nation at Risk*, a report by the National Commission on Excellence in Education. Keynote speakers, panels of educators, of public, school, and academic librarians were followed by small-group sessions and reports to a plenary session.

The conference may have been the first time that educators (State Department of Education representatives, school superintendents), other state- and community-agency people, and librarians from all types of libraries got together to discuss mutual concerns. The participants recommended ways of bringing together teachers, school and public librarians, students and parents. Ideas were offered on political action, advocacy, public relations. The need for groups to communicate with each other emerged as the strongest recommendation of the conference.

In 1989, COLA convened a meeting of delegates to the 1991 Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services plus representatives of all the state's library organizations and of the URI library school. At COLA's meeting, the group agreed on eight top-priority recommendations that became a blueprint for action for the library community. COLA published the priorities in the widely circulated "An Agenda for the Nineties."

Catalyst for Communications

COLA has been a catalyst for inter-group communication since its founding. It began as an outgrowth of the 1979 RI Governor's Conference and the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, plus other advocacy efforts. Until 1985, when it was incorporated, it was a loose "organization of organizations." By 1984, it had become clear that COLA needed to incorporate, to achieve federal non-profit status, and to charge dues to support its activities.

COLA has done all of the above. It keeps its dues at a minimum \$10, though many members contribute \$5, 25, or even \$100 — all tax deductible. Its membership has grown to over 4,000 individuals, libraries, organizations, and members of Friends' groups.

While fund-raising is not COLA's top priority, it does raise funds through the annual "Walk for Literacy," in which COLA teams up with other organizations who support literacy. As part of its mission to help provide top-quality service to all Rhode Islanders, COLA gives two scholarships every year to URI GSLIS students.

Toward the Second Decade

The 1995 Annual Meeting reflected the energy with which COLA approaches its second decade. The meeting capped RI Library Legislative Day, sponsored by RILA with RI's other library organizations. The day was an outgrowth of the new-this-year Library Advocacy Task Force, convened by the Library Board of RI. COLA has actively participated in that Task

Force and in the Library Funding Task Force, both representing all RI library organizations.

At the February 14 Annual Meeting, COLA gave its coveted *Sweetheart of the Year Award* to four groups for their part in instituting the agreement that allows Rhode Islanders free access to the Internet through their schools and libraries: NYNEX (accepted by Carol Grant), Brown University (accepted by University Librarian Merrily Taylor on behalf of Vartin Gregorian), the RI Public Utilities Council (accepted by James Malachowski), and the Department of Education (accepted by William Fiske for Peter McWalters).

Some 150 people, a record turnout, wished COLA a happy tenth birthday and more productive years to come.

*- Joan Ress Reeves is Chairperson
of the Library Board of Rhode
Island and first Chairperson,
COLA*

News From the Federal Relations Committee

JOAN PRESCOTT

The mission of this small group of dedicated individuals who meet at Barrington Public Library moves along two tracks: to monitor legislative initiatives being formulated at the federal level and to respond to those initiatives.

Acting as our "eyes and ears" on Congress is ALA's Washington office which publishes (almost daily) *ALAWON*, an electronic newsletter. Of inestimable value, too, is committee member Joan Ress Reeves, connected as she is to the national library scene.

Historically, Rhode Island's library interests have been well-represented in Washington by Senators Pell and Chafee and more recently by Rep. Jack Reed who played a crucial role in last session's passage of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act). Thanks to Mr. Reed, the bill included language specific to school libraries and media centers.

One could argue that lobbying these "good guys" is tantamount to preaching to the choir. Nevertheless, the Committee routinely keeps in touch if only to remind them that we're here and we're watching.

While our Washington delegation is not an impediment to viable library funding, some of their colleagues are just that. In fact, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Chaired by Rep. John Edward Porter, IL) just recently voted massive rescissions (read CUTS)

to FY95 funds already in the pipeline. Defunding equaled \$34.7 million, a potentially staggering loss for the nation's library construction and literacy programs. Equally dispiriting is President Clinton's FY96 proposed budget for libraries: zero for everything but LSCA Titles I and II. Ominous clouds are massing over Washington!

Briefly, here are other matters that the Committee is tracking — persistent (pernicious) efforts by the Federal government to privatize public information and access to it; the Internet, NTIA, and the First Amendment; funding for Higher Education Act (HEA) and Government Printing Office (GPO). What we do should be of interest to the membership of RILA in all its diversity.

On May 9th, representatives of the Committee plan to join their counterparts from around the nation in Washington for the annual ALA sponsored Legislative Day. There should be much to talk about!

*- Joan C. Prescott is Director of
the Rogers Free Library, Bristol,
and Convenor of RILA's Federal
Relations Committee*

Breakfast with Principals!

JANE PERRY

One way librarians can enlist public support for their libraries and the services they provide is to spread the word about those services — especially to community leaders who may not realize the wealth of information and technology available to them now through their libraries. The following account by Jane Perry outlines how she decided to "spread that word" to fellow Newport educators.

The Newport Public Library hosted a breakfast for the area's public and private school administrators on January 30, 1995. Over the past several years the complexion of the library has changed dramatically. The removal of our card catalog and introduction of the computerized Public Access Catalogues (PAC's) are just the tip of the iceberg. It was felt that our local educators needed to be updated on the new array of technology now available to their staff and students.

The staff agreed it would be a good idea and were all willing to participate in the presentation and involved in its planning. I introduced the idea to Bob Power, Director of Student Support Services for the public schools and he agreed to bring it up at the next administrator's meeting. Letters were sent to the principals of all the county private schools inviting their

principals and librarians. Also invited were Volunteers in Newport Education, adult education administrators and the Newport School Committee. A key factor in getting attendance is always food! Breakfast pastries, bagels, fruit and coffee were donated by local businesses. (Our Friends group helped solicit the donations. The response was excellent!)

The library is closed on Monday mornings so this was an opportune time to hold the breakfast. We set up right across from the PAC's and other patron computers so we could point out which we were referring to during our presentations. The areas covered on our agenda included the past, such as it was, present and future of technology at NPL, off-line CD ROM and software programs available in-house, on-line reference services, ILL and place-a-hold functions, current and projected use of technology by students and teachers and community outreach via bookmobile services. The staff member most knowledgeable on each topic was the presenter. This gave the attendees a face to put with the various functions and also enabled us to introduce as many staff as possible. (All staff on duty that morning were introduced, even our custodian, Jonathan Cortes!)

To let the administrators know that the NPL is not the cheese that stands alone, we invited Dorothy Frechette of DSLS to be our keynote speaker. Dorothy brought with her an LCD, over-head projector and computer and demonstrated Ocean State Freenet, LORI and Learning Link. Special thanks go to Andy Eagan who did a trial run of the equipment the Friday before the breakfast and also trekked down to Newport the morning of the event to be sure all technology ran smoothly.

Congratulations to all who helped ... the administrators were impressed! There has been a very positive response to this program and I urge all communities to try it. The principals were enthusiastic about getting on-line in their own school libraries. Teachers have been in to sign up on Ocean State Free-Net, and have called for technical help in logging on and using the Free-Net. Other groups, such as the Newport County Council for Community Services, have requested a similar program to be presented to them. We even received flowers as a thank you from one of the principals. The program seems to have had a ripple effect. As word is getting out that neat things are available at NPL, people have been coming in to find out more.

*- Jane Perry is Young Adult
Librarian at Newport Public
Library.*

Legislators Surveyed On Libraries

Early this year RI's Advocacy Task Force developed a questionnaire designed to survey the attitudes toward and use of libraries by members of the General Assembly. The preliminary results of the survey, distributed at COLA's Annual Meeting on February 14th, are as follows:

Preliminary Results of Survey of RI Legislators Relating to Libraries — February 10, 1994

- 88 Legislator Surveys were returned (60%)
- 93% of legislators surveyed use libraries
- 91% of legislators' families use libraries
- 61% of legislator surveyed have CLAN cards

The top reasons legislators use libraries are:

- Official use
- Leisure, hobbies, etc.
- Business
- Lifelong learning

Legislators liked most the following about their libraries:

- Reference collection
- Friendliness
- Service
- Books and magazines
- CLAN access

Most legislators think libraries should:

- Lend books on tape (82)
- Provide computers for the public to use (71)
- Provide access to the Internet (71)
- Lend videos (68)
- Be open Sundays (60)

The top vote-getters for what legislators wish libraries would do that they don't do now were:

- Let you reserve books from home (52)
- Be open more hours (51)
- Let you connect to the Internet from home (46)

As elected officials, legislators would like to get the following information more easily:

- Comparative data from other states (59)
- Federal and state statistical information (48)
- Background information on current issues (45)
- Access to information from home (41)
- Easy access to RI laws and regulations (40)

- Professional research assistance (37)
- 80% of legislators responding (47 out of 59) said that the state's share of funding for public libraries should be between 20% and 50%.

The following additions to their public libraries would help legislators the most:

- Increased and more convenient hours
- Computer and Internet access
- Additions to collections: especially legal resource materials
- Additional staff and more professional staff
- 62% of legislators use a computer at work
- 59% of legislators have a computer at home
- 48% of legislators with computers also have a modem
- 41% of legislators use an on-line service

Preservation Update

by Ann M. Dodge

Recent Articles

"The Electronic Link" by Sally Buchanan in the February issue of the *Wilson Library Bulletin* talks about the preservation challenges presented by the electronic record. She enumerates some of the issues that librarians need to be aware of in order to preserve electronic records. Ms. Buchanan writes about the importance of understanding all aspects of electronic media. She uses CD-ROMs as her example.

"Freeze Them or Fry Them" in the Winter, 1995 issue of *Fumigants and Pheromones* discusses the use of extreme temperature in the control of insects. While not directed to the library community, there is information that can be used to control infestations in libraries. The article states that "The general rule for freezing is to achieve a temperature, at the site of the insect pest, of zero degrees (-18°C) for 7 days for 100% of all stages of insect life." The article provides a table of various temperatures and their effectiveness in killing stored product insects. (Extreme heat is unsuitable for library materials for a variety of reasons, one being that adhesives can ooze and run at high temperatures.)

In "Library Disasters: Are You Prepared?" by Susan C. George in the February, 1995 issue of *College and Research Libraries News*, pp. 80-84 George points out that most academic librarians admit that they don't feel

adequately prepared to deal with a disaster. She recommends that librarians educate themselves about the potential risks that are present in their libraries. She suggests that librarians attend workshops dealing with emergency preparedness. Ms. George lists the information needed for a disaster manual and provides tables of recovery supplies. Ms. George reminds librarians that preparation will limit the amount of damage done to the collection during a disaster.

Meetings and Workshops

Technology and Conservation and the Boston Athenaeum are sponsoring a series of intensive one-day conferences/training courses in various aspects of risk management. These training programs "will provide a broad overview of the security problems that an institution ... faces ... and will relate these to practical measures for minimizing risk The speakers for the conferences are distinguished authorities in the fields of security, risk management, law, and insurance, with extensive experience in the fine arts, museums and cultural institutions, and heritage preservation areas." The topics are:

"Loss and Recovery of Artistic
and Historic Works" (Friday, May 5, 1995)

"Fire Safety"
(Friday, June 1, 1995)

"Intrusion Detection and Prevention"
(Friday, June 19, 1995).

All three conferences run from 8 AM to 5 PM.

Registration is \$250 for all three or \$90 for a single conference. If you have questions regarding these training programs, get in touch with:

Susan E. Schur
Technology and Conservation
One Emerson Place
16M
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 227-8581

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis.

The Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System is offering two workshops entitled "Dr. Seuss Revisited or the Care and Repair of Children's Books." The workshops are being conducted by Gregor Trinkhaus-Randall. One is being held on April 25, 1995, 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM at the Peabody Institute Library in Danvers, MA. The other is at the Needham Free Public Library on May 23, 1995, 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM. The registration is limited to 25 (Massachusetts

Institutions will get preference). Please call Ellen Rauch of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System (617) 536-4010.

Preservation On-Line

In addition to the Preservation SIG on LORI, there are two other preservation related computer services that may be of interest to librarians. The first is "Libpresv, a list dealing with the preservation of books, documents and other library materials." The list hopes to provide information and "advice on methods, supplies, training possibilities or resources." The list is being run out of the University of Southern Utah. To subscribe e-mail

Maiser@library.su.edu,

leave the subject line blank; and in the message area, leave the message:

SUBSCRIBE LIBPRESV

along with your name and address. The other list is the Consdist list, operated out of Stanford and moderated by Walter Henry. This list covers all types of conservation (museum objects, photographs as well as books and paper). This list's membership has a great number of conservators and can get a bit technical. To subscribe e-mail

consdist-request@lindy.stanford.edu

Mr. Henry also operates Conservation OnLine (CoOL) which provides on-line access to a wide variety of conservation related publications.

If there are subjects concerning preservation that you would like to see covered in future columns, please get in touch with Ann Dodge at John Hay Library, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912 or 863-1502.

PEOPLE

PAULA AZAR, reference librarian at Providence Public Library, is the author of "Searching Cyberspace for a New Position: Job Hunting Resources on the Internet" published in the February 26th issue of *National Business Employment Weekly*.

MIA BRAZILL, former librarian at the Kingston Free Library, is now Acquisitions Librarian at Smith College.

LESLIE PAGE has been named Assistant Director of the Woonsocket-Harris Public Library, where she had been Children's Librarian.

ROBERTA SMITH has been appointed Acting Branch Librarian for Providence Public Library's Mount Pleasant, Wanskuck, and Olneyville branches.

STEPHEN J. ZIETZ has been appointed Director of the Library by the Redwood Library and Athenaeum. He previously served as Head of Special Collections at Virginia Tech.

In Memoriam:

ELLIOTT ANDREWS, former State Librarian and Librarian at the *Providence Journal-Bulletin*, recently passed away.



BULLETIN BOARD

The American Library Association has established a memorial fund for Liz Futas. Donations should be sent to the Elizabeth Futas Memorial Fund, c/o American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.



COLA's (Coalition of Library Advocates) "Sweetheart of the Year Award," usually presented to a person demonstrating extraordinary commitment to libraries, this year was given to four institutions instrumental in developing the telecommunications and computing infrastructure now helping connect close to 3,000 Rhode Islanders to the Ocean State Free-Net. At COLA's Annual meeting on February 14th, President Alan Axelrod presented the award to representatives of Brown University, the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, NYNEX, and the Public Utilities Commission, whose cooperative efforts resulted in the establishment of RINET.



The CRIARL (Consortium of RI Academic and Research Libraries) Government Documents Committee is sponsoring a travelling exhibit of state and federal documents entitled "Business Information: Making Government Work for You!" The exhibit focuses on business information found in depository libraries and will travel to over 25 libraries beginning in April.



L-TV, the RILA-produced library news and information cable television show, is still looking for volunteers for its production crew. Anyone interested should contact Frances Farrell-Bergeron at the West Warwick Public Library at 828-3750.



Travelers Aid Society has published the 23rd edition of the *Rhode Island Directory of Human Resources*. For the first time, the directory is available in three versions – print, disk, or computer program. For ordering assistance call Travelers Aid at 521-2255.



The newly renovated Kingston Free Branch of the South Kingstown Public Library opened on March 11.

RILA AWARDS CHANGED

In an effort to avoid a rush for all involved, the Board of the Rhode Island Library Association has decided to extend the deadline for the nomination of the Trustee of the Year and the Outstanding Librarian and/or Special Achievement Award. **The new deadline is May 15th.** After nominations are submitted, an Awards Committee will make its recommendations for approval at the RILA Board meeting in June, and the Awards will be conferred at the RILA Fall Business Meeting.

Any trustees or librarians interested in serving on the Awards Committee should contact Sarah Weed at 245-7686. Nomination letters should be sent to Sarah Weed, RILA Board Member-at-Large, George Hail Library, 530 Main Street, Warren, RI 02885.

Just the Facts

How Many Libraries

Colleges and University Libraries	3,274
Public Libraries and Branches	8,946
Branches	7,0345
Buildings	15,981
School Library Media Centers	97,975
Public Schools	76,544
Private Schools	21,431

Who Uses Libraries

- 53% of American adults use a public library each year.
- 75% of children between 3 and 8 years olds visit a public library each year.
- 13,093,800 people visit college and university libraries in a typical week
- 2.4 million students visit public school library media centers each week.

Funding

Federal funding for libraries totals about **\$146 million** — less than 1/100th of 1 percent of the federal budget.

Public libraries receive less than 1 percent of all tax dollars — federal, state and local. Spending on collections and services totals **\$4.3 billion** annually or about \$18.73 per person.

Funding for public libraries comes from the following sources:

- 79 percent, local tax dollars
- 1 percent, federal
- 12 percent, state
- 8 percent, gift, other

A 1993 Gallup Poll found that a majority of Americans believe that tax support for public libraries should be **\$34 per capita** — almost double the current amount.

Most school libraries spend about **\$6 per child** for books.

College libraries receive **2 cents** of every dollar spent on higher education.

The average community college spends **\$47** on materials per student.

For more basic figures about libraries and library users, see The Whole Library Handbook, compiled by George M. Eberhart and published by ALA Editions, 1995.



**Library
Advocacy
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cycle for major ALA initiatives and activities, implemented and coordinated through all ALA divisions; and (4) to establish the Fund for America's Libraries, as the major national philanthropic foundation supporting Association initiatives and libraries of all types. Space doesn't permit a detailed description of these vital elements of *Goal 2000* (see recent issues of *American Libraries* and watch for some information I've got for those of you on the ALA Rhode Island membership list), but it's more than fair to say that the ideas of expanding ALA's presence in Washington, focusing on a five-year theme rather than each incoming president's own brainchild, and taking advantage of the funding available from large gift-givers who seek to impact the American public interest, are ideas that stand on their own merit.

So the good news is that ALA has a vision and a plan. The not as thrilling news is that the Association would like a dues increase to fully implement it. What has been proposed is a graduated \$25 increase (\$10 the first year, \$10 the second year, and \$5 the third) in various membership categories. Council was almost unanimous in its support of the dues increase and having it placed on the Spring membership ballot. I've got plenty of information that points to the fact that ALA's dues structure is low in comparison to similar associations (both national and state). If you want it, please ask. But I think the question should be whether or not you think *Goal 2000* is worth supporting with your hard-earned dollars. Check out the details and vote accordingly. It's important. And speaking of voting, we voted on many things at

our three council meetings and one I feel I especially need to mention is the proposal put forth by the Organizational Self Study Committee regarding term limits for councilors. The proposal would limit councilors to two consecutive terms and allow re-election after a two-year hiatus. Essentially this proposal speaks to the perception that the Association is governed by a select few insiders who get to serve continuously on Council because of name recognition. The key word here is perception, for upon real scrutiny (see *LJ*, April 15, 1994, pg. 8) of the 173 councilors serving in 1994, a grand total of six had served more than two consecutive terms. Council, myself included, voted this down not so much because it was perception that was being dealt with, but because the notion itself is so patently anti-democratic. ALA prides itself on being a participatory, democratic association and term limits (or more accurately term spacing) flies in the face of this assertion. If the Association has people who feel that they have something to offer by serving on Council and are willing to spend their own time and money to do so (as many do) and are recognized for doing a good job, I don't see how the Association benefits from enjoining them from Council. As someone said at

a caucus, "we already have term limits — they're called elections." ALA needs more people voting and knowing how to vote (bullet voting works!), not an artificial restriction to the democratic process. That's your councilor's soapbox speech and, as always, your comments are welcome.

In concluding my report, I'm obviously leaving out a lot about what else took place in Philadelphia. Let's just call this not your usual report on not your usual conference.



ALA Membership Changes Lives

Need help with a censorship problem?

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom provides assistance when dealing with censorship and consultation on First Amendment issues. More than 600 librarians received help in 1993.

Membership features

- Complimentary subscription to *American Libraries*
- Up to 40% off registration fees at ALA conferences
- 10% discount on ALA Books and ALA Graphics
- Eligibility for ALA's travel, group insurance plans, credit card programs

Yes, I want to be an ALA ChangeLeader

Membership categories (please check)

- First-time Member \$38
- Student Member \$19
- Foreign Librarian \$45
- Renewing Member \$75
- Non-salaried or Retired Member \$26
- Trustee & Associate Member \$34

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Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____

Place of Employment/School _____ Position _____

Address _____

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- Send mail to: Home Work
- Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
- Charge my dues of \$ _____ to my
- VISA MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

If you are using this form to renew your membership, please enter your ALA Membership Number here _____

Mail entire ad to: Membership Services, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Losing a Friend, Gaining a Vision: ALA Midwinter

FRANK P. 12, ALA COUNCILOR

The American Library Association lost one of its finest leaders as did we in Rhode Island when Liz Futas passed away on February 6th in Philadelphia. Liz was a librarian's librarian — passionate, principled, dedicated, informed, outspoken, caring, and genuinely fun to be around (even when challenging you or taking you to task for something as only she could). ALA was Liz's extended family and if she had to be taken from us at such a young age, it probably was fitting that it happen at an ALA conference, amidst this family that loved, admired, and respected her so. Ironically, on the day she died and unbeknownst to her, Liz was being chosen as ALA's 1995 Beta Phi Mu award winner for distinguished service to education for librarianship, just one of many notable achievements of this remarkable person. Serving with Liz on ALA Council will always be one of the highlights of my career, for she was a joy to behold in this arena — holding court with luminaries and common folk alike, kibitzing and/or providing running (and often humorous) commentary on the proceedings, and speaking with fire and eloquence at the microphone. She was a natural born mentor as well as a friend and many of us who served with her can testify that when you learned from Liz you learned from the best. She had a profound influence upon ALA and her memory will be a source of inspiration to her legion of ALA friends and colleagues for many years to come. And right about now I can hear her saying "All right already, how about doing your job and telling them about the conference." And so I shall.

The exciting news from Philadelphia is that "ALA Goal 2000," the visionary plan put forth by Executive Director Elizabeth Martinez, was enthusiastically embraced by both ALA's decision-makers and its myriad factions. "ALA Goal 2000" is a five-year plan addressing the urgent need for the Association to take a leadership position in the information age and to fulfill its role as primary advocate for the "intellectual participation" of the American people in the information society. A concise, fine-tuned synthesis of key concepts and eminently doable strategies, *Goal 2000* offers a farsighted yet practical approach to accomplishing this mission, one that seems to engender nothing but confidence in those who take a close look at it that it's the right approach. Witness the fact that at Midwinter ten ALA divisions formally endorsed ALA Goal 2000 (for those of you with your acronyms list handy — AASL, ALTA, ALCTS, ALSC, ACRL, ASCLA, LITA, PLA, RASD, and YALSA) and that ACRL's Board of Directors pledged \$100,000 to the proposed Fund for America's Libraries.

The key objectives of "Goal 2000" are: (1) to expand and enhance the ALA Washington Office; (2) to create an Office of Information Technology Policy as the technical arm of the Washington Office; (3) to adopt a five-year thematic

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