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RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

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July & August 1996

President's Message

DONNA DUFAULT

LAST NOVEMBER JEAN TAMMARO, one of North Kingstown Free Library's trustees, and I spent three days in Boston. We didn't do the usual museums, shopping, and touring. We spent from 8:30 to 5:00 in a meeting room with twenty-eight other public library directors and trustees from all over the country to learn the basics of fundraising. We had received a grant from the American Library Association Fundraising Resource Center funded by the Kellogg Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation. The training was done in partnership with the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy.

We learned about the vocabulary for giving – annual giving, capital campaigns, major gifts, endowment funds, and planned giving. We learned strategies – direct mail, special events, telephone, personal solicitation, and grant proposals. We learned to market to individuals, corporations, foundations, government, and associations. We learned about the human resources involved – staff, boards, leadership volunteerism, and motivation. We learned how to evaluate our institutional readiness –

(continued on page 7)

LTA Courses and the Community College of Rhode Island

JAMES FRECHETTE

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY College of Rhode Island (CCRI), I am presently investigating the feasibility of the college offering Library Technical Assistants (LTA) courses for college credit. The investigation will center around two major concerns: (1) assessment of demand for such courses; and (2) how best to deliver instruction should demand warrant.

Assessment of Demand

In an attempt to gauge demand, CCRI and the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services (DSLS) jointly sponsored three teleconferences for library assistants. "Soaring to Excellence II" was produced by the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The time schedule and the subjects covered were as follows:

February 2:

- Say Internet and they will come
- Successful team-building: managing to survive the challenging 90s

March 1:

- Tools of our trade II: brand names in reference work
- Coping with change and stress in the library

May 3:

- Support staff: invisible people
- A Mosaic of library issues: where do you fit in?

Ninety-nine people registered for one or more of the three teleconferences; thirty-three people attended all three teleconferences and were awarded a Certificate of Completion from CCRI. For those who were unable to attend all three dates, CCRI and DSLS have videotapes available for borrowing; those who complete viewing are eligible for a Certificate of Completion. If interested in viewing one of the sessions, please contact Dolly Quigley (CCRI) at 825-2333, or Frank Iacono (DSLS) at 277-2726.

Each teleconference had an evaluation sheet for attendees to complete. Generally the responses were favorable, although some were quite critical. Whether or not future teleconferences will be offered and/or offered for credit through CCRI remains to be determined.

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Delivery of Instruction

There are a variety of instructional methods now available due to advances in technology. For example, the University of Maine at Augusta is offering a Library and Information Technology (Associate Science) degree. The program's major library courses are offered on interactive television and are available throughout the state on the Education Network of Maine. In an effort to reach students outside Maine, the University of Maine is presently offering two distance education courses: LIB:203 Survey of Health Science Resources and LIB:204 Survey of Business Resources.

There are three elements to the distance education courses:

- video lectures that will be shipped to you;
- hands-on experience in a local library; and
- e-mail as the communication tool.

Distance education is instruction which takes place outside the traditional classroom setting through the use of video, audio, computer, and/or multimedia formats. Accessibility and flexibility allow instruction to be offered to people at their place of work, to parents who must stay home with their children, and to the physically disabled. CCRI's current telecourses, offered via Channel 36, are an example of distance learning. This will certainly be an option for the LTA courses, as well as other techniques, such as:

- providing Internet access to other distance learning sources;
- providing videotapes for borrowing;
- sponsoring additional teleconferences as previously described; and
- traditional classroom instruction.

As a result of attending the "Soaring to Excellence" teleconferences, I discovered that there are forums available for library technicians to share concerns and ideas. One can subscribe to either:

- the Soaring to Excellence LISTSERV
To do so, send an e-mail message to: LISTSERV @ UICUM.EDU
The body of the message has to be: subscribe soaring (your name).
- *Library Mosaics: the magazine for support staff.* ISSN: 1054-9676, bi-monthly, approximately \$20.00/year. Contact Edward B. Martinez, YENOR, P.O. Box 5171, Culver City, CA 90231.

Editors Raymond Roney and Ed Martinez encourage library technicians to submit articles for publication. DSLS will be initiating its own subscription in the near future.

Yet another forum will be the focus group meetings to be scheduled sometime in September and to be jointly held by CCRI and DSLS. If interested in participating, please contact Dorothy Frechette (DSLS) at 277-2726.

— Jim Frechette is Coordinator of Technical Services at CCRI

BULLETIN BOARD

DSLS: The passage of the State Budget for 1996-1997 has put in motion the gradual transformation of the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services (DSLS) from a freestanding department to the Office of Library and Information Services within the Department of Administration (DOA). A one-year transition period was built into the enabling legislation thus insuring that the changeover is gradual. An Implementation Committee of DSLS staff and DOA staff has been meeting to formulate a mission statement for the new Office and to solicit comments and answer questions from the personnel affected by the change. The new Office will encompass all current DSLS functions plus several existing functions in the DOA, including data processing and portions of the statewide planning program, and the Office of Municipal Affairs. DSLS emphasizes that it will remain responsible for provision of the library programs and services it has always offered. The areas of overlap and collaboration are in the process of being defined via the drafting of the mission statement and subsequent goals and objectives. One area sure to be addressed will be information services to state government, which has never had an agency charged by law to provide it.

DSLS also recently announced that its offices will continue to be at 300 Richmond Street and 70 Elm Street, by virtue of a six-month lease extension. Meanwhile the search continues for a new, permanent site which will be chosen early next year.

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URIIGSLIS: The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island recently was reaccredited by the Accreditation Committee of the American Library Association.

Where o' where is the *Bulletin*???

You may have noticed that the RILA *Bulletin's* delivery schedule has been somewhat erratic. Steps are being taken to correct this situation.

**Thank you
for your patience.**

☛☛☛☛
RILA Conference: The RILA Fall Conference and Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13th at the Barrington Public Library.

☛☛☛☛
ALA Council List: The American Library Association has an electronic mail listserv used for informal communication among councilors, as an adjunct to the ALA home page for making available Council documents and reports, and as a means of encouraging discussion of issues of concern to Council. ALA members are welcome to subscribe for read-only access to the Council listserv. Since the list is not self-subscribing, those who wish to subscribe should send their request by e-mail to: lgregory@ala.org – an acknowledgement of the request and instructions for using the listserv will be sent once the subscription request is received and processed.

☛☛☛☛

NELA: The New England Library Association's Annual Conference will take place October 6-8 at the Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn in Manchester, NH. For more information, contact the NELA Office at 508-685-5966 or Shirley Long, RILA's NELA Councilor, at Providence Public Library at 455-8020.

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NAHSL: The Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries will be held October 6-8 at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich in Greenwich, CT. For more information, contact Laurie Fornes at 413-784-4197 or Kenny Malone at 203-785-4369.

☛☛☛☛

Banned Books Week: Banned Books Week will be observed September 28-October 5 this year. It is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA), the American Booksellers Association, the Association of American Publishers and other organizations devoted to preserving First

Amendment rights. ALA has developed a wide range of promotional materials for Banned Books Week which can be ordered by calling the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom at 1-800-545-2433, Ext. 4223.

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The Oral History Association Annual Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, October 10-13, 1996, at the Holiday Inn Select Center City. The meeting's theme will be "Oral History, Memory, and the Sense of Place." Among the featured speakers are Robin D.G. Kelley (New York University) and Spencer Crew (Smithsonian Institution). For registration information, contact the Oral History Association, P.O. Box 97234, Baylor University, Waco, TX 76798-7234. Phone (817) 755-2764; Fax: (817) 755-1571; e-mail: OHA_Support@Baylor.edu

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Please Note: RILA has a new address! Write to **RILA** now at **P.O. Box 7858, Warwick, RI 02887-7858.**

PEOPLE

Norman Desmarais, Acquisitions Librarian at Providence College, received an invitation to join the Citizen Ambassador Program delegation to South Africa. The delegation consists of information services managers and other professionals involved with specialized libraries. The delegation will participate in bilateral technical exchanges with the emerging leaders in South African information services management. The primary objective is to review the status of South Africa's information services and special libraries, with particular reference to those areas important to the region's redevelopment efforts.

In 1994, South Africa made a dramatic turn to representative government under the leadership of Nelson Mandela. While the recovery from the years of apartheid is now the country's primary challenge, with

its strong technology infrastructure, South Africa is well positioned to assume an important leadership stance in the development of all sub-Saharan Africa. The developed nations are supporting the ongoing changes in South Africa by looking for new opportunities for cooperation in trade, investment, and technical collaboration.

The delegation will visit universities, research centers, and special libraries in private industry, in the academic community, in scientific institutes, and in the medical and legal information delivery fields. The delegation will assess needs, share individual and collective expertise, and build linkages for increased future cooperation.

The Citizen Ambassador Program is part of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower. Since its founding, eight U.S. presidents,

including Bill Clinton, have served as Honorary Chairman. People to People has sent delegations to parts of the world where citizen diplomacy and an exchange of ideas between professionals could make a positive difference in the lives of people.

Paula Azar, reference librarian at PPL and feature columnist for the *RILA Bulletin*, has accepted a position (in the private sector!) as Marketing Leads Manager for NOS Communications. She heads west to Nevada on August 18th. Good luck, Paula!

Mattie Gustafson, Collection Development Librarian at Newport Public Library (a part-time position) has been appointed Adult Services Librarian at Newport. Responsibilities for this new full-time position include: collection development, financial development, and adult programming.

Candidates for RILA Executive Board

Vice President/President Elect



KATHRYN ELLEN
BULLARD

Position: Director of the Woonsocket Harris Public Library.

Education: B.A. in English, Framingham State College; M.L.S., University of Rhode Island.

Experience: 1980-1981, Children's Librarian, Taunton, MA Public Library; 1981-1986, Director, Fiske Public Library, Wrentham, MA; 1986-1988, Director, East Bridgewater, MA Public Library; 1988-Present, Director, Woonsocket Harris Public Library.

Professional Activities and Organizations:

Literacy Volunteers of Northern Rhode Island, Board Treasurer, 1990 to Present; Board Member of Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities, 1992 to Present; (Executive Committee, 1994-1995, Vice Chair 1995-1996, Chair, 1996-1997).

Frequent Contributor of library column to *Providence Journal Bulletin* (regular columnist *Woonsocket Call*, 1990-1994).

Chair, Rhode Island Library Association Membership Committee, 1993.

Member at Large, Rhode Island Library Association Executive Committee, 1991-1993.

U.S. Department of Education, LSCA Title VI grant reader, 1992, 1993, 1995.

American Library Association member, Public Library Association member, New England Library Association member, (and Rhode Island Library Association, of course!).

Also, active in Woonsocket community: Kiwanis Club member, 1991-Present, President, 1993.

Member of Connecting Children and Families.

Member of Northern Rhode Island Human Service Providers.

Express your views of the importance of the office for which you are standing as candidate:

In addition to the obvious task of substituting for the President when necessary, the Vice President/President Elect has important duties as a liaison to all committees, and particularly as a Budget and Finance Committee member. Committees are the spokes of the RILA wheel, providing both substance and enthusiasm for the continued successful activities of the organization. The position of President has a primary responsibility as the spokesperson for RILA, and, in conjunction with other library organizations, as a vocal advocate for quality library services. It is the President who must be actively engaged in ensuring that RILA fulfills its stated mission.

How can RILA be an effective advocate for library service at the state level?

It is absolutely vital that RILA remain an active, effective advocate for library service at the state level. This has been successfully accomplished in previous years. A legislative hearing notification "tree," and a RILA lobbyist are excellent ways of doing this. But efforts must be consistent, ongoing, and not crisis-driven. This may mean not only continuing to participate and support the kinds of activities that have been successful in the past (e.g., working with COLA on the February event), but also the expansion into new venues. RILA's long range plan is a tremendous step forward in being such an effective advocate and an effective organization.

Treasurer



ANN MORGAN
DODGE

Position: Conservator of Library Materials, John Hay Library, Brown University

Education: 1977, AB Colby College; 1981, MLS, University of Michigan; 1982, MA (Comparative Literature), University of Michigan.

Experience: 1987 to Present, Conservator, John Hay Library, Brown University; 1983 to 1987, Conservation Specialist, Nebraska State Historical Society; 1980 to 1983, Conservation Apprentice, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.

Professional Activities and Organizations:

1994-Present, Rhode Island Library Association; 1995-Present, Publications Committee; 1979-Present, Society of American Archivists; 1995-Present, Preservation Outreach Committee; 1987-Present, American Institute for Conservation

Express your views on the importance of the office for which you are standing as candidate:

The treasurer is responsible for monitoring the fiscal health of the association. The treasurer needs to insure that funds are being spent wisely, and that the association receives value for its money.

How can RILA be an effective advocate for library service at the state level?

RILA needs to be a strong voice for libraries and librarians, with both the public and the legislature. Libraries are undergoing a period of change and it is essential that RILA focus attention on the role that libraries play within their communities.

FAVORITE BOOKS

The response to our last year's request for favorite books and authors was so good that we are going to do it again! This time, we're looking for the best book or a new author that you've read *during the past year*. Send title, author, and a sentence or two about *why* that book (or author) was special to any member of the RILA Publications Committee (our names appear on the *Bulletin's* masthead), or e-mail your favorites to Mattie Gustafson at mattiegn@dsl.rhinet.gov.

We will publish this list of books/authors in the November/December issue of the *Bulletin*. Look for it!!

Secretary



JAMES A. BARRETT
Position: Systems Librarian, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island.
Education: A.B.

Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts. MLIS, University of Rhode Island

Experience: State Library of Massachusetts, 1988 – 1990; Draper Laboratory, Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1990 – 1991; University Library, URI, 1991 – Present.

Professional Activities and Organizations:

American Library Association, 1987 – Present; Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, 1987 – Present; Library and Information Technology Association, 1987 – Present; Association of College and Research Libraries, 1991 – Present; Rhode Island Library Association, 1992 – Present.

Importance of Office:

Any office in RILA is important regardless of the duties. All are involved in the running of the Association which is moving toward a more active role in the protection and development of the library profession in this state. The Office of Secretary will give me the opportunity to meet librarians in Rhode Island as well as give me the opportunity to more fully develop the Association's role in our professional lives.

How can RILA be an effective advocate:

RILA should more fully develop its role as an advocate for better salaries for librarians. Librarians have historically been underpaid when compared to other similarly trained professionals. The Association with its active membership should focus more attention and publicity on the importance of librarians to the community, whether that community is academic, public, or special and insist that they be reasonably compensated.

ALA Councilor



FRANK P. IACONO
Position: Supervisor, Reference & Information Systems, RI Department of State Library Services (DSLS)

Education: B.A., Providence College; MLS, University of Rhode Island

Experience: 1973-Present, DSLS; 1989-Present, Cranston Public Library (as needed).

Professional Activities and Organizations:

RILA: ALA Councilor, 1992-1996; Publications Committee (News Editor), 1985-Present; ALA: Chapter Relations Committee (CRC), 1992-Present; Freedom to Read Foundation (CRC Representative), 1995-Present; Chair, CRC Subcommittee on Chapter Coverage in American Libraries, 1995-1996. Chair, CRC Chapter Booth Subcommittee, 1993-1995. CRIARL Government Documents Committee, 1985-Present; COLA.

Express your views on the importance of the office for which you are standing as candidate:

ALA Chapter Councilors facilitate two-way communication between ALA and its fifty-three chapters and provide a voice for these chapters in the governance of ALA as voting members of Council. I welcome the opportunity to take advantage of the knowledge and experience I've gained as a first-term councilor and Chapter Relations Committee member and, if elected, will continue to do all I can to foster the partnership between RILA and our national association.

How can RILA be an effective advocate for library service at the state level?

RILA has a very important leadership role to play in library advocacy. It should be about projecting a positive image of the profession, speaking forcefully on behalf of equitable library service and intellectual freedom, lobbying for increased library funding at the state level,

building coalitions with other associations and organizations to effect positive change.

NELA Councilor



FRANCES FARRELL-BERGERON
Position: Director, West Warwick Public Library.
Education: 1977, MLS, University of

Rhode Island; 1970, BA, Salve Regina College.

Experience: 1972-1979, Reference Librarian, Providence Public Library (PPL); 1979-1980, Head, Shared Resources Department, PPL; 1980-1984, Coordinator, Principal Public Library PPL; 1984-1987, Head, Reference/Reader's Advisor Department, PPL; 1987-1989, Assistant Director, East Providence Public Library; 1990-1992, Project Coordinator: "Christopher Columbus: From Genoa to the New World," John Carter Brown Library and DSLS; 1992-1994, Coordinator, East Bay Literacy Cooperative; 1993, Project Bibliographer, "What A Difference A Bay Makes;" 1993-1994, Grantwriter and Freelance Librarian; 1994-Present, Director, West Warwick Public Library.

Professional Activities and Organizations:

RILA, Member, 1972-Present; President, 1983/1984, Secretary, 1981/1982; Government Relations Committee, 1972-1979, 1988-1989; Nominating Committee Chair, 1987-1989; Personnel Committee Consultant, 1980-1984; Public Relations Committee Member, 1993-Present, Chair, 1993-1995; "L-TV" creator, producer, host; Program Speaker/Panel Member for various library groups including RILA, NELA, DSLS, MA Central Region on various topics including Personnel Issues, Library Promotion and Publicity; Grantwriting; Professional Ethics; Library Literacy Service; Reference/Reader's Advisory Service; NELA Member, 1986-Present; ALA Member, 1987-Present.

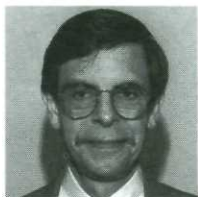
Express your views on the importance of the office for which you are standing as candidate:

NELA presents the perfect opportunity for librarians across the region to share news, problems, concerns, and success stories. The person who holds this office is the conduit between RILA's members and librarians throughout New England. I'll do my best to represent RILA's interests and to keep you informed about NELA's activities.

How can RILA be an effective advocate for library service at the state level:

RILA's effectiveness in this area has been growing steadily in the past few years. We've come to appreciate the importance of understanding the political process and improving our lobbying skills, as well as the value of stating our message with clarity and conviction. And we've had highly effective leaders and spokespersons. What we need to do now is to continue – not to tire or give up or get discouraged in the face of possible setbacks – but simply to persist.

Member-at-Large



DAVID W. MACKSAM

Position: Director, Cranston Public Library

Education: BA, Montclair State

University, Montclair, New Jersey; MLS, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

Experience: Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland, Branch Librarian; Central Arkansas Library system, Little Rock, Arkansas, Assistant Director; Clermont County Public Library, Batavia, Ohio, Director; Cranston Public Library, Cranston, Rhode Island, Director.

Professional Activities and Organizations:

Rhode Island Library Association, Government Relations Committee; American Library Association; Public Library Association; Library Administration and Management Association.

Express your views on the importance of the office for which you are standing as candidate:

All state library associations are faced with technology, membership, and funding challenges. As member-at-large I believe my twenty-five years of public library experience in rural and urban environments would be useful in meeting these challenges through informed decision-making.

How can RILA be an effective advocate for library service at the state level:

RILA and its individual members must keep a high profile at the state level through regular and ongoing communication of legislative goals, actions, and problems. Briefings, technology showcases, highlights of program accomplishments, and identification of future needs are part of this process.

RILA Awards

RILA makes awards in two categories: the Trustee of the Year, and the Outstanding Librarian and/or Special Achievement Award. The first award is drawn from the trustees who serve on boards throughout the state, the second from our professional ranks. The winners share an indefatigable energy focused on making our libraries work better.

The Rhode Island Library Association awards are conferred annually by the Association at its fall conference. Any RILA member is eligible to nominate names for these awards. The RILA Executive Board views these recognitions as very worthwhile, and we hope that you will make an effort to spotlight a deserving trustee, and/or library colleague. Below are the criteria for you to consider as you deliberate about your choice for this year's awards.

This year's nominations are due October 1st. Nomination letters should be sent to Donna Dufault, RILA President, North Kingstown Free Library, 100 Boone Street, North Kingstown, RI 02852.

Criteria for Trustee of the Year Award

Who? Any trustee of any library who has had service on his/her board for at least three years.

These are suggested guidelines (but by no means the only ones) upon which a nomination may be made:

- Nominee worked in a readily identifiable way to develop/improve library service to a community (or to a specific segment within the community).
- Nominee successfully lobbied for increased funding and/or resources for his/her library (specifics required).
- Nominee identified a community need for library service and successfully fashioned a means of satisfying that need (e.g., was instrumental in getting a new, larger building to supplant a small inefficient one).
- Nominee fashioned a plan that successfully enhanced the library's role in the community or improved relations between the library and other significant community service groups.
- Nominee was instrumental in networking with trustees from other libraries to foster cooperative planning or activities.

Criteria for Outstanding Librarian Award

This award honors the career accomplishment of a librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to both his/her library and the library profession.

- Development of outstanding service of field(s) of expertise, e.g., children's, administrative, technical.
- Involvement in statewide library activities.
- Record of professional library leadership.

- Encouragement of community/institutional support for the library.

The nominee must be a member of the Rhode Island Library Association. The RILA Executive Board reserves the right not to present this award in any given year.

Special Achievement Award

This award honors the individual(s) who has completed a significant project or instituted an innovative program during the year. The achievement being honored should:

- Have had a significant impact on the library, the community, or the library profession.
- Be timely, taking place within approximately the past year.

The RILA Executive Board reserves the right to present more than one award, or not to present this award in any given year. This award may be given to the same individual more than once.

Magic and Loss: ALA Annual Comes to the Big Apple

continued from back page

Association has pledged \$50,000 for this suit with any leftover monies to go to the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF). RILA contributes \$100 to the FTRF each year but the FTRF's personal member total is astonishingly low, a little more than 1,200. Contact me if you would like to join. Your dollars are needed now more than ever.

As far as the much discussed ALA budget deficit for FY '96 is concerned, yes ALA is projecting a possible 2% deficit due largely in part to unanticipated costs relating to the redesign of *American Libraries* and a decrease in anticipated revenue from exhibitors for this conference. Also, paid registration for the conference was down about 2,500 from last year, but how this impacts ALA's final budget figures for the fiscal year that ended July 31st remains to be seen.

Nonetheless the overall financial picture of the Association is bright enough. ALA has over \$9 million in the bank and its endowment has grown to \$7.5 million. Certainly no cause for alarm.

With regard to Council news, a major step forward in keeping ALA members apprised of the Association news and issues is the opening up of the Council listserv to non-councilors, who now will have read-only access. This was enabled by Council passage in principle of the report of the Electronic Communications Oversight Committee. See subscription details in the "Bulletin Board" column in this issue.

Other action by Council included:

- endorsement of a Committee on Minority Concerns motion to commit ALA to a campaign to raise \$1 million for minority scholarships.
- passage of resolutions concerning federal agency compliance with U.S. Code Title 44 to provide government information to depository libraries and concerning the public's right to government information.
- postponement of consideration of a proposed Sunset Policy requiring divisions and smaller units to review their activities and justify their existence every six years.
- referral to the Intellectual Freedom Committee of a proposal to change Banned Books Week to Challenged Books Week.
- passage of a resolution supporting independent booksellers in the face of unfair competition from chain stores.
- passage of a resolution supporting Omaha, NE library workers hit with compensation discrimination by the Omaha City Council.

Two final items. President Mary Somerville announced her theme for the upcoming year, "Kids Can't Wait... Library Advocacy Now!" She distributed a President's Paper prepared by Virginia Mathews focusing on the needs of children and how librarians can advocate effectively on their behalf. Look for ALA to put forth a wealth of

information, programs, and publicity in support of this effort. And lastly, the Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award garnered over \$7,000 in funding through the sale of Liz's collections of jewelry, dolls, ceramics, and books at a special booth in the exhibit area. Her friends and family were quite pleased that their hard work on this project was so richly awarded.

— Frank Iacono, ALA Councilor

President's Message

continued from page 1

constituency and environment; case, needs and goals; commitment, communications, and stewardship. And finally, management – analysis, planning, execution, control, evaluation, professional stance, and ethics. All these skills in three days.

We came back with a "fund raising cube" which still sits on my desk that lists all these factors and I still remember what they all mean. We have put most of these to work and have started a \$500,000 Capital Campaign. This program helped us to get the staff and the board excited about a successful campaign, to get organized, and to get started. We learned a new vocabulary. We don't ask people for money, but "to share the joy of giving to their values." Libraries are valued by many people in our communities and people do give to what they value. I was the kid who hated to ask people to buy Girl Scout cookies. Now I feel I can ask people to give what they think is appropriate for them to our library. It was a great experience, and when we finish our campaign and our library addition and renovation, I will know that those three days in Boston gave us the confidence to get it started and to be successful.

Donna

Donna Dufault, President
Rhode Island Library Association

Magic and Loss: ALA Annual Comes to the Big Apple

No it wasn't Orlando (still a sore point with a few folks) but New York City that hosted ALA's Annual Conference July 5th-10th and speaking with many of the record number of Rhode Island librarians in attendance – including quite a few first-timers – it was obvious that they enjoyed every minute of it. The weather was great, the madding crowd was away for the weekend, the programs and receptions were interesting and enjoyable, and the exhibitors were friendly and generous with the freebies. And to put the icing on the cake there were the attractions that only New York can offer. Who needed the mouse? Yet for many councilors a cloud of controversy put a damper on things, though it wasn't until most of us arrived home that we learned of the end result – the resignation of ALA Executive Director Elizabeth Martinez.

It seems that Elizabeth has had to endure some vicious backbiting over the last few months by people who have opposed some of her decisions, particularly those regarding staff downsizing and/or reassignment and spending curbs in anticipation of a budget shortfall for fiscal 1996. When she prefaced her report at Council I by saying that she felt she should be wearing a suit of armor at the podium, it was obvious that something was rotten in Denmark. In an embittered yet controlled voice she expressed shock that people could be so vindictive. And though she didn't elaborate with all the gory details, it was clear that she was devastated by the attacks. Though most of us hoped that she would weather this storm, she announced her resignation to the Executive Board three days later. As far as myself and many of my colleagues are concerned, this represents a giant step backward for the Association. Elizabeth's leadership and vision brought focus and renewed spirit to ALA; Goal 2000 and all that it entails is her legacy and will remain the cornerstone of ALA's future endeavors on behalf of libraries and library services.

And now for the rest of the story ... As everyone knows by now ALA was victorious in its suit against the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) over the constitutionality of the Communications Decency Act (CDA). The DOJ has filed for appeal and the future scenario in all likelihood is that they will come before the Supreme Court early next year with a decision reached before the Court adjourns for the summer. ALA has earmarked \$200,000 toward the cost of the litigation and the Freedom to Read Foundation has added \$100,000. The ALA funds were taken from its endowment and will be repaid over time. Meanwhile on the Council floor it was announced that the Public Library

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