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Winter 1998

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RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

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Winter 1998

President's Message

KATHY ELLEN BULLARD

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES to be accomplished in the coming year, there are two goals to which I particularly feel committed. First, is to help craft the next strategic plan (1998-2000). We're working on the first draft now, and hope to be completed within the next few months.

Second, is to help increase our membership. If we don't do that substantially in the next few years, this organization risks becoming stale at best, and ineffectual at worst. What I propose is very simple: every current member must not only renew, but bring in another new member.

In 1997, we had 272 paid members. We can double our numbers simply by making sure that every one of those 272 renews, that every librarian new to the state is asked by a RILA member to join, that every librarian new to a library be asked to join RILA if they haven't already done so. And that those who are not members now are encouraged by those of us who are, to join. Discuss with prospective members RILA and its benefits to the library community.

continued on page 7

Redesigning What Did You Do in the War, Grandma?

WILLIAM ANGER, JR.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, GRANDMA? was developed at South Kingston High School by Linda Wood, an oral historian, and the school's librarian. The interviews were conducted and recorded in the Spring of 1989. In 1995, the text of the project's printed component was putdigitized and made available over the World Wide Web by a group of Brown University faculty and staff under the direction of Professor John Sallant, and with the assistance of Laurion Burchall and Arlene Kim. At that time there was little thought of doing more than making the interviews as written available to a wider audience. The project was a remarkable success. The What Did You Do in the War, Grandma? project pages are accessed by teachers and students throughout the United States, and the world.

In the Spring of 1997 Linda Wood approached the Brown University Scholarly Technology Group to discuss updating the site with a new look and perhaps the addition of material from the original project that was neither published in print nor released on the Web. In the meantime, digital technologies have evolved that make it possible to present audio content via the WWW. STG has been using Progressive Networks REAL AUDIO

server to vend presentations and instructional material, and we were excited about the possibility of letting people hear the voices of the participants in the What Did You Do in the War, Grandma? project. In April we began to explore the possibilities of creating a new and improved site.

Experienced users of the site will find that all of the material they have previously used is still available, and at exactly the same address (URL). We have been very careful to maintain the kind of straightforward design sensibility the original site exhibited.

That said, there are several additional elements that we believe

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enhance the site's value and usability as an educational resource:

1. We have modified the appearance of the site, and made some changes to the minimal existing navigational structure. This will make it easier to find the various sections of the site, and may also make the individual pages more readable.
2. We have made substantial improvements to the timeline feature. There is more material and it is coupled to more and better background information.
3. One of the original interviews – with Naomi Craig – has been made available in its entirety via the REAL AUDIO server. This includes not only digitizing the original tape, but creating a comprehensive network of pages that situate and support the interview in a regional, national and international context.

Whether you are a new user of the site or a veteran, please explore its new features and let us know what you think of the resource. We hope it will be a valuable one.

*William Anger, Jr.
Hodgson Memorial
Library, Bryant College;
Phillips Memorial Library,
Providence College;
Managing Editor,
RILA Bulletin*

Committee Reports

Conference Committee

The Rhode Island Library Association's Spring Conference will be held June 4 and 5, 1998, at Salve Regina University in Newport. The Conference Committee is planning a schedule of programs that address concerns of multi-type libraries. This theme coincides with the make-up of the Association, since members come from all types of libraries, and reinforces that, especially in Rhode Island, interlibrary cooperation is important.

Our keynote speaker on Thursday is Keith Fields, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, who will discuss multi-type library cooperation. On the same day a three-member panel will discuss how libraries in Rhode Island can build on their established lines of cooperation to incorporate further cooperation from joint collection development to staff training to information delivery systems.

In keeping with the theme, our speakers also will be coming from all types of libraries. We are pursuing programs with librarians from Roger Williams Law Library on legal resources, from Providence Public Library and Brown University for a joint session on music reference, and another with librarians from Nantucket and New Shoreham on how library service differs when you live on an island.

Issues that affect all types of libraries will be discussed in programs such as planning for diversity in your library, trustee and director relations, writing a staff manual, sexual harassment, fundraising, and censorship on the Internet in the wake of the ruling on the Communications Decency Act. Time will also be set aside for the annual spring business meeting of the Association.

Remember to reserve Thursday evening for socializing with dinner and an entertaining speaker. Judith Swith of URI's Theater Department invites

IN MEMORIAM

KAREN CHABOT,
who directed the
North Scituate Public Library
for eight years,
passed away on February 6th
after a long bout with cancer.
She was 45.

her audience to laugh and celebrate that which makes Rhode Islanders a peculiar but fascinating breed, as she talks about "Quahogs, Bubblas and License Plates." Conference and membership committees and the executive board all look forward to seeing all of our members at the Spring 1998 Conference in the lovely City-by-the-Sea.

*Pat LaRose
Newport Public Library*

Government Relations Committee

What's in a name? The committee and the RILA Board are considering a name change to "Legislative Action Committee." The new name would better reflect the current direction of the committee's work and would help distinguish the different focus from that of the Federal Relations Committee.

The 1998 strategy for increasing the state share of public library funding is well underway. Fran Farrell Bergeron and Ann Toll are producing another award winning power point presentation which will be used with trustees, staff, and legislators on the accomplishments and goals of public libraries and the statewide network of service that is being developed in Rhode Island.

To improve communications and the exchange of information the committee held a joint meeting with the Federal Relations Committee on February 2, 1998.

*David W. Macksam
Cranston Public Library*

Public Relations Committee

The RILA Public Relations Committee continues to produce public relations material for RILA on a regular basis. Members of the committee prepare public service announcements each month and press releases as needed. One of the most interesting projects of the PR Committee is the production of our cable program, L-TV.

Each month at least one and often two programs are taped to be aired on Sundays at 12:30pm on local interconnect channels. We have received many positive comments about the quality of this cable program. In an effort to let more people know about L-TV, we have produced a bookmark with information about the program to be distributed to public and other libraries across Rhode Island.

My thanks to the members of the RILA PR Committee: Beth Sousa from Providence Public Library and Fran Farrell Bergeron from West Warwick Public Library. Thanks also to the members of the L-TV Crew: Joe McGovern, Fran Farrell Bergeron, George Donovan, Janet Lanni, Michael Silvia, Beth Sousa, and Stanley Ulbrych.

If you are interested in joining the RILA PR Committee or would like to help with L-TV, contact me at Coventry Library at 822-9101.

*Deborah Barchi
Coventry Public Library*

COLA Holds Annual Meeting

RHODE ISLAND'S COALITION OF LIBRARY ADVOCATES (COLA) held their annual meeting on February 11th in the Governor's Reception Room at the State House. The meeting featured a performance by the Charleston String Quartet, who were celebrating ten years of grant-funded concerts in public libraries throughout the state.

COLA's top award, "The Sweetheart of the Year," was presented to the Rhode Island General Assembly for their \$1 million increase in library funding last year. On hand to accept the award were House Finance Chair, Antonio Pires, and Senate Finance Chair, J. Michael Lenihan.

COLA also recognized the accomplishments of four library friends groups with cash awards. The friends

groups of the Cumberland Public Library, East Smithfield Public Library, and North Smithfield Public Library were cited for outstanding programming and fundraising efforts during the past year. And the friends of the Westerly Public Library received a "Distinguished Service" award for a long-standing fundraising program which features an annual book sale that raises over \$10,000 for the library each year.

Professor Jonathan Tryon of the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies was on hand to present awards to two GSLIS students. The Linda Aldrich Memorial Award was presented to Sharron Rothberg and the William Bergeron Memorial Award was presented to Paula Anderson.

Lastly, COLA's new slate of officers were elected. Outgoing Chair Betsy Garland, who was recognized for her leadership over the past year, welcomed COLA's new Chair, Beth Watson Sousa, Public Relations Coordinator at the Providence Public Library.

*Frank Iacono
Office of Library &
Information Services
Dept. of Administration*

Editorial

Dear Kathy Ellen and readers,

This editorial is being written from the COLA event, "Celebrating Rhode Island Libraries." Held annually at the Rhode Island State House, all of the library associations of Rhode Island work together, especially on this day, to demonstrate the importance of libraries to the Rhode Island community.

The tables are set up in what is described as a high-traffic area – appropriately enough – right outside of the State Library. The tables were visited by a large number of legislators, aides, State House employees, and members of the library commu-

nity. Speaker of the House John Harwood, Secretary of State James Langevin, and librarian-Representative James Panciara all went out of their way to welcome us to the State House and spend time visiting the various displays.

The associations represented a cross-section of the library community: ARIHSL, CLAN, COLA, CRIARL, HELIN, OLIS, SLA Rhode Island Chapter, RIEMA, Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative, RILA, and URI-GSLIS.

Sitting next to photographs of Rhode Island's great libraries, a quiet moment gives time to reflect on your President's message on the front page of the *Bulletin*. The importance of the message is emphasized by the continued discussion of membership on the back page of the *Bulletin!*

The strength, the lifeblood of the Association is the members, the people who join together with a common goal. At one time or another, all of us have suggested to co-workers that they might wish to join RILA. We need to do more, we need to FIND a new member.

I believe the Association is worth belonging to, that membership will provide a number of benefits and opportunities to another librarian. In exchange, new members will bring additional insights to our organization. It will be a win-win situation.

When I mail in my membership renewal tonight, I will be paying for a new membership in RILA. What we do in the next year will determine whether the Association can keep this new member.

Your President's Message was my inspiration!.

Thanks, Bill

*William Anger, Jr.
Managing Editor,
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Preservation Update

by Ann Morgan Dodge

Upcoming Events

March 11 – 10AM-3:30PM

Intermediate Book Repair
Sponsored by NELINET
Speaker will be Todd Pattison
Location: NEDCC, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA
Registration information:
NELINET 1-800-NELINET

April 15 – 10AM-3:30PM

Getting Started with Preservation
Sponsored by NELINET
Speaker: Steve Dalton
Location: NEDCC, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA
Registration Information:
1-800-NELINET

March 20 – 10AM

Photograph Preservation
Sponsored by NEDCC
Speaker: Gary Albright
Location: Cranston Public Library
Registration Information: Kim O'Leary at NEDCC 1-978-470-1010

URI GSLIS Director Named

W. MICHAEL HAVENER recently was named Director of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. Presently he is Associate Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Oklahoma, where he has been teaching for the past ten years. His teaching is in the area of information services, database searching and government publications and his administrative experience

entails two years as assistant director of the library school. He also has experience in distance education.

Havener earned his doctorate at the University of North Carolina as Chapel Hill in 1988. He has an MA in library science from the University of Michigan (1975), where he also earned an MA in English (1972). He received his bachelor's degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in English, where he graduated with honors and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to his doctoral studies, Havener had extensive experience in academic libraries including tours of duty in the University of Michigan libraries, the University of South Carolina library, and the University of Delaware library.

Havener will assume the duties as Director at URI in January of 1999 but he will be in residence at URI in June and July 1998 to get a head start on the job.

GSLIS to Hold Annual Gathering

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES at the University of Rhode Island is holding their annual gathering of alumni and students on Friday, April 24, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. at the University Club on the Kingston campus.

The featured speaker is Khafre Abif, Youth Services Librarian at the Montclair Public Library, New Jersey. His presentation will be on "Harvesting New Generation: Recruiting Diverse Librarians."

Mr. Abif is the co-editor of "In Our Own Voices: The Changing Face of Librarianship," and has written on youth services and on libraries in Africa. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Pittsburgh.

Cocktail hour and dinner will be part of the evening featuring Mr. Abif, and the 1998 Distinguished

Alumni Award will be presented at the gathering.

Tickets are \$20.00 (\$15.00 for students) and seating is limited. Please call (401) 874-2947 to reserve your tickets.

Off the Shelf



FROM THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL BULLETIN, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

Providence Public Library

Science Odyssey Site: The Providence Public Library has been selected by WGBH-TV as one of 25 public libraries in the country to be a Science Odyssey Site. Based on the 10-hour PBS television show hosted by Charles Osgood and aired in January, the local hands-on program for children is called "A Sampler of Science."

The five-week program will be held weekly in one-hour segments and includes hands-on science experiments, videos, guest scientists and much more. The free programs are aimed for children ages 9 to 14 and will take place at the nine branch libraries throughout Providence. Children interested in participating in the program must register by calling their local branch library or by calling the main library at 455-8000.

A Science Odyssey is a production of WGBH Boston, with major funding provided by the National Science Foundation, corporate sponsorship from IBM and additional funding from Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Arthur Vining Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and Becton Dickinson and Company.

A Family Place: The Providence Public Library will officially unveil its Family Place center Thursday [February 12], with its first "Cradle to

Crayons" session. The programs are free, fun, and consist of five-week sessions on nutrition, child development, speech and language and movement. The first five-week sessions are offered on Thursdays, either 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Agencies assisting in the workshops include Lifespan, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care of New England, the March of Dimes, The Rhode Island School for the Deaf, Meeting Street Center, Rhode Island Child Care Training System and Rhode Island Parent Information Network.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for library officials, agency affiliates, participants and media will take place Thursday at 9 a.m.

PEOPLE

LARA BENNETT recently was appointed Branch Librarian at Providence Public Library's Washington Park Branch.

JOHN CARNEY, former Head of Data Processing at Providence Public Library, is the new Electronic Services Librarian at East Providence Public Library.

CHAICHIN CHEN recently was appointed Library Program Specialist I at the Office of Library and Information Services. She has responsibilities in reference and technical services and with Talking Books Plus, which serves the blind and physically handicapped.

NICOLE DUFRESNE is the new Children's Librarian at Providence Public Library's Mount Pleasant branch.

KAREN MCHENRY is the Family Place Coordinator at the Providence Public Library. Family Place is a new program that features Parent/Child (ages 1-3) workshops, and currently 30 families are enrolled in the program. (See related story on page 5.)

WAYNE ROSE recently was appointed head of Reference at Johnson and Wales University.

AMY SKOLNIK is the new Assistant Children's Librarian specializing in young adult services at the West Warwick Public Library.

CYNTHIA ST. AMOUR has been appointed Head of Data Processing at Providence Public Library.

CHRIS WALLACE is now Young Adult Services Librarian at the Woonsocket-Harris Public Library.

BULLETIN BOARD

The North Kingstown Free Library was one of nine winners in the 1998 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award contest. NKPL received its award "for creatively and resourcefully mobilizing community support for a fundraising campaign and bond referendum that resulted in timely library enhancements and a building expansion." The John Cotton Dana Public Relations awards honor outstanding achievement in library public relations and are sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Company in Bronx, New York, and the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA), an ALA division. The awards have been jointly sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Company and ALA since 1946. Award presentations were made at ALA's Midwinter Conference in New Orleans.

Johnson and Wales University recently was invited to become a member of HELIN, the Higher Education Library Information Network, Rhode Island's consortium of academic libraries. The University received a \$50,000 grant from the George Alden Trust to enhance automation at the library to make the HELIN connection possible.

Join ala.org

Personal Membership categories (please check)

- First-time Member **\$50**
- Second Year Regular **\$75**
- Third+Year Regular **\$100**
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- Member earning less than \$18,000/year **\$35**
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American Library Association
50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611
Fax to: 312 944 2641

For immediate results MAIL or FAX this application form, or, to join on line, go to <http://www.ala.org> today!

**N'awlins Notebook:
ALA Midwinter**

continued from back page

- The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) reported that ALA and the FTRF along with the ACLU were co-recipients of the Hugh H. Heffner Award in Law for 1997 for their efforts in overturning the Communications Decency Act. In addition it was noted that the federal government will reimburse ALA a portion of the legal expenses incurred in bringing the case to trial.

- Vice-President/President Elect Ann Symons met with Chapter Councilors to discuss some of her ideas for her presidential agenda. She is planning major emphasis on intellectual freedom issues and received a standing ovation from Council when it was announced that Ann will be donating all honoraria received during her term as President to the Freedom to Read Foundation.

Ann also has chosen a theme with a lot of promotional possibilities for National Library Week 1999: "Read! Learn! Connect!"

- Council approved the Executive Board's nomination of Bill Gates for an Honorary ALA Life Membership – the Association's highest honor.

This caused some minor debate, as a small group of councilors (myself among them) thought this a bit premature in light of the fact that the award is usually for lifetime devotion to the library cause and in light of the anti-trust suit involving Microsoft.

- The Intellectual Freedom Committee announced that 10 regional training sessions on "Libraries, the Internet, and the First Amendment" will take place around the country in 1998. Stay tuned for

further details. The IFC is hard at work preparing answers and developing strategies relating to filtering and the use of "smart cards," pre-programmed cards or diskettes, the use of which allows parents to determine what their children would be able to access online both at home and away from home.

- The Spectrum Initiative is now in full operation. ALA is providing \$5,000 scholarships to 50 minority students enrolled or accepted at library schools throughout the country.

Do you have any potential applicants in your libraries? If so, contact me for further information. Application deadline for this year is April 11.

- ALA's new Outsourcing Task Force met several times during the conference. All sides had a chance to state their views on the subject and, until the Task Force completes its information gathering and deliberations, no draft policy statements or guidelines can be expected.
- Anyone for Toronto? Acting President Mary Ghikas announced that Annual Conference for 2003 will be a joint conference with the Canadian Library Association in Toronto. Also the Public Library Association conference in the year 2000 will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Walter Hansen, Director of the Fund for America's Libraries, announced that plans are underway for the development of an ALA Planned Giving Program, which seemed like an excellent idea to most of us.
- Lastly, Council approved a resolution that the record of all Council actions at this conference and future conferences be posted on ALA's council listserv to which any

member can subscribe. Check out the ALA homepage <www.ala.org> for details on how to join the various ALA lists and for other up-to-date news of the Association.

*Frank Iacono
ALA Councilor
Office of Library and
Information Services
Dept. of Administration*



President's Message

continued from page 1

Talk about what new members could accomplish with their fresh input, and the contributions they could make to committee work as well as what they gain from such networking.

Will some of us have a harder time than others finding that new RILA member? Of course, but, if each of us makes that commitment, (and the odds are that some of us may exceed it), we will succeed.

I've also been thinking about what I could personally do to encourage memberships (short of paying for them myself!). I haven't settled upon anything yet, but if you have any ideas, pass them along.

I'll close by sharing with you my favorite cartoon from Interlibrary Loan Sharks and Seedy Roms: cartoons from libraryland by Benita L. Epstein. A woman is sitting across from a female fortune teller who is gazing into her crystal ball. The fortune teller speaks: Your future as a librarian? You will enjoy....oops, it's changing. You will go on a long....oops, it's changing again.

You can reach me for any comments or suggestion by: phone 767-4125, fax 767-4140, or email kathybd@lori.state.ri.us

N'awlins Notebook: ALA Midwinter

By Frank Iacono, ALA Councilor

EXCEPT FOR THE RAINY WEATHER, everything was copacetic in the Crescent City for the ALA Midwinter Conference. It was a conference remarkably devoid of controversial issues or Council conundrums and for once the Council III session actually adjourned early, which meant no mad dashes to the airport for those of us with flights to catch.

To recapture the flavor of the conference, minus the *gumbo* and *etouffee* unfortunately, I offer the following:

- The Association remains solvent. Treasurer Bruce Daniels noted that increased revenue from membership dues, publishing, and ALA Graphics left ALA with a net balance of \$645,000. In addition ALA's endowment gained \$1.4 million. In a very detailed report, Bruce outlined the financial strategies designed to underwrite ALA's 1999 program priorities. As approved by Council, ALA key action areas include: Diversity; Education and Continuous Learning; Equity of Access; Intellectual Freedom; and 21st Century Literacy.
- Bill Gordon, ALA's new Executive Director as of March, appearing at a Chapter Relations Committee meeting among many others, gave us all the impression that he will fit the bill quite nicely at ALA HQ. Affable, intelligent, and ready for the challenge that is directing ALA, it was easy to see why he was the unanimous choice of the 21-member search committee.
- President Barbara Ford's brainchild, "Volunteer Days," proved to be a rousing success with over 160 librarians volunteering their services to New Orleans libraries on the first two days of the conference – look for it to be a regular conference feature.

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