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Rhode Island Library Association

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Spring 2001

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 74, no. 2

RILA

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# RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

Volume 74 No. 2

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Spring 2001

## President's Message

Helena Rodriques, D.A.

As I complete the end of my term as President of the Rhode Island Library Association, the highlight has been the opportunity to meet some wonderful librarians. The more wonderful librarians I meet, the more I am convinced that they all passed the one true test for librarianship entitled, "*Who wants to be a librarian?*" Unfortunately, this test is not a requirement for graduate school, nor is it administered by employers to new librarians seeking their first positions in libraryland.

"*Who wants to be a librarian?*" is a simple test consisting of one multiple-choice question:

Most librarians choose this profession because of their love for:

- a. Dusting book shelves
- b. Books
- c. People
- d. Maintaining peace and quiet with a large area

The answer is: c. people.

Libraries, especially the public services areas, are all about people and what they like, what they want, and what they need. *Continued on page 8*

## RILA Spring Conference: "New Directions"

"New Directions, New Ideas for a New Century", a conference of programs that address new ways libraries can meet goals, serve and expand clientele, and accomplish their mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, will be presented by the Rhode Island Library Association on June 7 and 8 at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston campus.

Registration at the Multicultural Center begins each day at 8:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at the Galanti Lounge in the library, and Thursday features President's speaker Artemis G. Kirk, Director of University Libraries for URI. The RILA annual Business Meeting precedes the luncheon on Thursday. Friday offers a full complement of programs starting at 9:00 and wrapping up at 4 p.m.

Appropriately, one of the first Thursday sessions at 9:00 a.m. will be a presentation by staff of the URI libraries, "Changing Trends in Library Instruction" focuses on honing critical thinking skills, a new take on bibliographic instruction. Thursday morning choices include programs on improving services to the elderly, preservation tactics from an expert at the Northeast Document Conservation

Center, a look at the growing young adult population, and advice on retirement decisions.

In the afternoon attendees can hear a NYC image consultant on presenting yourself and your ideas to the media, learn about new uses for outcome-based evaluation from a research officer from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in DC, or brainstorm ideas for adult programming with a librarian from Chelmsford, MA. *Continued on page 7*

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## Candidates for RILA Executive Board



**Vice President - President-Elect: Derryl R. Johnson (usually called "De")**

**Background:** Director, since 1995, Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library, Johnston's public library. Information Broker/Business-owner, C. D. Research, Ltd. (14 years). MLS from Syracuse University.

Member of NELA, RILA, and Information Brokers of New England.

**Statement of Belief:** For over 25 years I have practiced my strong commitment to libraries and service to our users as a professional librarian in Rhode Island both in public libraries and as a library entrepreneur known as an Information Broker. Prior to coming to RI, I did reference work in a medical school library. As a professional working in a small library in a medium-sized town, I work closely with nearly every part of the community (including schools, for-profits, non-profits, and fraternals) to make access to information as easy and broad-reaching as possible.

I believe being active in RILA broadens and enriches my skills in serving the public because I learn so much through the sharing of ideas that occurs between colleagues when we meet at workshops and conferences. Our profession grows stronger and so do its members when we share ideas, work together for our common purpose of quality service with quality resources for the broadest usership possible, and support each other (regardless of our specialty) in our common purpose of improving the profession we love. RILA, in cooperation with all the professional library organizations in our state, regional, and national purview, traditionally has been at the center of evaluating and promoting new initiatives. RILA has a great deal of dreaming it would like to make real - dreaming that will enhance our profession - and it needs YOUR help, as well as mine. Join RILA, and me, in this worthwhile endeavor.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
 ★ National Legislative Day, Washington, D.C.,  
 ★ April 30  
 ★ COLA Literacy Walk, Providence, May 5  
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

**Secretary: Joyce May**



**Background:** Reference Librarian, Coventry Public Library. Previously Reference Assistant, Cranston Public Library and Project Manager, Reilly Associates Health Research. M.L.I.S University of RI- Anticipated Degree 2001. B.A. Oberlin College. Member of ALA and RILA.

**Statement of Belief:** As “distance education” becomes more and more prevalent within librarianship, I believe that we cannot underestimate how and what we learn from one another within the social context. RILA, as a professional organization, brings a highly diverse group together to share current interests, practices, and knowledge from the field. I am honored to have this opportunity to share my personal and professional commitment to public libraries, public service, URI and to the state of Rhode Island as a RILA board member.

**Treasurer: Mary Moroney**



**Background:** Director, Hodgson Memorial Library. MLS University of Rhode Island, M.A. Providence College, B.A. Marymount College. Member of ALA, ACRL, SLA, COLA, Innovative Interfaces Users.

**Statement of Belief:** As the only truly multi-type library organization in Rhode Island, RILA has positioned itself as a dynamic leader in the future of state-wide multi-type library cooperation. Now more than ever, involvement in RILA is crucial to the success of new and continued initiatives. For me, it is a privilege to serve as treasurer and be part of this diverse and committed organization, especially during these exciting and innovative times. Together we can all do great things.









The Publications Committee is interested in hearing from the membership regarding their feelings about The RILA Bulletin. Please read through the entire questionnaire before answering any question. We would also ask you to look at the web version of the Bulletin prior to responding. The URL for the Bulletin is <http://www.uri.edu/library/rila/rila.html>

We know that our publication schedule for the past year and a half has been highly erratic. We are correcting those problems and want to make sure that the Bulletin is fulfilling the needs of the membership.

Jim Giles, Chair

Kathy Blessing

John Fobert

Ed Surato

Please return completed questionnaires by May 15th to:

Jim Giles

467 Gravelly Hill Road

South Kingstown, Rhode Island 02879-4734

### 1) Length

How many pages should there be in each issue of the Bulletin?

- ☐ Four Pages
- ☐ Six Pages
- ☐ Eight Pages
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2) Frequency

How often should the Bulletin be published?

- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ Bi-monthly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) Updates

If the Bulletin were published less frequently, should updates be sent in the interim?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, how do wish to receive the updates?

☐ Web Page Posting      ☐ Listserv Posting      ☐ E-mail      ☐ Hard Copy

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4) Access

How do you prefer to receive the Bulletin?

- ☐ E-mail
- ☐ Web Page Posting
- ☐ Hard Copy
- ☐ Other

## 5) Contents

What type of information do you want to see in the Bulletin?

Please rank by level of interest with 1 being the topic that most interests you.

- ☐ ALA Information
- ☐ Announcements/Calendar
- ☐ Calendar Information
- ☐ Columns published on specific topics e.g. reference
- ☐ People
- ☐ President's Message
- ☐ Profiles of Rhode Island Libraries
- ☐ Profile of Rhode Island Librarians
- ☐ Projects of Libraries in Rhode Island
- ☐ Topics of interest to librarians in general

## 6) What do you like most about the RILA Bulletin?

## 7) What do you like least about the RILA Bulletin?

8) Comments:  
  

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## Spring Conference

*Continued from page 1*

Colleagues from Providence Public will talk about "Grants-Theory into Action", and W. Michael Havener, Director of URI-GSLIS, will speak on "The Future of LIS Education".

On Friday sessions are planned on collection development in romance, the latest on E-books, an explanation of "passive reader's advisory" techniques, intellectual freedom issues in children's services, digital libraries, process mapping, and surviving the science project. Registrants can also find out more about RI-LINK, the database of school library collections, LORI, the state-wide multi-type network, and library and school cooperation efforts at Providence Public Library.

For the complete line-up of programs and conference registration information check the RILA website. A brochure will be mailed directly to members, or contact Karen McGrath, Cranston Public Library-Auburn branch. We look forward to seeing many of our colleagues in public, school, academic and special libraries, their trustees and friends at our annual conference. We are grateful to the staff of the URI library and the GSLIS for their assistance and cooperation. The URI campus should be blooming in June. See you there!

*Pat LaRose, for the RILA Conference Committee*

## RILA Acts on CIPA

The Executive Board adopted the following RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALA LEGAL CHALLENGE OF CIPA on February 6, 2001. WHEREAS, the recently enacted Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) mandates that schools install and use filtering software on public Internet computers as a prerequisite for receiving federal funds including LSTA and E-rate; and WHEREAS, no filtering software successfully differentiates constitutionally protected speech from illegal speech on the Internet; and WHEREAS, the federal commission appointed to study child safety on the Internet concluded filters are not effective in blocking all content that some may find objectionable, but do block much useful and constitutionally protected information; and WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Library Association strongly opposes attempts by federal and state governments to set local policy; and WHEREAS, the American Library Association has resolved to challenge CIPA in court; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rhode Island Library Association endorses and supports this legal action by the American Library Association.

RILA's Intellectual Freedom Committee has prepared a helpful guide, "CIPA - Internet Filtering Legislation and Libraries", for the library community. It defines CIPA, its impact on libraries, suggests actions to be taken, and references many websites that have extensive information on CIPA. The IFC guide is available on RILA's website, <http://www.uri.edu/library/rila/rila.html>.

## Editor's Comments

It is a pleasure to welcome Anne Parent back to the Rhode Island library community. Anne was a past President of RILA. Her poignant "Coming Home" in this issue shows her vibrant spirit and eagerness to work with us all. We are confident that her tremendous success in developing a regional system in Massachusetts will carry over into Rhode Island.

Surprise. The RILA Bulletin continues in a print format as well as online. We encourage you to look at the online edition (<http://www.uri.edu/library/rila/rila.html>). It took a long time to put the last issue online and then some members had difficulty accessing it. The Publications Committee is working on the problems of going online and informing the membership when the Bulletin is available electronically. We are surveying in this issue your opinion about the Bulletin. Our immediate plan is to produce the Spring and Summer issues in both formats. At the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting, the Bulletin will be on the agenda, and survey results will be available.

I wish to express my gratitude for the support of the Executive Board as we work on producing a Bulletin that will reflect the interests of RILA's members. I am also grateful for the efforts of the Publications Committee members in producing this edition of the Bulletin.

*Jim Giles*





## President's Message

*continued from page 1*

If you do not especially have a fondness for approaching (or being approached by) people, listening to people, and attempting to decipher or "translate" the meaning of their requests, then you are in the wrong profession.

But it intensifies. Are you prepared to withstand sneezes and coughs, exuberant enunciation complete with a shower of spittle, and the telltale odors of the "I know what you had for lunch" syndrome? During the winter months, many librarians are on a special diet rich in megadoses of Echinacea, Zinc, and Vitamin C. Year round, the reference desk looks like a battle zone equipped with antibacterial wipes, waterless hand cleaners, and antiseptic sprays. Consider this area the "Emergency Room for Infor-

mation." As a matter of fact, I would add a box of disposable gloves because "you never know."

Returning to the other answers of my multiple-choice questions, if you want to become a librarian because you love books, you definitely selected the wrong career path. Book lovers should consider publishing, bookbinding or sales. Someone once told me that they love the feel of the leather covers and the excitement of being the first to leaf through the pages of a new book. Whoa, it sounds like something totally different from librarianship and we will end this discussion for now.

On the other hand, if you want to be a librarian because you love dusting book shelves, perhaps a graduate degree in library science will make you just a little over-qualified and will place you in a higher tax bracket.

Finally, if you love to maintain peace and quiet in the library, I hope that you are close to retirement age. You must be an exhausted, frustrated person. While I support quiet areas within the library, the fact is that today's accessing and acquiring information is a very interactive process requiring conversation, demonstration, and, hopefully, jubilation. As I open my office door into the quiet study area, let us give one big "Hip, hip, hooray!!!!" for librarians everywhere.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
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★ **NELA Conference, Bur-** ★  
★ **lington, VT, September 30-** ★  
★ **October 2** ★  
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The RILA BULLETIN is published four times per year by the Rhode Island Library Association. Managing and News Editor: Jim Giles, 467 Gravelly Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879 (782-8422; giles@ids.net). Subscription Editor: John Fobert, Roger Williams University Library, Bristol, RI 02809 (254-3374). Subscriptions: Free to members; \$15/per year in U.S.; \$20/year foreign. Change of address: members contact the Membership Committee Chair Carolyn Tarpey, Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library, One Memorial Avenue, Johnston, RI 02910 (231-4980). Subscription correspondence: contact Subscription Editor.

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