



# BAY STATE LIBRARIES

Newsletter of the Massachusetts Library Association

[www.masslib.org](http://www.masslib.org)

## Ways and Means Day 2004

*Barbara Flaherty*  
MLA President

On February 3, 2004 librarians and library supporters gathered at the State House for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Ways and Means Day. This event, which is sponsored by MLA's Legislative Committee signals the start of the budget season and offers librarians an early opportunity to voice their concerns to members of the Ways and Means Committee.

Speakers at this year's event included Rob Maier, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Senator Susan Fargo, Representative Marie Parente, Representative Rachel Kaprielian and MLA President Barbara Flaherty.

Rob Maier outlined this year's legislative agenda stating that first and foremost we are asking that no further cuts in state library funding be made. The second part of the agenda will seek to gain some progress on funding items from the "Restore the Core" bond bill that was introduced last year in an attempt to fund those core services that have been lost over the last three years. Those cuts have included funds for specialized databases, automated networks, small libraries in networks, the Virtual Catalog, MASSCAT and the journal article clearinghouse. The loss of these programs has eroded the infrastructure that is essential for libraries in order to provide equitable

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## What We Can Learn From Geese

*Diane Klaiber*  
MLA Executive Manager

Are you ready for spring? I don't know about you, but the longer daylight certainly makes me hopeful. I am also looking forward to the migration of birds from the south that at least makes me think, it is safe to plant my flowers. Particularly, I enjoy watching the geese and their amazing formation.

I promised I would share some leadership lessons I have learned over the years that were basically learned by these geese and shared in an Ann Landers column awhile back. From the Dick E. Birds newsletter, she shared, "WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM GEESE:

**FACT NO. 1:** As each bird flaps, its wings, it creates an uplift draft for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds a greater flying range than if one bird flew alone.

**LESSON NO. 1:** People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they're going quicker and more easily because they are traveling on the strength of one another.

**FACT NO. 2:** Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the

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## MLA Conference Connections

Don't miss the 2004 MLA Annual Conference, April 28-30, at the Sea Crest Resort on beautiful Old Silver Beach on Cape Cod. This year's conference theme is Connections.

- Energize your thoughts.
- Learn new techniques.
- Gather program ideas.
- Strengthen your skills.
- Network with colleagues.

Make all these connections and more at the 2004 MLA annual conference.

The MLA Conference Committee has developed several incentives to entice people to our wonderful Conference this spring:

Conference registration fees have been lowered for members! Join MLA and get the low rate of \$40 per day versus the non-member rate of \$70 per day. What a steal!

Bring a guest this year! For the first time, conference attendees can bring guests with them for the low price of \$30.

Check the web for more conference details at:  
[www.masslib.org/conference](http://www.masslib.org/conference)

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**April 2004**

## Ways and Means

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access to information for all residents of the State.

Senator Fargo, Representative Parente and Representative Kaprielian all spoke about the important role libraries play in our communities and pledged their best efforts toward funding library programs and services commensurate with their value.

After hearing such positive comments from the speakers, Barbara Flaherty, encouraged attendees to go and deliver personal messages to their Representatives and Senators about the importance of State library funding to their library.

On April 7, 2004, we will reinforce our message to the legislature at Legislative Day. Plan to bring a delegation to the State House to show your support for library funding. Advocacy is the job of every librarian, Trustee and Friend. Let's have a record-breaking crowd this year to demonstrate our commitment to great libraries in Massachusetts.

## Geese

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lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

**LESSON NO. 2:** If we have as much sense as geese, we will stay in formation and will be willing to accept help when we need it and give help when it is needed.

**FACT NO. 3:** When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation, and another goose flies in the point position.

**LESSON NO. 3:** Geese instinctively share the task of leadership and do not resent the leader.

**FACT NO. 4:** The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

**LESSON NO. 4:** We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging and not something else.

**FACT NO. 5:** When a goose gets sick, is wounded or is shot down, two geese drop out of formation and fol-

low it down to earth to help and protect it. They stay with their disabled companion until it is able to fly again or dies. They then launch out on their own or with another formation or catch up with the flock.

**LESSON NO. 5:** If we have as much sense as geese, we, too, will stand by one another in difficult times and help the one who has dropped out regain his/her place in the formation.

MLA needs members to be both leaders and followers! Please get involved. If you have volunteered and have not been contacted, go ahead and honk! Have a great spring as you admire those geese!

*Diane*

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## Change of Address

The new phone number and mailing address for the MLA are:

Mass Library Association  
P.O. Box 1445

Marstons Mills, MA02648  
Phone and Fax: 508-428-5865

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## Membership Update

If you know of colleagues that are not members; you will give them a call. Now is the time to sign them up with our special membership offer: New members can get 15 months for the price of 12!

Our goal is to increase our membership to at least 900 members. Please help us meet that goal! The upcoming annual conference is a great opportunity for new members to get acquainted with MLA's activities. Feel free to share the conference program with potential members at [www.masslib.org/conference](http://www.masslib.org/conference).

## SIMMONS, HARVARD Team to Help Devastated Iraqi Libraries

Responding to the devastating effects of war on Iraqi libraries, the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) and the Harvard University library system are launching a joint program to provide training for Iraqi librarians and archivists, to aid in modernizing Iraqi libraries and help address the country's serious shortage of librarians. This article is available in full at the Newsletter section of our web site <http://www.masslib.org>.

## Paraprofessional Section

### Energize! Reinvigorate! Value! Certify!

These are a few of the action words the Massachusetts Library Association Paraprofessional Section (PPS) is tossing around. In just a few short months, the reconnected PPS has set a hearty agenda, and has made big strides.

Look for a PPS presence at the MLA annual conference in Falmouth on April 28-29-30. Two wonderful programs will catch the attention of all librarians, and will be of special interest to non-MLS degreed library staff:

*First Impressions*, a program offering tips on professional style of dress, creating displays and customer service; and

*Don't Miss the Link*, a round table discussion featuring library staffers from each department, and the academic setting.

The Paraprofessional Section Breakfast Meeting is being reintroduced to the MLA Conference!. Come meet the team that has worked to give paraprofessional librarians a revitalized voice and approach. And the new approach deserves a new name. Would you rather be the Paraprofessional Section or the Library Associate Section? Join us at the breakfast meeting to vote.

And we're on the web! Go to <http://www.bpl.org/brls/MLAPS/info.htm> or link from the MLA home page to the new Paraprofessional Section web site.

Nominate candidates for two awards to be presented at the conference: Outstanding Paraprofessional and Outstanding Advocate. Join the email list, receive updates and connect to paraprofessional co-workers.



### Archivist

*Anyone interested in the position of Archivist should contact:*

*Barbara Flaherty  
bflaherty@mailserv.mvlc.lib.ma.us  
(978) 671-0949 x101.*



## Youth Services Section

The Youth Services Section (YSS) cordially invites all of its members to attend our Annual Breakfast meeting on: Thursday, March 28th at 8:30 am.

This is a time to hear updates on the Children and Young Adults standards revision projects and other projects which took place during the year. We will also be voting to accept new changes in our bylaws and for next year's slate of officers.

Come meet your peers, network, and be energized for the entire conference!

In addition to our annual meeting, our section will be sponsoring the following programs:

### Thursday, March 29th

- 11:00 am to 12:30 pm- Sing It!, Say It! Stamp It! Sway It! (Award winning recording artists Peter and Ellen Allard )
- 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm- Home Schooling and the Public Library(Featuring Panelists: Patrick Farenga, homeschool consultant, Kathy Hutchins and Jackie Dibble from the J.V Fletcher Library)
- 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm- Finding a Leg to Stand On: Teaming Up to Set the Standards of Youth Services at Your Library (Featuring Panelists:Elizabeth Gregg and Joanne Doherty from the Bridgewater Public Library, and Katie Baxter from Noble and Greenough School)

### Friday, March 30th

- 9:00 am to 10:30 am- Who Me Censored? A Conversation with Lois Lowry and Robie Harris (Cosponsored by YSS with the Intellectual Freedom Committee)
- 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm- Economical Programming for Teens and Tweens (Featuring Panelists: Gaye Kulvette from the Groton Public Library, Jacque Gorman from the Milford Town Library and Margie Shepard from the Amesbury Public Library)

This year there is a great selection of programs to attend, a fun night at the MLA auction and the annual YSS book raffle to benefit future YSS programs. We look forward to seeing you in Falmouth!

## Survivor Legacy: Values you can use

*Carolyn Noah  
Vice-President, MLA*

Whether or not you made it to "Survivor: Library Success in Difficult Times", recently cosponsored by the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) with Regions across the state, there is a durable online tool at your disposal.

The "Value of Public Library Service" tool provides a concrete, practical measure of the market worth of services provided by a public library. Standard library services were selected for inclusion. Their market values were assigned with an eye to ensuring that a typical library customer

would understand how it was derived.

Use the spreadsheet online as it is, by simply entering use statistics into the appropriate fields – and the spreadsheet does the rest. Any librarian who wants to download and modify the tool for specific programs is encouraged.

Find the tool online at:  
<http://www.masslib.org/LibraryValue.html>

### WANTED: Great Librarians

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2004 Emerson Greenaway Award**.

Nominees must be, or have been, members of NELA. He or she

should have made a major contribution to the field of librarianship in New England.

**Nominations must be submitted by May 30, 2004.**

### Advocating Effectively for Your Library

Times are tough for libraries, with cutbacks on both the state and local levels. In order to help Trustees, Librarians and Friends of libraries become better advocates for their libraries, the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association (MLTA) is sponsoring an Advocacy Workshop on Saturday, May 1 at the Worcester Public Library.

All three of these articles are available in full at the Newsletter section of [www.masslib.org](http://www.masslib.org).

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P.O. Box 1445  
Marstons Mills, MA 02648  
Published four times a year

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