



BAY STATE LIBRARIES

Newsletter of the Massachusetts Library Association

www.masslib.org

Year in Review

Barbara Flaherty, President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for their support during my year as President. It has been a year of change for MLA. As difficult as change can be to navigate through, it can be healthy for an organization and in the end I believe we are stronger for it.

Our new Executive Manager, Diane Klaiber has brought new eyes and new energy to MLA. Her enthusiasm, fresh ideas and cooperative spirit have been wonderful to work with.

Elizabeth Hacala, our new Publications Manager, is doing yeoman's work updating and enhancing our web presence and keeping our newsletter timely and informative. By combining these two responsibilities under one person, we have been able to provide better communication to the membership.

Our Strategic Plan was completed this year and as a result of a Board Retreat last November, we set forth our priorities for the coming year. Growing the membership, creating a sound financial plan, crafting a communication plan, improving coordination with other organizations, and strengthening the annual conference were the priority items that were identified from the Plan. These objectives have been assigned to workgroups that are currently developing action plans for implementation beginning in July 2004.

This year, we set a lofty goal of increasing our membership by 100 and we have exceeded that cont. on p. 2

Ready, Set, Go!

Carolyn Noah, President Elect

Every person who attended the MLA Annual Conference in Falmouth felt energy in the air. The program was packed with practical and inspiring sessions. Authors were everywhere. Stellar efforts by the conference committee resulted in the highest attendance in years, even producing a nice mix of weather – cool enough to keep us indoors but beautiful nonetheless.

MLA membership is over nine hundred strong. Welcome to each and every new member. We know you'll be glad you joined. Continuing members, we value your commitment.

Our advocacy efforts have been increasingly effective in recent legislative sessions. In collaboration with the MA Library Trustees Association and the MA Friends of Libraries, our voices are being heard clearly on Beacon Hill.

Our spokespeople on intellectual freedom and legislative issues such as UCITA are considered expert and regularly called on for testimony or interviews.

Our collaboration with the MA Center for the Book for the Massachusetts Book Awards provides new opportunities for MLA members to get an inside view of a unique literary event.

On all fronts, the Massachusetts Library Association is roaring to go!

Our members generate the fuel that makes us successful. MLA's committees and sections provide cont. on p. 2

Much More Than I Ever Imagined

The Experiences of the Scholarship Winners at This Year's MLA Conference

Have you ever wished to attend the MLA's Annual Conference, but your library's budget just wouldn't stretch far enough to make it possible? This year, for the first time, MLA made available eight scholarships for conference attendance.

The awards were funded by the Kay Bader Memorial Fund which was established in to honor the many contributions she made to Massachusetts libraries.

The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage library workers and students to join MLA, and to promote attendance at MLA's Annual Conference.

Applicants were evaluated on the basis of need, desire for the scholarship, communication skills, leadership ability, and the potential to contribute to MLA.

An effort was made to award scholarships at every level of librarianship from Paralibrarian, to Library Director. One winner was chosen from each of the six regional library systems, and two winners were chosen from the pool of library school students.

Read the winners testimonials on our web site at www.masslib.org.

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Year in Review

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target. We have a new membership brochure and the membership committee is looking at new ways to attract members.

The Public Relations committee has had new life breathed into it under the co-chairmanship of Greg Pronovitz and Sharon Morgan. They have many good ideas for enhancing MLA's image and creating a strong identity for the organization.

The Legislative Committee under the leadership of Lee Fogarty and Sandy Lindheimer continued to be a driving force in MLA. This year's Ways and Means Day and Legislative Day were quite successful.

The Education Committee awarded the first Kay Bader Scholarships this year. The eight recipients were awarded full scholarships to attend this year's Conference. For those of you who don't know, Kay Bader was the former director at the Snow Library in Orleans. She was tragically killed in a car accident in 1998. Memorial contributions in her name were put into a scholarship fund that will be awarded each year to help librarians and library students with

continuing education opportunities. The Education Committee also planned and coordinated another terrific auction at the Conference that raised \$7000 for MLA. Thank you to Education Committee Chair, Cindy Roach and her committee for their hard work.

Ready, Set, Go

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an excellent way to be involved in the Association. Having active, engaged members, open lines of communication, and a welcoming attitude towards collaboration are keys to our success.

If you'd like to be involved on a committee, we can use your help. Just contact me (cnoah@cmrls.org) or any member of the executive board. We'll find a place to use your talents.

I'm looking forward to working with you!

Information about: **NELA Counterparts: Community Building from the Ground Up** and the NELA scholarship winners can be found at: www.nelib.org

Technical Services Section

The MLA Technical Services Section announces its slate of officers for FY05:

Doris Madsen, Chair
 Jamie Penney, Vice-Chair
 Lydia Mickunas, Secretary
 Lois Bacon, Membership Chair.
 Elizabeth Loutrel, At-large
 Catherine Willis, At-large
 Rose Hickey, Past Chair

The Technical Services Section would like to thank MLA members for helping to make the Conference such a success. The programs we sponsored were extremely well-attended and enthusiastically received. Our roundtable discussion provided us with useful ideas for future planning. We're looking forward to a positive and productive year ahead!

Next meeting of the Technical Services Section is scheduled for June 17 at NELINET. If anyone has ideas for programs they would like to see us sponsor, please email Doris Madsen at dmadsen@springfieldlibrary.org or Jamie Penney at jamie@noblenet.org

Read more about our programs and officers on the masslib web site under Technical Services.

Those Lazy, Hazy Days of Summer!

Diane Klaiber, Executive Manager

I am sure everyone is anticipating a summer of blue skies, brilliant gardens, warm waters on Cape Cod and a relaxing vacation from the every day grind of work. I know I am! The Association's office will be back on its normal part-time hours now that the conference is over. One of our goal this summer is to build a financial plan to put the next fiscal year on sound grounding.

MLA's Executive Board hopes that you will renew your membership this July and continue your support the many programs of the Association: annual conference, continuing education, scholarships, Center for the Book and the list goes on and on. As you know, one of our most time-consuming and yet rewarding efforts, is advocacy around library budgets, librarian's salaries, the MBLC, and intellectual freedom. We can only be successful with both your financial and moral support. If you attended the annual conference, you know what it looks like when we are all working together and building on each other's skills. That is what will make MLA successful!

So, please renew your membership and enlist a colleague who has not joined in the past. We also welcome any of your suggestions (malibraries@comcast.net) and would appreciate your volunteering for any one of our many committees. Now is the time to get on the board with MLA as we begin to gear up for 2005!

Many conference checks still had the old mailing address, please check with your administrative office to be sure they have the new MLA address:

MLA
 PO Box 1445
 Marstons Mills, MA 02648

The New Name Is... Paralibrarian

Allison DaSilva

For the first time in many years the Paraprofessional Section of MLA hosted an official Annual Breakfast Meeting at the MLA Conference. The crowd was standing room only as over 70 members voted to change the name of the section to the MLA Paralibrarian Section.

The membership also voted to accept the slate of nominees for the Executive Board. Several changes to the bylaws were accepted, including a vote to rescind the \$5 fee to join the Section.

Cheers and smiles all around greeted the announcement of two award winners: Lynn Riley, of Holy Cross College, received the first Paralibrarian of the Year Award for her outstanding work as Circulation Supervisor and glowing letters of nomination from co-workers and supervisors. Allison DaSilva, of

Reading Public Library, received the first Paralibrarian Advocate of the Year Award for her work to reenergize the Paralibrarian Section of MLA and support of Paralibrarianship.

The Paralibrarian Section thanks Tappe Associates for sponsoring the Annual Breakfast Meeting with a donation of \$250. Several donations combined to make a "Connections" theme basket donated by the Paralibrarian Section to the MLA Auction.

The Paralibrarian Section sponsored two well-attended programs: First Impressions, about speaking to patrons, dressing for professional and practical appearance; and presentation of eye-catching displays; and Don't Miss the Link, a roundtable discussion of Paralibrarian's roles and experiences in each department of public and academic libraries.

In addition to making headlines at the MLA Conference, the Paralibrarian Section is opening discussions in each of the Regions through a series of Roundtables chaired by Susan Babb of NMRLS (Northeastern Massachusetts Regional Library System).

For more information on the Paralibrarian Section, committees, meetings and roundtables, please check <http://www.masslib.org> and link to the Paralibrarian Section.

Thank you

...to all our sponsors who helped make this years conference such a great success. We could not do it without you!

The complete list of sponsors is available at our web site www.masslib.org

Youth Services Section

Mary Puleo, YSS Chair

Are you looking for information on how to implement a "Reach Out and Read" program in your community? Or perhaps you have a group of teens who want to volunteer at the library and your not sure how to organize a volunteer program.

If you are a youth services librarian and have questions visit *Books and Links* that can be found on the YSS Website at: <http://www.masslib.org/yss.htm>.

Books and Links contains resources that will assist Youth Services' Librarians with their jobs. This page will be updated on a regular basis. Also, we encourage our members to submit resources that might assist your fellow colleagues. A special feature is the "Question of Month." I encourage all our members to take a look and partic-

ipant by giving feedback.

Please save the date: Friday, March 4, 9:30-1:00 for our annual Spring Program featuring award winning author Jack Gantos.

This year's YSS projects will include a Homeschooling Resource Guide and a bibliography of Massachusetts' authors. Are you interested in volunteering? All you need is a computer with Internet access. Please contact Mary Puleo at puleo@noblenet.org if you would like to participate or if you have further questions.

YSS looks forward to an exciting year!

Membership Update

As we begin membership renewals, it is important to reflect on our past year. By the end of our fiscal year we anticipate having at least 900 members in MLA!

Margaret Cardello and the Membership Committee should certainly be complimented for their hard work and success!



Archivist

We have a new archivist! Sunny Vandermark. Sunny is the Regional Administrator for the Metrowest Massachusetts Regional Library System.



MLA Partners with Drexel for Library Science Degree – Fully Online

Drexel offers an online degree that requires no travel or campus residency and a 20% tuition discount. Please check with the MLA website for the affiliation code and links: www.masslib.org

Conference Success!

With over 600 participants this conference boasted the highest attendance in nearly 10 years! Echoing the sentiments of many, one enthusiastic attendee declared, "This was the finest conference I've attended so far."

Conference attendees chose from over 50 programs aimed at improving public services, refining technical skills, meeting the challenges of the future and advocating for library support. Maureen Sullivan, a well-known consultant, offered a half-day program on how libraries might be transformed to meet the demands of the 21st century. There were also technology-oriented programming included sessions on Blogging and PDA's. More than 75 vendors were on hand showcasing the latest in library-related materials and services.

Among the special author events

offered at the conference were presentations by renowned authors Anita Diamant and Anchee Min. The "MLA Reads" program invited participants to read Anita Diamant's celebrated novel *The Red Tent* and share in a book discussion with the author and other conference attendees. On Wednesday evening Anchee Min, author of several books including *Red Azalea*, spoke movingly about her 27 years in China and even treated guests to a sampling of Chinese opera in her strong singing voice!

Other noted authors presenting at the conference included: Laurie Halse Anderson, Hallie Ephron, Kate Flora, Norman Gautreau, Laurell K. Hamilton, Robie H. Harris, Lois Lowry, Stephen McCauley, Mameve Medwed, Leslie Meier, Sydelle Pearl and Janet Ruth Young.

Three librarians were inducted to the MLA Hall of Fame: Louise Brown, recently retired from the Wayland

Public Library; Kim Charlson of the Braille & Talking Book Library, at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown; and Marjorie L. Judd, Director of the Middleborough Public Library

Additional conference highlights included presentations by Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of the ALA, Rob Maier, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' Director and Nancy Pearl, nationally known librarian and author of *Book Lust*. And of course, there was the MLA auction which, with the help of legendary auctioneer Keith Michael Fiels, raised over \$7000 this year!

Read more about the conference, view photographs, and check out online versions of several presenters' programs at the MLA web site, <http://www.masslib.org>. We hope to see you at next year's conference, which will be even better!



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