

## Getting Ready for the Future

President's Message by Sandy Kelly

*"I ask you to see what I see about what's possible here in the Commonwealth and indeed **essential to be ready for our future.** And I ask each of you to join with me in working to make that vision real. A decade of hard work, focus, discipline and accountability... A decade of 'no excuses' leadership, starting with me..."*

***A decade to get ready — so that we can master and shape our own future."***

Governor Deval Patrick  
Commencement Address, UMass Boston,  
June 2007

**Readiness: will we be ready? How can we ever really be ready?**

I like what I hear and read about the Governor's Readiness Project, but there are so many questions running through my mind. How is it possible to be positive with so many unknowns? This summer, as I attended Governor Patrick's press conference to hear the results of the Commonwealth's Readiness Report, I wondered how we, the teachers of 21st century skills, will be "ready". How will we provide our students with essential knowledge for their future when administrators cut our jobs and few enter our profession due to budget cuts? How can we, when teachers believe they can adequately google anything, or worse, when they think their students can? How will anyone be ready when folks don't understand that WE are the educators, *trained and qualified*, to teach these critical and essential skills in our schools? How can



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***Few educators, administrators, parents or legislators – practically no one in the educated populace – would say they don't value school libraries.***  
.....

anyone value and comprehend the depth of our knowledge when they do not have a clue what a good school library program looks like?

Many teachers and administrators have never been trained to use a 21<sup>st</sup> century library nor have they heard of the new concept of the library as a "learning commons." Fewer have been taught to evaluate information resources

and technologies. Exemplary model school libraries are rare in Massachusetts' schools. Most schools barely provide adequate library spaces, never mind highly qualified staff.

**How will we be ready with so many road blocks?**

While it is not for lack of trying, we simply are not producing students ready to go to college. *Three* years ago, according to a 2005 report from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, 37 percent of incoming college freshmen from public high schools were required to take a remedial course in reading, writing, or math. How many of these students had schools with great school library programs or a library with a trained professional to match a book to a child's needs? How many had someone to understand that a particular child escapes to the library because they feel safe there and it could be the best part of their day? How many had someone who would sit with a young adult too embarrassed to admit in front of his peers that he cannot read or evaluate the results he is getting from an online search?

In July 2008, Stephen Krashen wrote, "in recent research (Sy Ying Lee and Jeff McQuillan) it is shown that library quality is a significant predictor of reading test scores, even when we control for poverty." This was also determined in the study performed at Simmons College *eight* years ago. Does anyone outside our profession read this literature or is it just

easier to not address the issue? How many studies, how much data, how much lobbying will it take to be ready?

Did you know that, according to an article published in the *Boston Herald* this past year, prisons in Massachusetts are required to have “certified” libraries? Imprisoned people who have broken the law have daily access to good libraries, but the children who will someday pay their taxes to support prison libraries do not. Ironical, isn’t it? I hope that the research and the results of the Readiness Project will provide school libraries with the chance they deserve to prove their worth to a child in need of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, and a chance to prove what we know and have been trying to say: School libraries are essential to student achievement. You can have all the project-based learning, STEM topics, and frameworks you want, but without the tools and resources, the books and trained teachers required for kids to practice and learn from, you simply cannot expect to produce critical thinkers and informed users of information technologies. Would you put a child behind the wheel without training and practice because it costs more to provide a safe, serviced, registered, inspected, and insured car?

Few educators, administrators, parents or legislators – practically no one in the educated populace – would say they don’t value school libraries. Everyone says they love the library. When there is a school photo opportunity, a parent meeting, or a staff professional development session, where is it frequently conducted? That’s right, it’s in the school library. Books lined up on the shelves make a powerful educational statement as a backdrop, but is anyone reading those books? Is someone carefully selecting books that supplement and enhance the curriculum and making sure they are in the hands of the children who need them?

The Readiness Report states, “All too often, students’ chances for success are determined not by their intellect or ability to learn, but by their zip code and circumstances beyond their control.” Interestingly, this is sometimes only partially true. Federal funds and grants often supply fabulous materials for schools and libraries in low income areas, but they rarely provide money for the staff to catalog, track and distribute these materials in the best or

most efficient manner, teach people that they exist, and how to use them. That would be a recurring expense that most administrators are reluctant to incur. I see what the Governor sees in reference to “what is possible.” That is why I love to work at my school, fortunate enough to be in a zip code where everyone gets it, including the students. I can see the outer edges of the proverbial box we should be thinking outside of. I can even peek beyond the edge a bit, but we are still confined by inequity, lack of information, and budget constraints.

Let’s not be the ones to lose our vision or fail to see the forest for the trees. Reread the Governor’s words above. Join with MSLA as we continue to advocate for school libraries, lobby our legislators, and reach out to our parent, teacher, and student supporters. We will continue to be a presence on the national level, look for new leaders within our membership, and act on every opportunity to move our important message forward. I am especially looking forward to the upcoming term of our President-Elect Gerri Fegan this year. She is a pleasure to work with and a treasure to have on the MSLA Executive Board.

While we look for the silver lining, we must stay prepared and be ready! The most important thing you can do right now is read about our

Annual Conference **Survivor MSLA** and register! Check out the conference details in this issue of the *Forum*, or visit the website, <http://www.maschoollibraries.org>. Don’t miss the Author Fest at the President’s Reception on Sunday, November 2nd. This is the largest gathering of local authors we have had to date and they are all anxious to meet and talk with you. On Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Terry Young, author of *School Libraries Work*, will be our keynote speaker. (Thank you, Scholastic Publishing Company!) All our presenters were required to prepare their sessions with the new AASL standards or MSLA’s Information Fluency standards in mind. You will leave with hands-on ideas and suggestions from some of the finest practitioners in school librarianship.

And finally, do take a look at the Readiness Project report. You can download the document at the Department of Education website. The four goals they have identified for the state’s long range education plan are listed below. There are clear cut places where a good school library teacher fits. I welcome you to share your thoughts and ideas, or get involved in an initiative in your community. Join a committee, take or teach a professional development course, and be seen as an educational leader in your school and district. Keep on the cutting edge, and we will be ready!

### Massachusetts Readiness Project Goals and Recommendations

#### Readiness Goal 1

To transform public education in the Commonwealth, we must meet the learning needs of each student and provide the understanding, encouragement, support, knowledge and skills each requires to exceed the state’s high expectations and rigorous academic standards.

#### Readiness Goal 2

To transform public education in the Commonwealth, we must ensure that every student is taught by highly competent, well-educated, strongly supported and effective educators.

#### Readiness Goal 3

To transform public education in the Commonwealth, we must prepare every student for postsecondary education, career and lifelong economic, social and civic success.

#### Readiness Goal 4

To transform public education in the Commonwealth, we must unleash innovation and systemic change throughout the Commonwealth’s schools, school districts, colleges and universities as well as in the partnerships and collaborations among education institutions, communities, businesses and nonprofits.

# Table of Contents

<b>President's Message – Getting Ready for the Future</b> by Sandy Kelly	page 1	<b>An "Out of Library" Experience: When A Field Trip Takes an Unexpected Turn</b> by Patsy Divver	page 28
<b>Introduction to the Forum</b>	page 4	<b>MSLA Thinkfinity Training</b> by Kathy Dubrovsky	page 29
<b>From the former Forum Editor, Paula Byrne... On Being an Editor</b> by Paula Byrne	page 4	<b>Memorable Educational Moment: Boston Light</b> by Janice Koleszar	page 29
<b>Meet the Editors</b>	page 5	<b>Bring an Author to School</b> by Patsy Divver	page 30
<b>Thumbnail Book Reviews Wanted</b>	page 5	<b>Networking with Authors</b> by Sandy Kelly	page 30
<b>MSLA Reports from ALA Anaheim Conference Anaheim en Mass</b> by Kathy Lowe	page 6	<b>Lunch with an Author: Maryellen Maguire-Eisen</b> by Linda Redding	page 31
<b>Save the date: MSLA 2008 Conference is November 2nd &amp; 3rd</b>	page 7	<b>Lunch With an Author: Janet Tashjian</b> by Linda Redding	page 32
<b>Conference Schedule</b>	page 8	<b>Cooperative Programs Make the Library Rock</b> by Carole B. Shutzer	page 33
<b>Photos from Past Conferences</b>	page 9	<b>Connect with your Public Library Summer Reading and more</b>	page 33
<b>Author Fest Guests</b>	page 10	<i>Books and Reviews</i>	
<b>MSLA 2008 Conference Session Descriptions &amp; Biographies</b>	page 12	<b>At Your Leisure</b> by Sandy Kelly	page 34
<b>2008-2009 MSLA Membership Form</b>	page 17	<b>Made in Massachusetts</b> by Patricia Keogh	page 34
<b>2008 Conference Registration Form</b>	page 18	<b>MSLA Vision &amp; Mission</b>	page 35
<b>Photos from Past Conferences</b>	page 19	<b>MSLA Board Reports</b>	
<b>From Our Executive Director: What DOES the ED do?</b> by Kathy Lowe	page 20	Curriculum Committee	page 36
<b>MSLA Advocacy Initiatives Wiki</b> by Kathy Lowe	page 21	MSLA Webpage	page 36
<b>The Rewards of Advocacy</b> by Patsy Divver	page 21	Constitution and Policy	page 37
<b>From our President, Sandy Kelly: The School Library Journal Leadership Summit</b> by Sandy Kelly	page 22	Public Relations	page 37
<i>Legislative Day 2008</i>		Awards Committee	page 37
<b>Overview from our Legislative Committee...</b> by Judi Paradis	page 23	Legislative Committee	page 38
<b>Legislative Day 2008 from the West</b> by Jan Resnick	page 24	MSLA Forum	page 39
<b>More Thoughts on Legislative Day</b> by Jan Koleszar	page 24	Student Special Interest Group	page 39
<b>Volunteers in Your School Library</b> by Patsy Divver	page 25	Standards Committee	page 40
<b>The 2008 Bookmark Contest: The Heart of Our Schools</b> by Gerri Fegan	page 26	Central Region Area Directors' Report	page 41
		MetroWest Area Directors' Report	page 41
		Northeast Area Directors' Report	page 41
		Boston Region Directors' Report	page 41
		Southeast Area Directors' Report	page 42
		MSLA 2008-09 Executive Board	page 43

## Introduction to the Forum

**Question:** It's the Forum PLUS Edition... but it's EARLY! We used to get it at the MSLA Annual Conference, so...what's going on?

**Answer:** There's SO much going on that we couldn't WAIT to tell you! Welcome to our first "Back to School" edition of the Forum PLUS, the print version of our Massachusetts School Library Association's "online" newsletter. We decided to send it out at the start of school, rather than wait for the Conference.

Why are we doing this? Hopefully to help YOU! Whether you're a veteran or novice library staff person, teacher, director, or 'friend', we are hoping you'll find the Forum a great resource for your school.

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***The biggest "PLUS" is our early announcement of the MSLA Annual Conference! Check it out!***  
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We've included articles about our legislative efforts, collaborative programs, author interviews, and Executive Board reports. You can 'meet' the people who are organizing library programs and events in your area, as well as learn how YOU can be more involved.

The biggest "PLUS" is our early announcement of the MSLA Annual Conference! Check it out – we'll be in Sturbridge November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and this year's theme is "Survivor MSLA 2008"!

All you need to do is REGISTER! Forms are there, as well as information about speakers and the two-day schedule outline! Hope to see you soon!

So, after you've located your desk, pencils, computers, AND books, find a spot to sit and browse through our "welcome back" Forum Plus issue! We're looking forward to keeping you interested and connected throughout the year!

Regards from your Co-editors,  
Patsy Divver and Jan Koleszar

## From the former Forum Editor, Paula Byrne...

### On Being an Editor

By Paula Byrne

I wanted to become more involved with the Massachusetts School Library Association. So, while at an MSLA Conference, I signed up to volunteer my time on a committee. Soon afterwards, Ann Perham, Webmaster and MSLA President-Elect in 2002, asked me to do a section on the webpage called, News You Need. A few months later, Ann contacted me and said that she wanted to begin an online newsletter and would I be interested in being the Editor. I said, "Yes". The goal was to have four online newsletters, the Media Forum Online, plus an annual print issue called the Media Forum Plus.

During that first year in 2002, with the help of Ann Perham, Dorothy McQuillan, MSLA President, Rick Paula as Technical Editor, Kathy Lowe, and our article writers, we met the goal. To this day, the MSLA Newsletter Committee continues to publish four online and an annual print issue of MSLA's newsletter.

There have been some changes since the beginning of the Media Forum Online. Each year, we improved the newsletter by adding additional features such as more pictures, featured articles on important topics such as standards, legislative issues, advocacy efforts, and a variety of columns; Lunch With an Author, Adventures in My School Library, and What Works. We also decided that "advocacy" was to be the theme of every issue instead of having a different theme for each issue. Committee members have changed. Rick Paula and April Graziano have resigned from the Committee and Patsy Divver, Jan Koleszar, and Maria D'Orsi have joined. All the while, the MSLA President and Board members have written articles and have been supportive of the Forum. Recently, we changed the name of the newsletter to the Forum and the Forum Plus, in order to reflect MSLA's name change. Even the format of the Forum changed when MSLA took a giant leap forward and went from the functional Netscape

Composer to Joomla with all its bells and whistles.

A few years ago, the Board decided that the addition of a Co-Editor would enhance the Forum. Patsy Divver was recruited as Co-Editor. Patsy and I published the Forum until my recent resignation as Co-Editor. Jan Koleszar is the new Co-Editor. I leave the Forum in excellent hands.

Thanks MSLA for the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful organization. I have truly enjoyed it!!



# Meet the Editors

## WELCOME!

Greetings everyone! As the new co-editors of the Forum, we look forward to continuing to produce a professional newsletter that will be both enjoyable and beneficial for its readers. Since becoming co-editors, we've made some adjustments to this year's calendar, like the Early Edition of Forum Plus! We'd like to thank everyone who helped with this reorganization process: Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Ann Perham, Gerri Fegan, Paula Byrne, and last but not least, our graphic designer, Bill Mead! His patience and perseverance for printing and planning have set a precedent for perfection! All alliteration aside, Bill has been a tremendous asset in producing a quality print newsletter. Thanks!

Of course, a newsletter is nothing without writers, so many thanks to our loyal group of authors! Where would we be without you? In fact, we are always looking for additional staff to assist us. Perhaps you have a passion for correcting or writing, or have been thinking about writing an occasional column, and need more PDPs. For each published article of 800-1000 words, MSLA awards 2.5 PDPs.

All thoughts and offers of assistance are welcome. Deadlines for receipt of articles will be provided in each issue, and will continue as posted requests for articles via the listserv. Your adherence to the deadlines notifications will give us time to do a final proofreading of your article and get it to the printer or post it to the web page. We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks again!

Jan Koleszar ([j.koleszar@verizon.net](mailto:j.koleszar@verizon.net)) and  
Patsy Divver ([pdivver@maschoollibraries.org](mailto:pdivver@maschoollibraries.org))

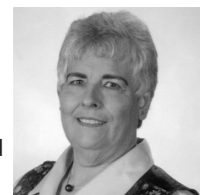
## MEET THE EDITORS – BIOGRAPHIES:

### From Patsy:



This is starting my third year with the Forum, and I'm happy to have Jan on board. It's a busy time – it's my seventh year as the Library Teacher at the Middle/High School library. We'll be starting school with a new Superintendent, a successful LSTA grant, plans for book groups and storytelling and more! I hope to find time to relax with my family, and catch up on that "relaxation reading" list!

### From Jan:



Though retired, I continue to enjoy growing professionally and being involved with MSLA and the Forum. Fun and relaxing activities include, spending time with family and friends, boating, reading, needlework, playing alto sax in my town's community band, and volunteering in the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. With personal goals of continuing to listen, to learn, and, most importantly, to have fun, I expect to continue being active and young at heart for years to come.

## Submit an Article!

The MSLA Forum is the online newsletter of the Massachusetts School Library Association published four times a year. In the fall, we issue a printed edition, MSLA Forum PLUS. It features articles from the previous year, plus committee reports, membership information, conference preview, and special features.

### EARN PDPs for WRITING ARTICLES for MSLA Forum

Do you enjoy writing? Are you collecting PDPs for the next round of Teacher Licensure? Here is an opportunity for you.

MSLA offers PDPs for all articles published in the MSLA Forum.

For each published article of 800-1000 words, MSLA awards 2.5 PDPs.

We consider any article that is of interest to MSLA members and that supports our mission. Tell us about your library program, best practices, special projects, etc. Most of us are the only Library Teacher at our school; by writing an article, you can share your successes with colleagues who understand and support the profession.

## Thumbnail Book Reviews Wanted

We'd like to try having a section titled *Thumbnail Book Reviews* similar to those in SLJ in future issues. If this idea is of interest to you, let us know by submitting a short review of a book you recently read. (Hint: There are some good titles to whet your appetite in the article on page 34!)

Please send your 'reviews' to Jan Koleszar ([j.koleszar@verizon.net](mailto:j.koleszar@verizon.net)). Happy reading!



# MSLA Reports from ALA Anaheim Conference

## Anaheim en Mass

by Kathy Lowe, MSLA Executive Director

It's surprising how many MSLA members made it to the other coast this summer for the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA. Perhaps the location of the conference center – right next to Disneyland and smack dab in the middle of Orange County – had something to do with it? I know that several of us extended our stays to sightsee and enjoy the many recreational opportunities in the area.

There are always so many choices at Annual that it is impossible to fit in everything that you would like to do. Just to name a few, there are meetings to attend, authors galore, sessions on every library-related topic imaginable, and a gigantic exhibit hall to explore, full of new products, the latest technologies, and free giveaways. The posts MSLA members filed on their group blog *Anaheim en Mass*, coalesce to provide a great synopsis of the diversity of offerings and experiences available to conference attendees. Here's a sample of what you can read more about on *Anaheim en Mass*:

**Alma Ramos-McDermott**, a former Spectrum Scholar, helped organize this year's Spectrum Institute for librarians of color preparing to enter the library profession. She attended several diversity events and managed to scope out some good parties, too!

**Amy Bloom**, a recent Simmons grad just completing her first year as a school librarian, described the Annual experience through the eyes of a first-timer, focusing much of her attention on young adult authors and literature. She proclaims that she came away "officially author struck."

**Bob "Doc" Roth**, attended a preconference on reading and the secondary school librarian before devoting his attention to advocacy and legislation issues as co-chair of the AASL Legislation Committee. He also got to meet the legendary *Spokane Moms* in person and

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*There are always so many choices at Annual that it is impossible to fit in everything that you would like to do.*  
 .....

learn the story of the third-most played song in America, *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*.

MSLA's President-Elect **Gerri Fegan**, along with Professional Standards chair **Valerie Diggs**, attended the Affiliate Assembly where they, with representatives from across the country, brought concerns to the AASL Board and recommended ways the organization could better serve and support school librarians. They had time for less-serious pursuits, too – **Gerri**, previewing Fabulous Films for Young Adults and **Valerie**, getting lost among the vast riches of the Exhibit Hall.

Executive Director **Kathy Lowe** was enthralled seeing authors Khaled Hosseini (*The Kite Runner*; *A Thousand Splendid Suns*) and Greg Mortenson (*Three Cups of Tea*) in person, but her favorite conference experience came courtesy of the producers of Disney's *School House Rock*, with a memorable meal at Disneyland's legendary Club 33.

**Linda Friel**, Northeast Area Director and newly elected ALA Councilor-at-Large, admitted to being both excited and a little intimidated at her new-councilor orientation session, but continued mingling with ALA bigwigs at incoming President Jim Rettig's advocacy workshop, *Saving the Library Ecosystem*, nevertheless.

There's more – awards ceremonies, task force meetings, receptions, interviews with Jamie Lee Curtis and Diahann Carroll, Virtual Library Day on the Hill, workshop sessions, and on and on. Read about all these and more in *Anaheim en Mass*.



Linda Friel, Valerie Diggs, Gerri Fegan, Sandy Kelly



Kathy Lowe, Ann Perham, Linda Friel, Sandy Kelly, Gerri Fegan

Links:

*Anaheim en Mass*: <http://anaheimenmass.blogspot.com>

Photos: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/ala2008msla/>

# Save the date:

## MSLA 2008 Conference is November 2nd & 3rd



### **SURVIVOR MSLA**

*Survive and thrive with new strategies and tools for 21st century learning!*

**Location:** Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center,  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts

The 2008 MSLA conference will focus on practical applications of AASL and MSLA standards for school libraries:

#### **AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner**

1. Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge
2. Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations and create new knowledge
3. Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society.
4. Pursue personal and aesthetic growth.

#### **MSLA Information Fluency Standards**

1. Define information task
2. Develop information seeking strategies
3. Locate and access information
4. Use information
5. Synthesize information
6. Participate in collaborative activities
7. Evaluate the process and the product
8. Appreciate literature

*Sessions will address the Standards and provide real examples for implementation and assessment.*

# MSLA Forum

## 2008 MSLA Conference Schedule - "Survivor MSLA"

(as of 7/13/08, schedule subject to change)

### Sunday, November 2

<b>9:00 - 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Grand Ballroom Foyer</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b>
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#### 10:00 - 11:30 AM Concurrent Session I

**The New AASL National Standards: Am I Ready for the 21st Century?** - Cassandra Barnett  
**Maximizing Your Impact: Classroom-Library Co-Teaching Information Literacy & Reading Comprehension Skills** - Judi Moreillon  
**Building the Advocacy Picture** - Debra Kay Logan

#### 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Courtyard Lunch - "Meet & Eat" (6 regions)

#### 1:30 - 3:00 PM Concurrent Session II

**The New AASL National Standards: Am I Ready for the 21st Century?** - Cassandra Barnett  
**Maximizing Your Impact: Classroom-Library Co-Teaching Information Literacy & Reading Comprehension Skills** - Judi Moreillon  
**Building the Advocacy Picture** - Debra Kay Logan

#### 3:00 PM Exhibit Hall Grand Opening, Author Fest, & Block Party

**5:30 PM**  
**MSLA Awards & Buffet Dinner**  
**Dinner Speaker - Survival Lessons: Peak Performance Under Pressure** - Michael Tougias  
*Note - M. Tougias to do book signing after his presentation*

#### 8:00 PM Job Alikes

### Monday, November 3

Some exhibitors will have demonstration rooms open on Monday to showcase new products & services.

**7:00 - 8:30 AM** **Foyer & Exhibit Hall** **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

#### 8:30 - 9:30 AM Concurrent Session I

**Students + Evidence = Impact!** - Debra Kay Logan  
**The New AASL Standards and the MSLA Information Fluency Standards – Winning Over Classroom Teachers with this Winning Combination!** - Cassandra Barnett & Valerie Diggs  
**What's Hot and What's Not - New Young Adult Literature** - Maureen Ambrosino & Sarah Sogigian  
**Making Your Library the Heart of the School: Promotion and Programming** - Mary Kelleher & Karin Kugel

#### 9:30-10:00 AM Exhibit Hall Exhibit Hall Break and Prize Drawings

#### 10:00 - 11:00 AM Keynote

**President's Welcome** - Sandy Kelly  
**Keynote: Is It In Your DNA to Make a Difference?** - Terry Young

#### 11:15 AM-12:15 PM Concurrent Session III

**Sharing the Evidence: Library Media Center Assessment Tools & Resources** - Connie Champlin  
**Fun With Research: Strategies That Work** - Donna Guerin & Patricia Carbone  
**Getting Graphic in Schools: Graphic Novels, Comics, and Manga in Education** - Robin Brenner  
**InfoLit: One School's Survivor Story** - Gerri Fegan & Laura Harrington

#### 12:15 - 1:30 PM LUNCH Lunch in Courtyard or Exhibit Hall / Exhibit Hall / Prize Drawings / Demonstration Rooms

#### 1:30 - 2:30 PM Concurrent Session III

**Digital Projects in the Library** - Linda Redding & Vicki Wright  
**Works Cited, References, and Bibliographies 101** - Nancy Anthony  
**What's New in Children's Books** - Pat Keogh  
**Thinkfinity.com** - Kathy Dubrovsky

#### 2:30 - 3:00 PM Exhibit Hall Break/Prize Drawings

#### 3:00 - 4:00 PM Concurrent Session IV

**Fix-up Options! Strategies for Reading Difficult Texts in the Library or Classroom** - Judi Moreillon  
**Standards Survival Kit: How to Make Sense of the New AASL Standards** - Sue Ballard & Kathy Lowe  
**Surviving the Research Process: Strategies That Work** - Donna Guerin & Patricia Carbone  
**Tracking AASL Standards at the Reference Desk** - Jeffrey Marzluff & Sara Ciaburri



## Our Past Conferences were Great!



## Author Fest Guests

### Michael Tougias

<http://www.michaeltougias.com>

Michael Tougias is a lecturer and author of 16 books. *Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do* is a Boston Globe Best-seller. It was also selected by the American Library Association as one of the "Top Books of the Year" and described as "a white-knuckle read, the best book of its kind". On a lighter note, Tougias chronicled his misadventures at his remote cabin in Vermont in his award-winning book *There's A Porcupine In My Outhouse: Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wanna-be*. This book won the Independent Publishers Association Award for the "The Best Nature Book of the Year."



### Ji-li Jiang

<http://www.jilijiang.com>

For over twenty years, Ji-li Jiang nursed her childhood memories of surviving the Cultural Revolution in China and finally brought them to life in her first book *Red Scarf Girl*. In 2001 she published her adaptation of the Chinese classic folklore *Magical Monkey King- Mischief in Heaven*. In 2007 it was selected for International Literacy Day by World Association of Newspapers in Paris and was serialized in 17 countries worldwide. Ji-li was a science teacher in Shanghai, China before coming to the US in 1984. She co-founded the East West Exchange, a company that promotes and facilitates cultural and business exchanges between China and western countries and in 2003, started a nonprofit organization, Cultural Exchange International. Ji-li Jiang now lives in the San Francisco Bay area, which she considers home. She believes that a better understanding among people around the world is the only route to global peace.

### Jarrett Krosoczka

<http://www.studiojkk.com>

Jarrett J. Krosoczka is an award winning published author/illustrator with many books to his credit. Growing up in Worcester, MA Jarrett drew relentlessly and always had a cast of characters that he wrote stories for. He went on to graduate from the Rhode Island School of Design. His first book *Good Night, Monkey Boy* was published in 2001 and he has since been busy producing more books – including *Baghead*; *Bubble Bath Pirates*; *Annie Was Warned*; *Max for President*; *Punk Farm*; *Giddy Up, Cowgirl*; *My Buddy, Slug and Punk Farm on Tour*. His work has also been short listed by Newsweek, USA Today, The Boston Globe and The New York Times, among others. He is currently working on a graphic novel series for Random House.

### Melissa Stewart

<http://www.melissa-stewart.com>

Melissa Stewart has always been fascinated by the natural world and enjoys sharing it with readers of all ages. She is the award-winning author of more than 100 books for young readers and has written more than 70 articles for children and adults. Trained as a scientist and a journalist, Melissa believes that nothing brings writing to life like firsthand research. While gathering information for her nonfiction books, Melissa has explored tropical forests in Costa Rica, gone on safari in East Africa, and swum with sea lions in the Galapagos Islands. She can't imagine any job she'd rather have!

### Phoebe Stone

<http://www.phoebestone.com>

Before concentrating on creating books for children and young adults, Phoebe had a very successful career as a fine art's painter. She then began to realize that she could combine her love for images and words in picture books for children. "The Boston Globe said: "Stone's books speak to the heart of youth -- its frailty, wild ambitions, and promise. Literature doesn't get much better than this." Among her picture books is *When the Wind Bear Goes Dancing* and her newest fiction title is *Deep Down Popular*.

### Carole Hamburger

<http://www.CaroleHamburger.com>

Carole Hamburger is a veteran elementary teacher with an M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling. She believes books should be entertaining, enlightening, and educational. She uses extensive enriched vocabulary and idiomatic phrases in her whimsical rhyming tales. Carole has written and illustrated two books to date, and is finalizing the third of the planned series. Entitled: *The Star Pupil: A Dot's Quest to Find His Place in the World*, and *The Zippity-Do-Dot: The Dot Who Dared to Pick Her Knows*, her appeal to all ages! She presents to groups from pre-school to Grad-school.

### Amy Gordon

<http://www.amyagordon.com>

Amy Gordon has been a drama teacher for middle-school aged kids for almost thirty years. She writes books that reflect her belief in the positive power of imagination. Her books are aimed at children of all ages, from *Midnight Magic* for beginning readers to the teen novel *When JFK Was My Father*. Ms. Gordon's other books include *The Secret Life of a Boarding School Brat*, the award-winning *The Gorillas of Gill Park*, *Return to Gill Park*, and her most recent work, *Magic by Heart*.

### Loree Griffin Burns, Ph.D.

<http://www.loreeburns.com>

Blog: <http://lgburns.livejournal.com>

Loree grew up in Everett, where her favorite things were books and science. She earned several degrees in biology and biochemistry before deciding that the best way to blend her love of books and her passion for discovery would be to write books for young people. Her first book, *Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion*, was published in 2007 and received a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Book Award, an ALA Notable designation, and enthusiastic reviews in School Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews and The New York Times. Her second book, *The Hive Detectives*, will be published in 2010.

### Carol Weis

<http://www.CarolWeis.com>

Carol Weis is a former actor, teacher, school librarian, and pastry chef who writes poetry, essays, commentary for public radio, and children's books. Her poetry collection, *Divorce Papers* led her to develop a school-touring program called, 'Poems Have Feelings, Too.' Her first children's book, *When the Cows Got Loose* was released in 2006. Carol lives with her daughter in western Mass, not far from where the cows escaped. She loves telling the true story of that venturesome herd of bovine at her school and library visits, where she has come to be affectionately known as the Cow-Lady.

### Joan Collins

Joan Collins is the teacher librarian at John Glenn Middle School in Bedford, Massachusetts. She has served as part-time faculty for Cambridge College in their library program. Before becoming a Massachusetts librarian, Joan worked as a high school librarian and a junior high school English teacher in New York City. She was awarded the "Progressive School Library Media Award" in 1998 by Winnebago Software Company and has presented workshops for Massachusetts School Library Association and for the New England League of Middle Schools. She has also reviewed software for The Book Report. Joan is committed to sharing her enthusiasm for children's literature and her summer reading list can be viewed at <http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us>.

### Kay Winters

<http://www.kaywinters.com>

Kay Winters was a classroom teacher, and college instructor before becoming full time writer. She served as a consultant in the American International Schools in Nepal, India, Egypt, Italy, Jordan, Israel and Greece. She has 13 published books. She writes fiction and nonfiction. Kay is a frequent speaker at elementary schools, colleges, regional and national conferences for teachers, writers and librarians. *Abe Lincoln the Boy who Loved Books* and *My Teacher for President* were selected as best books of the year by Banks St. College. *Voices of Ancient Egypt* was named a Notable Social Studies Book by the ALA and the Children's Book Council.

### Diane de Groat

<http://www.dianedegroat.com>

Diane deGroat grew up in New Jersey. She attended Pratt Institute, graduating in 1969 with a BFA in commercial art. She started her career at Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, designing their first basic reading series, K-8. Ms. deGroat has free-lanced in advertising, editorial, and design, but the main focus of her work has been in children's book illustration. Her best selling picture books include *Trick or Treat*, *Smell My Feet* and *Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink*, an IRA-CBC Children's Choice and State Children's Book Award winner in Arkansas and North Carolina.

### Judy Gelman and

### Vicki Levy Krupp

<http://www.kidsbookclubbook.com>

Judy Gelman and Vicki Levy Krupp are book enthusiasts, cooks, and friends who came together to co-author *The Book Club Cookbook: Recipes and Food for Thought from Your Book Club's Favorite Books and Authors* featuring recipes and discussion ideas for adult book clubs. They were motivated to write *The Kids' Book Club Book* after librarians, parents, and teachers who attended their talks asked for a similar book for the growing number of youth book clubs across the country. The authors continue to participate in many book clubs, both with adults and children. They enjoy speaking about book clubs, and appreciate their ongoing conversations with book and food enthusiasts across the country.

Both live with their families in the Boston area.

### Robin Brenner

<http://www.noflyingnotights.com/who.html>

Robin Brenner is a comics and graphic novel enthusiast, the Teen Librarian, at the Brookline Public Library. Robin graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1999, majoring in Creative Writing, studying fine arts and "in general realizing just how cool librarians are." She has a Masters Degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While working in Teen Services at the Cary Library in Lexington, MA, she was asked to do some research into graphic novels, and the rest is history!! Now she gives workshops across the country, speaks pretty much anywhere anyone asks and has served as a 2007 Will Eisner Comic Award Judge.



# MSLA 2008 Conference Session Descriptions & Biographies

## Sunday, November 2

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

### The New AASL National Standards – Am I Ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

**Cassandra Barnett**, NBCT, School Library Media Specialist, Fayetteville High School Library



AASL's new *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* provide a framework for school librarians to use in preparing students for productive lives in the 21st century. This session will engage participants in reviewing the standards and exploring their integration into the curriculum of their schools. Participants will leave this session with at least one identified curricular integration opportunity, strategies for teaching skills and dispositions, assessment templates and a goal for the first step in school-wide implementation.

Cassandra Barnett has been a school librarian for 30 years, and is currently at Fayetteville High School Library in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She has presented at state and national conferences on storytelling, forming student and teacher book clubs, dealing with book challenges in school libraries, and collaboration with teachers. As a member of the AASL Standards for Learning Task Force, she helped write the new national standards and is on the Task Force that is developing indicators, assessments and model lessons for them. She is also President-elect for the American Association of School Librarians.

### Maximizing Your Impact: Classroom-Library Co-Teaching Information Literacy & Reading Comprehension

**Judi Moreillon**, M.L.S., Ph.D., Literacies and Libraries Consultant, School of Information Resources and Library Science, University of Arizona



When classroom teachers and school library media specialists co-teach information literacy skills and reading comprehension strategies, they help students succeed by lowering the student-to-teacher ratio, providing

models for thinking aloud and teamwork, and sharing responsibility for monitoring practice and assessing processes and products. Opportunities for increased student achievement, job-embedded professional development for educators, and fun (!) can benefit the entire learning community. This interactive session includes hands-on activities and testimonials from educators across the country who field tested K-6 lessons from *Collaborative Strategies for Teaching Reading Comprehension: Maximizing Your Impact* (ALA Editions, 2007). Support for this presentation can be found at: <http://storytrail.com/Impact/index.htm>

Judi Moreillon is a literacies and libraries consultant who has recently returned to teaching in a 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade school library. She has served as a classroom teacher, elementary and high school teacher-librarian, literacy coach, and teacher educator. She also teaches children's and adolescent literature and school library administration at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Judi holds a master's in library science and a doctorate in education. She is the author of two published children's books and a professional book, *Collaborative Strategies for Teaching Reading Comprehension: Maximizing Your Impact* (ALA Editions, 2007).

### Building the Advocacy Picture

**Debra Kay Logan**, Librarian, Media Specialist, Mount Gilead High School



Just as a puzzle box guides the building of a puzzle, research and evidence-based practice forms a picture to guide building stronger library programs and increased support for school library programs. Look at ways to connect the puzzle pieces when making evidence-based practice work with students, teachers, administrators, parents, community members, state and national decision makers. Real advocacy happens when stakeholders are heard speaking out for our services and programs. What better group to speak for school libraries than students?

The 2008 OELMA/Follett Library Resources School Librarian of the Year Award winner, Deb Logan has been a school library media specialist for twenty years and has worked in K-12 libraries. Deb is currently the Chair of the AASL Advocacy Committee and is serving a sixth year as the OELMA Advocacy Chair/Co-Chair. In addition to being one of OELMA's evidence based practice trainers, Deb was a member of The Ohio Department of Education Technology Standards Writing Team and ODE's Effective School Library Guidelines Writing Team. Deb is also a fellow of The National Writing Project, The Institute for Library and Information Literacy Education and Poetry Alive. Her Taft Library Media Center Web site was named the *June 1999 School Library Journal Online Web Site of the Month*. In 2004, Logan was awarded an Ohio Department of Education & OELMA Innovative School Library Practices Award.

### 5:30 p.m. Dinner Presentation

#### Survival Lessons: Peak Performance Under Pressure

**Michael Tougias**, Author



Award winning author and lecturer Michael Tougias shares the lessons learned about decision-making & peak performance from researching his national best-sellers *Fatal Forecast* and *Ten Hours Until Dawn* and dozens of interviews with people who have overcome tremendous obstacles.

Michael Tougias pronounced "Toe - gis" is a lecturer and author of 18 books. His latest book *Fatal Forecast: An Incredible True Tale of Disaster and Survival at Sea* was praised by the Los Angeles Times as "a breathtaking book, Tougias spins a marvelous and terrifying yarn." His earlier book *Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do* was a Boston Globe Bestseller. *Ten Hours Until Dawn* was also selected by the American Library Association as one of the "Top Books of the Year" and described as "a white-knuckle read, the best book of its kind".

On a lighter note, Tougias chronicled his misadventures at his remote cabin in Vermont in his award-winning book *There's A Porcupine In My Outhouse: Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wanna-be*. This book won the Independent Publishers Association Award for the "The Best Nature Book of the Year."

Michael does a number of school presentations for all ages including King Philip's War, Quabbin, Survival Lessons and more.

## Monday, November 3

### Keynote: Is It In Your DNA to Make A Difference?

**Terrence "Terry" Young, Jr.**, School Library Media Specialist, Jefferson Parish Public School System/  
Adjunct Professor of Library Science, University of New Orleans & Louisiana State University



Probably more than any other person in the school, it is the school library media specialist that can have the most profound impact on both students and teachers. Why? Most schools only have one school library media specialist and that person can be in the same position for over a generation. WOW! Calculate how many students will interact with that person over each student's education? What makes school library media specialists the BEST they can be? Learn the traits, characteristics, and skills that will insure that you will make a positive difference with your students and teachers.

Terry Young is a teacher...both in the classroom and in the school library media center. He received a BS in Science Education and a M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction from the University of New Orleans, and an MLS from Louisiana State University. He is a prolific writer on science and school library issues with articles appearing in *Library Media Connection*, *Book Links*, *Science Books & Films*, *The Book Report*, *Library Talk*, *School Library Journal* and *Knowledge Quest*. He authored *School Libraries Work!* Updated 2006, and *School Libraries Work!*

*Updated 2008*. He is currently a member of ALSC's 2009 Caldecott Award committee. Behind the scenes he is on the Library Advisory Boards for Scholastic Classroom and Library Group, Linworth Publishing, Cengage (Gale) K-12 Imprints, and Facts on File; and the Science Advisor for Compass Point Books. Currently he is a school library media specialist at West Jefferson High School and an Adjunct Instructor of Library Science at the University of New Orleans and the LSU School of Library and Information Science. He is a frequent presenter at local, state and national conferences.

### 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. – Concurrent Session I

#### Students + Evidence = Impact!

**Debra Kay Logan**, Librarian/Media Specialist, Mount Gilead High School

When students speak, everybody listens... including students. Learn practical strategies to make gathering qualitative and quantitative data a daily part of improving instruction and learning. Take home ready-to-implement ideas for using and sharing student voices through data. Make a plan to involve students in using data to inform and improve practice, while raising and improving program awareness and perceptions.

See Debra's biographical sketch above, with Sunday speakers.

#### The New AASL Standards and the MSLA Information Fluency Standards – Winning Over Classroom Teachers with this Winning Combination!

**Cassandra Barnett**, NBCT, School Library Media Specialist, Fayetteville High School Library & **Valerie Diggs**, Director of libraries, Chelmsford Public School District

AASL's new *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* provide a framework for school librarians to use in preparing students for productive lives in the 21st century. This session will focus on the librarian/teacher collaborative process and how it can be used to integrate these standards, as well as our own MSLA *Information Fluency Standards*, into subject area curriculum frameworks.

See Cassandra's biographical sketch above, with Sunday speakers.

Valerie Diggs is a member of the MSLA Executive Board and is co-chair of the Standards Committee. She also served for four consecutive years on the Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System's (NMRLS) Executive Board, the last two of those years as treasurer. Serving on the board of a multi-type regional library system gave her the opportunity to learn and grow as a school library teacher while simultaneously beginning to understand and observe the world of other library types: public, academic and special. In addition to her work with MSLA, she is a doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell in the Leadership in Schooling Program. In support of the future of our profession, she also teaches at Simmons College in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Professionally, she is the director of libraries for the Chelmsford Public School District, a district comprised of one high school, two middle schools, and five elementary schools, with a student population of approximately 6,500.

#### What's Hot and What's Not - New Young Adult Literature

**Maureen Ambrosino**, Youth Services Consultant, CMRLS & **Sarah Sogigian**, Consultant for Youth Services, MMRLS

Ever wish someone would tell you what new teen books are any good? Want to know which ones are really terrible too? Join Maureen Ambrosino and Sarah Sogigian to hear about what's new and what's ahead in YA literature! (You may even get to hear about some titles before they're even on sale.) This session will present fun and interesting books that will be appreciated by readers in your libraries.

Maureen Ambrosino is currently the Youth Services Consultant for the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System. She has worked in libraries from New York to Texas, with babies, preschoolers, teens and adults. Her favorite YA authors are Rick Riordan and Jordan Sonnenblick.



Sarah Sogigian is the Trainer/Consultant for Youth Services for the Metrowest Massachusetts Regional Library System. She previously worked as the Young Adult Librarian and in other positions at the Shrewsbury Public Library in Shrewsbury, MA where she started working as a teenager. Her favorite teen author is Anthony Horowitz, and her favorite video game is The Legend of Zelda, which is loaded onto her cell phone for emergency game playing.

## **Making Your Library the Heart of the School: Promotion and Programming**

**Mary Kelleher**, Middle School Library Teacher & **Karin Kugel**, Lower School Librarian, Prospect Hill Academy Charter School

Every principal has a goal or a philosophy. By finding unique ways to assist with that goal, you instantly make the library program useful to the administration. Mary and Karin will discuss practical ways they have supported the literacy focus in both schools through creating and cataloging a Literacy Resource Center, applying for a grant and insitituting the RIF program, collaborating with the Reading and Research classes, working closely with the Calderwood Writing Program, etc. They will also discuss easy and practical ways you can support small goals or issues in the school such as pulling books on a topic before an administrators' meeting, etc.

Mary Kelleher is the Middle School Library Teacher at Prospect Hill Academy Charter School. Since starting at PHA, she has built the lower school and middle school library programs from the ground up. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification Program in 2004. While in Pittsburgh, she worked as a library assistant at Carnegie Mellon University. Before attending library school, she taught high school English in Douglas, MA. When not in the library, Mary likes to play ultimate frisbee, hike (or anything else outdoors), do paper crafts (homemade cards, scrapbook, etc), and try new recipes.

Karin Kugel is the Lower School Librarian at Prospect Hill Academy Charter School. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification Program in 2006 where she served as a graduate assistant. While in Pittsburgh, Karin worked closely with Family Communications, Inc. (the producers of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood) to help select and

catalog items for The Fred Roger's Center for Early Learning and Children's Media Archives. Prior to attending library school, Karin worked for several years for YBP Library Services, a division of Baker and Taylor where she assisted academic libraries in collection development and approval plan services.

## **11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – Concurrent Session II**

### **Sharing the Evidence: Library Media Center Assessment Tools & Resources**

**Connie Champlin**, Library Consultant

Linking library media programs to achievement is central to the justification and improvement of the library's existence in the school. During this session participants will examine simple to advanced techniques, instruments, and strategies to measure three elements of the library media program: reading, collaboration, and information literacy. The measures presented will be useful in a single school and across a district and will demonstrate impact with a minimum of time in the collection and analysis of data. Both direct and indirect measures will be examined.

Connie Champlin brings a wide range of expertise to her consulting. Her work in education covers a variety of areas: classroom teacher, school library media specialist, district administrator, library consultant, staff development coordinator, author, and media technology consultant. With over thirty years of experience as an educator, Connie's work reflects her understanding of student learning, schools, media centers, and instructional technology. She has presented workshops across the United States, as well as in the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand. As a district administrator in four school districts, Connie integrated information and media literacy skills into the curriculum, planned technology staff development activities and facilitated the implementation of distance learning, information delivery systems, and computer technology at new and renovated schools. She has provided leadership as districts implemented *Information Power*, national guidelines for school library media programs, including the introduction of open access media centers and co-planning with teachers.

## **Fun With Research: Strategies That Work**

**Donna Guerin**, Retired Director Library Information Services & **Patricia Carbone**, Retired ELA Director K-7; Educational Consultants

Come, have fun and answer the question, what do real researchers do? The focus is on the skills young students and even teachers need to become effective and efficient users, producers and presenters of information. During a hands-on session, the presenters model the successful strategies they use to teach questioning, searching, note taking, citing, organizing and presenting skills.

Donna Guerin is currently a national educational library consultant and a senior instructor in the Graduate School of Education, School Library Teacher Certification Program at Cambridge College, Springfield campus. She is a recent public education retiree as Director of Library Information Services at Palmer Public Schools. Throughout her career she has been an advocate for school libraries and has held a variety of positions on the MSLA Board, including: western region co-director, past president, public relations, conference, and newsletter chair. Her efforts in promoting school public library cooperation include: joint Committee on School Public Library Cooperation, past president of WMRLS and participation in the MBLC strategic planning process that resulted in the regional multitype library system. Donna, a presenter at numerous state conferences, is a member of AASL, ISTE, and ASCD and a member of the MLA Hall of Fame.

Patricia Carbone is a national educational consultant with particular expertise in integrating 21<sup>st</sup> century ICT (information, communication, technology) skills across the curriculum. She is recently retired as an ELA teacher and K-8 Coordinator for Palmer Public Schools. During her tenure at Palmer, Pat was instrumental in implementing the middle school team concept and served as Chair of the South Central Alliance of Middle Schools. Also through her efforts, Palmer adopted the IIM (Independent Investigation Method) research process across the K-8 curriculum. As a result of her strong belief in the need to provide meaningful professional development opportunities for educators, Pat has been a consultant and workshop provider for Palmer, the Western Massachusetts Writing Project,

the South Central Alliance of Middle Schools and the Northeast League of Middle Schools. Pat is a certified Thinkfinity and IIM trainer and an Intel Master Teacher. As founder of C&G Educational Consultants, Pat has traveled to Texas, Virginia, and New York sharing her expertise.

## Getting Graphic in Schools: Graphic Novels, Comics, and Manga in Education

**Robin Brenner**, Reference/Teen Librarian, Brookline Public Library

Join local graphic novel and manga (Japanese print comics) enthusiast (and librarian) Robin Brenner for a look into the world of graphic novels. Discover the history of the art form, the elements that make each unique, where to find more information on it all, how to select and maintain a collection and recommended core titles both old and new. Learn how to use graphic novels to investigate different kinds of literacy (visual, textual, combinations), inspire critical thinking about literature, and encourage creativity in your students.

Robin Brenner is a Reference and Teen Librarian in Brookline, MA, but in her spare time she is the editor-in-chief of *No Flying No Tights*, the graphic novel review website, and writes a variety of graphic novel and manga reviews and articles for *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, *School Library Journal*, *Video Librarian*, and the *ICv2 Guide*. She had the honor in 2007 of serving as an Eisner judge and she is the 2008 Chair of the Great Graphic Novels for Teens Selection List Committee for ALA/YALSA. She regularly presents workshops for librarians and teens on the wonders of graphic novels, manga, and anime.

## InfoLit: One School's Survivor Story

**Gerri Fegan & Laura Harrington**, Library Media Specialists, West Middle School, Andover

This session will detail the West Middle School model that combines InfoLit with technology.

Gerri Fegan is a library media specialist at West Middle School in Andover, Massachusetts. With Laura Harrington, she is part of a collaborative team that integrates information literacy and technology skills for middle schoolers. Gerri is also a graduate of Simmons College (1999), member of Beta Phi Mu, and board member of Amesbury for Africa, a United Nations Sister Cities organization, and works on literacy

projects for the communities of Esabalu, and Ikenya, Kenya. She is proud to serve as MSLA President-Elect. She is also currently a member of NESLA, MassCUE, and the International Relations Roundtable of IFLA.

Laura Harrington is a library/media specialist and teaches information literacy and technology at West Middle School in Andover, Massachusetts. After leaving her sunny home state of Arizona, Laura completed the School Library Teacher program at Simmons College in Boston and earned her Master of Library Science in 2004. Laura is also the recipient of a 2008 YALSA Teen Tech Week Mini Grant.

## 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – Concurrent Session III

### Digital Projects in the Library

**Linda Redding & Vicki Wright**, Library Teachers, Silver Lake Regional School District

Learn how students at Silver Lake Regional Middle School and Silver Lake Regional High School collaborated on public service announcements on the topic of cyber bullying and bullying through text messaging. These PSAs were produced for a contest through The Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State College. Students also created PSAs highlighting My Own Café and other school related PSAs. iMovie and Adobe Premiere were used for these projects. Students at Silver Lake Regional Middle School put a digital spin on research projects using Photostory, a free download by Microsoft. The successful projects resulted from a collaboration between the library teacher and subject area teachers. Students researched, created storyboards, used online images, and did a voice over to complete their presentations.

Linda Redding is the library teacher at Silver Lake Regional High School. Vicki Wright is the library teacher at Silver Lake Regional Middle School. Both recently moved to the secondary level after spending over 10 years as elementary level library teachers.

## Works Cited, References, and Bibliographies 101

**Nancy Anthony**, Library Teacher, Marblehead Veterans Middle School

The whole process of citing information and preparing a bibliography according to MLA,

APA or other format can be confusing in this age of the Web where resources just don't fit the rules. Yet teaching how to cite correctly is often a skill that classroom teachers leave for the library teacher. In this session, a combination of presentation, discussions, and questioning will be used to provide attendees with solid information to help teach this important skill. We will also look at various online citation makers such as EasyBib and NoodleTools.

Nancy Anthony is a middle school library teacher and has also had ten years experience at the elementary level. She is a senior instructor in the online Library Media Studies graduate program at Salem State College and is currently in a Masters' program in educational technology leadership at George Washington University where APA formatting is required.

## What's New in Children's Books

**Pat Keogh**, Elementary Librarian (retired)

This presentation will give participants an opportunity to see an array of new titles, examine the books, and make purchasing decisions for the library.

Pat Keogh was an elementary librarian for the Weston Public Schools. She also served as Past President for the Foundation for Children's Books. She is coordinator of the Author Visit Program in the Weston Public Schools and serves as a member of the Adjunct Faculty for Worcester State College.

## Thinkfinity.com

**Kathy Dubrovsky**, Library Coordinator, Sharon Public Schools

**April Graziano**, Massachusetts Thinkfinity Coordinator

*Thinkfinity* is the cornerstone of Verizon Foundation's literacy, education and technology initiatives. The goal is to improve student achievement in traditional classroom settings and beyond by providing high-quality content and extensive professional development training. This comprehensive digital learning platform is built upon the merger of two acclaimed programs *Verizon MarcoPolo* and the *Thinkfinity Literacy Network*. This presentation will include be a brief history of *Thinkfinity* and an explanation of how the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education is involved. Participants will receive an overview of *Thinkfinity's* capabilities and learn how library teachers can use it.

Kathy Dubrovsky has worked for over twenty years in school, public, private and academic libraries. She moderates the MSLA School Library Learning 2.0 tutorial, helping library teachers experiment with Web 2.0 tools while learning and communicating with each other. As MSLA's Curriculum chairperson, Kathy is currently in the process of forming a curriculum committee.

### 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Concurrent Session IV

#### Fix-up Options! Strategies for Reading Difficult Texts in the Library or Classroom

**Judi Moreillon, M.L.S., Ph.D.,** Literacies and Libraries Consultant, School of Information Resources and Library Science, University of Arizona

In the library, students are often called upon to read texts that are challenging because they are above their proficient reading level. Fix-up options give readers strategies to comprehend difficult texts. As a group, participants will practice team teaching this strategy using a Shakespearean sonnet, develop metaphors for fix-up options, and compose a reflective paragraph about using fix-up options. Then participants will engage with a partner to practice team teaching the strategy with an additional text that students would encounter in 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms and libraries.

*See Judi's biographical sketch above, with Sunday speakers*

#### Standards Survival Kit: How to Make Sense of the New AASL Standards

**Susan Ballard,** Director of Library, Media and Technology Services, Londonderry, NH & **Kathy Lowe,** Executive Director, MSLA

Chairs of two of AASL's Standards-related Task Forces, Susan and Kathy will provide updates on plans for the roll out of the Standards and progress on the accompanying publication, *Standards for the 21st Century Learner in Action* (working title). They will provide participants with tips for assessing how their program fits in at present, and how they can begin to develop strategies to move forward with the new Standards. In addition, Sue and Kathy will

share preliminary drafts of several documents/products for participants' comment and response.

Susan Ballard is the Director of Library, Media and Technology Services for the Londonderry, NH School District. The Londonderry program was the recipient of the National School Library Media Program of the Year Award (small district) in 2000. Sue is a past-president of both the New Hampshire Educational Media Association (NHEMA) and New England Educational Media Association (NEEMA – now NESLA). She has also served as Secretary of the American Association of School Librarians and as a member of the AASL Board of Directors. She was the first-ever recipient of the NH Excellence in Education Award for Library Media Services, and has received the NHEMA Service Award and NEEMA President's Award. She served as the editor of the AASL publication *The Count on Reading Handbook* and is the current co-editor of NESLA VIEWS. Sue was cited in ALA's 2005 Whole School Library Handbook as one of the country's "103 Outstanding School Librarians." She currently chairs AASL Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force.

Kathy Lowe, Past President of MSLA, now works part-time as MSLA's Executive Director, after retiring in 2006 after over 30 years as a music educator and school librarian. The library program she established in the Boston Public Schools for Boston Arts Academy and Fenway High School was named the National School Library Media Program of the Year (single school) by AASL in 2004. Kathy represents MSLA on several state and regional committees and boards, devoting her time and energy to school library advocacy and mentoring her colleagues. Kathy currently chairs AASL's Standards Indicators and Assessment Task Force.

#### Surviving the Research Process: Strategies That Work

**Donna Guerin,** Retired Director Library Information Services & **Patricia Carbone,** Retired ELA Director K-7; Educational Consultants

Come, have fun and share what works. During this hands-on session, the presenters model the successful strategies they use to assist teachers and students in overcoming the fear, frustration and challenges of research.

*See Donna and Patricia's biographical sketches above.*

#### Tracking AASL Standards at the Reference Desk

**Jeffrey Marzluft,** Associate Director & **Sara Ciaburri,** Instructional Librarian, Phillips Academy

Jeffrey and Sara use *Zoho Creator* (a free online database application) to record each AASL Standard addressed when answering questions at the reference desk. By recording the Standards and other important data (patron information, question, time spent, location, etc...) electronically, they are able to easily assess where, how, and to whom the Standards are being implemented and taught. Furthermore, the data collected allow for easy assessment of the Standards as they apply to different variables (i.e. student year, teacher, department, etc.). In this presentation, Jeffrey and Sara will demonstrate their database in *Zoho Creator*, show how they use it to track and record student learning of the Standards, and illustrate manipulation of the recorded data. In addition, they will explain the ease with which to build a *Zoho* database from scratch, how to export the data, and easily apply this tool in their own libraries.

For over 5 years, Jeffrey Marzluft has worked as a librarian in a variety of positions and library environments. After working as the web librarian at Golden Gate University, he joined the Phillips Academy as the Associate Director for Instructional Services in 2007. He currently serves as the liaison to the Economics and the Science Departments.

Sara Ciaburri has been an Instructional Librarian at the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA for two years. She is the subject liaison to the History department and teaches nearly 75 instruction sessions per year. She is also an advisor to the library's student advisory committee.



# 2008-2009 MSLA Membership Form

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School/Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work City: \_\_\_\_\_

Work State: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Library or Personal Website/Blog: http:// \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Position Type ☐ Full Time ☐ Part Time

School Type ☐ Public ☐ Independent (Private, Parochial)

Grade Level ☐ Elementary ☐ High School ☐ College

☐ Middle ☐ District Level

Library Region ☐ Boston ☐ Metrowest ☐ Southeast

☐ Central ☐ Northeast ☐ West

## Membership Info

☐ ALA ☐ NESLA (formerly NEEMA) ☐ MassCUE ☐ AFT MA

☐ AASL ☐ MLA ☐ MTA

## MSLA Membership Types & Fees

☐ Professional - \$40.00 ☐ Vendor - \$40.00

☐ Library Support Personnel - \$20.00 ☐ Full-Time GSLIS Student\* - \$20.00

☐ Retired - \$20.00

\*If you are a GSLIS student working full time in a school library as a professional (i.e. you are on the teacher's payscale) you can not claim student membership. You must register as a professional.

Do you want to be listed by MSLA as a Resource Person willing to share your expertise? ☐ Yes ☐ No

List Area of Expertise \_\_\_\_\_

- Includes Membership through Nov. 1, 2009
- A check or school purchase order **MUST** accompany this form. Please make check payable to MSLA.
- Refund policy for cancellation of conference registration: No refunds will be made if registration is cancelled within 5 days of the conference.
- MSLA dues are not refundable.
- Confirmation - A list of conference registrants will be posted on the MSLA website.
- Return this completed form to:  
MSLA Director  
P.O. Box 658  
Lunenburg, MA 01462  
Email: klowe@maschoollibraries.org  
Tel/Fax: 978-582-6967

## ★ SPECIAL RATE for MSLA members!

Join the New England School Library Association (formerly NEEMA) for \$20 (a savings of \$10) Please send a SEPARATE check payable to NESLA, to:

Merlyn Miller  
Burr and Burton Academy  
57 Seminary Avenue  
Manchester, VT 05254

For more information visit the NESLA webpage: [www.neschoollibraries.org](http://www.neschoollibraries.org)

## For MSLA Office Use Only:

Check: \_\_\_\_\_

School PO# \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_





P.O. Box 658  
Lunenburg, MA 01462  
Tel./Fax: 978-582-6967  
www.maschoollibraries.org

Visit MSLA website for current conference information

# 2008 CONFERENCE Registration Form

## November 2 & 3, 2008

Fill in BOTH sides of this form

### Registration Includes MEMBERSHIP, PLUS:

- Educational Sessions • Conference Binder • Exhibits
- Lunch • Networking Opportunities

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(NOTE TO STUDENTS): If you are a GSLIS student working full time in a school library as a professional (i.e. you are on the teacher's payscale) you can not claim student membership. You must register as a professional.

PROFESSIONAL RATES	1 - DAY	2 - DAYS
Early Bird Registration (must register by Sept. 30)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday or <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <i>please select day</i> <input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$190
Regular Registration (after Sept. 30)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165	<input type="checkbox"/> \$215
Walk in Registration (register day of the conference)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$190	<input type="checkbox"/> \$240
RETIRED/FULL TIME STUDENT/SUPPORT STAFF RATES	1 - DAY	2 - DAYS
Early Bird Registration (must register by Sept. 30)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday or <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <i>please select day</i> <input type="checkbox"/> \$95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145
Regular Registration (after Sept. 30)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$170
Walk in Registration (register day of the conference)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145	<input type="checkbox"/> \$195
<b>SUNDAY DINNER - Sunday, November 2 (for conference attendees)</b>		
<i>Survivor Buffet - Tropical Fruit Salad, Asian Shrimp &amp; Mandarin Orange Salad, Mixed Green Salad with Papaya &amp; Fruit Vinaigrette, Kahuna Smoked Pork Loin, Grilled Cilantro Chicken with Caramelized Pineapple Glaze, Steamed White Rice with Fresh Ginger, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Coffee/Tea</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00
<i>Dinner Speaker - Author Michael Tougias - "Survival Lessons"</i>		
<b>EXHIBITS, PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION &amp; DINNER - Sunday, November 2 (for guests of conference attendees)</b>		
# of guests _____ x \$40.00 = _____		

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL P.O. # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_



**MSLA Forum**  
**Please Join Us in 2008!**



## From Our Executive Director What DOES the ED do?

by Kathy Lowe, Executive Director

Most MSLA members are aware that our organization employs an Executive Director, but I suspect that few know what the position actually entails. I've been your ED for about year and a half now, so I feel like I can give you a pretty good idea of how I spend my time working for you and our organization.

I was a member of the Executive Board of MSLMA (as we were known back in 2002) when the idea of hiring an ED was first proposed. MSLMA had employed an Administrative Assistant for several years who handled memberships, mailings, conference registrations, and other office tasks, but our Board members felt they needed someone who could also serve as a spokesperson for the organization and a liaison with other groups. Because their own school libraries demanded full-time responsibilities, MSLMA officers were finding it difficult to balance their school and executive board responsibilities. They felt they were missing opportunities to advocate for school library programs and represent MSLMA in the greater library and educational community. With these needs in mind, the Board determined that the ideal Executive Director would be someone with school library experience, and preferably someone who was familiar with the workings of the Executive Board.

It took several months to find the right person, and as it eventually turned out, she had been among us the whole time! We hired Doris Smith, former MSLMA president, shortly after she retired from her school library position in Bedford. Doris became our first Executive Director in September 2002, serving in that capacity until I took over in January 2007.

I became MSLA's ED right after my own retirement, while I was in the second year of my term as MSLA president. It was an ideal situation for me and MSLA, since my familiarity with the organization enabled me to hit the ground running and maintain initiatives and relationships I had established during my presidency. I was delighted to be given the opportunity to keep on serving as a spokesperson for the organization and a mentor and advocate for my colleagues throughout the state, with finally enough time to devote all of my attention to the task.

.....  
***If there ever was a dream job – at least for me – this is it!***  
.....

I like to joke that there isn't a committee I'm *not* on! I serve as liaison between the MSLA and MLA Executive Boards, and also between the Legislative Committees of the two organizations. I also pinch hit for our Legislative chair Judi Paradis on the MLA Government Relations Advisory Committee, a group that helps to set the legislative agenda for Massachusetts libraries. I attend the MLA annual conference and represent MSLA at our display table in the exhibit hall. Two outcomes of all this "liaising" with MLA are our first joint Legislation Day and an MLA/MSLA-sponsored graphic novel track for school librarians at the upcoming 2009 MLA Conference. But most significant is the enhanced collegiality and increased mutual respect and support between our organizations.

Another board on which I serve as MSLA's representative is that of the New England School Library Association (NESLA – formerly NEEMA). The NESLA Board consists of leaders from the school library associations in all of the New England states. We share best practices, plan the annual NESLA Leadership Conference, and work together to advance the concerns of school librarians in the Northeast through the AASL Affiliate Assembly.

One of the most interesting, professionally rewarding, and – I have to admit – fun duties I have as ED is attending AASL and ALA national conferences. This has given me the opportunity to go to several cities I hadn't visited before – Chicago, Seattle, Pittsburgh, and Reno – and to see others, like Philadelphia, Washington, DC and Anaheim in a different light. With my colleagues and traveling companions from the Executive Board I have learned much about the issues of the wider library world, come back with ideas for conference speakers and sessions, found my voice and confidence as an advocate, learned how things work in other states, and met many of the extraordinary leaders in our profession. This led to my becoming involved at the national level as a member of the School Libraries Task Force in 2005, the National School Library Media Program

of the Year Award Committee in 2006, and currently as the chair of the task force that is writing indicators, benchmarks, and assessments for the new AASL Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Learner.



Speaking of advocacy – that has become MSLA's major role in recent years and I spend a lot of my time at it, writing and calling legislators, the Governor, leaders of the Readiness Project, and other public officials. I stay in close touch with NEASC, our regional accreditation authority, informing them when high school library positions are in danger of being cut. I speak with parents and others concerned about school libraries, and help build our base of community supporters – a burgeoning group we call the Friends of MSLA. With our members, I testify at the State House, speak during public comments at the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and take every opportunity to promote the impact of the school library in student achievement. It's an ongoing process, with barely discernable progress, but one I am confident will pay off if we continue to be persistent in insisting that all students have the right to equal access to good school libraries and that what we do is important and essential – now more than ever.

Along with advocacy, public relations and marketing are areas that I am learning more about. For the past two years I have been a member of the MBLC Public Relations Advisory Committee. This is one of the most enjoyable committees I have ever been on, made up of librarians from all types of libraries. We chose and worked with the marketing firm that developed the [mass.gov/libraries](http://mass.gov/libraries) web portal and produced the catchy little TV spot – "Your library – just a click away!" – that I'm sure you've seen over the last few months. I found the creative process of envisioning our message and seeing it translated into pictures and sound utterly fascinating.

The job isn't all glamour, however. I am responsible for all the mundane tasks of running the MSLA office – mailings, memberships, conference registrations, invoices, bank deposits – but I have found organizing our operations to be very satisfying – and I can't say enough about



the joy of being able to work whenever I want, for as long as I want – *without any interruptions!* I know you can all relate to what a luxury that must be!

Our annual conference – working with our conference coordinator and committee to plan the program, engage speakers, find sponsors, and all the other countless details involved – takes up many months of the year. I process all the registrations as they come in, and then at the conference, I oversee the registration area and work with our conference coordinator to deal with any situations that may arise. It is incredibly gratifying to see it all come together every year and to be able to see so many of our members all in one place, excited for the chance to be together, learning how to be better at what we do.

I love my continued relationship with the Executive Board members, seeing people I brought in rise to leadership positions, getting to know our new future leaders, and maintaining my connections with my own mentors and long-time colleagues and friends who are still on the Board. I value my continued connection with you, my colleagues in the field, who are doing the work for which I am happy to endlessly advocate and promote. If there ever was a dream job – at least for me – this is it! I anticipate that I'll be serving MSLA in this capacity for years to come – so don't get any ideas!



*MSLA President-Elect Gerri Fegan discusses libraries with Gov. Deval Patrick*

## MSLA Advocacy Initiatives Wiki

by Kathy Lowe

MSLA has developed and collected advocacy resources and information about local and national advocacy efforts into one rich and well-organized resource, the MSLA Advocacy Initiatives wiki: <http://mslaplanning.pbwiki.com/>

The wiki contains ideas and resources designed to advocate for school libraries with administrators and school committee members, parents, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and teachers. You can use it to find resources and ideas to use as-is or adapt to support your local advocacy efforts. Along with

many documents and links, it also contains an outline for a presentation you can give to enlist parents as school library advocates.

Help MSLA take this resource to the next level by sharing presentations and handouts you develop. Email [klowe@maschoollibraries.org](mailto:klowe@maschoollibraries.org) for an invitation to join pbwiki and upload your files.

Your feedback and suggestions about how to improve and expand the MSLA Advocacy Initiatives Wiki are welcome. We hope that we can continue to grow and enrich it over time. Your involvement will make this happen!

## The Rewards of Advocacy!

by Patsy Diver

Our Legislative Committee (Judi Paradis and Bob Roth) have been continually asking us for help and input in supporting the school libraries and lobbying for Bill H564. One of our more vocal librarians, Maureen Ambrosino, shared her experience with *School Library Journal*, and – surprise! – they published it ... as a comic!

Entitled, "The Metamorphosis: or, How I went from being a Quiet Bystander to a Raging Library Activist", it was written by Maureen Ambrosino as an article, and became an instant classic.

Maureen's excitement is evident through her email:

*"Hi everyone,*  
Just wanted to share some great news! The article that I wrote on advocacy, after testifying at the State House for H564, has been accepted for publication in the January issue of School

Library Journal. Even more exciting - instead of publishing it as text, they are making it into a comic! The art director asked me to send photos, so it will look like me too! Wow!!"

Maureen Ambrosino is the Youth Services Consultant for Central Massachusetts Regional Library System in Shrewsbury, MA, and has been instrumental in creating informative programs at CMRLS. To view her comic, link to the School Library Journal's page, for the January 2008 issue: <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/info/CA6515886.html>

Thanks to SLJ for granting permission to publish this through the link.

## From our President, Sandy Kelly: The School Library Journal Leadership Summit

Compiled by Sandy Kelly, with excerpts from the SLJ Summit Wiki <http://sljsummit.pbwiki.com/>

The Arizona Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix was the beautiful setting for third School Library Journal Leadership Summit, November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Known as the "jewel of the desert", every president since Grover Cleveland has stayed here at least once. It was a fabulous location to discuss "Where's the Evidence? Understanding the Impact of School Libraries."

The keynote speaker was Linda Perlstein, author of *Tested: One American School Struggles to Make the Grade* (Holt, 2007). Linda Perlstein worked at *The Washington Post* from 1994 to 2004, most of that time writing about education and children. Her latest book, *Tested*, examines the costs and benefits of the standards-based testing movement, through the real-life stories of the staff and students at a high-poverty Maryland elementary school.



*The Summit was a very full program of presentations, breakout sessions, and discussions. Ann Perham and Valerie Diggs consider the ideas of one of many terrific speakers.*

Following Linda was a panel discussion, "Evidence Across the Profession". Panelists included David Watkins, Chair & Senior Principal, WHR Architects, Houston, and author of an upcoming book from Wiley on evidence-based architectural and design practice; Jonathan Eldredge, Associate Professor for the School of Medicine and the Health Sciences Library and Informatics at the University of New Mexico and author of 21 articles and seven book chapters on Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP); and Lindsay Glynn, Health Sciences Library, Memorial University of New-



*The Arizona Biltmore was the perfect site for the SLJ Summit '08. The Massachusetts contingent included Valerie Diggs, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe and Ann Perham.*

foundland, and the Editor-in-Chief of the open-access journal Evidence Based Library and Information Practice. It was fascinating to hear from people other than those directly involved in school libraries how evidence based practice can be used to improve and build advocacy for our programs as well.

Later on Friday and again Saturday morning, we met in small groups to hear and discuss case studies of different evidence-based practice projects in school libraries. In all, there were eight different case studies presented.



*Brian Kenney of School Library Journal greets the Massachusetts contingent: Sandy Kelly, Ann Perham, Valerie Diggs. Taking the photo, Kathy Lowe.*

Saturday breakfast speaker was Peter Pearson; "Just Because They Love You Doesn't Mean They'll Fund You." Peter speaks nationally on library advocacy and fundraising. He is president of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library in Minnesota, a group that is unique in two ways. First, the organization is both a Friends' group and a library foundation. And second,

the organization is in the fortunate position of having endowments of approximately \$14 million. The mission of the 60 year-old organization is to offer programming; to conduct lobbying in support of strong public funding; and to raise private funds. Last year, the organization provided the library over \$1.7 million in financial assistance. The organization has just completed raising \$6 million for a \$20 million public/private capital campaign to renovate the interior of its 80 year-old Central Library in downtown Saint Paul. Peter has a master's degree in educational administration and has



*Dinner conversation was rich and rewarding for Valerie Diggs, Sara Kelly Johns (AASL President), Evan St. Lifer (Scholastic Executive) and Sandy Kelly, MSLA President.*

been a classroom teacher, school principal, and executive director of two non-profit educational programs prior to taking this position as President of The Friends and Foundation of the Saint Paul Public Library. He spoke about how he started a group that assessed needs and relentlessly pursued funding for their library's program.

Finally the busy two days ended with the closing session in which Dr. Ross Todd. Ross led the entire group in reflecting on discussing, questioning, and synthesizing what we had experienced over the past two days.

# MSLA Forum Legislative Day 2008



MSLA President Sandy Kelly addresses members of MLA and MSLA



MSLA members Patsy Divver and Jan Koleszar and librarian Heidi Fowler visit Rita Noonan at State Sen. Antonioni's office

## Overview from our Legislative Committee...

by Judi Paradis, Legislative Committee

Librarians were everywhere at the State House on April 2 as members of MSLA and MLA held their first joint State Legislative Day. Large crowds attract legislators (so we learned!) The librarians gathered in the Great Hall of Flags and were joined at their events throughout the day by a constant stream of representatives, senators, and legislative aides—making it easy to talk to lots of them about the needs of school libraries.

There were many high points to the day. MSLA hosted its annual awards ceremony for our bookmark contest. MSLA and MLA members worked together at morning sessions providing briefings for librarians and library supporters who planned to lobby their legislators. Members of both organizations convened in the Great Hall for a luncheon that featured a program called "Telling Our Stories." Students, administrators, and public library patrons shared compelling stories about the strong and positive impact of school and public libraries across Massachusetts. Following this program,

.....  
***A high point of the luncheon was the announcement of the formation of a Library Legislative Caucus.***  
.....

awards were given to strong advocates of libraries. MSLA awarded its Legislator of the Year Award to Representative Robert Rice of Gardner. Representative Rice is a former school librarian and currently serves on the House Education Committee, where he is a strong voice for our legislative initiatives. We also presented Representative Frank Smizik of Brookline with our Joan Gallagher Legislator Award. Representative Smizik is the sponsor of our bill and has provided much support and guidance to MSLA in its legislative work.

A high point of the luncheon was the announcement of the formation of a Library Legislative Caucus. Representative Mark Falzone is forming this caucus of members of the House

and Senate to promote library initiatives. MSLA is eager to have this caucus focus on both school and public library matters. (Please ask your state legislators to join this caucus!)



MSLA members also went out into the State House to call on members of the Joint Committee on Education to ask for support of our bill H564. At present, this bill and all bills related to Chapter 70 which regulates spending on education have been tabled. Our members made the case for reviving our bill. Bill H564 does not ask for specific funding for school libraries, but simply adds school libraries to the list of items that cities and towns can fund with Chapter 70 money. We were well received by many legislators. Our lobbyist, Chris Gregory, is now going to work on getting members of the legislature to sign on to a letter demanding that the Education Committee vote on our bill. Watch for information on our list-serve asking members to help with this effort!



## Legislative Day 2008 from the West

by Jan Resnick, Assistant Regional Administrator, Western MA Regional Library System

On Wednesday April 2, 2008, intrepid librarians from western Mass. hit the bus for the State House. On the way, they were joined by another contingent from central Mass. The bus was organized and underwritten by the Friends of WMRLS. Donuts for the journey were generously provided by North Adams Representative Dan Bosley.

Legislative Day is sponsored by the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) and this year, for the first time, MLA joined forces with the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA). The event brought together so many library people from across the state, but not without a lot of preparation!

What goes behind a successful day? Well, a few weeks before Legislative Day, attendees contacted their Senator and Representative to alert them to the event and invited them to attend the program and lunch. This year, as usual,



it was held in the Great Hall of Flags. (And the postcard reminders helped a lot!)

Using the bus this year offered us the ease of a drop-off/pick-up situation at the State House. We proceeded to the General Hooker entrance of the building and went through security (usually to comments like 'the librarians are here!') At the Hall of Flags, MLA/MSLA volunteers staffed a sign-in desk, complete with information packets and carnations for legislators.

There were two briefing sessions conducted by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to review the legislative agenda.

Because it's such a busy day, it also helped to inform legislators about visiting or if you wanted to meet with them. This year, we grouped into 'areas' so that we could go together to speak to our representatives and senators... greater impact with larger numbers!

The bottom line: we saw our legislators. There were plenty of people and signs to help us find our way, and the reps and senators were pleased to see us. So, we were able to focus on key points of the value of state funding for libraries. Those business cards, packets and personal notes –and our presence! – made a huge impact, and a successful Legislative Day. We hope to see you on the bus next year.

A summary of the day is available at <http://www.masslib.org/legislative/legday2008.html>.

## More Thoughts on Legislative Day

by Jan Koleszar, Co-editor, MSLA Forum

Attending my first Legislative Day was a rewarding experience. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Judy Paradis, the MSLA legislative rep, and all the members of the MSLA Board who helped to organize this important and memorable day. My mentor, Maureen Ambrosino, and I were able to make contacts with either the senators and representatives to whom we were assigned or a designee in their respective offices, and were able to introduce ourselves to others as well. Everyone we met was willing to listen to what we had to say and, in several instances, asked questions to assist them in furthering their understanding and importance of the issues.

Too, this year was the first time that MLA and MSLA combined forces for legislative day. The

.....  
***When asked if they'd go again another year, there was a loud resounding yes and lots of hand clapping!***  
 .....

Friends of WMRLS arranged bus transportation for the librarians in Western MA. I was told that since the comments had been so positive, the bus would most likely be available again for next year. The nominal fee was well worth the price as it was cheaper than driving ourselves, stress free, and gave us the opportunity to network and meet one another. By the time we picked up everyone at various stops, our bus was almost full. School, public, special and

college librarians enjoyed getting to know each other. On the way home, everyone talked positively about the day and shared experiences with one another.

Below are the comments I received to a brief questionnaire I conducted orally on the way home: When asked to raise hands if you thought the day was a success, everyone had a hand up. I think they would have stood up if it had been safe to do so. When asked if they'd go again another year, there was a loud resounding yes and lots of hand clapping! When asked if there was anyone disappointed, there was dead silence. I then thanked them all for their participation and said to email me if they had any other comments or suggestions.

# Volunteers in Your School Library

By Patsy Divver, Co-editor, MSLA Forum

Whether you are the only Library Teacher in the entire School District or one of many library staff members, volunteers can be a tremendous asset to your school library. In my experience, my five years in an elementary school library would have been the end of me, had it not been for the core of parent volunteers. (In fact, that's where I began my library career!)

When I 'moved up' to the Middle/High School Library seven years ago, volunteers were non-existent! Thankfully, two of my 'elemen-

tary' folks came with me... regardless of the fact that their children were not at my school! These two volunteers gave me endless hours of assistance in transforming an outdated library into one that passed NEASC's approval! To this day, they continue to help: running the Book Fair, shelving and covering books, organizing displays, AND advocating for my needs! They served on my School Library Advisory Committee, helped me review our long-range plan, and wrote letters in support of my grant applications.

In fact, my volunteers bridge the 'age gap'! I am fortunate to have volunteers from the local Council on Aging, having worked with these senior citizens for the past five years. Plus, our students participate in earning credit hours by signing up to volunteer in the library.

However, if you really want inspiration, check out this story from Winchester High School, as forwarded from our President, Sandy Kelly, from the school library volunteer coordinator in the Winchester Public Schools, Susan Verdicchio:

The Winchester elementary library parent volunteers are happy to report there will be two more library/media specialists hired for our schools next year. Winchester Town Meeting voted a school budget increase of about 6.6%, which the school committee and superintendent confirmed would fund two additional full-time library positions in the elementary schools next year. This will bring the total number of elementary LMSs to three. The School Committee and Superintendent have stated the plan for the following year is to again add two more, so there will be a full-time library/media specialist in each of our five elementary schools.

We started lobbying for this at the beginning of the school year, to be sure the library staff positions were in the earliest budget proposal. We made a presentation and slide show to the School Committee, and repeated it to a meeting of all elementary principals (who initiate requests for staff positions in the budget). We stressed how vital the school library is to both literacy and technology. The High School Librarian also spoke at the School Committee meeting to explain that a library media program at the elementary level is needed, or students are unprepared to be library users in the upper grades. We have a new superintendent this year, Bill McAlduff, who has become a strong proponent of making the elementary libraries 21st Century learning centers where teachers and students access and use technology.

We also made the presentation to elementary parents' association meetings at all five schools, and encouraged parents to write letters to the School Committee. Once the two additional library positions were in the school committee's proposed budget, we wrote letters to other town budget decision-makers -- the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee. The Winchester Public Library graciously held an event where these decision-makers were invited to hear about technology in the library and how elementary students should be learning research and technology skills.

We are very grateful to all the parents who wrote letters and spread the word; it was truly a grassroots effort! The presentation and report are posted at [http://homepage.mac.com/library\\_media.01890/Menu3.html](http://homepage.mac.com/library_media.01890/Menu3.html)

Need more information to help your volunteers? Here are some suggestions:

- Find Advocacy Resources for Parents and other school library supporters on the MSLA Advocacy Initiatives wiki, <http://mslaplanning.pbwiki.com/>
- Join our MSLAfriends email list for parents and other citizen supporters of school libraries. Email your request to: [MSLAfriends-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MSLAfriends-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) (This email address is protected from spam bots and needs Javascript enabled)

## The 2008 Bookmark Contest: The Heart of Our Schools

by Gerri Fegan, Committee Chairperson and MSLA President-Elect

School libraries have ardent fans. "This was better than *Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader*," claimed one of the honorees at the fourth annual MSLA Bookmark Contest. I have to admit that I love collecting the quotes from all the students who win awards at the State House each year. Our contest was so special this year because we shared our celebration with the Massachusetts Library Association, and some of the best comments came from our colleagues at the public library.

"Wow! There are my best two librarians!" said the little sister of one of the bookmark contest winners.

"And look!" said the child's school librarian. "We actually know each other!"

"That is so cool!" said the beaming first grader.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, we joined our friends and colleagues who are public librarians in Massachusetts to celebrate students who love libraries. There was a large audience of supporters: parents, teachers, and legislators who caught the infectious excitement in the Hall of Flags as each name was announced.

The judging for the fourth annual MSLA Bookmark Contest took place on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Plympton School in Waltham. There were almost 300 entries from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from students in grades K-12 and, once again, local authors and illustrators, as well as members of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and other guests, spent three grueling hours selecting division winners and awards of honorable mention.

Our panel consisted of Ann Perham, Region I Director-Elect of AASL; noted authors Mary Newell DePalma, Mitali Perkins, and Janet Tsjian; special guest Emily Elizabeth Bridwell; Vicki Kaufman, Irving Zangwill, and Em Claire Knowles, MBLC. Most of these judges have been with the contest for three or more years – it is always a pleasure to have them participate in this contest. They will always be welcome!



Division 1 – Thomas Houle

This year's theme was "School Libraries: the Heart of Our Schools." Many librarians commented that they tied the theme into recent Valentine's Day activities, and that school libraries were adorned with hearts and bookmarks. And while hearts were abundant at the judging, there were so many original designs that were creative and innovative. The judges noticed that students were using glow-in-the-dark colors and gold and silver. Also, there were many pastel and watercolor bookmarks that

were blended so carefully, as well as humorous anime characters that would make any cartoonist proud.

The judges made their choices from the hundreds of bookmarks:

In Division One, grades K-1: winner Thomas Houle, Douglas Elementary School, Douglas (MSLA member Elaine Loehmann); honorable mentions Sarah Donovan, Allen Avenue School,

.....  
***I hope that school librarians will encourage others in their districts to participate in this sparkling event.***  
.....

North Attleboro (MSLA member Tricia Svendsen); and Brigid Misage, Shawsheen Elementary School, Andover (MSLA member Liz Lamoreaux).

In Division Two, grades 2-3: winner Isabella Mayo, Beebe Elementary School, Malden, (MSLA member Claire Pagnotta); honorable mentions Emai Lai, Bancroft School, Andover, (MSLA member Nancy Snow); and Melissa MacQueen, Boylston Elementary School, Boylston (MSLA member Shannon Bokankowitz).

In Division Three, grades 4-6: winner Daria Lugina, Peaslee School, Northboro (MSLA member Nancy Riemer Kellner); honorable mentions Nicole Ericson and Sierra Jamir, both from West



Division 2 – Isabella Mayo







Division 3 – Darla Lugina

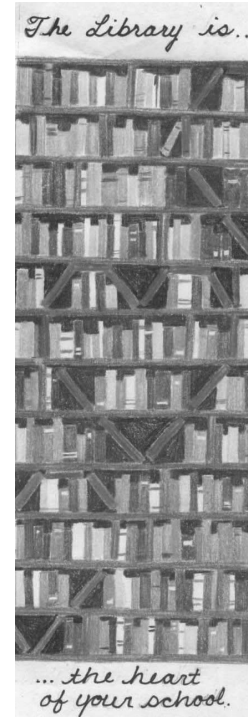
Middle School, Andover (MSLA member Gerri Fegan).

In Division Four, grades 7-12: winner Aubrie Hanson, Bishop Feehan High School, Attleboro (MSLA member Katherine Covintree); honorable mentions Alaina Belanger, Hampshire Regional High School, Westhampton (MSLA member Andrea Belanger); and Bryan Camerlin, Bellamy Middle School, Chicopee (MSLA member Kathy Lanza).

At the State House, the students were honored by legislators with commendations and were presented with bookmarks for their classrooms and schools. They listened to speeches made by senators and representatives who admired their artwork and shared their dedication to school libraries, and then they headed off to a tour of the historical State House building before lunch. There were many smiles and

handshakes before the day was through and many hearts were warmed by the friendships being formed between librarians and students.

I felt quite nostalgic as this is my last Bookmark Contest. It has been wonderful to break the news to school librarians and families and to be present at so many judging contests and ceremonies. I hope that school librarians will encourage others in their districts to participate in this sparkling event. It has been my pleasure to serve all the families and students who have participated over the years, and I eagerly await the opportunity to continue working with the MSLA Legislative Committee to make sure that school librarians get “more than just bookmarks to hold their places.” Please consider being part of the Bookmark Committee to continue this collaborative celebration with the Massachusetts Library Association.



Division 4 – Aubrie Hanson



MSLA Pres. Sandy Kelly and Pres.-Elect Gerri Fegan present awards to bookmark runners-up, Sierra Jamir and Nicole Erickson, from West Middle School, Andover

## Use Resources in Your School to Enhance Your Program

### An “Out of Library” Experience: When A Field Trip Takes an Unexpected Turn

by Patsy Divver

Like many of you, I rarely get the opportunity to venture out of the Library. Luckily, I am able to attend our MSLA conference and another workshop/conference during the school year. However, on occasion, when classes are light and chaperones are scarce, I get included in the list of teachers who can accompany field trips.

This past November, I was invited to chaperone the Millis High School Art Club’s museum tour-trip in Western MA. Mrs. Baseman, the HS Art teacher, planned a terrific itinerary: the Norman Rockwell Museum AND the Mass MoCA (Museum of Contemporary Art), as well as an Improv Show at UMASS. But we had a totally unexpected addition to our agenda and thus the story--how to make a great field trip - GREATER!

As we went to the Norman Rockwell Museum, we knew that Friday was also the opening exhibit day for “Lit Graphic; the World of the Graphic Novel”. Unfortunately, our expected time at that museum was 10 a.m. and the opening (for teachers) was set for 4 pm. Still,

we put in a request for a Teacher’s Packet, and thought ‘maybe’ we could sneak a peak at the exhibit (behind the roped areas).

Well, we were fortunate to meet Kimberly Rawson, the Associate Director of Marketing and Communications at the Rockwell Museum. I approached her for permission to tour the art gallery with Mrs. Baseman, and Ms. Rawson pleasantly agreed. However, when we learned that there were three graphic artists/authors present for the scheduled 11 a.m. press conference, we asked for the possible inclusion of our students, as members of the press conference audience.

Ms. Rawson was thrilled! This filled the room for the Press Conference, which was attended by other writers, local press coverage and US! (We were even acknowledged in the introduction!)

At this conference, the authors Peter Kuper, Howard Cruse and Dave Sim spoke about their artwork and the rise of popularity and acceptance of the graphic novel. There were

numerous examples of each artist’s pieces as well as historical information on the development of this art form.

Overall, this was an awesome experience for all of us. Although this exhibit ended May 26, 2008, there are other exhibits and programs planned. For more information, visit the website, <http://www.nrm.org> and it will link to the various programs. (For example, there are a number of educational programs for teachers and students.) Check and see some of the opportunities available.

Meanwhile – our trip to Mass MoCA also included some unusual views of art, which we displayed by the art room and in the library, with the Lit Graphic materials.

In any case – it was a lot of fun as WELL as a great educational experience. So, if you don’t get a chance to ‘do’ field trips, perhaps this year, you should! Have fun!



## MSLA Thinkfinity Training

By Kathy Dubrovsky, Library Coordinator, Sharon Public Schools

In March, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education gave three full-day workshops on Thinkfinity.com. Twenty-five library teachers, instructional technologists and classroom teachers were chosen to participate. We were trained to use the many facets of Thinkfinity.com with the expectation that we would bring this training back to our districts. For those who have not heard, the Department of Education has changed its name. The new name is the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Thinkfinity.com is Verizon’s digital learning platform that was built upon Marco Polo’s website and delivers free online resources including

top-quality, standard-based, K-12 lesson plans, student materials, interactive tools, and connections to educational Web sites.

The Verizon Foundation has formed a partnership with the nation’s leading educational and literacy organizations. It is a robust search engine with over 55,000 education and literacy resources including state standards and lesson plans. Individual students, small groups or whole classes can easily use resources. It was voted the best site to download free lesson plans and materials by the Edutopia Magazine in 2006 and 2007.

I provided Thinkfinity training for MSLA members at the SEMLS office in Lakeville in July.

There were two five-hour workshops to learn to use Thinkfinity.com and discuss the MSLA Information Literacy Curriculum. Check the 2008 MSLA Conference schedule for more information on this topic!



*Kathy’s also coordinated our MSLA School Library 2.0 class this past year. Read more about the possibilities of 2.0 in your library class. See the Curriculum Annual Report.*



## Use Resources in Your Community

# Memorable Educational Moment: Boston Light

By Janice Koleszar

I'm enjoying all of my opportunities for educational "out of library experiences" that come my way with retirement. We've all heard the expression "Once a teacher, always a teacher." With that thought in mind, what's happening in your neighborhood that can relate to your students? Did you take a short trip over the summer that might have some interesting information for your students, or could perhaps provide an idea for a field trip? During the spring and fall, Kelly Fellner, Supervisory Ranger of the National Park Service Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area, and Boston Light's U. S. Coast Guard Civilian Light House Keeper Sally Snowman, work together in collaboration with Boston area schools in providing tours and visits for students and their teachers in grades three through nine. The island is an idea location for tying in local history and physical/earth science in accordance with the Mass Curriculum Frameworks. As library teachers, we can teach the research strands and tie them into the history and science strands. For costs and information on school tours, contact Kelly at 1-617-223-8668.

Visiting Boston Light, a historical landmark owned by the United States Coast Guard, is both a memorable and an educational experience. From an individual standpoint, one can focus on the beauty of the island and the surrounding area, see and learn about the light, and the flora and fauna that are native to the area, view the historical memorabilia which relates to it, such as Aids to Navigation, and the Coast Guard's oldest artifact. Those who are ambitious, 8+years of age and 50 inches tall can climb the 76 steps and two short ladders to the tower and, on a clear day, see Boston and beyond. Although the island is staffed year round by US Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel who serve as assistant lighthouse keepers, it is

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*As keeper Snowman says,  
 "Boston Light, always an  
 adventure."*  
 .....



*Boston Light*  
 (<http://lighthousegetaway.com/lights/boston.html>)

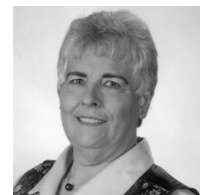


*Sunset at Boston Light*

only open for public tours during the summer and fall. This year's tour season begins June 21<sup>st</sup> and runs through October 16<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. Tour boats leave Fan Pier and George's Island. For tickets and a schedule for the remainder of the season go to:

[http://www.bostonislands.org/events\\_boston-light.html](http://www.bostonislands.org/events_boston-light.html)

On a more personal note, Boston Light has become a favorite site of mine for mini vacations. Both my husband and I are active with the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and have served as interpreters and assistant lighthouse keepers for the last 3 years. While assistant keepers remain on the island for three to seven days or more depending on weather and transportation to and from the island, interpreters are only there for the day. While volunteering as a reading buddy with first graders at Bridge Street Elementary School in Northampton, I had an opportunity to share the story of *Sammy the Lighthouse Dog* by Sally R. Snowman together with some of my pictures and experiences at Boston Light. The class was fascinated with Sammy's story, and several said they hoped that their parents would take them there to visit this summer. Needless to say, Jay and I enjoy being out on the island anytime, but being there overnight is best. While we're there, we're responsible for the island and the light. We've had both eventful and uneventful trips. As keeper Snowman says, "Boston Light, always an adventure." Hope you plan to visit, and who knows, maybe we'll be on watch sometime when you do. If you'd like a presentation made to a class, send me an email.



## Bring an Author to School

By Patsy Divver

If you have been thinking about doing it, but haven't quite done it, bring an author to your school! Linda Redding, our wonderful MSLA contributing editor, interviews authors for the Forum regularly. Read her featured articles on Maryellen Maguire-Eisen and Janet Tashjian for inspiration, and then check out the Conference Author Fest for more links and connections.

From my personal experience, we had two author visits this year – a true bonus for highlighting the library!

Our high school guest was Patrick Jones, who not only entertained and inspired the sophomore class, but connected with them. Something about an in-person author interview gives your students a link like no other. You get that up close and personal awareness of how someone begins writing, accepts rejection, and

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***Authors are awesome! Bring one to your school!***  
 .....

perseveres to publishing. Nothing I say can compete with the words from the author. It was great!

I'd first met Patrick several years ago, when he spoke to librarians about youth services at a CMRLS program. Then, ironically, when we swapped books for our Literary Lunch Bunch, we used his book, *Things Change*. Somehow, he found out and emailed me, and offered to visit. Well, the rest is history, and he gave an "awesome" presentation at a very special rate... the students are already asking for him to come back!

Then, for our Middle School, the Reading Specialist and I wrote a mini-grant (through our local education fund) and were able to bring Barbara O'Connor for the fifth and sixth grades. Her true life experiences helped students realize their own potential for writing, and – once again – it was that personal connection that captivated their attention!

So – it is a terrific experience, for students and staff, and a way to put your library in the limelight. If you're short of funds, maybe your parent/teacher association can help. Also, check with other area libraries, and pool your resources. And don't forget about your public library – collaboration can go a long way for successful programming!

Authors are awesome! Bring one to your school!

## Networking with Authors

By Sandy Kelly

When her daughter, Alissa, was in kindergarten, Emily Bridwell was a library volunteer in my school. I asked if she would speak to the children about what it was like to have such a famous author for a Dad. After quiet consideration, she gently asked if I would be "opposed" if she brought him along? And so Norman Bridwell was one of the first authors that came to our school library under my watch. Through drawing, memoir and laughter he told the children how *Clifford the Big Red Dog* came to be. If you ever see the book *Clifford Goes to School*, check out the dedication page. Last year Emily made an appearance at our Author Fest and has since visited many schools around the state talking about Clifford and her Dad's books. She even has her own Clifford costume she will bring along.

This past year, with funding from my school's Cultural Enrichment Committee we had former Author Fest guest David Biedrzycki visit. He was fantastic and could mesmerize any age audience. He did four sessions for grades 1-4. Every

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***It is a win-win situation for everyone who participates.***  
 .....

teacher came back to tell me he was the best author we have ever had. After hearing their children's stories, parents were coming into the library saying they wished they had seen him. The Cultural Enrichment parents enjoyed him so much they have asked to have him back this fall to meet grades 5-8. Every child and adult in the room thoroughly enjoyed his fascinating and interactive presentation. David is not only an author, but he started out as an artist and illustrator. For over ten years, he has illustrated his work using only the computer. With input from the audience, he generated a color picture for each grade level. Then he saved the file to my computer, allowing it to be posted to our school's webpage. Thus every child could go home and print out a copy. Since his visit was during our annual book fair, David also gave me permission to raffle poster-size prints of each image as a school library fundraiser.

The opportunity to connect with authors and illustrators has grown annually at our conference

and this year's Author Fest has fourteen new faces planning to attend. Researching, inviting and meeting the authors is a fun part of conference planning. These ladies and gentlemen give their time freely, for nothing more than the pleasure of our company and a chance to attend Sunday dinner with us. We get the opportunity to meet potential visitors to our schools, chat with them beforehand and purchase their books and have them autographed for our school libraries. It is a win-win situation for everyone who participates. Please thank these folks for giving us their time when you see them. The Author Fest will be held again at this year's conference during the President's Reception on Sunday November 2, 2008 in the vendor hall. I can't wait to meet these wonderful authors and scout for new ones to bring back to my school community.



## Lunch with an Author: Maryellen Maguire-Eisen

by Linda Redding

Maryellen Maguire-Eisen, author and founder of the Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation, stopped by Silver Lake Regional High School to do a SunAWARE presentation for students in Bernie Cotter's Meteorology class. She took time to answer questions about her newly published books that teach children to have fun and be safe in the sun.

**What was your motivation to start a foundation to help empower students to protect themselves against dangerous UV rays?**



**Through your recently published books, your message will reach more and more students. Tell us about the books.**

The SunAWARE BOOK PROGRAM includes five original publications by foundation staff and colleagues.

*Skin Sense* by Lori Glickman is a fun and interactive narrative that educates young children about the sun's damaging rays and teaches children how to protect their skin. It is a wonderful book to open discussion about sun safety. Designed for children from 4-8.

*What Are These Spots On My Skin* by Scott & Gus Naughton was designed to encourage children to examine their skin and to pay attention to changes. It teaches children that they are not born with freckles, that they develop them after exposure to the sun. It teaches children to recognize the difference between moles and freckles and it provides information for children to recognize important changes in their skin. Designed for children from 5-8.

*Lake Vacation* by Mary Barrow and Maryellen Maguire-Eisen teaches the principles of proper sun protection to adolescents. The book centers on a fishing excursion on the first day of spring break. A lively discussion by the children about the application of the SunAWARE lessons, that they learned prior to spring break, provides the storyline for this book. Designed for children 8-12.

*Pretty Prom: Your Skin is Pretty Too* by Mary Barrow and Maryellen Maguire-Eisen is the story of a teenage girl who finds out the sad facts about indoor tanning while preparing for the prom. Designed for children 10-16.

*Sun Protection for Life* by Mary and John Barrow, winner of the 2005 American Academy of Dermatology Golden Triangle Award for Public Education, is appropriate for children 10-18. It is also an excellent teacher resource. It provides everything you should know about sun protection and skin cancer.

Some of the safety tips that were reinforced in the presentation include:

- Keep track of the daily UV index. Anything above 3 requires precautions.
- Generously apply sunscreen
- Hats should cover your ears
- UV rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Tanning booth lights have dangerous skin damaging UV rays.

For more information, please visit:

The Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation

<http://www.melanomaprevention.org/>

SunWise-Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/sunwise>

Additional information and ordering is available at <http://www.sunaware.org/publications>



As an oncology nurse, I have always been upset by deaths due to skin cancer. I started the Foundation to teach children about sun protection and skin cancer prevention. Melanoma, the deadly form of skin cancer, is becoming all too common in teenagers and young adults. We teach because we know that skin cancer is preventable and curable if caught early. We hope to make a difference in this disease.

**Your SunAWARE presentations are very interactive. What are the goals of your program?**

Everyone loves to be outside in the sun. I believe that you can enjoy the outdoors and not get sun damage. We teach students practical information about UV intensity, skin sensitivity, proper sun protection and skin cancer recognition. In my experience most people do not know what the UV Index means, what SPF means, how much sunscreen is required to protect the skin or what skin cancer looks like. We want students to understand UV light so that they can protect themselves from premature aging and skin cancer. I believe that having fun in the classroom is the best way to educate students about this important health issue.



# Lunch With an Author: Janet Tashjian

by Linda Redding

Students and staff at Silver Lake Regional High School read *The Gospel According to Larry* by Janet Tashjian, as part of the *One School, One Book* summer reading program. During the first week of school small discussion groups were formed to share thoughts on the book. Teachers planned classroom activities based on the book and many students participated in a school-wide essay contest. The big event was a visit by Janet Tashjian.



I love doing school visits; for someone who spends most of her time in a room by herself making up stories, it's a great connection with the real world. I don't play any sports, so giving large presentations is a real workout for me; I expend a lot of energy. It's so exciting to hear how the books have affected kids - whether it's anti-consumerism, special needs, dating violence - they always have a lot of questions. Plus, I'm such a writing cheerleader - it's such an important basic skill -- that I could talk about that all day. In school, most of the students' time is spent writing for assignments; one of the reasons I do school visits is to remind them how much FUN writing can be.

**Prior to being a successful author you had other careers. Who or what inspired you to become an author?**

When people say "a book changed my life" it sounds like a cliché, but that's what happened to me. I had a fifteen year career in sales when I read Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. After the last chapter, I closed the book and told my husband I was quitting my job to become a writer. That's how powerful the book was for me. I quit my job the next day, bought a stack of notebooks, a box of pens, and began writing. After filling a mountain of notebooks with stories, I knew I needed to work on craft, so I applied to Emerson College's MFA program. I took Jack Gantos' *Novel Writing for Children* and wrote the first draft of *Tru Confessions* in his class.

**What is a typical day of work like for you?**

I get my son off to school, then sit at my desk and work until the second he comes home! I don't have much of an outside life on work days. I pretty much go from one writing project to the next. I write many of my books in long-hand so there's a lot of tedious inputting time too. And, of course, 90% of the job is rewriting, so that's really where most of my time is spent. I usually try to sneak in some time in the woods with my dog as a reward for a good day's work. When my son's home, it's all him.

**Your presentation at Silver Lake was well received by students and staff. Tell us about the presentations you offer.**



*Janet Tashjian addressing audience*

**You have a newly designed website that is great! What can visitors to your website expect to find?**

The new website came about because a) I got a new Macbook with all these amazing new capabilities and b) me trying to keep up with my fictional characters! I felt like Larry and Trudy in particular were more web-savvy than I, so I spent several months updating the site to their standards. Since several of my books are used in the classroom, I wanted to put in lots of teacher resources and information on writing workshops, presentations etc. There are readers' guides to all the books, a blog, and even a video podcast where I give kids writing assignments online. I also set up *Myspace* and *Facebook* pages, but it's hard because all this fun cyber stuff takes up writing time. I'm still trying to learn how to manage it.

**Can you tell us about what you are up to now?**



*Janet Tashjian talking with English teachers*

I just handed in the third *Larry* which my editor **LOVED** - thank god. So I'm copyediting that as we speak. Plus I just started a middle reader for reluctant readers which I'm having a blast with. That's pretty much the defining point for me - if I have fun writing the book, then it's usually a book kids will have fun reading. My son and his friends love books but they all have a difficult time with reading. My next few books are aimed at them.

**For more information about Janet Tashjian, please visit <http://www.janettashjian.com>**

**Books by Janet Tashjian:**

*Faultline*

*The Gospel According to Larry*

*Larry and the Meaning of Life (Fall 2008)*

*Marty Frye*

*Multiple Choice*

*Tru Confessions*

*Vote for Larry*

Linda Redding, Library Teacher, Silver Lake Regional High School

[lredding@slrsd.org](mailto:lredding@slrsd.org)

<http://www.slrsd.org/slrhs/library>

## Connect with Other School Libraries

# Cooperative Programs Make the Library Rock

by Carole B. Shutzer, Library/Media Specialist, E.J. Harrington School, Lynn, MA

Cooperative programs make the library rock at the E.J. Harrington Elementary School in Lynn, Massachusetts. Believing that supplemental programs bring a library to life, I have attempted to partner with various organizations and schools to bring additional programs to an inner city student population who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to develop this background knowledge to increase learning and comprehension.

In one such program this past fall, the library partnered with the Tower School, an independent school in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Tower has been a supporter over the years to the Harrington School by partnering with us on a reading program for our first graders on a weekly basis as well as sharing other cultural programs. This year Tower hosted an exhibition of quilts by the Gee's Bend quilters from Alabama. These quilts have been displayed at many museums all over the United States including the Whitney Museum in New York and

the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. These quilts tell the history of a small rural town in Alabama founded before the Civil War. After the war, the all black community continued to survive in almost isolation, each generation of women producing distinctive quilts that tell their story. Quilts continue to be made today.

Tower School invited our entire 4th grade to their school to view the quilt exhibition. There are many books available with a quilting theme and to build background knowledge, all the fourth grade students were read stories about quilts, including *The Keeping Quilt* by Patricia Polacco, *The Josefina Story Quilt* by Eleanor Coerr and Sam Johnson and the *Blue Ribbon Quilt* by Lisa Campbell Ernst. The 4th grade social studies curriculum includes regions of the United States. We tied this program into the study of the southeast region as well. The computer technology teacher developed a lesson for the 4th graders in the computer lab as well, researching the history of Gee's Bend. Traveling

5 miles by bus to the Tower School, we were treated to a special program and a viewing of the Gee's Bend Quilts. The students were divided up into groups, some going to a music program to learn hymns that the Gee's Bend women sang while quilting, some participating in a cooperative physical education program with Tower 4th graders, each group touring the quilts exhibition with a lesson planned and presented by the Tower School community relations director. What a day it was! The Harrington students learned US history, viewed museum quality modern American art and interacted with students from another school.

The Harrington School Library was a critical part of the program, developing the special day with Tower, providing the books on quilts to the classrooms and working to instill in the students a life long love of reading as a way to develop background knowledge to increase learning.

## Connect with your Public Library – Summer Reading and more

*Public Libraries are great connections, not only for the Summer Reading programs, but for authors, study groups, book clubs and more! Here's how this past summer's program connected with students!*

### Wild Reads at Your Public Library

By Celeste Bruno

Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and local libraries sponsor a popular free summer reading program that helps students of all ages maintain and improve skills.

The *Wild Reads at Your Library* statewide 2008 summer reading program provides children and teens the opportunity to go beyond reading to the worlds of imagination and creativity which reading can open. *Wild Reads* allows kids to select what *they* want to read, set goals, track their progress on-line and some libraries offer prizes including passes to attractions across the state. "It's a chance for them to visit their library, read for pleasure, enjoy state attractions, and it's free" noted Janet Eckert, Library Youth Consultant in western Massachusetts.



sultant in western Massachusetts.

According to Maureen Ambrosino, Library Youth Consultant in central Massachusetts, "It's a win-win situation for everyone. Kids like it because it's fun—they choose what interests them-- and many libraries reward them with prizes. Parents like it because it helps their children improve reading skills, and teachers like it because reading over the summer helps kids maintain skills they've learned over the academic year." In fact, research shows that reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills

and children who participate in summer reading programs show an increase in vocabulary scores on standardized testing and an increase in comprehension scores.

*Wild Reads* offers programs for preschool children, school-aged children; young adults and families. More than 400 libraries across the Commonwealth are participating in *Wild Reads at Your Library*. Each library offers programs that meet the needs of their own community and many work closely with schools to create a strong reading support network.

In 2007 over 130,000 people had fun and improved their skills through participation in Massachusetts public library summer reading programs. To learn more about Summer Reading programs visit <http://www.ReadsinMA.org>, or contact your local library. To find your local library visit <http://www.mass.gov/libraries>.

*Wild Reads at Your Library* is sponsored by your local library, Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

### At Your Leisure

by Sandy Kelly

What is a great way to refresh yourself, make time for some quiet pleasure and celebrate another school year well done? Some great summer reading of course! Don't you just love all the people that think you have read every best seller on the shelves simply because you are a librarian? Well, we know the truth. We love to read and can never have enough time to read as much as we'd like just for pleasure. SO what did we read this summer? Lots of good suggestions came from your colleagues. Read on and get yourself on the waiting list at your local library!

Paula Brown has already started the book at the top of my pile.

*Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson, about a climber who decides to build schools, one at a time, in the mountains of Pakistan "it is riveting!"

Kathy Lowe suggests Pulitzer Prize winner *March* by Geraldine Brooks - think in terms of *Little Women*. Also on her list *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* the true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby, a successful and charismatic editor-in-chief of French Elle.

Maria Touet has a variety of genres to tackle Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, I never had the opportunity to read it and I think it's high

time that I did. I also plan on finishing David Halberstam's *The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War*, Drew Gilpin Faust's latest book, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*, and *Books on Fire: The Destruction of Libraries throughout History* by Lucien Polastron. As for professional reading, have Parker Palmer's updated *The Courage to Teach* and some other books on school libraries. It's true--So many books, so little time!!

Christopher Paul Curtis' *Elijah of Buxton* and *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs* by Betty Birney are on Judi Paradis's list. I am also planning to read *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* if I can tear it away from the kids. For my "big kid" reading life, *Circling My Mother* by Mary Gordon, *Boom* by Tom Brokaw and Eric Michael Dyson's new book about the impact of the death of Martin Luther King Jr. For more nonfiction fun (my genre), I was going to try *How Doctors Think* by Jerome Groopman. I am just now finishing reading Arthur Schlesinger Jr.'s memoirs and it is REALLY interesting if you are interested in recent history.

*7th Heaven* by James Patterson, *Riding the Dragon* by Dr. Robert Wicks and *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult are waiting for Maureen Beattie-Waterworth.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali's *Infidel* awaits Ann Perham. Ali is

the Somali-born member of the Dutch parliament who faced death threats after collaborating on a film about domestic violence against Muslim women with controversial director Theo van Gogh (who was himself assassinated). Ann also recommends *A Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd* by Jim Fergus.

Valerie Diggs will be reading another book on my list as well, *Water for Elephants: A Novel* by Sara Gruen *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks inspired by the true story of a mysterious codex known as the Sarajevo Haggadah. *People of the Book* is a sweeping adventure through five centuries of history. Also on Valerie's pile is *Zipporah, Wife of Moses: A Novel* from the Canaan Trilogy by Marek Halter.

No surprise Gerri Fegan will be reading Julie Andrews' *Home*, which she herself had autographed by Julie Andrews at the ALA conference last summer.

Also, I have never read McCullough's *John Adams*. And finally I am looking forward to starting Bill Bryson's *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir*. The picture on the cover alone is enough to draw in anyone who was born in the fifties nothing like a little humor for a day at the beach. Enjoy your summer reads.



### Made in Massachusetts

by Patricia Keogh, Lecturer in Children's Literature, Adjunct Faculty, Worcester State College

How lucky we are! New titles for the elementary libraries and classrooms include a wide array from Massachusetts authors and artists. Before the camping season is over find a copy of *Otis and Rae and the Grumbling Splunk* by Cambridge cartoonists Laura and Leo Espinosa. Grab a PB&B sandwich for the adventure! Have you seen Katie Smith Milway's *One Hen*? This lavishly illustrated story shows microeconomics at work. Kojo gets a small loan for a hen and ends up years later with a highly successful poultry farm. Pair this with Newton's Claire Nivola's beautiful story, *Planting the Trees of Kenya*,

which shows how women replanted thousands of trees to make the land fertile again. Do you think Boston is dull and stodgy? Read Stephen Krensky's *What's the Big Idea: Four Centuries of Innovation in Boston* to discover the wealth of new ideas found here. *As Good as Anybody*, Rich Michelson's fascinating tale of parallel lives whose journeys intersect, follows the lives of Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Luther King as they march together for freedom. Raul Colon's illustrations in a unique palette enrich the story. Author Anne Broyles and illustrator Anna Alter bring to life a marvelous tale based

on a true story. A young slave girl is sold to a Cherokee family and marches along the Trail of Tears until she gains freedom quite unexpectedly. Do you need a lively book to explain the presidential elections? Susan Goodman's *See How They Run* is not only informative but great fun as well. And there are so many more from our local talents. Enjoy!







## **Vision of MSLA**

Massachusetts schools will have school library programs that are fully integrated into the instructional program and serve all students regardless of ethnicity, language, income, physical limitations, learning styles or abilities. All school libraries will be managed by credentialed professionals who, in partnership with other educators, provide resources and instruction that promote students' achievement of learning goals.

## **Mission of MSLA**

MSLA advocates for school library programs that have a significant and measurable impact on student achievement. It supports licensed, highly qualified library teachers at all levels and endorses school library programs that have strong leadership, resources, and instructional components. MSLA provides its members with growth opportunities, research, publications, and public relations activities.

**The organization communicates its vision to three groups of stakeholders:**

**Members and potential members;**

**Education community;**

**General public**

# Annual Reports of the Executive Board - 2008

## Curriculum Committee Annual Report 2008

by Kathy Dubrovsky, Committee Chair

In April, over 35 MSLA members completed MSLA's online Web 2.0 tutorial, MSLA School Library Learning 2.0. The California School Library Association (CSLA) 2.0 Team created this tutorial. I adapted it slightly with the CSLA's permission. Participants were exposed to a wide variety of Web 2.0 tools and social networking including video, audio and gaming sites. Each participant was asked to create a blog and a wiki and to practice with a variety of other tools. It was my intention that participants would take what they learned and bring these experiences back to their districts. Many participants have informed me that they will be moderating a School Library Learning 2.0 tutorial in their districts.

It was a tremendous amount of work for myself and the participants, but I would do it again in a heartbeat. It was wonderful collegial experience and I learned so much. I would like to thank everyone who took the course and express my sincerest gratitude for their participation.

Please visit the MSLA School Library Learning 2.0 blog,

<http://mslaschoollibrary20.blogspot.com/>. When you scroll down to the bottom of the page, you can link on the participants' blogs and see what exciting and creative work was done.

Below are some of the comments participants shared regarding what they thought of the tutorial:

School Library 2.0 is one professional development class that has had an immediate impact on how I use my computer every day, and it will become part of how I teach my students. Every moment spent on this class has been well worth it. This is not like other classes where you think it's interesting while you're learning it, but then can't figure out how to make use of it. I'd love to see it continue as new technologies emerge. Elaine Donoghue April, 2008

Invigorating! Challenging! Overwhelming! Fun! Worthwhile! Can we do more!

Kathy Dvorchak March, 2008

truly enjoyed this process and feel that I learned so much. The comments that I made in the process of completing my survey seemed so inadequate – it was difficult narrowing down what I had learned or picking a "favorite piece." This was a tremendous opportunity, and I would recommend it to anyone interested in exploring these tools. Thank you to you and your cheerleader team, and to MSLA, and CSLA! Diane Norby, Library Teacher

I was very nervous about doing this, but am very happy to have learned all the 2.0 skills it offered. I'd recommend it for all school library teachers. Patsy Divver, March 2008

Overall, I found this to be one of the best courses in technology that I have taken.

I loved the tone of each week's lesson. It was like I was to embark upon a new adventure each week. I would most definitely sign up for anything else that was offered and I plan to share what I learned with anyone who will listen to me. (Name withheld), March 2008



## Webpage Annual Report 2008

by Ann B. Perham, Webmaster

The 2007-08 year has been one of maturation, rather than new development. In the fall of 2006, MSLA made the giant leap from the old domain of mslma.org to the new "virtual home" at maschoollibraries.org. In addition, we went to a new content management program, Joomla. Looking back at this year, I am pleased to say that our webpage has become much more developed as a source of information for our organization.

When setting the goals for the webpage for this year, I set sights on two objectives that were not realized. First, I had wanted to develop a rotating spotlight feature with a series of library pictures that change with reloading. This may still happen in the future and I will add it to

next year's goals. MSLA members will need to put their libraries up for spotlighting; as it is now, we have only a couple per month. I will also need to tweak the technology controls to allow this to happen. Secondly, we were hoping to train a new technical editor for the MSLA Forum. We are looking for someone who will learn the process and help with three online issues a year (the fourth issue is a print edition); I am confident that someone will step forward.

Kathy Lowe has taken on many important tasks, keeping the webpage content-rich. She posts and maintains the news headlines on the front page. The format of the headlines has evolved so that more stories show at a glance. For the conference page, Kathy has posted all of the

vendors. Kathy also acts as an editor for the webpage itself, giving suggestions for changes, additions and deletions. From the beginning of the transition to the new page, Kathy has been a key player in the vision and realization of having a 21<sup>st</sup> century webpage for MSLA.

In the same way that the new webpage has been born and has grown, it is now time to develop a timeline for taking down mslma.org. Any content that has not been transferred yet will need to be brought over to the new webpage.



# Annual Reports of the Executive Board - 2008

## Constitution and Policy Annual Report 2008

by Bob Helmer

GOAL: Increase awareness about and usability of the MSLA Constitution and Policy Statement.

Objective 1: Update MSLA Constitution and Policy Statement as needed.

Objective 2: Assess and report on the current relationship between the MSLA Constitution, Policy, and activities.

Annual Report:

Over the course of 2007-2008, the Constitution/Policy Chair worked with the MSLA Board to assess, report, update and track changes needed to carry out the activities of MSLA in general. Much of this activity took place via emails and conversations outside of the general meetings, were presented to the Board and then Policy was changed after 2 meetings.

The Policy Manual was updated and continues to be updated, especially in terms of membership dues changes and adding new categories for Friends of MSLA. Also, changes to financial policy were proposed and are in the process of being made. The MSLA Constitution was not changed.



## Public Relations Annual Report 2008

by Mary Kelleher and Kahla Jourdan

Based on our action plan, activities toward our specific goals for the 2007-2008 year were:

Objective 1: Increase awareness to members and non-members as to what MSLA can do for them.

Revamped the MSLA display board to reflect the new logo and initiatives of the organization.

Created a conference specific display board

Used display board at the annual MSLA conference and the MLA conference to promote the organization to new members.

Purchased pens with new logo and web address of organization

Wrote article for MLA newsletter about school and public library collaboration

Wrote letter to library teachers whose membership has lapsed encouraging them to rejoin MSLA

Objective 2: Organize the PR/Advocacy documents, procedures, etc

We purchased a USB flash drive to save the PR/Advocacy materials (everything from what is in the folder that we give out to schools, principals, etc. to templates for the press to contact information) in a format that could be easily passed on to future PR Co-Chairs.



## Awards Committee Annual Report 2008

by Carrie Tucker

This year was an exceptionally rewarding time to be involved in the awards committee, particularly because this year's award recipients were such wonderful people to meet! All of them are passionate about their commitment to school libraries.



Marcia E. Bernard and Tracy Ann Landry, both students at Salem State College, were selected from a pool of worthy applicants as Audrey Friend Scholarship winners for 2007. Both are dedicated to the profession and look forward to careers in school librarianship.

Jose Duarte, headmaster at The English High School, was named Administrator Advocate of the year. Library director Robert Roth nominated Headmaster Duarte because Mr. Duarte supports school libraries and recognizes the value of a well-funded program.

The Joan Gallagher Legislator Award went to Representative Frank Smizik. While Rep. Smizik has been always been a firm supporter of school libraries, most recently, he sponsored H564. "For a school system to be successful, school libraries must have the ability to provide students with the tools to do the research, the equipment to find information, and the librarians to provide instruction to help children succeed in the information age."

The Ellen Berne and MSLA research awards were not granted this year.

Plans for next year include investigating the possibility that future legislator awards be awarded during the joint MLA/MSLA Legislative Day at the Massachusetts State House rather than at the MSLA annual conference.

Also, we will consider revising the Ellen Byrne technology award so it promotes creative use of a broad range of new technology to teach information literacy.



# Annual Reports of the Executive Board - 2008

## Legislative Committee Annual Report, 2008

by Judi Paradis and Bob Roth, co-chairs

The Legislative Committee had three objectives for the 2007-2008 academic year:

Objective 1: Monitor and revise our legislation

Objective 2: Broaden our support within state education community

Objective 3: Hold a successful Legislative Day in combination with MLA

**Our Legislation:** Once again we submitted legislation to place the words “books” and “libraries” into Chapter 70. We did this with the understanding that this bill does not create any significant advancement for school libraries—it simply provides clear evidence that Chapter 70 funds *can* be spent on school libraries. Despite strong lobbying efforts by MSLA members, our bill continues to languish in the Education Committee. Conversations with legislative aides indicated an unwillingness to take up any bill that impacts Chapter 70. We also have heard that once the Governor’s Readiness Committee issues its report, our bill may be resubmitted.

In the meantime, our examination of current state law indicates that there is language in Chapter 15 that does provide state support for school library programs, and provides some guidance about funding levels and staffing. We are now working on bringing this to the attention of legislators and administrators in the Department of Education and Board of Education. We also voted to support a bill S291, which advocates creating an “adequacy study” to document what actually should be included in an adequate education in Massachusetts’ public schools. We ~~are~~ hope that our efforts to support this bill can help us to have a voice in an adequacy study written based on this legislation.

At the national level, MSLA members worked to support the SKILLS Act and we continue to monitor this legislation closely. Bob Roth has taken a leadership role at the national level, and we are increasingly looking at other states for ideas we can use to increase support for school libraries in Massachusetts. Many of our members polled school library associations in other states this year to get a sense of support across the country. It will be important to look at the data collected to see how we can use this to bolster support for school libraries in Massachusetts.

**Broadening Support within State Education Community:** We have steadily increased our connections with other key groups this year. Notably, we have testified at the monthly Board of Education commit-

tee meetings three times in the past 6 months. Laurie Dias-Mitchell is working to line up a variety of constituent groups that support school library programs and having them present at meetings. She will continue to coordinate this effort until the Board of Education agrees to put together a study committee to look at developing a long-term plan for school library programs in Massachusetts.



At the request of library teachers in our western region, we put together a variety of advocacy materials on a wiki, MSLA Advocacy Initiatives (<http://mslaplanning.pbwiki.org>) that can be accessed by school library teachers and their supporters. Kathy Lowe organized this material and it is intended to be used with different audiences, including parents, school administrators, and school boards.



We also began the MSLA Friends group this year. This group can be reached via an email list that Kathy Lowe set up so that we can quickly disseminate information to our supporters (primarily parents) and ask them to take action on our behalf when lobbying is needed. Those interested in joining the MSLA Friends listserv should send an email to [MSLAFriends-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MSLAFriends-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

One of our members, Ann Collins, attended the MTA annual conference in May 2008. She volunteered to ask the MTA to endorse a resolution in support of school library programs.

Finally, we continued to participate in MLA’s Government Relations Advisory Board —asking for their advice and participating in their efforts to lobby on behalf of all libraries in the state.

**Legislation Day:** This year we held our first joint Legislation Day with the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) on April 2, and it was a great success. Our members found that the large number of librarians in attendance brought a great deal of attention to our cause. Many MSLA members attended and lobbied their legislators to revive and support H564. At the event we presented prizes to the winners of our annual bookmark contest and presented advocacy awards to Representative Frank Smizik and Representative Robert Rice. Based on the success of this event, we would like to continue to hold our Legislation Day event with MLA.

# Annual Reports of the Executive Board - 2008

## MSLA Forum End-of-Year Report 2007-2008

by Patsy Driver and Jan Koleszar, co-editors

The 2007-08 year brought many changes to the Forum, in leadership, organization and format.

The first major change was the decision of our long-time editor, Paula Byrne, to step down from office. After years of editing and writing for the Forum, Paula decided to 'retire' from her role as editor. Her expertise and vision created a great venue for the members of MSLA to share information, gain knowledge, and make connections. For her dedication, we are truly grateful.

With this announcement, members were asked to consider taking on the role as co-editor, and Janice Koleszar responded. Having retired from her role as library teacher, Jan offered to be the co-editor with me. The Spring/Summer 2008 issue was the first one she co-edited, and she contributed several articles as well. Thank you, Jan!

Our next change was in format. This year, our first issue was the "Forum Plus" edition in the Fall, which was given to all conference attendees as well as posted on the web. The next two issues – Winter 2008 and Spring/Summer 2008, were online editions, and also began our 'change of format.' It was suggested to have the editions presented as PDF files, and our terrific webmaster, Ann Perham, did just that.

Further, the idea of having a 'back to school issue' for our MSLA Forum Plus was discussed during an Executive Board meeting. Following this suggestion, library staff would be welcomed at the start of school with an issue that includes the 'best of' articles, the end-of-year reports, and MSLA Conference registration. That change required the combination of a Spring/Summer issue, to allow time for the collecting, printing, and editing of a Fall (September) edition.

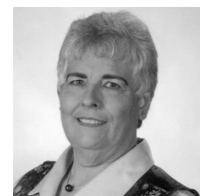
Finally, with the many issues headlining school libraries -- 21st Century learning, School 2.0, Information Fluency Standards and our legislative

concerns -- the MSLA Forum Editors decided to make "Professionalism" its year-long theme.

Throughout the year, a number of "regulars" added to the quality and professionalism in this year's Forum issues: our President, Sandy Kelly, provided enormous support throughout the year, as well as contributing articles on a regular basis. In addition, thanks to Linda Redding for her entertaining and enlightening "Lunch with an Author" articles, Bob Roth and Judi Paradis for their informative Legislative updates, Kathy Lowe for her "Executive directing" and her continuous connections with ALA, AASL, and Advocacy, Geri Fegan and the Bookmark contest, Kathy Dubrovsky for her 2.0 and MassOne skills, and all who have been writers for the past year's issues.

As in past year's, we were delighted to request 'reprint permission' for several articles that highlighted our esteemed library people. Probably one of the most memorable was Maureen Ambosino, whose notoriety as the 'graphic advocacy librarian' gained fame through School Library Journal as well as the Forum! We also connected with other professional groups – MTA and MBLC, for example – to collaborate on articles and programs.

Thus, although we have had many changes, we hope to continue to provide a quality 'forum' for all to read, write and share their library experiences. Thanks to all who have contributed. Co-editors Patsy Diver and Jan Koleszar extend a warm invitation to everyone for future writing possibilities.



## Student Special Interest Group (SIG) Annual Report 2008

by Amy Sprung and Elisabeth Zimmer

The MSLA Student Special Interest Group held a successful student conference for the second year running. The theme of the conference was Getting the Word Out: Marketing Your Library. A favorite speaker among attendees was Anita Silvey, former *Horn Book* Editor-in-Chief and author of *100 Best Books for Children* and *500 Great Books for Teens*, who spoke to an excited group about the stories behind classic works of literature.

Other speakers included Dorothea Black's second year presenting on bookmaking, Beth Gallaway's entertaining presentation on gaming in the library, Deborah Jordan's discussion of bringing guest lecturers into the library, Christine Drew's interactive session on emerging technologies, and Katie Cerasale-Messina's humorous and realistic talk about collaborating with teachers.

The conference was free to Simmons students and cost \$5 for other attendees, not bad considering the conference food was really quite tasty and everyone received a tote bag that suspiciously resembled the 2007 MSLA Conference tote. If you missed it, conference sessions will be podcasted throughout the course of the summer on the GSLIScast site: <http://gslis.simmons.edu/podcasts/index.php>

After the conference, the MSLA Student SIG hosted another event on the Simmons campus. Robin Brenner, YA Librarian at Brookline Public Library and creator of <http://www.noflyingnotights.com>, a graphic novel review site geared toward teens, gave a very informative lecture about manga and graphic novels featuring a number of book talks. Ms. Brenner's talk will also be podcasted on GSLIScast and her PowerPoint will be posted along side it.

If you're interested in getting involved with the MSLA Student SIG or would like to be a speaker at next year's conference, please let us know on our wiki: [http://gslis.simmons.edu/mw/msla\\_sig/Main\\_Page](http://gslis.simmons.edu/mw/msla_sig/Main_Page). Email the co-chairs listed on the site any content you would like them to post, or they can request to have you set up with permissions to edit the wiki. We welcome any input or ideas you might have for improving it. Additionally, we welcome thoughts, advice, or resources for our interviewing page on the wiki.



# Annual Reports of the Executive Board - 2008

## Standards Committee Annual Report 2008

by Valerie Diggs

The Standards Committee had three objectives for the 2007-2008 Executive Board term:

Objective 1: Revise the "Recommended MA K-12 Information Literacy Standards" to complement and reflect the new AASL "Standards for the 21st Century Learner"

Objective 2: Work with the DOE to include portions of the newly revised standards in the revision of the ELA Framework

Objective 3: Develop a brief document on MSLMA Standards for NEASC Visiting Committees

1) Revising our *Recommended MA K-12 Information Literacy Standards* was partially accomplished this term. Most of our original standards and indicators have been mapped to the new AASL Standards. Remaining is the job of re-writing some of the narrative to match these revisions. The process is a long and complicated one. Carol Holley, member-at-large, has been instrumental in helping to accomplish this revision. It is overdue, but perhaps a necessary outcome, due to a recent situation. The AASL Learning Standards Indicators and Assessment Task Force, headed by our very own Kathy Lowe, has made public, for comment, the document presenting "indicators, benchmarks, model examples, and assessments" in support of AASLs *Standards for the 21st Century Learner*. This document will prove to be invaluable as the Standards Committee continues to refine and incorporate the tenets of AASLs new standards. It is hoped that this work will be completed by summer's end and in time for a new Executive Board Term.

2) Working with the DOES has been exciting and has resulted in many successes. Valerie Diggs was appointed to the role of "Panelist" for the English Language Arts Review Panel led by Susan Wheltle, Humanities Chair at the DOES. One major accomplishment was the recognition by the panel that "Research" should be a separate strand, as well as must be included in all revisions of every framework. The board's comments at the April 29th meeting are as follows:

Board members' comments:

### 1. Writing and Research

1. Research needs to be more visible and fleshed out in greater detail, as suggested. Students should do research in all grades; responsibility for teaching research should be shared among middle and high school faculty.

2. Writing needs to be expanded to include various types (persuasive, expository, narrative), as suggested. It is important to have students learn to go beyond the five-paragraph essay format that is often taught as an approach to on-demand writing assessments.

3. Writing and research are important college skills; the 15% overall remediation rate for writing at state community colleges, colleges, and universities demonstrates that some first-year college students lack these skills.

4. Portfolios are the best way for students to see how they progress in writing.

5. Longer writing in the form of research papers or writing in response to reading could be eventually included in locally-scored assessments.

6. It is important for students to complete expository writing of increasing length and complexity during elementary and secondary school. Reference was made to the work of Will Fitzhugh in high school writing (The Concord Review, a journal of high school history papers, and the National Writing Board).

Language in the newly revised "Research Strand" will be pulled from our draft *Recommended Massachusetts Information Literacy Standards* as well as from AASLs new *Standards for the 21st Century Learner*. The actual writing will occur this summer and early fall. I am hoping to be involved.

3) NEASC Visiting Committee Document has not been prepared. It is hope that by keeping this objective on the Standards Committee's 08-09 Action Plan, it will be accomplished this coming fall.





# Annual Reports of the Executive Board - 2008

## Central Region Area Annual Report 2008

by Diane Libbey and Patricia Fontes

As directors of the Central region this year we:

- hosted a meeting at Westborough High School co-sponsored by the CMRLS to introduce Librarians Maureen Ambrosini and to become acquainted with the various programs that CMRLS has for librarians. It was also an opportunity for school librarians to meet each other as there are several new faces in our area



- contacted past members of the Region to update membership list, elicit information about change in membership status, welcome new members and encourage lapsed member to renew their memberships.



- hosted a meeting at Nashoba Regional High School where the librarians spent time sharing resources that are new to their libraries. Issues of staffing, budgeting and services were discussed.

Two additional workshops were scheduled – one on Boston School Rooms and one on Summer Reading – but were cancelled due to lack of adequate registration.

Both directors spoke at Legislative Breakfasts to encourage the attending representative and senators to fund the MBLC programs and to bring the issues facing school libraries to the attention of the legislature.

## MetroWest Area Directors' Annual Report 2008

by Charlotte Sidell and Robin Cicchetti

In collaboration with Metrowest Regional Library Network and Sarah Sogian, the Metrowest area of MSLA had a year full of professional development opportunities. There was something for everyone presented by experts in their field. The year began with blogging, and continued with wikis, The Concord Museum's *Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature*, the Mock Caldecott with Melody Allen, Newbury and Censorship with Maggie Bush, EBSCO Training with Pamela Erickson, Graphic Novels with Robin Brenner, *Life Between Cultures* with Mitali Perkins, ending with *Can't Miss Books* with Pat Keogh.



It is wonderful to tap into the expertise of our school communities, as well as forge professional ties with our public library counterparts. Thanks to Sarah Sogian for her wonderful partnership.

## Northeast Area Directors' Annual Report 2008

by Gerri Fegan and Linda Friel

As usual, this year has been busy and productive. An ongoing focus was on contacting non-MSLA librarians and encouraging them to join our organization; they were contacted via e-mail, phone, and letter and provided with information as to why joining MSLA would be beneficial to them and to their students. We also communicated with MSLA members whose memberships had lapsed. Sometimes that personal touch makes the difference between joining/rejoining and the status quo.



The Northeast Area continued its MSLA/NMRLS LMS Discussion Series. Meetings were held four times this year at diverse sites within the region. The attendance was excellent, ranging from 20 to more than 30. Susan Babb from NMRLS was instrumental in planning and facilitating these meetings for our MSLA members. Topics for meetings included Bridges to Information Literacy, Teaching with Technology, Public and School Collaboration, and Web 2.0 in the School Library. Both co-directors, our MSLA President Sandy Kelly, and many other MSLA members shared their expertise and experiences. Attendees receive PDPs for attendance and can bundle them and complete a product to accumulate at least 10 PDPs for recertification. MSLA members from outside the Northeast Region are welcome to attend all of our meetings.

We attended and participated in MSLA's joint Legislative Day with MLA.

During our time at the State House on Legislation Day, we lobbied our legislators to revive and support H564, celebrated the winners of the MSLA Bookmark Contest, and heard testimony concerning the importance and worth of public and school libraries in Massachusetts.

Because Gerri Fegan will become President-Elect of MSLA next year, our current President Sandy Kelly appointed Chris Steinhauer, a middle school media specialist in Reading, to serve out the remainder of Gerri's term. We welcome Chris to the board and know that she will be an asset.

## Boston Region Annual Report, 2008

by Bruce Cramer and Jeannette Sisco

Thanks to the generosity of Michael Colford, the Boston Regional Library System provided funding for fifteen Boston Region MSLA members to attend the Annual Conference in Sturbridge. At this year's annual conference, the Boston Region also hosted a meet and greet for the new Library Director for Boston Public Schools, Karin Kell-Deyo. Efforts are ongoing to increase membership in the Boston Region.



# Annual Reports of the Executive Board - 2008

## Southeast Area Annual Report 2008

By Heather Macpherson and Lynn Weeks

In September, 2007 Heather Macpherson and Lynn Weeks began their roles as the new Southeast Area Directors. Below are objectives from their action plan and progress to date.

Objective 1: To collaborate with SEMLS to offer workshops/professional development in our area.

Planned and held first Southeast Area Meet & Greet on November 1, 2007 at the Bourne Middle School. Vickie Beene-Beavers from SEMLS was invited and attended – the focus of the meeting was to meet area colleagues, and have an opportunity to share with Vicki our requests for possible SEMLS workshops. We identified Web 2.0, curriculum sharing, and Children's and Young Adult literature as topics of interest. Requests were also made for SEMLS to schedule workshops after school hours so school library teachers could attend without needing to take time from school.

We also decided to try to host meetings at various locations throughout our area to encourage more participation. 10 people attended the meeting.

Planned and held a Southeast Area Meeting on January 24th at Free-town-Lakeville Regional Middle School. The focus of this meeting was curriculum sharing and attendees brought handouts, PowerPoints, and ideas to share. 10 people attended the meeting. Certificates of attendance were available for those who wanted to self-account towards PDPs with their principal.

Heather developed a wiki to be used for continued collaboration. The wiki is currently being moved to <http://mslasoutheastshares.pbwiki.com/>

Planned and held a Southeast Area Meeting on March 27th at the Silver Lake Regional Middle School. The focus of this meeting was Web 2.0 and Long-Range Planning.

Web-sites, handouts, and ideas were shared. 9 people attended the meeting. Certificates of attendance were available for those who wanted to self-account towards PDPs with their principal.

Planning to collaborate with SEMLS for an ice-cream social planned in May. We will attend and promote the event to our members.

Objective 2: To host an advocacy workshop in our area

Attended meetings to help develop an advocacy workshop to be held throughout the state. Kahty Lowe developed the following wiki: <http://mslaplanning.pbwiki.com/> and it was decided that for now the advocacy wiki would be available as a resource, but no formal workshops would be held.

Objective 3: Increase membership & involvement in our area

Offered meetings throughout the southeast area on Nov. 1 2007, Jan 24, 2008, and March 27th, 2008. Meetings were promoted using both the MSLA listserv and the SEMLS listserv to reach non-members of MSLA.

Contacted non-renewals via email and telephone to encourage to renew

Created wiki <http://mslasoutheastshares.pbwiki.com/> to increase communication and collaboration between area members

Additional Activities:

Used budgeted funds to co-sponsor the SEMLS legislative breakfast. Press release about the breakfast is available at this link: <http://mbcl.state.ma.us/mbcl/news/releases/past-releases/2008/nr080229.php>

Arranged a parent to speak about school libraries at the legislative breakfast

Attended the legislative breakfast



## MSLA 2008-09 Executive Board

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