

MSLA Forum: Summer 2008

Contents:

President's Message – Sandy Kelly
Legislative Day Overview – Judi Paradis
WMRLS at Legislative Day – Janice Koleszar
MSLA-MLA Legislative Day
Advocacy Initiatives Wiki – Kathy Lowe

'08 Bookmark Contest – Gerri Fegan
Lunch with an Author by Linda Redding
Public Library Wild Reads
Summer Refreshments – Sandy Kelly
Late Breaking news
Meet the Editors – Patsy Divver and Jan Koleszar

President's Message – Sandy Kelly

It has been a very busy spring with the MSLA board. This edition of the Forum will update you on some of what has been happening along with some suggestions for great summer reads. It is hard to believe that the end of another school year is upon us.

MSLA along with the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) held our first joint Legislative Day in April, where we called on legislators to promote agendas for all types of libraries. Also, the annual MSLA Bookmark Contest awards ceremony was held in the Great Hall where students were recognized by their legislators and toured the State House with their families. It was exciting to see so many legislators in the Hall of Flags as students from across the state received awards and later toured the State House with some of their local representatives. Kudos to the folks who worked so hard to organize this event and to our new President Elect Gerri Fegan who will pass the torch on the bookmark contest to another dedicated member. If you are interested in helping with next years event please contact Gerri or me. It is a very rewarding experience.



Plans for our annual conference on Nov. 2-3, 2008 are complete. The theme is "Survivor MSLA" and it will focus on AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner and MSLA's new Information Fluency Standards. We have 15 authors scheduled for Sunday's exhibit hall opening. Dinner is Michael Tougias, author of *Ten Hours Til Dawn*, speaking on Survival Skills. Monday keynote speaker is Terry Young author of the Scholastic monograph, *School Libraries Work*. Other speakers are Judi Moreillon, Cassandra Barnett and Debra Kay Logan. A new and positive step this year is ONLINE registration and the ability to use a credit card; get in on the early bird registration fees while they last. This promises to be a fabulous conference.

MSLA board members and other school library supporters have been systematically speaking during public comments at monthly MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education about the lack of equal access to good school libraries for all students and asking them to provide leadership at the DOE to develop a long range plan and statewide standards for school libraries. We have been busy recruiting parents, teachers, principals and students to make a three-minute presentation at each meeting. I was excited to make my visit the day that Dr. Mitchell Chester, the new incoming Director of the BOESE, sat in along with acting Director Jeff Nelhaus and new Director of the DOE Paul Revelle. In addition, the new technology standards were approved that day and the planned revisions for the new English Language Arts standards were announced. Future ELA standards will now have a separate research strand and future revisions of other core frameworks will have an integrated research strand.

As the MSLA executive board wraps up another busy year I would welcome anyone who might be interested in joining us. We have several changes coming up and I would like to thank Kahla Jourdan, Mary Kelleher, Sue Crowther and Paula Byrne who will be leaving the board after a number of dedicated years and contributions. Being an MSLA member, being committed to our profession and working hard to advance our position in the 21st century skills world is one of the best things we can do for our students and ourselves.

This will be a restful summer with lots of reading but I am already looking forward to next year's events.

Legislative Day Overview

By Judi Paradis, Legislative Committee Chairperson

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, 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 Thoughts from WMRLS **By Janice Koleszar**

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 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



MSLA Forum: Summer 2008

understanding and importance of the issues.

Too, this year was the first time that MLA and MSLA combined forces for legislative day. The Friends of WMRLS arranged bus transportation for the librarians in Western MA. I was told that 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.

On the way home, I conducted a brief questionnaire. I asked them to raise their hands if they 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.

Telling Our Stories and Awards

Members of MLA and MSLA met at the State House on April 2, 2008 for Library Legislative Day. Kimberly Lynn, MLA President and Sandra Kelly, MSLA President jointly welcomed members and legislators at lunch. Library users told their stories. Representative Mark Falzone fired up the crowd with the announcement of a new State House Library Caucus. Four awards were presented to long-time library advocates.

Read the complete story and see the pictures on the MLA website: [link removed from MLA site]

Advocacy Initiatives Wiki

by Kathy Lowe, MSLA Executive Director

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

It contains ideas and resources to advocate for school libraries with your Administrators and School Committee; Parents; Massachusetts Board of Education; and Teachers!

You can use it to find resources and ideas to support your own advocacy initiatives and presentations. Along with many documents and links, it also contains an outline for a presentation to parents.

I encourage you to take this to the next level by sharing presentations and handouts you develop from these resources. Please contact me if you have something to share and I will send you an invitation to contribute to the wiki.

Your feedback and suggestions about how to improve this resource are welcome. We hope that we can continue to grow and enrich it over time. Your involvement will make this happen! Thank you!



2008 Bookmark Contest: The Heart of Our Schools

by Gerri Fegan

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 2nd, 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 3rd 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 Tasjian; 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!

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



MSLA Forum: Summer 2008

Loehmann); honorable mentions Sarah Donovan, Allen Avenue School, 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 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 am quite nostalgic as this is my last Bookmark Contest. I have fond memories of breaking the news to winning school librarians and families and being present at so many judgments 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.

Lunch with an Author: SunAWARE



By Linda Redding, Silver Lake High School

Author and founder of the Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation Maryellen Maguire- Eisen, 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?

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

MSLA Forum: Summer 2008

make a difference in this disease.

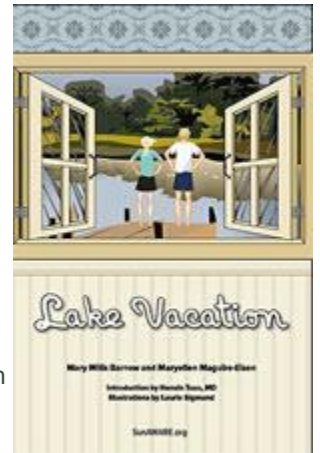
Your SunAWARE presentations are very interactive. What are the goals of your program?

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.

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.

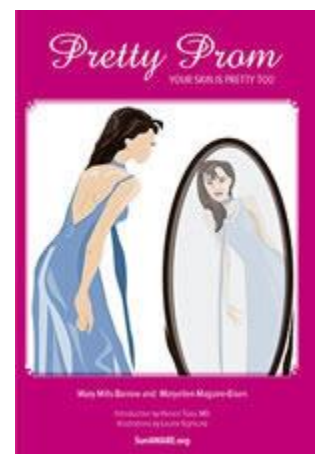
Lake Vacation by Mary Barrow and Maryellen Maguire-Eisen teaches the principles of proper sun protection to adolescents. The book centers on a fishing excursion on the first day of spring break. A lively discussion by the children about the application of the SunAWARE lessons, that they learned prior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

The presentation reinforced important safety tips:

- 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.



MSLA Forum: Summer 2008

-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 www.sunaware.org/publications

Wild Reads at Your Public Library

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 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.



"It's a win-win situation for everyone," according to Maureen Ambrosino, Library Youth Consultant in central Massachusetts. "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 sign up for Wild Reads at Your Library visit www.ReadsinMA.org. or contact your local library. To find your local library visit 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.

Summer Refreshments...

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

MSLA Forum: Summer 2008

seller on the shelves simply because you are a librarian? Well, we know the truth: we love to read but there is never enough time to read just for pleasure. SO what are we reading this summer? Read on, for lots of good suggestions from your colleagues. Hit the local bookstore or get yourself on the waiting list at your local library. Summer's upon us!

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. "I never had the opportunity to read Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* 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 Poldastron. As for professional reading, I 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."

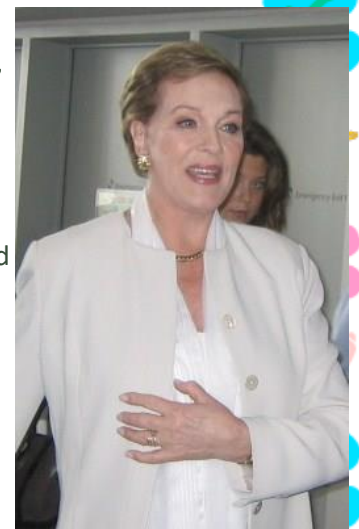
7th Heaven by James Patterson, *Riding the Dragon* by Dr. Robert Wicks and *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult are waiting for Maureen Beattie-Waterworth.

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. She's also looking forward to *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, inspired by the story of a mysterious codex known as the Sarajevo Haggadah. 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.



MSLA Forum: Summer 2008

Enjoy your summer reads.

Late Breaking News

Just when we thought we were ready to post this issue, we had the three items, briefly detailed below, forwarded to us from the MSLA list serve and felt they were too important to hold until the summer/fall issue.

- Congratulations to Linda Friel on her recent election to the ALA Council. Thank you Linda for being a voice for school librarians in MA and throughout the country. We look forward to hearing and learning more from you and about the work of the ALA council.
- Congratulations to Sue Nichols, librarian at Douglas Intermediate Elementary School, who has been nominated for Teacher of the Year. At this time Sue is amongst 11 finalists. Having a librarian considered for this award adds a feather to our caps. Sue, I'm sure we're not alone when we say, we'll keep our fingers crossed for you, and no matter what the outcome, you are an honor to the profession.
- Congratulations to Robin Brenner, YA Librarian at Brookline Public Library, who has been nominated for an Eisner Award in the Best Comics Related Book category for her book *Understanding Manga and Anime* (Libraries Unlimited/Greenwood Publishing). The winners will be announced on Friday July 25, 2008 at the San Diego Comic Conference.

Want to learn more about Anime and participate in a workshop with Robin? The Metrowest Region is hosting *Understanding Anime and Manga* on Friday, May 30, from 10 AM-2 PM.

Meet the Editors

As the new co-editors of the Forum, we look forward to continuing to produce the quality newsletter Paula Byrne began. Since becoming the co-editors, we've had to make some adjustments to this year's calendar and are 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. All thoughts and offers of assistance are welcome. The fall issue will go out for the start of school in Sept. and since it is a printed and mailed issue, the *deadline for articles is June 12th*. This gives us time for the final proofing, formatting the issue, and getting it to the printer by the end of the month.

MEET THE EDITORS – BIOGRAPHIES:

From Patsy: Patsy Divver pdivver@maschoollibraries.org

This is starting my third year with the Forum, and I'm happy to have Jan on board. It's a busy time – I work at the Middle/High School library, and also have three children, a husband, a dog, and 'mom' at home with me. I've got one daughter graduating from college and going (eventually) to grad school, so it's going to be another hectic year. At school, we're getting a new superintendent (also eventually). Life continues to change!

Though retired, I continue to enjoy g **From Jan:** Jan Koleszar j.koleszar@verizon.netrowing professionally and being

MSLA Forum: Summer 2008

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.