

Massachusetts School Library Association

Annual Report 2018-2019



Graphic novelist Gareth Hinds with Marlborough High School students. Alyson Cox, school librarian

President's Report, Carrie Tucker

Advocacy

This year we continued to leverage the 2018 Massachusetts School Library Study to raise awareness about the value of equitable access for children to the resources, instruction, and literacy available through school libraries managed by licensed school library teachers. To that end MSLA hired Greg Pronevitz, recently retired Massachusetts Library System executive director, who worked closely with MSLA's three talented and dedicated advocacy chairs (Anita Cellucci, Robin Cicchetti, Amy Short) throughout the 2018-2019 school year. We are fortunate that Deeth Ellis and Georgina Trebbe have agreed to cochair the advocacy committee in 2019-2020.

Advocacy begins at home! For support materials, check out the [Massachusetts School Library Research Project](#), hosted by Salem State University.

Judi Paradis Memorial Grant

In response to inquiries from members as well as the extended New England library community, MSLA will establish a fund to accept donations in honor of former MSLA president Judi Paradis. Judi was a leader in the school library community. We are devastated to have lost Judi, but her dedication,

creativity, and enthusiasm live on and inspire many people in school libraries and beyond.

Detailed plans for a grant in Judi's honor will be finalized in the fall. Further information about Judi's service to the profession is available [here](#).

A fond farewell!

As you may know, Kathy Lowe stepped down from service to the Massachusetts School Library Association on June 30, 2019. She has been nothing less than the heartbeat of MSLA for decades. I use the term "service" because really, what Kathy means to the school library profession in Massachusetts and beyond transcends any single title.

Upcoming events

Our annual conference in Framingham was a resounding success with the highest attendance in about six years! Don't miss out. Look for these professional development events in 2019-2020:

- Leadership Basecamp and Diversity Workshop, SLJ, August 12-13, 2019, Simmons University
- Better Together, MSLA/MassCUE, September 25, 2019, TEC Walpole
- MSLA 2020 Conference, March 29-30, 2020, Sheraton Framingham

Tragedy and loss

Pain is inevitable in any community. Sadly, ours is no exception. Our extended community suffered losses, including Jennifer Ferent, Sandra Roby, and Judi Paradis. Our hearts are with their grieving families.

Looking ahead to 2019-2020

It's been an honor to serve as president these past couple of years. I am continually in awe of the commitment, dedication, generosity, and expertise of our board members.

The coming year brings capable eager people to new leadership roles. MSLA will be in good hands with President Laura Luker. We are happy to have Greg Pronevitz, Director of Outreach, take on an expanded role. I am also thrilled to welcome Emily Kristofek, who joins us as office manager. We are indeed fortunate. Consider getting involved in the coming months. With over 700 members passionate about school library service, we can make great things happen for Massachusetts students.

Respectfully submitted, Carrie Tucker, President



Grades 4 and 5, Dale Street Elementary School, Medfield. Kerry Cowell, school librarian

Central Region, Directors Pamela Vallee and Michael Caligiuri

Communication and Outreach:

- Updated the Central Area web page and updated information about award winners for past years
- Reached out to regional members with an introduction and to obtain ideas for future events
- Welcomed new and returning members
- Created Central Area membership spreadsheet with updated contact information from school websites
- Publicized MSLA conference events through social media and listserv emails

Events planned for 2019-2020 include a regional meet and greet, a program introducing the resources of MLS, and information about social-emotional wellness resources.

Awards Committee, Chairs Ann Perham, Paige Rowse, and Wendy Garland

The conference banquet on March 31, 2019, featured the first winners of a new award--the Katherine Lowe School Library Champion. The award honors public figures who demonstrate a belief in school libraries. It was fitting that Kathy Lowe presented the awards to the first recipients, Dr. Carolyn Markuson and Susan Ballard.

Have a look at the complete list of [2019 honorees](#) and be sure to congratulate them. For all award recipients, the awards committee sent letters to administrators and issued press releases as requested. To maximize the advocacy benefit of the awards, many recipients were honored in their home districts at school committee meetings or faculty meetings.



European history students re-enact the trial of Galileo at Greenfield High School. Jessica Pollock, school librarian

Southeast Region, Directors Allison Barker and Rachel Barrett

In addition to reaching out to former members, communicating with current members, and keeping the web page up to date, Allison and Rachel also offered programming for school librarians in the region.

December 11, 2018, Plymouth North High School
On the Road with Gale: Refreshing!
Stacey Knibloe, a Gale trainer from MLS, gave a fantastic refresher about the Gale Databases available to us as Massachusetts school librarians. She walked us through the updates and new

changes that were made during the summer, and help us to learn new tips and tricks to successfully teach these tools to our students.

April 3 2019, Foxborough High School
Video Production in a SNAP!

Rachel Barrett, school librarian at Foxborough, showed us the open source tech tools that she used to create a video program in her library. We toured her space, learned some tips and tricks, and had hands-on experience with Adobe Spark, Flipgrid, and other open source video software.

MetroWest Region, Directors Patsy Divver and Maria D'Orsi

We began our new partnership as area co-directors with a fun afternoon at Jeff Kinney's bookstore, *An Unlikely Story*, in Plainville, where we mapped out a few activities and potential locations.

On February 28, 2019, we enjoyed a lovely turnout for our "literary afternoon" at Barnes & Noble in Framingham. Their staff did a great job book talking store favorites and new releases for all ages, while we sipped Starbucks coffee, which they donated, and congratulated our colleague, Lisa Rogers, librarian at the John D. Hardy Elementary School in Wellesley, on the publication of her first picture book, *16 Words: William Carlos Williams and the Red Wheelbarrow*.

The awesome Northeast area team, Barb and Laura, reached out to collaborate on a Northeast/Metrowest crossover event at Stoneham High, on March 12, 2019, called Comics and Curriculum. Northeastern's Dr. Woody Kay and our own Liz Halley presented both on the history of comics and graphic novels in education. Those in attendance were fascinated, and all left with wonderful ideas for using this format in schools.

So many excellent workshops were presented at the annual MSLA conference, but we knew the one offered by April Mazza and Christi Farrar on collaborating with your public libraries would make a wonderful workshop for our closing event. We invited school librarians to bring their public librarian

who they have collaborated with to talk about those programs. It was well attended and very well received.

In 2019-2020 we look forward to reaching out and enticing lapsed and new members to either join the

listserv, attend events, or come to the annual conference. We learn best from one another so even just one person missing holds something we will never know... and that is a loss.

Northeast Region, Directors Barb Fecteau and Laura Harrington

Overview of a busy year!

Communication:

- Welcomed new and returning members
- Updated website
- Emailed lapsed Northeast members about membership renewal
- Met with Stevens Memorial Library (North Andover) teen librarian and director to gather MVLC-related materials to use in future professional development offering
- Email, phone, and face-to-face conversations with area members
- Contacted Merrimack Valley legislators to support [MSLA Advocacy Priorities](#) -- received supportive responses from representatives Christina Minicucci and Tram Nguyen and senators Diana DiZoglio and Barry Feingold

Hosted events:

- "New Build and Refurb: How to Survive the Process" panel presentation by Alix Woznick, Barb Fecteau, Alison Connelly, Beverly Middle School, November 27, 2018
- "Comics and Curriculum" co-hosted with MetroWest, featuring Northeastern University

political science professor Dr. Woody Kay, Liza Halley from The Fenn School in Concord, and Toni Gangi from North Shore Community College Stoneham High School Library, March 12, 2019

Attended events

- MLS Teen Library Summit October 4, 2018, at Holy Cross in Worcester (Laura)
- SLJ Day of Dialog October 12, 2018, at Cambridge Public Library (Barb)

Additional Service

- Sorting day on April 6, 2019, at Kathy Lowe's home (Barb and Laura)
- MSLA conference committee (Barb)

Awards

- Lynda Moylan, Peabody Veterans Memorial High School: President's Award
- Sarah Woo, Holten Richmond Middle School, Danvers: M.S.L.A. Award
- Janice Alpert, Lynnfield High School: Peggy Hallisey Lifetime Achievement Award

Boston Region, Directors Karen Davidson-Heller and Deeth Ellis

Deeth and Karen organized three meetings for Boston area members:

- Fall: "Sharing Best Practices: Ideas for Collaboration with Administrators and Teachers"
- Winter: Tour of More Than Words facility and store, Boston.
- Spring: Tour of Mary Baker Eddy Library, Mapparium, and presentation from the education staff.

Visiting archives, museums, and other school library venues of interest attract the most people. Boston, of course, offers a rich variety of possible locations for future events. Although creating professional communities for busy librarians can be a challenge, it is rewarding.

By continuing to plan events, promote MSLA at BPS meetings, and conduct action research, we can provide support and begin to create a culture of learning from each other.

West Region, Directors Lani Blechman, Sarah Forfa, and Claudia Palframan

Highlights include

- Area directors continued compiling data from DESE, MSLA, and school websites to create a comprehensive western Massachusetts school librarian directory, including all library staff regardless of professional status.
- Claudia Palframan joined the MTA School Library Task Force to work with MSLA on next steps with the Massachusetts School Libraries Study: Equity and Access for Students in the Commonwealth.
- These librarians and administrators were recognized at the MSLA annual conference in Spring 2019:
 - Claudia Palframan, Dupont Middle School, Chicopee (Super Librarian Award)
 - Stephen Hale, Principal, Minnechaug Regional High School (Administrator Advocate, nominated by Georgina Trebbe)
 - Ariel Dagan, Tri-County Vocational Technical (President's Award).

Forum, Editors Katherine Steiger and Reba Tierney

[The Forum](#), edited by Katherine Steiger and Reba Tierney, published issues in October 2018, February 2019, and May 2019.

Articles cover a range of relevant topics, including children's picture books, technology in the library instruction, advocacy, strategies for curriculum collaboration, summer reading, author visits, makerspaces, censorship, and more.

If you haven't lately, read through recent issues. Is something missing--something the school library community needs to know? Channel your inner journalist! Write about the relevant issues. Write about student engagement in your library. Write about a day in the life of a Massachusetts school librarian. Write about your successes, your challenges, and your celebrations. Your colleagues want to hear from you!

Treasurer's Report, Jen Varney

MSLA Treasurer's Report Year-End FY19 (as of 6/9/19)
Jen Varney, Treasurer
Net Worth as of June 9, 2019

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Assets: Cash and Bank Accounts (Main Street Bank) | |
| Money Market | \$28,052.93 |
| CD | \$13,048.44 |
| Checking | \$52,610.52 |
| Total Cash and Bank | \$93,711.89 |
| Total Assets | \$93,711.89 |
| Liabilities | \$0 |
| Overall Total | \$93,711.89 |

Bookmark Contest, a yearlong labor of love by a hard working team of professionals under the leadership of Laura Gardner

There is no better way to close our 2018-2019 annual report than with a celebration of student accomplishments. Again this year, MSLA bookmark

contest winners were honored at a special ceremony held on May 1, 2019, at An Unlikely Story, author Jeff Kinney's bookstore in Plainville.

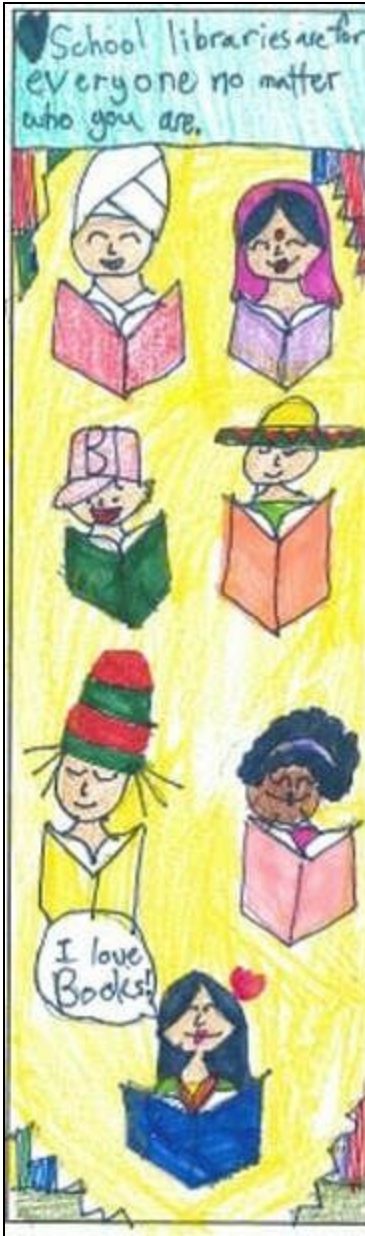
2019 Winners

Division I: Grades K-1

Division II Grades 2-3

Division III: Grades 4-6

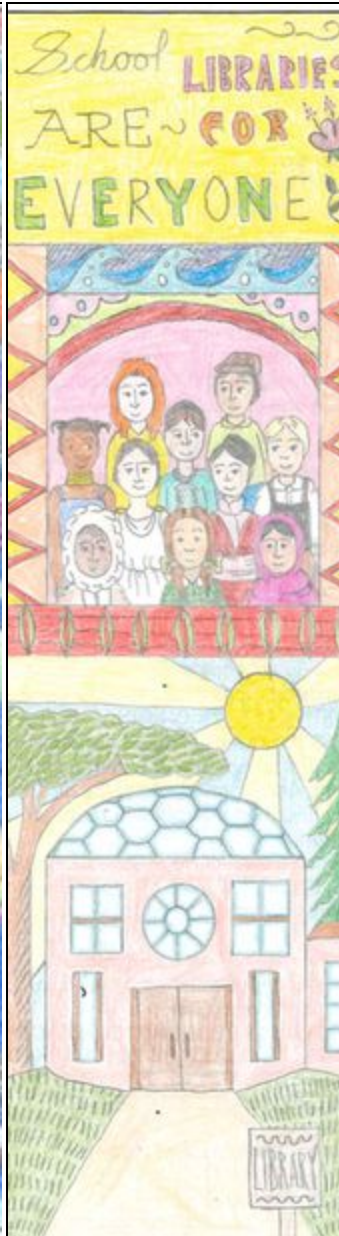
Division IV: Grades 7-12



Amelia Trexler, Gr1; Palmer River Elem, Rehoboth; MSLA Member: Jennifer Cohen



Julia Lu, Gr 3; Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion, Hadley; MSLA Member: Laura Luker



Marley Eggers; Gr 5; Happy Hollow School, Wayland; MSLA Member: Colleen Flannery



Caroline Pollan, Gr 8; Pollard Middle School, Needham; MSLA Member: Sue Doherty