

IN THIS ISSUE



DCLA Needs Leaders Now!

The District of Columbia Library Association needs a few people to step up to lead our Association over the next several years. Without these leaders, the Association may not be able to continue providing our community with the types of programming and information we rely on. Despite being in excellent financial shape, DCLA may also have to suspend our programs to support the next generation of leaders in the library profession as well. DCLA currently needs candidates to step up to the following positions:

PRESIDENT-ELECT ▶ The President-Elect acts as the Program Chair for the Association and coordinates all events, programs, receptions, and lectures throughout the first year of their Term. In the second year, this person convenes and Chairs the Board of Directors and provides leadership for the Association. In the Third year, the individual takes on special projects and sits on the nominating committee. The President-elect can draw on Interest Group Chairs and other members of the association to host and support the programming provided.

TREASURER ▶ The Treasurer is responsible for the fiscal operation of the Association. DCLA is in sound financial condition including an endowed student loan program and sufficient reserves for smooth operation. The Treasurer can convene a Finance Committee to assist with financial planning and execution.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY ▶ The Membership Secretary tracks membership and assists members in accessing the services of the Association. These tasks currently include managing listserv membership and tracking the status of members through the DCLA Web site.

The time commitment for each of these roles is reasonable and can be mitigated through the use of Committees and through timely communications within the Board of Directors. If you feel that you could provide DCLA with your time and attention over the next few years, please contact April King (april.king@dc.gov) or Angela Jaffee (angela.jaffee@gmail.com). If the Nominating Committee is unable to assemble a slate of candidates for Membership vote within the next few weeks, the Association will have to consider ways of either disbursing its assets or reconstituting itself under a leadership body that can sustain itself. Unfortunately, without leadership our Association cannot remain in operation.

—Richard Huffine, President, DCLA
richardhuffine@yahoo.com

DCLA
Executive Board
2010–2011

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Richard Huffine

VP/President-Elect
Megan Sheil

Immediate Past President
Angela Fisher Jaffee

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News from ALA Midwinter: Finances & Controversy

DCLA Chapter Councilor's Report ▶ by Jane Sessa

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION Midwinter meeting was held in San Diego, California from January 7-11, 2011. Attendance was higher than expected, totaling nearly 10,000 registrations, which was just slightly below last year's Midwinter meeting in Boston. Electronic balloting for the ALA Elections opened on March 16th and continues through April 22. Results will be announced on April 29th.

As always, Council meetings were preceded by an information session. While the overall financial health of ALA was stronger than anticipated, organizational memberships have declined due to the demise of the Oprah Book Club. The association continues to monitor the situation and work on ways to promote organizational memberships. The ALA endowment continues to recover most of the losses sustained in 2008. It is now close to the highest value that was achieved in 2007. ALA finished its fiscal 2010 year in a stronger position than expected, primarily due to lower costs rather than increased revenues. ALA employees had their furlough pay restored and the second furlough period proposed for August was not implemented. Claire Knowles asked Chapter Councilors to consider asking their state associations to sponsor one of the Dinners for Spectrum Scholars. These dinners provide a way for smaller, local groups to help raise the remaining \$400,000 for Spectrum Scholarships.

At this Midwinter meeting, there were two controversial resolutions that were introduced by SRRT (Social Responsibilities Round Table.) The first resolution that SRRT introduced called for the ALA Executive Director to notify registered conference and meeting attendees of vendors that appear on a "do not patronize" list. There was much discussion on Council floor and in the various forums on the implications of the resolution. Several amendments were introduced in an effort to garner more support, but in the end the resolution was defeated. The two primary concerns that appeared to prevail were the potential costs and legal ramifications of the resolution and the belief that an association of librarians did not need to provide this kind of information as those interested in this issue could easily find the information themselves.

The other resolution that ignited a considerable amount of controversy praised the founder of Wikileaks and calling on federal agencies to ensure that all federal computers could access the Wikileaks site. As with the "do not patronize" resolution, there was considerable discussion at the various council forums and on Council floor. In the end, the resolution was defeated by a parliamentary measure introduced by Larry Romans. Another resolu-



tion calling on Congress to "Reintroduce and Vote on the DREAM Act" passed with minimal discussion.

Other Reports and Council Actions

- ▶ The Committee on Organization recommended the addition of an ex-officio member to the Web Advisory Committee of ALA-AAP with the direction to the ALA Executive Director to sustain a relationship between the two associations.
- ▶ The Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented its report that included recommendations for several bylaws revisions, two of which will appear on the next ALA ballot to be voted on by the membership. These are not substantive changes.
- ▶ The Committee on Legislation report offered resolutions commending the U.S. Congress and the President on the reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act, commending President Obama and the U.S. Senate for nominating and confirming Susan Hildreth to be IMLS Director, thanking Bob Tapella for his service as the 25th Public Printer of the United States, and a resolution to commend Senator Jack Reed for his efforts to recognize libraries as essential community organizations during disasters. Council passed all these resolutions.

- ▶ The International Relations Committee reported that 75 international librarians from 18 countries were attending Midwinter. IRC also noted that this is the one-year anniversary of Haitian earthquake and that while ALA has raised \$25,000, more is needed. This year, IFLA will be held in August in San Juan. There are now 30 ALA members who serve on IFLA committees. Finally, IFC noted that Barbados and Taiwan have joined the Campaign for the World's Libraries.
- ▶ As an alternative to the SRRT resolution on Wikileaks, the Intellectual Freedom and Legislation Committees presented an alternative resolution that passed Council. The resolution "urges the U.S. President, Congress, the federal courts, and executive and legislative agencies to defend the inalienable right of the press and citizens to disseminate information to the public about national security issues and to refrain from initiatives that impair these rights." Because of this action, other resolutions on WikiLeaks were tabled (essentially killing the other motion).



Jane Sessa is a Librarian at the Department of Commerce Law Library. Email her at jsessa@doc.gov

DCLA Committee &
Interest Group Chairs
2010–2011

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards

Jennifer Manning

Joint Spring Workshop

Ana Echerman

Membership

Sara Striner

National Library Legislative Day

Barbara Folensbee-Moore

Nominations

Elaine Cline

Student Financial Assistance

Bill Tuceling

INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS

Adaptive Services

Patrick Timony & Kamran Rasul

Audio-Visual & Multimedia

Eric White

Children, YA & School

Eboni Stokes

Emerging Technologies

Jared Nagel

Management & Leadership

Barbara Folensbee-Moore

New Librarians

Mario Ascencio

DCLA's Mardi Gras Fete!



Is the Google Settlement Rejection an Opportunity for Librarians?

Siva Vaidhyathan Takes on the Google Books Project at the Library of Congress ▶ by Laura Deal

THE RECENT REJECTION of the Google Books settlement by Judge Denny Chin represents an opportunity for librarians, according to Siva Vaidhyathan, at his March 25th speech at the Library of Congress. He believes that now is the time to take stock of what libraries and users want and see if we can find a better way to achieve these goals. His new book, *The Googlization of Everything*, was inspired by the Google Books Project and his discomfort with Google's approach to copyright and concern that Google was putting too much weight on the principle of fair use. It was inevitable that Google would be sued, and if their defense failed it could create a dangerous precedent that could threaten the very concept of fair use. Vaidhyathan wants Congress to be making policy changes, not private parties negotiating through the court system.

Throughout his lecture Vaidhyathan stressed that companies aren't stable, long-term organizations. They are usually very short-lived and those that do survive undergo huge transformations. What will happen to the Google Books Project years from now as Google's own priorities and values change? Why were stable, centuries old institutions like universities and libraries turning to a transitory company instead of scanning books themselves? Google's lofty mission statement is to "organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful." But unlike libraries, archives, and museums, the Google Books Project was not undertaken for the public good. It is a project to improve Google's profit margin and in reality it is a bookstore, not a library.

On balance, Vaidhyathan thinks Google has a positive effect on our day-to-day lives. But we still need to think critically about our relationship with Google and its activities. Google is a good company, but it's still a company. The Google Books Project is also generally a good idea, but it has many problems, such as low-quality scanning and bad metadata. Google also routinely violates core values of librarianship like user confidentiality.

Vaidhyathan sees "public failure" as the root cause of the Google Books Project. State institutions fail when they are not given enough resources to carry out their roles in society. When the state fails, private companies step in, as has happened with privatized prisons and charter schools. Our national system of libraries and universities didn't have the resources to create a universal digital library, so Google stepped in to do it for us.

There is an opportunity now for libraries to step up and do it better through projects like the Open Book Alliance, the Hathi Trust, and the new Digital Public Library of America. Such projects are based on the core values of librarianship and the accumulated knowledge of the profession.

Vaidhyathan hopes we'll follow the model of the Human Genome Project. Initially attempts to map the human genome were publically financed, but underfunded and fragmented. Then the Celera Corporation announced that it planned to privately map the genome at a speed the public efforts could not match. Celera planned to patent gene sequences and use the genome for private profit. In response the scientific community mobilized politically and launched a massive global project to produce an open access genome that would be freely available to all researchers. The public sequence was published in the same week as the Celera sequence. Librarians need to mobilize and work together in the same way to create our own Human Knowledge Project. It will be a long-term effort, but Vaidhyathan is optimistic that it will be possible and a true universal library can be created; one which will be publically financed, based on the core values of librarianship, and freely available worldwide.



Laura Deal is a catalog specialist at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. Email her at Laura.Deal@wilsoncenter.org

“Small Library, Big Impact” Slogan Defines The Corcoran Library

DCLA Tour Uncovers a Hidden Treasure ▶ by Megan Shiels



THE SLOGAN OF the Corcoran Library is “Small Library... Big Impact,” and last winter’s DCLA-sponsored tour of the Library and its resources highlighted this mentality. After entering the Beaux Arts building, DCLA members wound their way up an industrial staircase, student projects cascading from the ceiling and railings. At the top of the stairwell, the solid, blank doors to the Library have been painted red so that they no longer blend into the staircase. The library space is a mere 2,200 square feet, but is graced with a vaulted ceiling that makes the space feel grand and cozy at the same time. Most of the collection lives in the one large room, along with the service desk and several large tables for communal studying. A small space in the back houses videos and new periodicals spill out into the upper galleries, which are separated from the library by a temporary wall.

About the Library

The Corcoran Library serves the Corcoran College of Art + Design and its 550 full-time employees plus part-time

employees and Continuing Education students, in addition to the staff of the Corcoran Gallery. It is a specialized art and design library boasting approximately 35,000 volumes, 1,000 DVD/video titles, and 250 active periodical subscriptions as well as fourteen subscription databases, including several that are storehouses of images rather than articles. The library also stewards a unique collection of more than two-hundred artist’s books, some handmade, a selection of which was displayed during the tour. The staff at the Corcoran Library is comprised of four full-time employees: in addition to Library Director Mario Ascencio and Digital Assets and Media Librarian Jacqueline Protka, there is a Circulation Manager and a Technical Services Associate. Each semester, eight workstudy students typically assist the staff.

Small Tour, Big Ideas

Since a physical tour of the library can be had in just a few minutes, much of the “tour” was actually a lengthy, enjoyable discussion among visitors and staff. Everyone



pulled up a chair to one of the large study tables to hear Mario and the rest of the staff explain the work they have been doing over the last couple of years to make sure that their small library does indeed have a big impact.

Mario and Jacqueline have pushed marketing and instruction to students and faculty since they both started in the fall of 2008. During the tour, the visitors and library staff discussed the small changes that have made a big impact in library use—from the aforementioned painting of the doors to adding electrical outlets for laptops at the study tables. Staff saw a record number of library registrations after speaking in person at the fall orientation this year, and database usage statistics have been steadily climbing since they started offering in-class instruction to students and instruction sessions for faculty each semester. The goal is to make the Library a welcoming place for the students—as Mario said, “We want the students to know this is their space.”

After hearing from the staff about the library’s history, resources, successes and new initiatives, folks be-



gan to ask questions of each other and to discuss interaction and communication in the web 2.0 age, especially with younger students. Part of the discussion focused on the speed of conversation with today’s students—many people don’t even use full words in a text message—and how that fits into library customer service.

The tour was a rich one, as ideas, questions, and best practices were volleyed in a collegial atmosphere around the discussion table. We may not have had an inside view of a grand historic building or dipped into the vaults for a behind the scenes look at rare artifacts, but the chance to get to know a small group of fellow DCLA members and to pick the brains of a staff that is extremely excited about and dedicated to their patronage, made the visit an excellent educational experience.



Megan Shiels is a Reference Librarian at the Ralph J. Bunche Library at the U.S. Department of State.

American Federation of Teachers Library Provides an Eye on Public Education

Solo Librarian Staffs Library for 1,400,000-member Union ▶ by Bernadette Bailey

THE PROMINENT PLACE currently occupied by education is reflected in the Obama administration's Race to the Top Fund's pledge of more than \$4 billion in support of school reform and innovation. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is at the forefront of the thrust for education reform. An AFL-CIO affiliate, the AFT was founded in Chicago in 1916. At the time of its founding, AFT adopted and still maintains the slogan "Democracy in Education, Education for Democracy."

Although K-12 public school teachers comprise the majority of our 1,400,000 members, this union of professionals also includes paraprofessional and school-related personnel, healthcare and higher education professionals and public employees. Past AFT members include education reformer John Dewey; Ralph Bunche, the first African American awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; Albert Einstein; and Hubert Humphrey, former vice president of the United States and long-time senator from Minnesota.

True to our mission to promote AFT's goals by providing high-quality services, the library supports more than three hundred on-site and field staff through its acquisition of relevant materials and training programs. The library has come a long way from its origins as a periodicals library: our catalog is now present on the AFT Intranet and features interlibrary loan and document delivery capabilities. The collection of approximately 16,000 books and 250 electronic and print journals, oral histories, and education-related dissertations focuses primarily on education, labor and industrial relations.

Our education collection covers a wide range of topics including biographies, education law, home schooling, literacy, history of education, early childhood education, training and certification of teachers, and vocational and special education, just to name a few. Our labor and industrial relations collection includes titles on strikes, labor leaders, organizing campaigns, history of the American labor movement, labor law, collective bargain-



ing, and the role of union stewards. The library is staffed by one librarian with the assistance of a part-time library clerk and is located in the department of research and information services. Recent examples of the information requests include: information on breast cancer among teachers, mandatory overtime for nurses, electronic medical records, autism, workplace violence, and labor films. Because we have conducted a staff needs assessment survey, we are able to act proactively.

The American Federation of Teachers is located near Capitol Hill at 555 New Jersey Ave., NW; the library is on the second floor. Although our complete collection is noncirculating, we are open to the public by appointment and welcome visitors.



Bernadette Bailey is the librarian for the American Federation of Teachers' Research & Information Services Dept. Email her at bbailey@aft.org

Georgetown University's Lauinger Library Embraces Web 2.0 World

Staff Roll Out Mobile Catalog, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube Presences ▶ by Maura Seale

LIBRARIANS HAVE BEEN talking about Web 2.0 applications for several years, and in response, librarians from Georgetown University's Lauinger Library have been experimenting with Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and mobile websites both in order to meet current users of the library in the virtual spaces they frequent and to find and serve potential users, who may not know about the services offered by the library.

Students, faculty, and staff can now access their library account information, renew their books, and search George, the library catalog, on any web-enabled device through the mobile library catalog. Some library databases and tools offered by Lauinger have also begun offering mobile sites; Gale, for example, has designed an iPhone application that allows users to search Gale databases (see www.gale.cengage.com/apps/), while RefWorks users can access their account through a streamlined mobile interface (see www.refworks.com/mobile).

Lauinger Library has had a Facebook page for some time now, and due to the redesign of the library website and the subsequent inclusion of a link to the Facebook page on the library website, there has been an appreciable increase in the number of fans, from 180 in September 2009 to just over 400 in March 2011. While the page had primarily been used to promote library events, we now use it to promote services, collections, and news as well and we have it linked to the library newsletter RSS feed so that it is updated automatically.

Because Twitter has become increasingly popular as a venue for disseminating information, the librarians at Lauinger decided to create a Twitter feed. So far, we have 79 followers and we primarily use the feed in a similar way to the Facebook page—to promote services, events, and collections—but we also follow local libraries such as the DC Public Library and the Library of Congress and Georgetown organizations, schools, and programs, and retweet their posts. The Twitter feed is set up to update automatically from Lauinger's Facebook page.

In addition, the research and instruction librarians at Lauinger have worked with YouTube, after having been tasked with creating learning objects that users can access whenever they need assistance. Our YouTube channel hosts these learning objects, which also appear on the library website under "Time Savers and Tutorials" and within relevant subject guides; for example, the video entitled "Searching Historical Newspapers" is linked to in the American history subject guide (see http://resources.library.georgetown.edu/libdata/rqs.phtml?core=1&from=rbs&subject_id=63). One video, a tour of Lauinger Library, has received 1,881 views since it was created in September 2009 and we can now refer new students to it so that they can orient themselves to the somewhat confusing building. As we continue to create learning objects, we will add them to our YouTube channel, as it offers a quick and easy way of hosting and embedding video.

Keeping up and utilizing new technologies can be challenging, but we feel that these technologies make possible an informal relationship with users that is valuable and worth exploring.

Lauinger Library on the Web

- ▶ Mobile Library Catalog
<http://catalog.library.georgetown.edu/airpac/>
- ▶ Facebook Page
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Washington-DC/Lauinger-Library-Georgetown-University/10291913697>
- ▶ Twitter Feed
<http://twitter.com/hoyalibrarian>
- ▶ YouTube Channel
<http://www.youtube.com/lauingerreference>



Maura Seale is a research and instruction librarian/bibliographer at Georgetown University's Lauinger Library. Email her at mms227@georgetown.edu

DCLA Builds International Connections Through First Sister Libraries Workshop

ALA Initiative ▶ by Barbara Conaty

SISTER LIBRARIES, AN INITIATIVE of the American Library Association (ALA), was in the spotlight for Washington DC area librarians on April 2, 2011 at a half-day workshop aimed at encouraging local librarians to build partnerships with overseas libraries. Participants included representatives from DC's public schools, charter schools, public libraries, and a local university. Workshop organizers sought to raise awareness of Sister Libraries as a creative way to add an international level to local library operations. Sister Libraries is an umbrella term for a formal or informal relationship between libraries in different countries to build community ties between the organizations and to meet local needs.

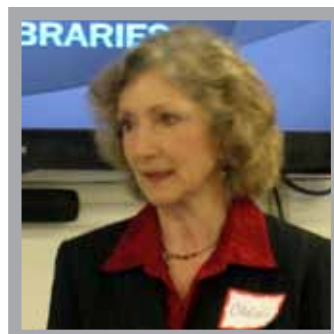
The workshop was organized by the District of Columbia Library Association (DCLA) and co-sponsored by the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) and the International Relations Committee of the DC chapter of the Special Library Association (DC/SLA). It was held at the D.C. Public Library's Southeast Neighborhood Library. Speakers were recruited from the DCLA, DCPL, DC/SLA, Information Resource Office of the U. S. Department of State, and IREX, an international nonprofit organization.

The main speakers included Carol Brey-Casiano, Information Resource Officer (IRO) of the U. S. Department of State stationed in Washington D.C., who described her commitment to international outreach for public libraries. She noted that having a sister library raises awareness of issues facing libraries worldwide, offers connections for local immigrant communities, supplies technological solutions to problems, broadens knowledge of other cultures, and helps build staff expertise.

Meaghan O'Connor, a long-time advocate for Sister Libraries and now a program officer with IREX, provided a whirlwind tour of the Sister Libraries website demonstrating the directory that lists all available partners, brochure in six languages, guidelines for forming a partnership, and other key information. She stressed that Sister Libraries partners come from all kinds of libraries—pub-

lic, academic, and special libraries—and that interested librarians can post their own library's contact information at this interactive website because it serves as a kind of "dating" site.

Anne Johnson, an IRO stationed in Washington D.C., manages a network of some 400 American Corners, which are small-scale program partnerships between U.S. embassies and local institutions abroad. Many American Corners are housed in libraries and can be suitable partners for American school and public libraries. As centers of information and resources about



Carol Brey-Casiano



Meaghan O'Connor

the U.S., American Corners offer a wide variety of programs about American society, history, culture and other topics. For example, Internet capability usually allows face-to-face programming via digital video conferencing between speakers in the USA and the distant American Corners.

Describing one successful Sister Library partnership begun in 2010 between American Corners in Cairo, Egypt, and Queens Borough Public Library in New York City, Henry Mendelsohn, IRO stationed in Cairo, noted that outreach by American libraries can have very tangible results. In January, 2011, the upheaval in Cairo's Tahrir Square led to the looting and burning of the partner libraries. Queens Library responded to the crisis by setting up a donor website allowing its patrons to assist

recovery efforts for the Egyptian libraries. Though successful in building the Egyptian connections, Mr. Mendelsohn noted that American libraries are under budgetary stress so forming selected partnerships is a difficult mission requiring persistence and good planning.

Nancy Davenport, director of library services at DCPL, brought the administrator's perspective to the matter of adding Sister Library duties to an already-overburdened staff of a typical public library. She noted that results and impacts should be measurable elements of a viable plan to introduce an international partnership intended to meet a local community's overseas interests and needs. Programs intended for a library's children and youth constituency might be the most attractive for city administrators. She encouraged workshop participants to work on short-term programs and present them as low-cost pilot efforts to steer future planning in bigger projects.

Hannah Miller and Jessica Haglund, both with the



Anne Johnson



Henry Mendelsohn

International Relations Committee of the D.C. Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, have collaborated on international library projects in Latin America such as the Libraries for All project in Nicaragua. Working from knowledge gained from such grass roots library projects, they advocated the identification of authentic local needs and the expression of cultural sensitivity. A key way to help is sharing basic skills such as circulation of materials, minimal cataloging, and conservation of books. Many communities lack basic infrastructure such as passable roads so the Sister Library partners need to balance expectations with capabilities.

A fundamental handout for the group was an article written for the workshop by Nancy Bolt, former state librarian and now library consultant in Boulder, CO, whose

efforts led to partnerships between twelve institutions in Bulgaria with American libraries in Colorado, Iowa and Maryland. Workshop participants reported several take-away ideas:

- ▶ Focus on what your partner needs and is looking for.
- ▶ Identifying American partners has been difficult as few U. S. libraries participate in the "dating" service available through ALA's Sister Library website.
- ▶ Libraries are not just about books - a Sister Library partnership can use other media formats for resources and programming.
- ▶ Seeking donors and funding is a challenge in the current economic climate.
- ▶ Think "test" and "prototype" for initial proposals as long-term projects will be harder to sell.
- ▶ Rely on DC area library colleagues to build a Sister Library community of practice.



Hannah Miller



Jessica Haglund

Former ALA President Sarah Long initiated Sister Libraries in 1999. Ms. Brey-Casiano, also a former ALA president, promoted the initiative in 2005 with funds to improve its operations. A subcommittee of ALA's International Relations Committee supports Sister Library efforts by maintaining a wiki website where potential partners can find helpful resources and by conducting programs at the annual ALA conferences. The wiki is available to all at http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.php/Main_Page.



Barbara Conaty retired from federal government librarianship in 2009 following many years at the Library of Congress and the State Department.

DCLA Annual Banquet

featuring author Louis Bayard

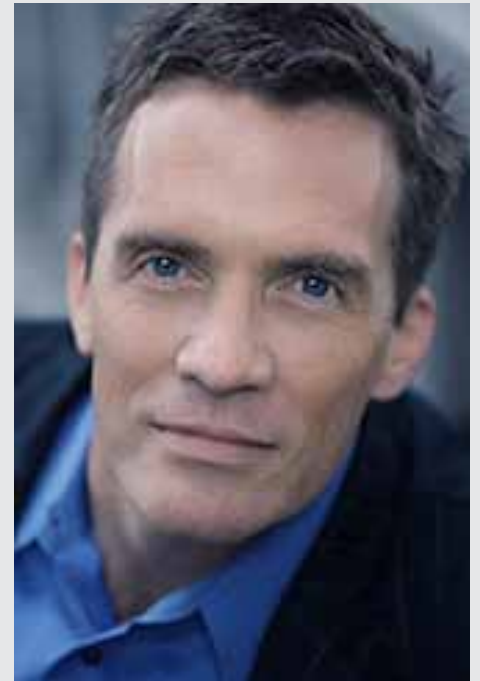
May 12, 6:00-9:00

Come celebrate with DCLA! The Annual Banquet is a time to enjoy good food, good company, and a great author! This year's special guest will be bestselling DC-based author Louis Bayard. His works include *The Pale Blue Eye* and *The Black Tower*, as well as the intriguing new book *The School of Night*. We're extremely excited to have him as our speaker for the night.

The event will celebrate ALA President Roberta Steven's initiative to see "authors as advocates" for America's Libraries. We will also be having an Awards ceremony and honoring new recipients of the DCLA Student Financial Aid Awards.

Prices are \$45 for members, \$60 for non-members. This includes hors d'oeuvres, a four course meal, and wine and other beverages. Please register with your meal choice by May 8.

City Club of Washington at Franklin Square
1300 I St. NW – Franklin Square
Washington, DC 20005



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