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District of Columbia Library Association

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Area Libraries and
Librarians for 114 years*

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Capital Librarian

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July-August issue
Deadline is July 31

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DCLA president:
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President's Column

DCLA Gears Up for New Year

By Barbara Folensbee-Moore

ALA is having its annual conference in Anaheim, California this year. Many of our members will attend and once again be energized by the experience of spending time with so many colleagues learning and re-learning all sorts of topics. For those that aren't able to attend an annual conference each year, taking advantage of local opportunities to re-energize your enthusiasm for the job and the profession becomes that much more important.

We are in the middle of our annual membership drive. Connecting with our current members and encouraging them to not only renew their membership but bring other colleagues into the organization is the primary focus of our membership efforts. The incoming board will be asking all of you to actively support the organization. We hope you will spend time this year attending the meetings, encouraging students that you know to apply for our scholarship, volunteering on committees and generally making this an active organization, not a passive organization.

We are already planning our Fall social event and hope you will be able to attend. We want to get started with programs and activities early in the season to get you in the habit of attending DCLA events. Your new President and Vice-President will be working with the interest group chairs to develop and present programs that you will benefit from and enjoy. Let them know now what you would like to see on the schedule. Ideas and suggestions for programs are always welcome.

Our past year has been a successful one – with programs and tours and a wonderful closing banquet. Everyone on the Board contributed to the success of the year and their efforts were greatly appreciated. I also want to thank everyone that attended a meeting or a tour or in some way participated in the activities of the chapter during the past year. We look forward to provide quality activities in the coming year and hope to see you there.



***DCLA
Annual
Banquet
May 7
2008***





ALA President-Elect Alire Meets DCLA at Annual Banquet

Just a few years ago, reported Camila Alire, PhD, she left the library profession after a successful career as an administrator and librarian in academic libraries. Retiring early rather than comply with an administrative choice she viewed as dishonest, Dr. Alire was jubilant, saying “I can come back to this profession that I love so dearly” because she had just been elected President-Elect of the American Library Association. As the guest speaker at the DCLA Annual Banquet on May 7, 2008 at the Rosa Mexicano, Dr. Alire spoke on resonant leadership and emotional intelligence, topics that guided her career as a library manager and helped her during the last two years as an independent teacher and writer. Her talk was entitled, “Resonant leadership: how to stay energized in the workplace”.



“Service is our common denominator”, no matter the type of library, the particular tasks performed, nor the specialties of the practitioner, said Dr. Alire. Because what we do in libraries effects change, librarians have to be strong and have a consistent leadership style to deal with change. “I equate service with leadership”, noted Dr. Alire, recalling the words of Hugh Prather who wrote, “It is enough that I am of value to somebody today”. Prather is a highly regarded spiritual counselor whose *Notes to Myself* was published in 1970 to worldwide acclaim.

Emotionally intelligent leadership (EI) was defined by Dr. Alire as the ability to understand and monitor your own emotions and the emotions of others and use this information to guide your work. There are two competencies in EI: self-awareness of one’s emotion and the social effort to use emotions in your leadership style.

Dr. Alire advised listeners to ask themselves, “How do people perceive you?” In her years as an academic library manager, her library experienced a major catastrophe. Every day, she said, she had to talk herself into being “up” because her staffers were taking their cue from her. If she was in a rare bad mood, she warned her colleagues so that they could be mindful of her state of mind. Dr. Alire noted that negative attitudes tend to create a toxic work environment. Being hired to perform as a change agent, she became well versed in the challenges of changing an organization’s corporate culture.

She recommended three forms of action. First, build interpersonal sensitivity and empathy to build a positive work environment. Next, use persuasion and influence but first you have to earn trust and respect. Being labeled as predictable means that you are fair and consistent. And third, role modeling is a kind of idealized influence that we can all learn to do. As your colleagues take their cues from you, you can build strong teams.

Calling on her “ain’t easy-isms”, Dr. Alire cautioned that leading day in and day out is not easy. Keeping emotions in check, dealing with other people’s emotions, dealing with people who do not want to change are all elements that can lead to a state of dissonance. There is a high burnout rate because pioneering and inspiring is hard. Dr. Alire advised that there is a great need to balance and deal with stress because the human immune system weakens when stressed and illness can result for the person who becomes caught up in the “sacrifice syndrome”.

Dr. Alire closed her presentation with a note on future reading. While EI started as a fad, it is now a well-established and well-studied skill. She recommended that listeners refer to this newly published paperback *Becoming a Resonant Leader: Develop Your Emotional Intelligence, Renew Your Relationships, Sustain Your Effectiveness* by Annie McKee, Richard E. Boyatzis, and Fran Johnston.

New DCLA Officers Greet Members

Angela Fisher Jaffee, VP/Pres-Elect, has over 10 years of sales and contract negotiation experience working for Thomson/West and BNA, Inc. She is currently working toward her MSLS from the Catholic University of America and is expected to complete the program in 2009.

Ms. Jaffee serves on the board of Calvary Women's Services, an organization providing shelter and services to homeless women in the District of Columbia. Her other memberships include the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals, Law Librarian Society of the District of Columbia, and Law Library Association of Maryland.

In addition, she has been active in the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (WBA) since 1997. Angela has served the WBA in various capacities over the years. Ms. Jaffee's bar association memberships include the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Carol Bursik, who completed the unexpired term of the previous DCLA treasurer, was elected to a new term in the office. Her experience with organizational budgets and fiscal management spans the last 25 years of her career with the federal government. In the early 1980's she was the Acquisitions Librarian for HQ US Army Europe, where she handled an appropriated budget of over \$1 million. In various positions with the US Army in the United States she was responsible for budget execution for acquisitions, information technology, and cataloging services. Ms. Bursik has retired from federal service.

Her volunteer professional activities included a decade of involvement with the Federal Libraries and Information Centers Committee (FLICC) at the Library of Congress as a member and later chair of the Budget and Finance Working Group. In that capacity she assisted with the development of the first FLICC budget under the Revolving Fund, and provided input on a number of issues such as the payout following the default of FAXON and changes to the fee structure for federal libraries purchasing goods and services through FEDLINK.

Deborah Gaspar, instruction and collection development librarian at The George Washington University, is the new DCLA Director. Her library career covers several library types. For 14 years she worked as a high school librarian in Pennsylvania where she also worked in teaching, curriculum development, designing professional development, collaborating, and classroom management.

In 2004, she joined the ranks of academic librarianship at The George Washington University where her duties include collection development, instruction, reference, collaboration, and classroom management.

She was active in the Pennsylvania School Library Association and served as Regional Coordinator for several terms and a speaker/trainer at both the state and local levels.

She currently co-chairs the ALA Committee for Collection Development Education and serves on a committee promoting Best Practices for Instructional Programs. She is active in DCLA on the Reference and Instruction Interest Group.

Are you interested in a leadership position in DCLA? Please consider volunteering for a committee. Contact DCLA President M-J Oboeroceanu to volunteer moboroceanu@crs.loc.gov

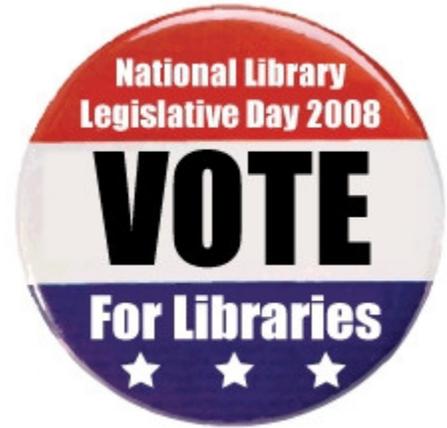
More Than 300 Flock to Hill for Legislative Day

This year National Library Legislative Day was held on May 14. The day involves intense lobbying on the Hill by our colleagues from various state library organizations. This year had a smaller attendance than usual due to economic restraints on some state groups but there were still over 300 attendees.

The event started with briefings sessions, some on the Sunday before but the big event was on Tuesday, May 13. Then, bright and early Wednesday morning, the librarians and their supporters headed for visits with their respective senators and representatives.

As the day wrapped up, everyone gathered in the Caucus Room of the Russell Building for a closing reception. This was a great chance for networking and exchanging stories about their successes in meeting with the individuals on the Hill who will be responsible for library funding over the next year. The food was great and there was an award given by Friends of the Library USA to Rep. Ehlers from Michigan for his long time support of libraries. In addition, we had a drawing for a flag which was flown over the Capitol during National Library Week. This flag was obtained for us by Shirley Loo and the winner was Cynthia Shetter from New Mexico. Something that made the winner especially happy was when she learned that the date the flag flew was also her birthday!

Once again the NLLD committee did a wonderful job working with the Washington ALA office staff to pull off another great event. The participating librarians were very delighted with the efforts made to create an opportunity for them to push the library message. Thanks to everyone who was involved in the event.



MLS in 2009 Is Goal of Fine Awardee

John Danneker is currently pursuing his Masters in Library Science from the School of Library and Information Science at Catholic University, with an anticipated completion of spring/summer 2009. He currently serves as the manager of the Eckles Library, the library on the mostly-freshman Mount Vernon Campus of George Washington University, and he plans to continue to work in administrative/leadership positions in academic libraries after finishing his MLS. John's interests in academic libraries include effective management, public services, and space use. His eventual goals are to lead a university's main research library or utilize his prior degrees in musicology as a director of a music library.



DCLA Financial Aid Awardee Aims for Teacher-Librarian Role

With a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Reed College, Roshin Mathew plans to obtain her MLS from the University of Maryland SLIS at College Park in May 2009. As Roshin pursued her MLS, she had the opportunity to teach older adults about using computers to find information at the New Carrollton Public Library. She hopes to continue to be a librarian who teaches in order to help build up people and communities.



Harlem Book Fair--Need a ride?

The year is the 10th anniversary of the Harlem Book Fair (HBF). It will include publishers, writers, literacy vendors, author panel discussions, and more. The HBF is free, open to the public and held rain or shine. Those who are interested can get a ride on Saturday, July 19 with the Metropolitan Washington Caucus of Black Librarians. For details, flyers, and tickets contact Eboni S. at 202/277-8209 or Lavonda B. at lbor@loc.gov

CRS, DIA Veteran Retires after 35 Years

Stephanie V. Williams of the Library of Congress received a Superior Service Award on the occasion of her retirement in March 2008 as the head of the Knowledge Services Group in the Congressional Research Service. The award recognized her successful exploitation of technologies to deliver high quality and cost-efficient services and her contribution to the establishment of the Knowledge Services Group. Stephanie began her federal government service almost 35 years ago as a cataloger at the Defense Intelligence Agency. She also worked in various library positions at the Naval Sea Systems Command and Office of Naval Intelligence before joining CRS in 1995. She plans to enjoy retirement in the Washington metropolitan area.

Lots of Choices for Summer Reading

University of California - Berkeley assembles an annual summer list and this year focused on survival. <http://blogs.lib.berkeley.edu/readinglist.php>

USA Today designed an innovative popular list for summer fun. http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/news/2008-05-21-summer-books-calendar_N.htm

Authors on the Web went to its own members for reading suggestions. http://www.authorsontheweb.com/reading_lists/

Book Report Network is a goldmine for suggestions for reading, especially for book clubs. <http://bookreporter.com/summer/>

Capital Librarian Thanks the Following for their Contributions This Year

Kristin Allen	Mike Kolakowski
Elaine Cline	Shirley Loo
Gene Dickerson	Sara Mudd
Peggy Flynn	Beth Meyer
Barbara Folensbee-Moore	Jennifer Nutefall
Philecia Harris	Anne Osterman
Danielle Harrison	Kathryn Ray
Rachel Hinton	Sara Schoo
Alex Hodges	Patrick Timony
Bernadine Abbott Hoduski	Bill Tuceling

Thanks to Special Assistants for Newsletter Help

A special note of thanks goes to the document specialists at Sir Speedy where a special assistant to DCLA President Barbara Folensbee-Moore ensured that this year's issues of *Intercom* and *Capital Librarian* reached members whether in paper or electronic form. THANKS!

Editor Barbara Conaty credits her special technical assistant whose knowledge and skill in the use of MS Publisher meant that production of each issue of the DCLA newsletter was done efficiently and reliably.

Donors Augment DCLA Fund

We would like to thank two members for their annual contributions: Gail Avery and MJ Oboroceanu.