

CAPITAL LIBRARIAN



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District of Columbia Library Association

Established in 1894

*Serving Washington, DC
Area Libraries and
Librarians for 113 years*

DCLA is a chapter of ALA

Contact Us

<http://www.dcla.org>
202-872-1112 (messages only)

Capital Librarian
Back issues are on our website.
DCLA's Archives
Are located in the
Washingtoniana Division
of the
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Library

Nov. - Dec. Issue
Deadline: December 5th

Send electronic submissions
to:
Barbara Conaty
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President's Column Are You Getting Close to Retirement? By Barbara Folensbee-Moore

Capital Librarian is focusing on the topic of retirement. Is it in your near future? What do you plan to do during your retirement? I have attended in the past year or so several presentations devoted to the topic of filling jobs left by baby boomers reaching 60 years and beyond.

Do you really plan to retire when you are 60, 65? There are some professions where retirement of employees is already an issue. The federal government is facing the problem since retirees in the public sector leave for better-paying jobs in private industry. The changing workforce requires more flexibility by employers than in the past. Companies are trying to figure out how to appeal to the new generations that value lifestyle over job loyalty or longevity.

DCLA has long been the beneficiary of members whose retirement hasn't reduced their interest in volunteering. Our current Treasurer is a retired member and a number of retired members continue to attend meetings and participate in the affairs of the chapter. There is amazing energy still left after age 65. We are delighted to be able to tap that energy for our organization.

I hope that members are able to work within their organizations to mentor our new professionals as they come up in the workplace. If you have suggestions for programs that will help grow the profession, please let me know or contact our Management and Leadership Interest Group chair, Laura Soto-Barra, at lsoto-barra@npr.org. Helping to grow the professional will ensure that when we retire, we will leave our workplace in good hands!

IMLS Project Announces Initial District of Columbia Schools Library Media Fellows

Submitted by Kathryn Ray

Ten Fellows are expected to be named to participate in the project. The first seven are listed below. DCLA is also seeking mentors for the enrolled library school students intending to become school librarians. Kathryn Ray, who is DCLA's liaison to the IMLS project, announced that Kim Kelley, Dean at Catholic University's School of Library and Information Science (SLIS), will replace Carrie Gardner as the main contact for the IMLS grant. Crystal Van Hook replaces Philecia Harris as the DC schools' liaison. The project is a collaboration among DC Public Schools Library Media Services, Catholic University's SLIS, and DCLA.

Susan Bloom
Toroitich Cheron
Renee Goods
Marla McGuire

Deana Bruce
Sarah Elwell
Carolyn McCallister

Student Financial Aid Group Gears Up for 2008 Awards

Submitted by Bill Tuceling ~ pictured at right

Bill Tuceling, former DCLA secretary, treasurer, membership chair, and 2004 Distinguished Service Award winner, succeeded Shirley Loo as chair of the Student Financial Assistance Committee (SFAC). Bill along with Shirley and fellow DCLA members Jean Craigwell and Sue Uebelacker will announce the availability of student financial assistance and make the selection of two recipients for the 2008 Ruth Fine Memorial Student Loans of \$5,000 each. In the process of making the awards, the committee may meet several times between October 2007 and April 2008. The Committee welcomes assistance from up to three more DCLA members who care to help. Contact Bill at the GAO Library (where he has been a reference and research librarian for almost 20 years) by calling 202-512-5025 or by emailing him at tucelingw@gao.gov.



Meet DCLA Leaders

Patricia Pasquale (top left) is one DCLA's three directors.

Carol Bursik, (right) DCLA Treasurer, shown here learning the new skills of drywalling.



Alex Hodges (lower left) has been the Reference and Library Instruction Interest Group chair since summer 2006 and will continue till summer 2008.



NLM Reveals Treasures to Visiting Librarians

Submitted by Dolsy Smith

On Tuesday, October 2, local librarians visited the National Library of Medicine on a tour arranged by the DCLA Reference Interest Group in collaboration with the Library's Office of Communications and Public Liaison.

The National Library of Medicine collects and organizes cutting-edge health research, disseminating it to healthcare professionals and consumers across the globe. After an introduction to this critical mission, tour participants got a taste of some of the Library's digital and physical exhibits, including "Visible Proofs," a fascinating view of forensic science past and present. And the tour included some real treats for librarians and bibliophiles—such as a behind-the-scenes peek at the computer bank running the PubMed database, and incunabula and other rarities from the History of Medicine Division which houses medical and scientific texts dating back to the Middle Ages. The tour concluded with a look at the innovative ways in which Library reference staff serve patrons remotely. The DCLA Reference Interest Group wants to say thank you to our hosts at the Library: Melanie Modlin, Lucy Stern, Dr. Steve Greenberg, and Carolyn Willard.



NLM's Office of Communications & Public Liaison, Melanie Modlin, gives a historical overview of the NLM.



Carolyn Willard of NLM's Reference & Web Services Section provides the group with information about NLM's online reference work.

Internet Guru Gary Price in College Park Nov. 14 – Pre-Register for Free

In his talk, "Web Searching and Researching Beyond Google," Price will share a number of resources for information professionals to use and share with their users and colleagues. Price will share his thoughts about information professionals in 2007 and the importance of marketing and promotion.

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Place: Special Events Room (Rm 6137), McKeldin Library, University of Maryland College Park
All librarians, library staff, library school students, and information professionals in the metro area are welcome. There is no fee for the event, but space is limited and registration is required. Please RSVP to Annie Young at ayoung3@umd.edu by Friday, November 9. Directions, parking information, and further details be found at <http://www.lib.umd.edu/groups/digref/websearch.html>

Jan 11 Features Institute for Boosting Reading Among Teen Parents

All local area librarians from neighboring states are invited to register for a full-day institute on the topic of youth services to young parents. This is a separate event and does not require registration/participation in the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

Presented by Saroj Ghoting, early literacy consultant, and Maryann Mori, teen specialist librarian, the institute will provide hands-on activities and techniques to enable youth services librarians to present programs that help teens gain a better understanding of reading and leave them with ways to interact with their children to support reading development.

The institute utilizes concepts from the "Every Child Ready to Read® @ your library®" initiative, which was designed to prepare parents for their critical role in their children's reading-readiness.

A separate registration and fee are required for attending "Teen Parents Raising Readers," through ALA's Midwinter Meeting online registration form. Pre-registration is recommended as space is limited. To register, visit: <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/registration.htm>

For more information about ALSC's institute, go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscevents/08MWALSCWorkshop.htm>.

Getting Educational Materials into Difficult Places: the Sabre Foundation

The Sabre Foundation has gained a reputation for getting educational materials into difficult places, often countries emerging from or engaged in conflict. The most recently-established initiative, however, presents a formidable set of challenges, as Sabre strives to enhance the libraries and classrooms of universities in Iraq, particularly in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Come to hear Tania Vitvitsky tell about the future plans, challenges, and triumphs of Sabre's projects in Iraq.

Wednesday, November 14, 2007, Noon - 2:00, Winrock International, 1621 N. Kent Street in Rosslyn, Suite 1200, Arlington, VA 22209

Participate in Public Library Funding and Technology Survey by Nov. 25

ALA encourages public libraries to participate in the 2007-2008 Public Library Funding and Technology Access online survey. The survey provides an important opportunity for libraries to share information on computer and Internet resources and infrastructure, as well as funding, technology training and other uses of public libraries, such as providing public access technology centers in their communities. The current year's online survey, available at <http://survey.pnmi.com>, will be available through Nov. 25, 2007. More information, including results from the 2007 study, is available online at <http://www.ala.org/plinternetfunding>

BRASS Thompson Student Travel Award for ALA Annual Deadline Dec. 1

The BRASS Thompson Financial Student Travel Award would like to encourage library school students to apply for this year's award to travel to ALA's annual conference in Anaheim, CA, June 26-July 2, 2008. Applicants must meet several criteria such as having a demonstrated interest in pursuing a career as a business reference librarian and the potential to be a leader in the profession. This may be demonstrated by course work, internship, practicum, jobs, special projects, publications and related activities.

For details on the nomination process, please refer to <http://www.ala.org/ala/rusa/rusaawards/brassthompson.cfm>

Award Nominations Due by Dec. 7 for Distance Learning

The DLS Haworth Press Distance Learning Librarian Conference Sponsorship Award honors any individual working in the field of or contributing to the success of distance learning librarianship or related library service in higher education. Do you have someone you would like to nominate? The award provides \$1200 to help defray the costs of travel to and participation in the ALA Annual Meeting and a citation plaque sponsored by Haworth Press.

Nominees must be members of ACRL and have demonstrated achievements in specified areas. To nominate candidates, please refer to <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlawards/dlsaward.cfm>

ALA Touring Librarians Get Big Bang for Buck at Rep. Young's Office

Submitted by Jennifer Manning

Jennifer Manning and Jerry Mansfield took a group of librarians on a tour of Capitol Hill during ALA's annual conference at the Convention Center as part of PLA's event to introduce the activities and environs of Capitol Hill. As planned, the visitors walked by Alaska Rep. Don Young's office in the Rayburn Building because his reception area features a huge Alaskan bear mounted behind the front desk. Mrs. Lu Young then came out to meet the group, took them into Rep. Young's private office, and gave them an extensive tour and talked about her life as a Congressional spouse. The office is covered floor to ceiling with stuffed animals he has bagged--including a zebra skin. Mrs. Young is a Native Alaskan woman. The previous Congress's massive transportation bill, SAFETY-LU, is named in honor of her. Says Jennifer Manning, "It was very cool and totally random--we hadn't arranged it with Rep. Young's office in advance".

Palisades Library Book Club

Submitted by Lucy Thrasher

The Palisades Library Book Club meets once a month, usually on the third Tuesday. Over the past seven years, our reading choices have included novels, nonfiction, poetry and plays.

We started off the year reading *The Human Stain* by Philip Roth. Many in the group had never read anything by Roth or only had memories of *Portnoy's Complaint* from the sixties. *The Human Stain* is the story of respected classics professor. Coleman Silk, who is accused of making a racist remark in his college classroom. Silk's reaction and the subsequent unfolding of his story is a compelling exploration of race, identity, sex and gender in the second half of the twentieth century. In case this sounds too heavy, let me add that Roth is a superb writer who skillfully brings together several absorbing story lines. *The Human Stain* engaged our interest and provoked a wide ranging and stimulating discussion. Even when we did not agree with Roth, we appreciated his ideas and literary style. Most of us came away from the discussion with an understanding of why Roth is considered such a major figure in contemporary American literature.

Our upcoming selection is *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott so you can see that we have eclectic tastes. We also have a lot of fun.

Book Mooching? Try Online Book-swapping

Following on the book-sharing locations where you take a book and leave a book, an enterprising ex-dot-commer, John Buckman, developed BookMooch.com whose inventory has already grown to 750,000 titles. Some 2500 titles are now swapped daily and about 300 new swappers come aboard every day. Each participant creates two lists -- one of books to give away and one a wish list of acquisitions. Mooching is based on getting -- and losing -- points that are assigned for posting titles, sharing, and describing the condition of books. There is also an active members' forum for commentary.

Other book-swapping sites include SwapTree.com and TitleTrader.com. The BookExchangeNetwork (tbxn.com) helps college students trade textbooks. SF-Books.com does this for science fiction. Libraries in New Orleans have used BookMooch to restock their shelves.

Moms and Daughters in Third Year of Local Book Club

Submitted by Stacey Marien

Murch/Janney Mother/Daughter Book Club meets regularly at a member's home for dinner and conversation. The group is comprised of six moms and six girls, three of who attend Murch Elementary and three who attend Janney Elementary. The group started two years ago when the girls were in 3rd grade and is still going strong in the 5th grade.

At first, the moms came to each meeting with a list of recommended books and the girls voted for the one to read. This is a very well read group so it is a challenge to find a book that none of the six girls has read. The moms changed the book selection process so that one family comes with a list of three books and the girls vote. Some of the books that we have read include *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson, *Danny Champion of the World* by Roald Dahl, *The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare, and *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech.

The latest book that the group read was *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. This book was a great success as all the girls loved the mixture of Greek mythology with everyday life. The main character is Percy Jackson who has a mortal mom and a Greek god (Poseidon) as a father. When he finds out who his father is, he is sent to a camp for half-bloods and learns that the Greek gods still exist on earth. The girls were very engaged with this book and as always, lively conversation was generated.

To continue the Greek theme, the next book selected is *Have a Hot Time, Hades!* by Kate McMullan.

Keeping a Hand in Libraries after Retirement

Elisa F. Topper, a career consultant and columnist for *American Libraries*, advised readers back in 2003 on how to stay active in library work after retirement. Statistics show that librarians continue to work either part-time or as consultants in these ways:

- Libraries need consultants to provide training workshops for short-term projects. Find your niche and market yourself. Consider a listing in ALA's Library Administration and Management Association directory to be marketable on a national level.
- Contact a library school or library technical assistant program in your area to offer your services as an adjunct faculty member.
- Inquire at area elementary, middle, and high schools about volunteering in their libraries or otherwise sharing your expertise.
- Participate in area career days and contact high schools, community colleges, and universities as a potential speaker. Help to promote the profession and show that librarianship no longer fits the old stereotypes.
- Volunteer at your public library or run for the board of trustees.
- If you are a graduate of a library school, offer to serve as an alumni council member.
- Volunteer at social service agencies—child care centers, homeless shelters, veterans organizations, battered women's shelters, nursing homes—to organize their collections of books and materials. If they do not have a library, suggest creating one.
- Literacy organizations welcome volunteers to help tutor individuals who do not know how to read.

Librarianship is not confined to the walls of a library building.

Retirement Planning Links

Choose to Save: Education Program. Sponsored by the Employee Benefit Research Institute and the American Savings Education Council, this site promotes saving as a vital component of financial security. <http://www.choosetosave.org/>

CNN/Money: Retirement. This commercial site offers a simple retirement calculator with topical articles for retirement planning. The articles are succinct and provide a good starting point. <http://money.cnn.com/retirement/>.

USAGov for Seniors. Provides a lengthy list of resources for seniors, including a number of items related to education and volunteer opportunities particularly geared toward retirees. <http://www.usagov.gov/Topics/Seniors.shtml>.

Retirement Living—The Gateway to Resources for Senior Living. A site about all aspects of life after employment. Subsections range from links to retirement communities, state tax information, and services directories. Access: <http://www.retirementliving.com/index.html>.

A Crash Course in Wills and Trusts. Offers good, basic information on estate planning. <http://www.mtpalermo.com/>

Social Security Administration Online. Everything you ever wanted to know about Social Security. This site is full of useful information. <http://www.ssa.gov/>

Depression Figures Among Librarians

Findings from a recent report, *National Survey on Drug Use and Health* covering the years 2004-2006 showed that librarians in a category labeled “Education, training, and library” were in the middle range of workers reporting depression lasting two weeks or longer. This category reported a depression rate of 8.7%. Most likely to be depressed are people who tend to the elderly and care for children and those who serve food and drinks. Nearly 11% per cent reported feeling depressed. Least likely to be depressed are those in the category labeled “Engineers, architects, and surveyors”. Only 4.3% reported depression. For more on this report, please refer to <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7/depression/occupation.cfm>

Pick Up a Good Book about Retirement Planning

Pond, Jonathan. *You Can Do It! The Boomer's Guide to a Great Retirement.* (2007).

Pond's advice also airs on PBS channels. He is known to be thoroughly delightful and extremely informative on the subject of financial planning in general, and retirement planning in particular. He covers investing for retirement, budgeting, deciding when and where to retire, doubling your retirement income, and more!

Weisman, Steve. *Boomer or Bust: Your Financial Guide to Retirement, Health Care, Medicare, and Long-Term Care.* (2007).

Radio journalist Weisman explains to boomers how things stand at present, starting with money. He describes retirement plans, investing, annuities, income taxes, reverse mortgages and the effects of age discrimination, then covers planning for long-term care, including home care, assisted-living facilities, nursing homes, and insurance.

Bolles, Richard Nelson. *What Color is Your Parachute? For Retirement.* (2007).

After the enduring success of *What Color is Your Parachute?*, Bolles returns to readers with a slight twist on his theme: retirement planning from a “parachutist's perspective”.

Rosenberg, Renee Lee. *Achieving the Good Life After 50: Tools and Resources to Make It Happen.* (2007).

Provides a “life skills guide” for achieving a better life after the beginning of mid-life. She provides good resources to educate her readers to seek that goal.

Ruffenach, Glenn *The Wall Street Journal Complete Retirement Guidebook: How to Plan It, Live It and Enjoy It.* (2007).

This handy guidebook for lay readers lives up to our expectations. Mr. Ruffenach hits many of the standard subjects and provides a wealth of information needed by boomers.

Research Aids for DCLA's Seniors

Organizations

[AARP](http://www.aarp.org/) -- Invaluable site on all things pertaining to aging and retirement. <http://www.aarp.org/>
[National Aging and Information Referral Center](http://www.nasua.org/informationandreferral/) -- Funded by the Federal Administration on Aging. <http://www.nasua.org/informationandreferral/>

Health Resources

[Food & Drug Administration](http://www.fda.gov/oc/seniors/) -- This site offers the full range of publications put out by the FDA. Includes info on arthritis, osteoporosis, cancer and women's health. Bilingual. <http://www.fda.gov/oc/seniors/>
[Alzheimer's Association Home Page](http://www.alz.org/) -- Excellent resources on Alzheimer's Disease. Covers research and current treatment/diagnosis as well as providing useful information on living with Alzheimer's. <http://www.alz.org/>
[Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center](http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/) -- Another excellent site devoted to Alzheimer's research. <http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/>

Elder Law/Elder Abuse

[Elder Law](http://www.catalaw.com/topics/Elder.shtml) -- Provides information on Health & Welfare law, and Wills, Estates & Trusts as well as links to other Elder Law sites in the US and Canada. <http://www.catalaw.com/topics/Elder.shtml>
[Elder Law and Legal Resources Web Directory](http://www.seniorlaw.com/resource.htm) -- This thorough site has links to legal organizations, Federal, state and local agencies, tax information, health and elder abuse resources. <http://www.seniorlaw.com/resource.htm>
[National Senior Citizens Law Center](http://www.nslc.org/) -- This sites provides links to legal information concerning health, employment discrimination, and consumer concerns as well as general information of interest to seniors. <http://www.nslc.org/>

Magazines

[Senior.Com](http://www.senior.com/) -- A large online magazine with plenty to read and lots of online activities. Create your own webpage, make new friends, get travel tips and discounts. Senior.Com has a very wide range of offerings for the savvy senior. <http://www.senior.com/>
[Senior Women Web](http://www.seniorwomen.com/) -- A Website which addresses the concerns of women aged 50 and older. Excellent articles covering a broad range of topics and interests. Links to multi- cultural and international sites as well. <http://www.seniorwomen.com/>
[Third Age](http://www.thirdage.com/) -- Targeted more toward baby boomers, Third Age offers political stories, family-oriented material and technology help as well as financial tips, travel information, chat and more. <http://www.thirdage.com/>

Of General Interest to Seniors

[ElderCare Web Homepage](http://www.elderweb.com/home/) -- Provides information on various issues including legal/legislative, health and finances. <http://www.elderweb.com/home/>
[The Senior Center](http://www.senior-center.com/) -- This site has good genealogical links for those who are researching family. <http://www.senior-center.com/>
[Seniors Site](http://seniors-site.com/) -- an online community for seniors and their families. <http://seniors-site.com/>
[Senior Options](http://www.senioroptions.com/) -- offers state-by-state search for various senior services. <http://www.senioroptions.com/>