

RILA Bulletin

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Library Association
Volume 81, Number 2



“Personally I’m always ready to learn, although I do not always
like being taught”
Sir Winston Churchill

*Winter is in the air, but it’s not too soon to start
planning for the RILA conference in the spring.*

**The 2009 RILA Annual Conference
Bryant University, Smithfield RI
Thursday and Friday, May 28 & 29
Save the date!**

Interested in current salary comparisons?

The American Library Association is providing RILA members access to a recently completed national salary survey. The data includes 2008 figures, detailed job descriptions for each position, and input from 1000 libraries.



The website is: www.ala.org/cfapps/salariesurvey/login/login.cfm

Login: 0059302

Password: 02887

De Johnson Memorial Scholarship Winner Tells All

Brenda Carr was the recipient of the De Johnson Memorial Scholarship, which funded her attendance the 2008 RILA Annual Conference. Here is her impression of her first RILA conference.

Hello, my name is Brenda Carr and I was delighted to attend the Rhode Island Library Association's annual conference on June 5th and 6th as the recipient of the De Johnson Memorial Scholarship. The conference was held at the McKillop Library at Salve Regina University in Newport.

The conference organizers had thought of everything. There was a wonderful layout of breakfast pastries, fruits, and beverages available while the participants meandered in and met up with old and new friends. I immediately lost my nervous jitters after opening my introductory folder. The folder contained a campus map and a detailed agenda for the day with a detailed tip sheet that included all the information necessary for a successful conference experience.

I was impressed from the start with how well organized the conference was. I would like to extend kudos to the people behind the scenes, who obviously put in a great effort to make the attendees feel welcome and informed.

The workshops I attended were enlightening and dynamic. I filled quite a few pages of my notebook with ideas and suggestions from the sessions!

My favorite session was "Online Marketing for Libraries", presented by Susan Lepore and Sharon Frechette from the Warwick Public Library. Some of their suggestions for enhancing your library's online presence really impressed me.

One of the most rewarding experiences of attending the RILA conference was the opportunity to network with colleagues in a relaxed setting. As a URI student and full-time assistant at an academic library, I am usually hard at work. I rarely have free time—I am a busy person who is always on the move. The RILA conference offered me the opportunity to meet and speak with librarians from both Rhode Island colleges and public libraries. It was nice to sip coffee, chat, and relax.

I am grateful to have received the De Johnson Memorial Scholarship to attend the RILA conference. I left the conference feeling I had been given a wonderful opportunity. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the scholarship! I truly enjoyed the experience.

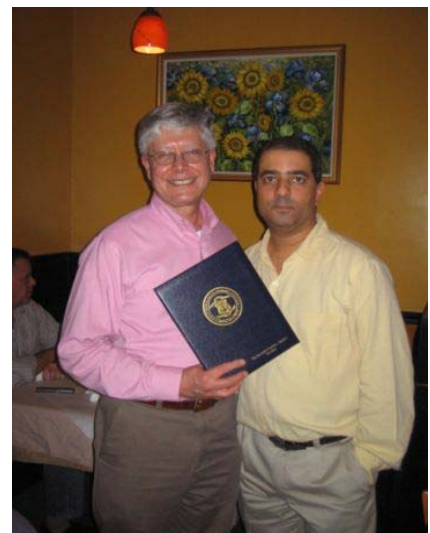
"It is the mark of educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."
Aristotle

Comings and Goings



Warwick Public Library Deputy Director Carol Drought retired in November after 35 years of service. Carol was the Head of Reference at the Warwick Public Library before becoming Deputy Director in 1988. Carol received the “Outstanding Librarian” award from RILA at the 2008 annual conference in June at Salve Regina University. In the photo at left, Carol and some family members pose with her award.

URI GSLIS professor and former director Dr. W. Michael Havener retired in November. Dr. Havener was instrumental in creating the PRISM scholar program, an initiative funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to increase diversity in the field of librarianship and train librarians to better serve a diverse clientele. In the photo at right, Dr. Havener poses with PRISM Plus alumnus Ed Garcia. Dr. Havener is holding a proclamation from Governor Carcieri recognizing his contributions to library services in Rhode Island over the years.



From left to right: Eileen Dyer (Cranston Public Library), Melody Allen, & Susan Lepore (Warwick Public Library)

Melody Allen retired from OLIS in September after 29 years as the Children’s Program Specialist. She worked at the Rochambeau branch of the Providence Public Library before coming to OLIS. During her tenure with state library services, she greeted, counseled, and mentored new children’s librarians throughout the state. Melody provided consultation and programs for children’s library services, children’s literacy, continuing education, and reading promotion projects. Melody received the “Librarian of the Year” award at the RILA annual conference. She also received the Emerson Greenaway Award from the New England Library Association. In the photo at left, Melody holds a plaque commemorating the many roles she has filled during her years of service to RI libraries.

Comings and Goings

Lynda Ross retired as Head of Adult Services at the Cranston Public Library in October after 31 years of service. Lynda began working in Cranston in 1977 when she was fresh out of art school. She eventually earned her MLS and became the Head of Adult Services. She and her husband moved to Kentucky, where they are looking forward to mint juleps and mild winters.

Hedi BenAicha was named Director of the James P. Adams Library at Rhode Island College. Mr. BenAicha received his MLS from the University of Maryland, College Park. He has served as bibliographer and director of Near East collections at Princeton University's Firestone Library and as a senior research consultant for the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency. He was the Associate Dean of Libraries and Learning Resources at the Suffolk County Community College in Long Island, New York. Most recently, he served as the Director of Levin Memorial Library at Curry College.

James Teliha has been appointed the Associate University Librarian for Public Services at Idaho State University. Jim was formerly the Head of Access Services at the University of Rhode Island Library.

Hope Houston has been appointed Head of Reference Services at Bentley University Library. Hope previously worked at OLIS as a Talking Books and Reference Librarian.

Jennifer Bond has been elected to fulfill the rest of the term as RILA Secretary, filling a vacancy created by Hope Houston's resignation. The term will expire in June 2009. Jennifer is a Reference Librarian and Assistant Director of the Douglas and Judith Krupp Library at Bryant University.

Anne Toll passed away on October 27. Anne was Director of Newport Public Library until her retirement in 1999. She was instrumental in the infancy of the CLAN system, bearing chief responsibility for standardizing statistical codes. She was a mentor and intellectual who worked to make changes in library services and functions to benefit patrons. She continued to serve as a role model and professional even after her retirement and will be greatly missed.

“Seek the lofty by reading, hearing, and seeing great work at some moment every day”
Thornton Wilder

NELLS 2008

By Corrie MacDonald



The New England Library Association launched the New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) in 2003. NELA, with financial support from the six state library associations in the New England region, organizes a four-day summer retreat with a symposium leader and mentors from the six New England states. The third NELLS symposium took place in July at the Rolling Ridge conference center in North Andover, Massachusetts.

When I was first approached about attending NELLS, I was skeptical. Me? A leader? As a children's librarian at the Cranston Public Library for the past six years, I knew I had certain talents, but I didn't know if a penchant for breaking into song and the ability to wrangle unruly four-year-olds were indicative of any potential for leadership in the library field.

I knew a little bit about the program, because RILA members Adrienne Gallo and Robert Kelly had attended past sessions. Sure, THEY were leaders...but me? I wasn't so sure, but I figured it couldn't hurt to give it a try and applied. To my surprise and delight, I was accepted. Rhode Island sends two participants, and I was pleased to learn that Wheeler School Librarian Brooke Strachan would be the other Ocean State representative. Back in our library school days, Brooke and I could often be found enjoying cocktails with our fellow grad students after Dr. Gale Eaton's Wednesday night class. Imagine my further delight when Melody Allen informed me that she would be attending NELLS as a mentor. Knowing Brooke and Melody would be there assuaged my anxiety about being trapped in Massachusetts with potentially bizarre or unpleasant strangers for the better part of a week.

Although it was indeed a pleasure to spend time with my fellow Rhode Islanders, I needn't have worried about the other attendees. What a fantastic range of work and life experiences they brought to the table! The insights they brought to both the formal sessions and informal discussions were very helpful for this urban public library children's librarian. NELLS co-chairs Betsy Bray and Cheryl Bryan, along with nationally recognized facilitator Maureen Sullivan did a fabulous job of packing a lot of information into a relatively short time. The topics we discussed and explored ranged from the importance of library advocacy, understanding organizational systems, power and influence, and how to make campfire nachos.

At the end of the week, the ragtag group of potentially bizarre librarians had become friends and colleagues. I have kept in touch with many of them since returning home, and am grateful to have a supportive group of professionals I can go to for unbiased advice if I need to.

Do I consider myself a leader? The jury is still out, but now the path to becoming a leader seems clearer. Attending NELLS helped me to clarify my professional goals for the future. I am grateful to RILA and NELA for helping me to attend this wonderful symposium. The next NELLS symposium is scheduled for 2010. I encourage anyone who has read this far to consider applying!

Photo at top: NELLS 2008 participants and mentors
Photo at right: (L-R) Corrie MacDonald, Melody Allen, and Brooke Strachan represented RI at NELLS 2008

