



# BAY STATE LIBRARIES

Newsletter of the Massachusetts Library Association [www.masslib.org](http://www.masslib.org)

## MLA Needs Your Help - Get Involved!

*By Richard Callaghan, MLA President*

With the exception of Elizabeth Hacala, MLA Executive Manager, MLA is a volunteer based organization in order to function at its highest level, members and potential members need to get involved, i.e. volunteer for a committee, agree to run for an office in the organization, or help spread the word about our efforts.

MLA has been lucky that many of our current committee chairs and members are so dedicated to the organization. MLA committee members work hard to advocate for libraries with the legislature, to put on a great conference, and to provide programs for our members. Unfortunately, a lot of this work is provided by too few volunteers. We need new members to step up and take a turn on a committee. New committee members mean new ideas and this keeps the organization fresh. MLA is at risk of burning out some top flight talent on our committees unless they get some help.

The nominating committee, led by the ever-patient Kim Lynn, has been working since last fall to get a slate of candidates to lead MLA next year. This year we have found a candidate for Vice President and Treasurer. Normally, we would have two candidates for each position. Due to the economic downturn many members are afraid to give the time because of potential budget cuts in their libraries. MLA needs new members to help advocate for better funding to help local libraries. The opportunity to run for

Continued on page 3.

## Inside MLA

*By Elizabeth Hacala, MLA Executive Manager*

As of this past January, I have been the Executive Manager of MLA for one year. It has been an exciting and eventful year including managing my first annual conference and helping in the campaign to defeat Question 1 in November.

Today I wanted share a couple of initiatives we are working on to streamline operations.

MLA has contracted with Blue Robin, Inc. to develop and host a new website. The website is scheduled to be rolled out in May and will feature a new section of web site where you will be able to log in and update your information or check on your membership status.

I am also working with the membership and conference committees to select new membership renewal and event registration software which we are planning to roll out next fiscal year.

Both of these initiatives are aimed at making the administration of MLA more efficient and responsive for our members. Thank you for your continued support of MLA. I look forward to another great year.

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## MSLA Announces Bookmark Contest Winners

*Student Artists Share Educational Adventures in School Libraries*

In honor of Library Legislative Day the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) held its sixth annual bookmark design contest. Student artists were asked to design a bookmark to convey one of the many activities, lessons, and experiences they have had in their school library using the theme "School Libraries: Learning for Life." The judging event was held at the Plympton Elementary School in Waltham on Thursday, February 26th.

Student winners will be awarded \$25 book gift certificates and 500 winning bookmarks for their school library. In addition, their school libraries will be awarded prizes contributed by various vendors who support MSLA.

The judging panel included New England author/illustrators Mary Newell DePalma, Kathleen Duple, Muriel Dubois, Lisa Greenleaf, Jarrett Krosoczka, Diane Mayr and Nancy Werlin.

Many thanks to the library teachers across the state who took the time to give their students the opportunity

to express their creativity and ideas in the bookmark contest and to the MSLA bookmark committee that made this event possible: Gerri Fegan, Judi Paradis, Maria Mastricola, Eunice Swanson, Laura Harrington, Linda Coviello and Ann Perham.

Bookmarks may be viewed on the MSLA website at <http://maschoolibraries.org> MSLA Advocacy Chair, Judi Paradis states that this year MSLA will be "Asking legislators to work to ensure that libraries are included in the Governor's Readiness Project to revamp Education Reform." In addition, MSLA will be "Asking legislators to lobby the DESE (formerly the DOE) to appoint a person specifically charged with overseeing school library programs and establishing a long-range plan for library programs in Massachusetts' schools." To call attention to these goals, and to highlight the valuable work of school libraries and library teachers, MSLA members create exhibits that display examples of how school libraries add value to education in Massachusetts and support the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks.

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## MLA Needs Your Help - Get Involved! (cont)

MLA office is an honor and yes it involves a commitment but MLA can't function without new officers to keep us going forward.

As president, I have committed to three years of service (vice-president/ president/ past president). I too, turned down the offer to run for president the first time I was asked. The second time however, I believed I had an obligation to help an organization which had helped me. I have learned a lot about the operation of a non-profit association and have met many colleagues who are great to work with. The expansion of your circle of fellow professionals is invaluable. Some of you might feel that you are not up to the demands of being an executive board member. I had some doubts myself but I thought if other librarians could contribute, why couldn't I? The ability to lead can be a learned trait, and service in MLA can help you improve those leadership skills.

Start small; volunteer for a committee, attend

meetings and see what MLA is all about. We are just looking for MLA members to step up and help out. We know our members have skills and we could use them! A good beginning would be to attend Library Legislative Day on April 2. Meet your legislators, as they always want to talk to their constituents (aka voters)! Also hear some great stories from patrons about how their library has changed their lives. Whether your interest is in intellectual freedom, legislative issues, the annual conference, youth services, storytelling, public relations, personnel, paraprofessional, tech services, or membership, we have a committee for everyone.

MLA can help libraries in these tough times but in order to that, we need your help too. So when a member of the nominating committee gives you a call, please think hard about you can do for MLA – and what MLA can do for you!

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## Membership in the Paralibrarian Section!

*By Gerry Deyermund, Chairperson of the Paralibrarian section and Assistant Head of Circulation, Memorial Hall Library, Andover*

If you are reading this, chances are you are already a member of the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA), if you are not, let's talk about how you can become a member! If you would just like to join MLA you can visit the MLA website at <http://www.masslib.org/membership.htm> and submit your application with your fee. Fees are determined by your salary range. Don't forget to check off Paralibrarian Section. Another option is to sign up for the joint ALA/MLA membership for a fee of \$61/year. That information can also be found on the MLA membership page above. Membership with a national organization can benefit you in different ways including, receiving information on the national level, discounts on library related merchandise through the ALA store and much more.

Why become a member? MLA is your voice at the State House! The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Regions are not able to lobby for libraries. MLA rallies members for increased funding and ensures there is a constant presence at the State House advocating for issues important to libraries. If your library faces an intellectual freedom challenge, MLA is there to provide you with the tools necessary to successfully fight the challenge. The annual conference is full of rich learning experiences for all support staff as well as degreed librarians. By being member of MLA, you receive a significant discount to attend the conference! And what if you wanted to go back to school for your MLIS? Drexel University offers a 20% discount through their distance education program! Let's not forget networking! Not only can you network at the conference, but if you're entering uncharted territory in your career or just need to bounce some ideas off someone's head, you can connect with other members of MLA!

On the personal side of membership the people

you meet will forever be your friends! I have met so many people through opportunities I have been able to take advantage of. I have new ideas for my library that have been shared with me from others. I have met people from all of New England. Even though I may not see them very much, I still keep in touch with them via Facebook and email.

Please join MLA the people you meet, the things you do, the support you can give will help your library, staff, and patrons will be invaluable!

The Paralibrarian Section members and past recipients of the Paralibrarian Recognition of Achievement (PARA) will provide mentoring to those individuals who would like help and/or guidance collecting information for the PARA. Below is from Carol Ann Geary, currently a youth services librarian at the Sutton Public Library.

### Paralibrarian Recognition of Achievement

In early 2007, I attended a workshop to learn more about the MLA paralibrarian section and the process to work towards applying for the Paralibrarian Recognition of Achievement (PARA). Having worked in libraries on and off for over twenty years, I felt that this was a program that was very important in recognizing the dedication and work of the library support staff.

I began the process of putting together documents to apply for my PARA and it was a great deal of work tracking down records that were in some cases over twenty years old. It was worth it though. I was so honored to be able to stand up at the Paralibrarian meeting at MLA's 2008 conference in Falmouth and receive the Paralibrarian Recognition of Achievement.

What meant the most to me was that in the process of gathering materials, I found so many things that brought back wonderful memories. Those thank you letters from parents

## License Plate Winners Announced

The statewide effort to raise funds for libraries through the Massachusetts Library License Plate continues with the lucky winners of the early applicant contest meeting authors Gregory Maguire and Lois Lowry.

Gerri Fegan from West Middle School Media Center met Gregory Maguire at his home and was thrilled that he was dedicating his next book to her as well as public and school librarians, "It means so much to me, to all of us, to be recognized and appreciated in this way," said Gerri, who has read everything Maguire's written.

Gregory Maguire, well known author of *Wicked* (the inspiration for the Broadway musical of the same name), spent time chatting with Gerri about work, family, and the importance of libraries in his own life. Libraries form part of what makes him happy and who he is, "I owe it to the way my parents educated me, my Catholic upbringing, and the fact that I was raised by librarians."

George Clark from Harvard College Library met author Lois Lowry in February. Ms. Lowry is best known as the author of Newberry Medal winners *The Giver* and *Number the Stars*.



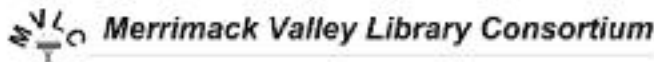
Three thousand people need to sign up for the Massachusetts Library License Plate before the Registry of Motor Vehicles will begin production of it. "That sounds like a lot," said License

Plate Committee Member Karen Spiewak "but if we just had three people from each library sign up we'd meet our goal.

**The Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (CMRLS) continues to accept advance applications for the new specialty license plate celebrating libraries in Massachusetts.**

**To learn more about the license plate program visit: <http://www.cmrls.org/plates.htm>**

Please join us in thanking our Leadership Partner members for their generous support of MLA!



## IFC: Children's Online Protection Act (COPA)

The Supreme Court Determines that the Children's Online Protection Act (COPA) is Not Worth Revisiting

Free speech advocates enjoyed a victory last January when the Supreme Court voted not to revisit a lower court's ruling that the Child Online Protection Act (COPA) was unconstitutional. Since COPA was signed into law by President Clinton in 1998, many people lobbied against its constitutionality – maintaining that the COPA act would be criminalizing people for free speech and self-expression.

The law was initially written to protect children from exposure to pornography on the internet. Certainly, there is a lot of sexual material on the web and some websites can lure people, including children, to enter their sites. Proponents of COPA do not feel this act inhibits free speech. They believe that the banned material is legally obscene and consequently not a violation of constitutionally protected free speech. But a majority of justices disagreed with this and COPA was never enforced. After being signed into law, it was then determined to be unconstitutional and banned. In the last ten years three appeals have been filed but the ban has been upheld. COPA now appears to have finally been put to rest.

Many librarians followed the COPA case as it traveled through the court system. It pitted two seemingly valid objectives against each other: protecting juveniles from exposure to pornography and protecting the First Amendment from erosion. While no one wants children exposed to pornography via the internet, any law that seeks to curtail the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment must be scrutinized closely. Though court approval of such a law may seem to make sense at the time given the sensible purpose of protecting children, its true

consequences may not become evident until much later. This is because the reasoning a court uses to sanction one small limitation on free speech in one case may be used by a later court to justify another seemingly small step to limit another aspect of free speech.

Many people feel that children can indeed be protected from pornography on the internet without compromising our values on free speech. We can begin by educating children and their parents on internet safety - especially in regards to protecting their privacy while using social networking sites. Education is still our greatest tool and now it is even more important than ever that we educate ourselves on social networking sites, internet safety, and the new laws that arise to help us deal with these technologies.



### Membership in the Paralibrarian Section! (cont)

who brought children to my programs, the letters from directors I've worked with over the years, and the volunteer work I've done with literacy in places we've lived around the country. My application for the PARA became this document that chronicled my journey as a librarian.

I really value the work of the Paralibrarian section of MLA and I have volunteered to mentor other librarians through the process of applying for the paralibrarian recognition of achievement. It is my hope that it will stand as a testament to show how essential their contributions are to the workings of their libraries.

Carol along with anyone else on the board will be more than happy to help anyone along. Information is available on the MLA website under the Paralibrarian Section.

## MLA Advocacy Institute Pre-Conference: Making the Case for Libraries in Tough Times!

The morning kicks off with *Massachusetts Swap & Shop: Sample Legislative Breakfast* with Rob Maier, Executive Director, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director, American Library Association and Western Massachusetts Legislators and local officials. Then join us for, *Colleagues From All Corners: An Issue-Oriented Panel Discussion* with panelists from all types of libraries. They will provide the background and information you need to understand library issues throughout the state in a variety of library settings and in the fiscal reality of today.

Lunch will feature a keynote address with Cathy DeRosa, Vice President for the Americas and Global Vice President of Marketing at OCLC. Ms. De Rosa joined OCLC in 2001, and is responsible for marketing, library services and support, and library advocacy programs. Ms. De Rosa also leads library market research initiatives for OCLC. She is principal contributor to the 2003 OCLC Environmental Scan – Pattern Recognition, Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources, an international study of library

use, awareness and brand recognition in the age of the Internet savvy information consumer, Sharing, Privacy and Trust in our Networked World and most recently a report on Funding for Americas Public Libraries.

After lunch, the afternoon will feature, *Message Development* with Marci Merola, Director, ALA Office for Library Advocacy, *Coalition Building: Developing Citizens Support for Your Library* with Sally Reed, Director, American Library Association Trustees, Advocates, and Friends *Lobbying On the Go* with Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director, American Library Association *About MLA Capwiz Project Alert Overview* with Jackie Rafferty, Co-Chair, MLA Legislative Committee; Krista McLeod, Co-Chair, MLA Legislative Committee and *Advocating for the Library Budget: Breakout Sessions* with Jan Ison, Executive Director, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Champaign, IL

For full details about the pre-conference and the MLA Annual Conference: Renew, Refresh, Sustain, download the full program at: <http://www.masslib.org/conference/2009Conference/PDFs/brochuref092.pdf>

**Tuesday  
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### The MLA Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)

While at conference be sure to visit the MLA Teaching and Learning Center (TLC). The TLC will be a showcase for your successful projects related to bibliographic instruction efforts, workshop or training design, or experiments with information literacy at your library. Drop by the TLC and discuss instructional design techniques and translate information literacy into practical reality with Kelly Jo Woodside, Information Literacy Librarian at Simmons College, and Nicole E. Brown, Coordinator of Instruction & Reference Librarian at Emerson College.

The TLC will host an "open mic" hour during the morning break on Friday (9:45am-10:45am) for anyone who wants to present their ideas or projects.

Look for more information about TLC hours at the conference registration desk.

### Technology Petting Zoo

This year at MLA, we are pleased to see the return of the Technology Petting Zoo, featuring a variety of gadgets of interest to you and your patrons. If you've never seen an iPhone, are considering video game consoles for your library, or are thinking about jumping on the podcasting bandwagon, come to the Zoo. If you're wondering about the devices your patrons may bring into your library to plug into your library computers, come to the Zoo. Come check out these and more in a comfortable, non-threatening atmosphere. Get demos of Web 2.0 applications like del.icio.us, flickr, Blogger, PBWiki, Second Life, and more! Nothing bites or induces allergies - we promise!

It's all happening at the Zoo! The Technology Petting Zoo will be open during Exhibit Hall Hours.

