Alki

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Building Bridges

Up Front

The WLA President speaks

Building Impressive Bridges

by Carol Gill Schuyler

By the time you read this issue of *Alki*, it will be mid-summer, the 2002 joint conference will be past, and the 2003 conference well into its planning stages. "Building Bridges" was a wonderful conference, connecting colleagues from Washington and Oregon, providing outstanding programs and vendor time, featuring a provocative keynote speaker, and showcasing very entertaining dueling-duo dinner speakers. It was a conference where attendees had to make choices among excellent sessions; the experimental "track" for programs was very successful.

As always, I was impressed by the talents of Association members and their willingness to share those talents. Interest groups are responsible for planning most of the conference programs. Program organizers must think not only of what is timely and of interest, but also must find the most qualified presenters. And they are planning a year in advance. People working in all kinds of library settings and in all capacities spend time and energy in preparing and presenting programs so that others can learn from them. I recognize and thank all of you who made that immense commitment to your colleagues.

Joint conferences are especially fun because we can talk about the similarities and differences in providing library services for residents in two states. One person said that there was once a discussion about dividing Oregon and Washington lengthwise (using the Cascades instead of the Columbia River as the border) into service areas. While I see the logic, established state borders seem pervious to issues. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to share with those who work in libraries in other states.

Lobbies, bars, restaurants, and empty program rooms were used as venues for impromptu conversations about library issues and service provision. It was important to have that time for sharing thoughts.

I want to commend the Conference Committee (from both associations) for their organization and the ease with which members worked together during the conference. Emergencies—if there were any—did not seem to impact the ambiance. There was an element of calm during the entire four days, as many months of planning came together seamlessly. The Committee was a great team, and members should be proud of their achievement.

What does the Association president do at a conference? You don't eat because you are conducting meetings, introducing people, or making presentations (the really fun part!). You attend few programs because of Association commitments (the really hard part—I kept poking my nose into bits of sessions when I had time!). I confess I accidentally took Lisa Scottolini's gift bag, thinking that it was for me (the really embarrassing part!). I had fed her filberts to a squirrel at the hotel. After we got home, Michael looked in the bag, pulled out a beautiful book on Washington and read aloud the inscription—"To Lisa, with …" Horrified, I realized my gaffe. I wrestled with hiding my head under the bed so I would not have to confess, but my conscience won out. Thanks to Diane Cowles' sleuthing the address, I was able to send everything on to Lisa, including the gift bag and replacement filberts—though we call them hazelnuts in Washington—with my presidential apologies.

One of the real pleasures of being WLA president is participating in the annual awards presentation. Not only does the president get to select the winner(s) of the President's Award, she helps present awards to recipients chosen by the Awards Committee. It is an honor to shake the hands of those who have made such outstanding contributions to libraries throughout the year(s) and are being recognized for their gifts. The Presidents' Reception was held at one of these gifts, the new Three Creeks Community Library, a branch of Fort Vancouver Regional Library System. When you read the article in this issue about the award recipients, you will be impressed by the quality of people who are committed not only to their libraries, but also to library service in their communities in the fullest sense of the word.

The WLA Executive Board also had the pleasure of recognizing those who worked so hard in support of the Washington State Library. The Washington Library Commission, the State Librarian, key legislators, the Secretary of State, our legislative liaison, and WLA members combined their energy, creativity, and resolve to preserve a future for the State Library and its services to Washingtonians. As Nancy Zussy leaves the State Library to pursue her next career, I send her a fond farewell, best wishes, and a "thank you."

The first year of my term as president is over. How would I describe it? Wonderful, challenging, exciting, gratifying, and an honor.

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From the Editor

Alki as Bridge

by Carolynne Myall

The head of reference in a research library. A youth services librarian in a suburban library district, another at an urban library serving the homeless. A Friend of a public library with a multilingual clientele. A state library commissioner. An interlibrary loan supervisor at an academic institution. A trustee of a rural library district. An information school student. An elementary school media specialist.

What do these members of the Washington Library Association have in common?

Members of the library community around the state share a commitment to providing access to books and information, dedication to the idea of intellectual freedom, and a service orientation. Though our libraries and our roles in them vary greatly, we have values in common.

And linking us together, serving as a bridge among our separate library "islands," is WLA. This year's conference, "Building Bridges," presented jointly with the Oregon Library Association, provided great opportunities to build bridges and connect with others. The *Alki* Committee and I hope you will find the conference coverage in this issue stimulating.

What else do the people in the first paragraph have in common? They've all contributed to *Alki* during the past year, helped *Alki* include a range of voices from many library communities. *Alki* is a great bridge, able to connect each of us with other library situations. I hope it's one you will continue to travel, and to build.

Conference Photographs

This year's WLA conference photographer was Edward R. Vidinghoff. Ed's work appears on the cover (beautifully designed by Dawn Holladay) and throughout the issue. His photographs convey the intensity and fun of the conference. From the picture of the *Alki* Committee on this page, I hope you can tell that we've had a good time working together. We have!

The Alki Committee: standing, l. to r.: Cameron Johnson, Sue Anderson, Eva Lusk, Nancy Huling, David Hurley. Sitting, l, to r: Carla McLean, Carolynne Myall, Tami Echavarria. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

Coming Issues

The December 2002 issue of *Alki* should be an exciting one. It will cover unusual services of Washington libraries—everything from one-of-a-kind collections, to distinctive coffee shops, to special programming for teens. Please contact incoming *Alki* editor Cameron Johnson if you would like to contribute.

In March 2003, *Alki* will return to one of the core themes of U.S. libraries: intellectual freedom. New legislation and recent court decisions continue to reshape the landscape in which Washington libraries provide access to information. It's time for *Alki* to examine the intellectual freedom environment again.

Other issue themes are under consideration by the *Alki* Committee. Cameron and incoming Chair Carla McLean welcome your suggestions and comments.

Hello, Cameron! Farewell, Tom!

Assistant editor Cameron Johnson and I worked together this issue. In August, Cameron takes over. He'll be a terrific editor. He's a skilled writer, a dedicated librarian, and knows the *Alki* production process. Cameron's email address is cjohnson@ci.everett.wa.us.

Another change for *Alki*: This is Tom Reynolds' last issue as our intellectual freedom columnist. Tom's stimulating work in "Who's on First?" has been a great asset to *Alki*, and to the entire Washington library community, for many years. Good luck, Tom, in your future writing projects. And thank you!

Not Good-Bye

It was very difficult for me to write this column—I'm sure Cameron wondered if I would ever finish it. The reason is obvious. It's my last one as editor.

For the past four years, *Alki* has been in my thoughts and hopes (and worries!) every day, and many nights too. It's been the focus of my professional life. From the care that contributors put into their submissions, I knew that *Alki* was important to them, too.

When I began as editor, I had a lot to learn about putting together a journal that covered our varied library communities, a lot to learn about production, graphics, and getting all the pieces of the job done right. Every issue has presented surprising, even alarming new challenges. But serving as the editor of the WLA journal has been wonderful. I have greatly enjoyed working with and learning from the *Alki* Committee; from our printers, photographers, and artists; and especially from all of you. *Alki* has been a bridge for me to "travel" to many of your libraries, and to connect with many of you. Thank you for your ideas, contributions, and patience.

And I hope to see you all at next year's annual conference.

Carolynne Myall is Head of Collection Services and Chair of the Library Faculty at Eastern Washington University.

The Saga of HB 2926, *or,* How to Merge the State Library into the Office of Secretary of State in One Easy Legislative Session

by Anne Haley

Anne Haley, Chair of the Washington State Library Commission. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

Last fall, the State Library was settling into its new Tumwater facility after having just completed a wrenching move from the Pritchard Building. There was unease about possible budget cuts; and the state's $1.2 billion shortfall, discussed at the WLA Legislative Planning Committee in late November, was not reassuring. Little did we know that the ear-splitting fire alarm that ended the State Library Commission's meeting in early December would soon apply to the agency as a whole.

The next day, Fred Kiga, the governor's chief of staff, informed State Librarian Nancy Zussy that the 2002 budget would eliminate the State Library, effective October 1, 2002, as part of the governor's "Changing the Face of Government" initiative. With the state facing an incomprehensible shortfall, about thirty programs were to be eliminated because they no longer fulfilled the state's core missions.

In our meeting with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) the following week, we learned that a lack of knowledge about the State Library's functions, coupled with an adverse report from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (IPP) in January 2001, had significantly influenced the decision to close the State Library. The IPP report questioned the State Library's role and value in a society where online information is freely and abundantly available. The report recommended that—should it remain—the State Library increase its online presence, or otherwise merge its collections with the state archives or state university libraries. My notes from the meeting concluded with these observations: The State Library will not be continued in its present form or funding. The State Library will not survive if it claims it cannot function in any other form. The State Library is still at a crossroads. Should the State Library remain an independent agency? Should the State Library be reorganized into the Office of the Secretary of State? Keeping the State Library in the state's organization chart is the highest priority, albeit probably in a different form and place.

On the same day, just before Christmas, while Chief Justice Gerry Alexander and Governors Rosellini and Evans celebrated the publication of Maryan Reynolds' book on the history of the State Library, Gov. Gary Locke was meeting with State Library staff to personally convey the news. During that week, the State Library Commission convened the first of several special meetings.

Everyone I talked to was stunned. If the State Library's survival depended on a merger, the Secretary of State offered more synergy than the other possible candidates: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Information Services (DIS), and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED). WLA's Legislative Representative Steve Duncan and I agreed that saving the State Library in the upcoming legislative session would be very, very tough.

The Library Community Responds

In January, as librarians, legislators, and friends of libraries reacted with surprise and outrage, Steve reported that the governor's proposed budget might require even deeper cuts. John Sheller, WLA President-Elect and Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, activated WLA's grassroots constituent campaign to start a wave of letters to legislators on the importance of the State Library to local libraries. Nancy began contacting legislators from her base in the Capitol cafeteria. I spent my annual ski week at Aspen doing my best to avoid cracking up while thinking through the State Library problem.

By WLA Legislative Day in late January, every legislator knew about the fight to save the State Library. Also obvious was the growing impasse between the governor and the State Librarian, with closure looming as the only resolution on the table.

On February 7, HB 2926 appeared, as if out of the blue. Well, not quite. Among my appointments on Legislative Day was one with Rep. Jim Clements (R) of Selah, who was looking for a way out of the State Library impasse. Knowing that the library community would support a merger if it meant saving the State Library, I described to Rep. Clements how well the State Library could complement the functions of the Office of the Secretary of State. Rep. Bill Grant (D) of Walla Walla was open to the idea and agreed to Clements' request to cosponsor the bill. Secretary of State Sam Reed, upon learning about the bill, pledged his full support.

In another special Commission meeting the following week, the Commission endorsed the merger embodied in HB 2926. Steve shopped it around the Capitol within the hour. Carol Gill Schuyler, WLA President, sought its endorsement from the WLA Executive Board, while public library directors pledged full support during their semiannual meeting. Legislators were informed of the action through letters in the campus mail.

We first testified before a very skeptical Sandra Romero, Chair of House State Government. With a visible nudge from Rep. Clements, we assured the committee that we could make at least a 5% savings (about $450,000) by eliminating redundant support costs.

(Continued on next page)

Anne E. Haley is Director, Yakima Valley Regional Library, and Chair of the Washington State Library Commission.

(Continued from previous page)

Everyone said the bill was dead; but we insisted that because the bill implemented a budget proposal, it was exempt from cutoff deadlines. I kept consulting with Steve, Sam, and Nancy, making appointments, and pitching our story. The bill's progress was regularly reported to the WLA Legislative Committee and to the library community. Everyone continued to work the issue aggressively. By then, I knew every turn, bump, and pothole on Snoqualmie Pass.

HB 2926 was referred to House Appropriations and modified to enable the orderly merger of the State Library into the Office of Secretary of State.

Political Machinations

The merger seemed on track; but on February 21 another State Library bill appeared, at the request of the governor. HB 2978 abolished the State Library and transferred its duties and functions to other agencies. A surprised and angry Helen Sommers, Chair of House Appropriations, told us that she signed onto HB 2978 believing it was saving, not abolishing, the State Library. I burned the midnight oil writing a paper on the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) for a CTED research intern skeptical of his superiors' assumption that federal library funds can be obtained by a state not having a state library. Meanwhile the State Library, CTED, and OFM argued over the contents of the fiscal note. The dubious value of HB 2978 was to make it clear that the State Library could not remain an independent agency.

Rep. Jim Clements co-sponsored HB 2926 along with Rep. Bill Grant. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

At the House Appropriations hearing, HB 2978 was damned with faint praise by OFM. HB 2926 moved forward to Rules.

We knew that HB 2926 could be embodied in the 2002 budget, ensuring the survival of the State Library for at least another year. We eagerly awaited the release of the House budget and thought we would be home free. Well, not quite. I received a call from a reporter asking my opinion of the State Library solution in the budget and raced back to Olympia. The proposed budget funded the State Library until October 1, 2002 (its proposed closure date) and put the rest of the State Library's appropriation in OFM's Emergency Fund, with a proviso allowing the governor to spend up to $5.3 million to implement HB 2926.

Evidently, our issue became this session's football between the governor and the chair of House Appropriations. The governor put forth a budget with a $5.5 million savings attributable to closing the State Library. The fiscal note on the costs of closure ultimately described a fiscal impact that was greater than the savings. With or without the State Library, the proposed savings were not real. The chair pushed the issue back to the governor.

On March 13, HB 2926 passed the House 95-0.

The next day HB 2926 passed the Senate on a 41-3. Sam Reed and Nancy Zussy watched from the gallery.

Later that night, the legislature adjourned. *Sine die.*

On April 3, the governor signed HB 2926 into law. I have the pen he used.

What started with the governor has ended with the governor. At this writing, Gov. Locke has not released the funds from OFM's Emergency Fund to the Office of the Secretary of State for the State Library.

Lessons Learned

The proposed closure of the State Library was an impossible issue in a wretchedly difficult year.

The State Library's fate has been argued, reported, and editorialized throughout the state. Public letter writing and private legislative conversations ran the gamut from "Who could be without one?" to "Why should we afford it?" Add together a free-falling state budget, the perception that everything is on the Internet, and the State Library's lack of visibility, and the result would make anyone run for cover. Fortunately, the Secretary of State is eloquent and generous in his support of the State Library and for libraries in general.

We have learned that the public, and its representatives, will listen and act if the case is compelling. Like a three-legged stool, our legislative success rides on the mutual strengths of committed constituents, a skillful lobbyist, and dedicated advocates. In the end, what counts is the credibility and the personal connections that we earn over the long-term.

We have also learned that libraries are indeed competing for the public's attention in the marketplace of access to information. In cutthroat competition for public funding, libraries are no longer, and probably never were, the sacred cows that we want to believe they are. Libraries will survive only when the public knows their contribution and value.

Our challenge for the future is to make the battle over the State Library an isolated event, not a harbinger of more to come. The State Library still must pass the governor's 2003-2005 biennial budget test, and must meet efficiency and accountability expectations. We individually and collectively must communicate with every legislator about locally important State Library services and the costs due if such services are lost. And in the broad picture, we are challenged to touch every person in every library jurisdiction with a library service or message so that all people know that it's not all on the Internet. It's at the library.

Moving Fast: The Statewide Virtual Reference Project

by Buff Hirko

The Washington Statewide Virtual Reference Project is an LSTA-funded initiative focused on developing best practices, methods, and standards for creating virtual reference services in Washington State libraries. The project's goal is to provide Washingtonians with access to a range of electronic reference services through statewide collaboration among libraries, and to conduct pilot tests of methods and software to create a cost/benefit model for libraries.

To launch the project, the Washington State Library sponsored a meeting on February 15, 2001 to discuss the possibilities of virtual reference service collaboration. Interest in such an effort was high among those who attended, and was identified as a priority at each of the eleven spring 2001 statewide planning forums. State leadership in the area of collaborative virtual reference is essential, not only so that Washington libraries can provide such service, but also to explore software products and share in the development of training and marketing plans. Collaboration is needed and feasible because so many libraries—of every type—say they would like to develop email and other forms of electronic reference. Library users expect libraries and reference staff to alter their business model to accommodate remote access to both electronic products and librarian expertise.

A month after the initial meeting, the Washington State Library recruited volunteers to serve on an advisory committee to assist in the development of a statewide VRS initiative. By May 2002, a steering committee, six subcommittees, and a project coordinator were working on a wide range of activities aimed at building a collaborative virtual reference service network. The mission statement drafted by the steering committee summarized the project's vision: "Combining the power of libraries, librarians, and technology to help all Washingtonians get information wherever they are."

As defined for the project, virtual reference service includes all electronic methods by which libraries fulfill customers' information needs: email, online forms, interactive chat, and web-browsing software. The project may eventually incorporate unanticipated technology that allows even more flexible and sophisticated methods for information delivery.

In September 2001, the project established an online discussion list and website to report progress, to provide background information, and to link to resources needed by libraries initiating electronic reference service. In order to create a snapshot of current reference service and expectations, the steering committee conducted a postcard survey of all libraries in the state. The results were encouraging. One-third of school libraries and almost two-thirds of public, academic, and special libraries returned the card. Of the respondents, over 50% reported having an email reference website. To amplify the findings, project participants convened four focus groups: re-entry workers in Port Angeles, Hispanics in Monroe, people aged 50 or older in Bellevue, and teens via an interactive chat. The groups' comments ranged from the expected to the provocative, but all agreed on one point: Libraries need to market their services.

Hoping to use cooperative ventures to develop such elements as software, best practices, and marketing, the Virtual Reference Service Project committees developed guidelines for LSTA grant pilot projects. They also recommended that all libraries interested in applying for LSTA grant funds be provided with an overview of VRS. On February 1, 2002, a videoconference featuring virtual reference experts Joe Janes and Matt Saxton from the University of Washington i-School and David Lankes, Director of the Information Institute of Syracuse, was shown at four Washington sites. This session helped inspire seven proposals involving sixteen libraries in eleven counties. These grants provide for demonstration projects ranging from developing marketing models to organizing consortial reference services focused on specific subjects.

To support libraries planning digital reference services, the Project signed a contract with Seattle Public Library to develop a comprehensive training curriculum to be delivered using a combination of face-to-face and virtual meetings, web-based instruction (including real-time methods), and collaborative learning. Core competencies will include keyboard and chat skills, online searching, critical thinking skills, effective reference techniques, and troubleshooting. Training will begin in September 2002.

Project committees are also pursuing digital reference initiatives outside of these LSTA grants. Eight project libraries took part in a beta test of OCLC's new QuestionPoint cooperative reference system, which includes email management, interactive chat, and knowledge databases. Project members are also looking at the possibility of developing a customized web portal for Washington libraries based on the well-respected Librarians' Index to the Internet (LII). LII coordinator Karen Schneider will speak to Washington public library directors at their July retreat, and will offer training in indexing and editing to interested libraries at a workshop at the Washington State Library on July 19.

Another grant cycle is anticipated for 2003. Details on all of the activities of the Statewide Virtual Reference Project are available on its website: http://wlo.statelib.wa.gov/services/vrs

Buff Hirko is Project Coordinator, Statewide Virtual Reference Project, Washington State Library

Early Learning Partnerships: Five Projects Promoting Literacy

by Judy Gann and Judy T. Nelson

The second year in the LSTA-funded Early Learning Initiative (ELI) is coming to a close. At the WLA/OLA Joint Conference, attendees had the opportunity to hear about ELI projects, and learn about the successes and challenges experienced by this group of grantees. From multilingual story-times, book giveaways, and baby booklets, to education and training programs for parents and caregivers, reports from each grant recipient conveyed the importance of early learning.

Building on last year's "Amazing Minds" workshops, which covered infant brain development and early learning [See *Alki*, July 2001—Ed.], two offshoots were created. The first offered eligible Washington libraries a core collection of materials suitable for all public or tribal libraries serving a population age five and under. The second involved five demonstration projects chosen to test "best practices."

The thirty libraries receiving core collections agreed to participate in workshops on "Getting the Most Out of Your New Preschool Services Collection," conducted by Sunny Strong. Strong focused on four areas of knowledge: community knowledge, collection knowledge, programming skills, and marketing of collections and services. This training reached childcare providers and site directors across the state, in addition to library staff.

Each of the five project libraries involved in "best practices" demonstrations partnered with at least one other community agency as a requirement for project funding. ELI hoped that projects would create ideas other libraries might use and build on. The libraries receiving grants in this second year of funding were Fort Vancouver Regional Library District, King County Library System, Pierce County Library System, Seattle Public Library, and Yakima Valley Regional Library.

Due to prudent management, ELI was also able to translate into Spanish, produce, and distribute the booklet *Read to Your Baby*, designed by the youth services librarians at Pierce County Library System. If you would like copies of *Read to Your Baby* in English or Spanish or both, contact Martha Shinners at the Washington State Library.

The demonstration programs are still going on, and everyone is learning a lot. Feel free to contact the project managers of the individual programs directly for additional information about how their project is progressing. Also, year three of the Early Learning Initiative is coming up, with a new round of project ideas and grantees, along with additional training opportunities.

Judy Gann is Early Learning Librarian at Pierce County Library System. Judy T. Nelson is Youth Services Coordinator at Pierce County Library System.

Fort Vancouver Regional Library: "Every Moment Counts @ Your Library"

The FVRL program envisions that every family with a child born in the library district during the grant year will receive information about the role of reading in fostering brain and language development. The project leader and a librarian deliver training and materials to parents, caregivers, and service providers who work with populations age three and under. They also provide a series of lap-sit programs at all FVRL branches.

Resource packets include library information, booklists, read-aloud tips, information about brain development, parenting information, a community "Baby Resource Guide," the book *Read to Your Bunny* by Rosemary Wells, and a coupon that can be brought to the library and redeemed for the book *Hand Rhymes* by Marc Tolon Brown. The packets are distributed at places frequented by expectant parents, including doctors' offices, birthing classes, and parenting classes.

Project information is posted on the FVRL website and updated regularly. The website includes tips and information for parents on reading and early brain development and links to early childhood development sites.

King County Library System: "Multilingual Family Story Time: Partnering for Early Literacy Success"

King County Library system (KCLS) has seen a remarkable increase in the number of families for whom English is a second language. This project reaches out to these families—to share the importance of early literacy in their home languages, to increase awareness of public library services, to offer storytimes in their home language, and to increase sensitivity of KCLS staff toward working with these new patrons. The program was developed in partnership with Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) Head Start and ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program). It has several components.

We began our outreach with a "traditional" library service—family storytime. Public libraries have long recognized the value of storytime for promoting and enhancing early literacy activities of parents and caregivers. As part of a family evening event, librarians provide a storytime with interpreters at eleven Head Start and ECEAP centers.

Head Start and ECEAP centers were encouraged to use the grant-funded interpreters to arrange additional library visits for families, and could also arrange a visit from the KCLS TechLab, a mobile technology van that teaches computer classes in community locations.

PSESD experts presented workshops for library staff on the many different cultural groups within King County. Library staff provided training for interpreters on using the online catalog, and in working with a storytime presenter.

Providing printed materials in the participants' home languages is the final component of the project. The project purchased children's picture books in seven languages, and developed two brochures to be printed in six languages: *Welcome to Your Library* and *Raising Readers—Preschool*. KCLS

also intends to provide recorded versions on cassette, for families with low literacy). These materials will be part of the KCLS collection, available to patrons throughout the county.

Pierce County Library System: "Opening Doors to Early Learning"

Pierce County Library System (PCLS), which partnered with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, took a two-pronged approach. First, a youth services librarian and a health department nurse together presented thirty-one sessions on brain development, methods of encouraging early learning and language development, and the "how-to's" of sharing books with babies and young children. Second, youth services librarians and the communication department designed and produced a very successful full-color, twelve-page booklet called *Read to Your Baby*, which includes tips, suggested books, knee bounces, and other resources for parents.

The training sessions were presented to "at risk" parent groups—mothers in alcohol and drug treatment programs, teen parents, and parents of children in Head Start and ECEAP programs—and to early childhood educators, daycare providers, nurses, and library staff. Each attendee received an Opening Doors to Early Learning packet, which included a color-coded library card registration form, list of books shared in the presentation, PCLS booklists, library information, an evaluation sheet with "take away" card, tips for parents, and a copy of our *Read to Your Baby* booklet. The packets enabled attendees to readily apply information presented at the training sessions. Each attendee also received a copy of *Read to Your Bunny* by Rosemary Wells and a free board book. As expected, the free books were a highlight of the presentations.

As of the end of March, 3,520 *Read to Your Baby* booklets have been distributed to new mothers at Pierce County hospitals. The booklets have also been distributed at the Read to Succeed and As a Child Grows conferences. Washington State Library has used the remainder of the second-year Early Learning Initiative funds to print 200,000 English-language and 50,000 Spanish-language copies for statewide distribution.

The PCLS project developed outcome-based evaluation tools and is in the process of conducting follow-up telephone interviews. The response of training attendees indicates that there is a strong demand for brain development training sessions from parents and child care providers. Funding provided by the Pierce County Library System and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department will enable PCLS to continue to provide this vital training through December 2002.

Seattle Public Library: "Bilingual Connections"

Working with Hispanic and Vietnamese community members, Seattle Public Library (SPL) chose to increase services to its growing refugee and immigrant population by providing support and information to families with children from birth to five years of age. SPL held forums around the city to learn the best ways to connect with the intended audience. Staff also wanted to learn what types of materials are most desirable and effective.

Through a series of community meetings, SPL identified three services to focus on in promoting the importance of early learning and providing exposure to early literacy activities:

- developing circulating bilingual kits (modeled after our *Begin with Book* curriculum kits), designed to be used by parents and caregivers;
- providing a series of interactive parenting workshops that stress the importance of culturally relevant literacy experiences; and
- providing staff training on meeting the needs of diverse Seattle communities.

Major goals of this project have been to establish strong relationships and partnerships with other community organizations, to reinforce and grow the notion that the public library is a resource for all.

Yakima Valley Regional Library: "Story Breaks"

Yakima Valley Regional Library (YVRL) created "Story Breaks" to bring short, informal, bilingual storytimes to families in the waiting rooms of four public agencies. The program was featured in an article in the March 2002 *Alki*.

Partners included the Wapato and Sunnyside Washington State Department of Social and Health Service (DSHS) Community Services Offices, the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic in Toppenish, and the Yakima Neighborhood Health Services Clinic. These agencies have demonstrated an ongoing interest in family literacy issues.

YVRL hired Elena Perez, a bilingual storyteller, who also visits with parents in waiting rooms, answers questions, and describes library collections and services. The storytimes give a welcome respite to children and parents in the waiting rooms, and model low-key read-aloud techniques. As part of the project, YVRL also developed thirty-two theme boxes, with books in English and Spanish. The boxes include finger plays, flannel boards, toys, and other interesting objects.

Attendance at the waiting rooms varies widely from site to site and from week to week, but partners' comments are all enthusiastic, and YVRL has been pleased with the results so far. At the end of the grant cycle in August 2002, the project will tabulate the weekly statistics and do a final evaluation with the partners. Meanwhile YVRL administration has already provided the funds to continue the project through December 2002, and is considering an expansion of the concept to other agencies.

For further information, contact:

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District: Jacquelyn Keith, phone: (360) 699-8818, email: jkeith@vanlib.fvrl.org.

King County Library System: Jill Olson, phone: (425) 369-3323, email: jilolson@kcls.org.

Pierce County Library System: Judy Gann, phone: (253) 536-6500, ext. 189, email: gannj@pcl.lib.wa.us.

Seattle Public Library: Betsy Kluck-Keil, phone: (206) 386-4636, email: betsy.kluck-keil@spl.org.

Yakima Valley Regional Library, Karen Spence, phone: (509) 452-8541, ext. 721, email: kspence@yvrls.lib.wa.us.

Washington State Library, Martha Shinners, phone: (360) 586-7575, email: mshinners@statelib.wa.gov.

Building Bridges Through Conversation About Intellectual Freedom

by Tami Echavarria

The programs in the intellectual freedom track at this year's OLA/WLA Joint Conference, "Building Bridges", showed us once again that navigating the troubled waters of intellectual freedom is a complex task. There were plenty of proposals to think about, and many bridges to build.

To understand the consternation provoked by intellectual freedom issues, it is helpful to review the context in which they arise. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects freedom of expression. Our Founding Fathers realized that the right to vote was insufficient in itself to control official actions and policy-making. They considered the Amendment necessary to encourage debate on a wide range of controversial matters, and to inform public opinion, an essential part of the mechanism of a democratic government. The First Amendment protects from government intrusion the overlapping realms of belief, emotion, reason, and political activity. Political action is driven by a freedom of the mind, an intellectual freedom (Cox, p.730).

"Intellectual Freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored. Intellectual Freedom encompasses the freedom to hold, receive and disseminate ideas" (American Library Association. Office of Intellectual Freedom). Academic freedom is a related concept that is guided by a deep conviction of the dignity and worth of the advancement of knowledge. Colleges and universities guarantee academic freedom to faculty because "the common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition" (American Association of University Professors), and because free inquiry in research and teaching are vital to fulfilling this common good.

In the library profession, *The Library Bill of Rights* serves as our interpretation of the First Amendment. "Its basic principles state that librarians have taken upon themselves the responsibility to provide, through their institutions, all points of view on all questions and issues of our times, and to make these ideas and opinions available to anyone who needs or wants them, regardless of age, race, religion, national origin, or social or political views" (*Intellectual Freedom Manual*, p.viii). Librarians and faculty, dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, provide a place where a person so inclined can learn to the limits of his or her abilities and to the limits of what is known.

Dr. Holly Carter says digital equity is more promise than reality. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

Morgan: Report on ALA Challenge to CIPA

Nationally, the American Library Association weighs in on the side of strong intellectual freedoms whenever the opportunity arises. At the ALA/PNLA Breakfast, Candace Morgan gave a report on the ALA's challenge to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA appeared as a rider attached to the Labor, Health and Human Services Education Appropriation Bill. It mandates that libraries and schools install filters on all computers with Internet access as a prerequisite to gaining federal grant funds, including the E-rate Program, the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA), and the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA), all of which assist schools and libraries to provide needed community access to information resources. Morgan said the issue is not whether to protect children, but whether CIPA infringes on First Amendment protections. ALA contends that local communities know best the interests of their constituencies and should establish their own policies on library Internet usage. ALA further contends that because Internet filters cannot distinguish illegal speech from constitutionally protected speech, CIPA counters other federal efforts—like LSTA and ESEA—that seek to narrow the so-called "digital divide" for all Americans ("American Library …"). Morgan said that no matter what the court decides, the decision will be appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Carter: Keynote Address

In her keynote address "Digital Equity in the Information Age: Challenges and Opportunities," Dr. Holly M. Carter, head of Community Technology Development, Inc. in Boston, observed that despite years of media attention and discourse, digital equity remains a problem today. Carter said that a decade ago only 10% of Americans were competent to fill the 60% of corporate jobs requiring computer competency, and that today few minorities yet have such competence. She cited studies showing that technologies have exacerbated inequality. She said that

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information technology alone does not empower people: to be empowered, a person must creatively use information technology to successfully negotiate life's problems. Although she sees libraries as public gateways that poor and disenfranchised people may use to expand their socioeconomic choices and enhance their job futures, Carter said that most of the underserved people in our communities see libraries as elitist and irrelevant. She challenged librarians to get out of their buildings and into their communities, to make underserved Americans realize libraries can lead to better and more productive lives through access to information.

Berman: On Services to the Homeless, and On Workplace Democracy

Among the underserved and disenfranchised people who use our libraries are the homeless. Retired Hennepin County librarian Sanford Berman spoke on behalf of homeless people in his session "Must the Poor Be Always Amongst Us and @ Your Library??" Berman helped craft the ALA's Policy on Services for the Poor and Homeless, a policy that has yet to be fully realized in many libraries. Berman said that libraries often levy fines and borrowing fees to generate revenue rather than to encourage responsibility, and said such policies are an example of institutionalized classism. When we put a price on services, he said, we reject a part of our community we should be serving. Berman encouraged librarians to read street newspapers and non-mainstream publications that represent the voices of poverty, and to make them available in libraries. This practice gives people an opportunity to hear more diverse points of view. Berman's remarks on classism echoed some of Carter's observations that many disenfranchised people see libraries as elitist institutions unconcerned with their problems and irrelevant to their lives.

Free speech does not grant the right to be a thorn in someone's side.

In another program, "Free Speech in the Workplace," Berman held that free speech in libraries is realized only for union members and for college faculty with academic freedom clauses in their contracts. Berman, a controversial figure whose outspokenness had put him at odds with his longtime employer, Hennepin County Library System in Minnesota, recently resigned as head cataloger. Three distinguished panelists responded to Berman's story. The first, Ed House, Director of the Beaverton Public Library in Oregon, agreed that free speech may give us the right to say whatever we please, but said that we must be willing to live with the consequences of what we say. When we sign a contract to work for an organization or institution, we are seen as a representing it, and are expected to support it. As employees we use our judgment in not using institutional resources to speak out against that institution, House said, and we cannot say anything that is on our mind without accepting the consequences. The American Association of University Professors' "1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments" states that while professors are free to say and think what they believe, appropriate restraint must be exercised in expressing that academic freedom (American Association of Universtiy Professors). Oregon State Librarian Jim Scheppke, the second of the panelists, read an excerpt from a biography of Melvil Dewey, *Irrepressible Reformer,* that reveals Dewey's tyrannical bent (Wiegand). He cautioned that the tradition has persisted and we must "vanquish our inner Dewey." He described the workplace as a partnership in which each party has a right to say "no." Relinquishing that right of sovereignty undermines the partnership. The third panelist was Charles Hinkle, a Portland attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, who said that the First Amendment restricts not what an individual can do, but only what government can do. He cited two Supreme Court cases, *Pickering v. Board of Education* (391 U.S. 563) in 1968, and *Rankin v. McPherson* (483 U.S. 378) in 1987, both of which hold that though employers must listen to disgruntled employees, they also have a right to expect employees to support administrative decisions and may fire any employee who continues to contest employers' decisions. Free speech does not grant the right to be a thorn in someone's side.

Holcomb and Horowitz: Access to Justice Campaign

There was exciting news about access to legal information in the session, "The Access to Justice—Technology Bill of Rights Initiative: A Role for Libraries," presented eloquently by King County Law Librarian Jean Holcomb and Judge Donald Horowitz, leaders of the Access to Justice Board. Under the auspices of the Washington State Bar, the Access to Justice Board provides open, equal access to information in the justice system, and also advocates for those with no voice in the justice system. Holcomb's brainchild, the initiative is a grassroots campaign to ensure that technology upgrades to judicial records systems have adequate access points for citizens to gain meaningful access to such records. Holcomb and Horowitz said that justice records systems have historically served only legal professionals and court officers. If adopted by the Washington Supreme Court as a court rule, every office and court at all levels would be required to implement upgradeable interactive software that would provide access to all users, including vulnerable populations. It would not be an unfunded mandate and could be implemented in about two years. No other state has done anything so comprehensive, and indeed many other states have inquired about the initiative.

Ryan, Haselton: Two Sessions on Youth Internet Access

The "Cyberspace for the 'Net generation" session examined how youth pursue information and laid out some of the implications of Congress' attempt to protect them through CIPA. Sara Ryan, a young adult librarian in the Multnomah County Library System, told the audience that there is a huge population of teens, that they are their own best intellectual freedom advocates, and that they promote themselves through personal websites. While 90% of teens seek information online, there is a digital divide along race and class lines, Ryan said. For example, 25% of Hispanic teens versus only 6% of Caucasian teens have never been online. Teens use chat rooms, electronic lists, and instant messaging to communicate about the latest trends and products and use the web to get information about books of interest to them. Ryan said that marketers have consistently supported open Internet access for teens, though their concern seems less for civil liberties than for purposes of exploitation.

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Peacefire founder Bennett Haselton reviewed CIPA as it pertained to youth Internet access, and discussed Peacefire's studies revealing amazingly high error rates of common blocking software despite consistent vendor claims that human screeners view every site. Peacefire is an organization founded by teens to promote and lobby for open Internet access. "Facts are on the side of librarians arguing that blocking software doesn't work; rhetoric is on the side of blocking software advocates," he said.

While there are those who champion access to information for noble purposes, there are also those who do so for ignoble purposes. Always among us are those who use their own intellectual and academic freedom to prescribe censorship for others. While such people are full of rationalizations for this position, intellectual and academic freedom advocates trust people to critically evaluate, discern, and distinguish information for themselves. There are also those who take literally the right to express their beliefs in whatever way they deem appropriate, and others who exercise appropriate restraint in respect for others.

These attitudes are especially poignant in the context of contemporary digital technology. Dr. Holly Carter noted that "anyone can find out anything about you through technology." This is a disconcerting fact, particularly as it concerns privacy on the Internet, where there can be unrestricted access to information and ideas in any communications medium. There are very complex issues here that are involved with the obvious and not-so-obvious ramifications of privacy in the digital realm. Perhaps that is a topic for another WLA conference. The intellectual freedom conversation will continue, as will attempts to build better bridges.

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Reclaiming Imagination and Creativity Through Story

by Kathy Bullene

"Once, everyone was sad, but no one knew why. It was because there was no ..."

With such intriguing opening lines, storyteller Dayton Edmonds entertained and educated a roomful of WLA conference attendees with both his tales and his insights into the art of story. Through stories, Dayton gave life to his art and shared some of himself with his audience. He also spoke about the role of a storyteller within a culture, shared his personal philosophies about story, and told how to gather stories and tell them effectively. The result was a unique glimpse into the never-ending journey of a master storyteller.

Edmonds, a full-blooded Native American of the Caddo nation, grew up listening to the stories of his grandparents and extended family members. His expertise derives from both the collective memories of his culture and from his own past and present work. Dayton's artistry takes many forms—drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, as well as puppetry. He also plays guitar and flute. These abilities help him create pictures in the "mind's eye" of each audience member. According to Dayton's website (http://www.daytonedmonds.com), he strives to pass on story arts to his audience and encourage them to grow by sharing with them a perspective from a different part of life than they've previously experienced.

Dayton said that he views story as a way to hold together a people's way of belief and their culture. The storyteller preserves the collective memory of a people and passes it on to others. Story is a living art, one that lives only in telling. If stories are not told, they die; and when stories vanish, so do the people who told them. Individuals having the gift to tell stories should pass them on so that the tales will continue to live.

Stories are magical. Once a teller or listener grasps and believes their magic, everything is possible, and nothing impossible. Stories must be told with conviction, for the audience's belief in the tale echoes the teller's.

Story also combines truth and non-truth. Non-truths in stories are not falsehoods or lies, but are devices that allow the listener to learn truth through the actions of such characters as talking frogs and wolves in grandmother's clothing. Truth itself is not stagnant, but changes as perspectives change. As Dayton pointed out, Portland lies to the south for someone near the Canadian border but is to the west for someone living in Kansas. What is true to one may not be true to the other, and yet both are correct. Truth also changes as the listener grows, develops, and expands his or her awareness. The truth a listener takes from a story as a child will differ from that taken by the same person as an adult. A teller year after year repeating a story acknowledges its value and its ability to speak the truth on a variety of levels.

Dayton stressed (and demonstrated in his telling) that repeating a phrase or gesture can help hold a story together. Dayton's personal style involves the extensive use of various types of gestures and sign language. He explained that some were pictorial and learned from his grandparents, while others were American Sign Language, or were signs learned in other venues.

Dayton urged the audience never to moralize when telling a story. Moralizing confines the listener to one truth, while a story left to itself speaks different truths to different listeners. He prefers to give the audience credit for being able to think and discover truth for themselves. He also reminded the audience to remember that listeners will have different levels of comprehension and understanding. The phrase "Christmas is just around the corner" means one thing to a five-year-old and something else entirely to an adult.

Storytelling requires imagination and creativity and gives ownership to the listener. Dayton told a story about the poor-but-generous old man and woman, whom a bird led to a magical pool of water that restored their youth. Dayton never specified the bird's color, but I'm sure it was blue. Another listener stated emphatically that it was yellow. The power of story—and of storytellers like Dayton Edmonds—rests on its ability to evoke just such individual truths.

Kathy Bullene is a children's librarian at the Arlington branch of the Sno-Isle Regional Library System.

Goin' Someplace Special: Trends in Children's Literature

by Anne Bingham

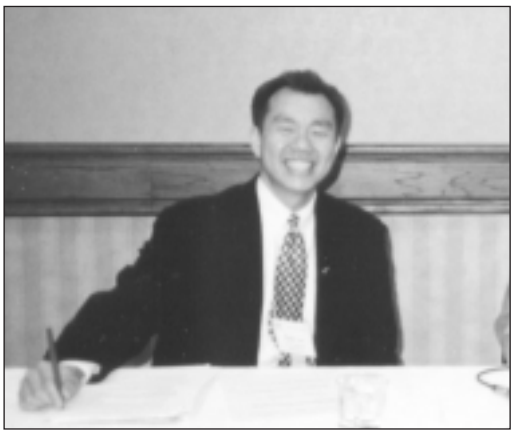
Goin' Someplace Special, winner of the Coretta Scott King 2002 Illustrator Award, tells of Patricia McKissack's first trip alone to the public library in 1950s Nashville. This engaging narrative describes the obstacles and humiliations—and ultimate victory—experienced by the author in entering the sanctuary of the library. The library doorway proclaimed that ALL ARE WELCOME: that the Jim Crow laws were not enforced within those walls, that the public library was a "doorway to freedom." The story ends at this first triumph, but we must wonder what happened when she got inside the books. Did the volumes McKissack found on the shelves reflect the library's lofty motto, or the gauntlet she had just run?

As today's "doorways of freedom" open more easily, we librarians select and promote books representing a multitude of voices. The book world of children's literature is changing just as quickly as other areas of publishing, and analysts predict radical changes in how we interpret and promote children's materials, especially as we slough off burdensome stereotypes of form and content. The new millennium calls for extreme reinterpretation of the materials, and Eliza Dresang advocates this new ideal. She challenges publishers, booksellers, and consumers to embrace new formats, to allow youth to speak for themselves, and to discard old taboos circumscribing ideas and communities.

Dresang's ideals are evident in the field, but many publishers and booksellers still use the old paradigms in a book market closely split between new titles and revisions of older works. Market strategists promote celebrity authors, whose works sell quickly at first, then languish for lack of merit. Publishers are also developing a market for adaptations of adult books for children, a practice called "getting more juice from the same orange" (Lodge). Authors cut the text in half, trim the vocabulary, and alter the voice and illustrations of the piece to appeal to a younger audience. This technique is usually implemented after the adult version has achieved some market success, but some works are issued simultaneously for adults and children (see *Born to Fly: The Heroic Story of Downed U.S. Navy Pilot Lt. Shane Osborn*). Large publishing houses adopt these strategies as a way to ensure marketability and profit.

Industry mergers and acquisitions have left children's literature in the hands of a few large companies, and greatly diminished diversity in the field. Good selection is further eroded since the mega-chain stores controlling sales lack experienced staff to recommend and guide consumers.

Thankfully, there are counter-movements afoot that address the best intentions of children's literature advocates, whose devotion to traditional and innovative strengths was discussed at the WLA/OLA Joint Conference program titled, "Current Trends and Issues in Children's Publishing and Bookselling." Karen Spence led the panel composed of Philip Lee, publisher of Lee & Low Books, and Chauni Haslet, owner of All for Kids, Books & Music.



Publisher Philip Lee. Photo courtesy of Karen Spence.

When he started his company ten years ago, Philip Lee noticed that most multicultural books centered on folklore and history. Now a publisher of multicultural children's books, Lee promotes a diverse pool of authors and artists, and offers contemporary books in divergent voices. In explaining the trials and economics of a small publishing house to a capacity crowd, Lee compared large and small publishing houses. He has found that multicultural books take longer to find their market and may take longer to sell, discouraging larger publishing houses from carrying them. But smaller publishers can carry them, since they need to sell half as many copies to turn a profit.

Lee & Low is able to publish about twenty percent of the 1,200 manuscripts it receives annually. Each book takes two years to bring to market. Thus, the irony of the industry is that award books can be out of print by the time they are honored. However, Lee says he feels that ethnic book awards are important in raising awareness of this category of books as being vital.

Census statistics confirm that multicultural titles are of central importance to conversations in our society, but Lee finds that many people do not comprehend this. Although he no longer encounters the attitude that a library or school does not need certain ethnic books because that institution does not serve "that population," the rejoinder that "we have enough of those types of books" is still common. Lee is working towards the day when books will be chosen for their quality, not "color."

The other panelist, Chauni Haslet, described the hurdles she faces in running her children's bookstore, whose high costs and rivalry with online and chain stores make it difficult for her to stay competitive. Large stores tend to reduce their stock by promoting a smaller number of titles. Because such stores carry bestsellers rather than a "mid-list" of steady sellers, good but less popular titles go out of print for lack of demand. Haslet said book buyers ought to support independent booksellers who belong to BookSense.com, a consortium of independents. She garnered applause from the conference audience when she dismissed children's e-books as lacking "lapability." Even though Haslet favors traditional formats, she advocates expanding and exploring new voices. She got a laugh when she

Anne Bingham is a reference librarian at the University of Washington.

said books of "realistic fiction" like Barbara Kerley's *A Cool Drink of Water* would prosper.

Haslet said that the old antagonism between libraries and bookstores is gone, and that the two institutions have a lot in common, including the need to track what is on shelf. Like librarians, Haslet and her dedicated staff serve as readers' advisors to their own patron community.

Haslet and Lee agreed on some of the trends in book publishing. Both recognize the need for more biracial books, more Spanish-language books, and in general more books in languages other than English. Both note a boom in the fickle young adult market. There has also been a need for books that answer to the emotional and intellectual demands of September 11—for example, books about the military, religion, and the Middle East. Another patron demand is for books dealing with magic, fairies, princesses, and blends of "superscience"—all serving the imagination's desire to escape. And verse-lovers have probably noticed that poetry is no longer anathema, as rap music has familiarized and absorbed this genre for teenagers. Finally, publishers have found that creating websites that tie in with books is not only a good marketing tool, but also can extend the life of a title, as the website can be continuously updated.

Bookseller Chauni Haslet. Photo courtesy of Karen Spence.

Lee and Haslet emphasized their commitment to and belief in their work, and noted that a broader spectrum of people making and selling books would benefit the industry. They showed that—little by little, *poco a poco*—progress is being made in making everyone welcome, not only in the library, but within the pages of children's books. The standing-room-only crowd, the excited discussion, and the attendance at all of the children's literature and CAYAS events indicates that children's literature is truly *Goin' Someplace Special*.

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Library Services to Homeless Youth

by Kevin Geloff and Darlene Nordyke

Kevin Geloff: Collaborating to help teens. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

Every Thursday morning, rain or shine, the students at Interagency Academy in Seattle's University District gather up their belongings and go to the library. Often, this means packing up *all* of their belongings, because most of the students at this school are homeless. The University District has long been a magnet for young people. Many of these youth are running away from abusive situations at home; others struggle with mental illness and substance abuse. In the U-District, they have been able to find food, shelter, a shower, clean clothes, and for the last two years, educational opportunities as well, at a site created by the Seattle School District in partnership with the University District Youth Center (UDYC).

One of the school's goals is to help young people establish positive relationships with community members and organizations. From the very beginning, the Seattle Public Library's University Branch embraced this overlooked population. Darlene Nordyke, Youth Services Librarian, helps students obtain library cards and, if need be, waives fines and develops payment plans to help them get a fresh start. Darlene works with Kevin Geloff and Mike McCann of the school staff, to develop special programming that will make the library and its services attractive and available to the students. Students have participated in Banned Books Week activities, written book reviews for the library's website, and attended the "Shake the Stacks" music shows held in the library's basement. Additionally, the library has employed a student intern through The Working Zone, a University District program that also works with homeless youth.

Most recently, students read Louis Sachar's *Holes* as part of "What if All Kids Read the Same Book" event in Seattle. Darlene provided the books and facilitated a book talk, at which students ate pizza and discussed in detail various aspects of the book. The library also provided tickets for interested students to attend the Seattle Children's Theater adaptation of *Holes*. Next year, two book discussion groups are planned, one in September to coincide with Banned Books Week, and another in spring 2003.

The relationship the young people establish with the library continues even after they finish school. Darlene and the staff at the University Branch report that students, both past and present, can often be seen studying at the tables, using the Internet, or lounging in the comfortable chairs with a good book in their hands. When asked, most of the students describe the library as "safe," "quiet," and "a positive place to be." In their often-chaotic lives, the library provides a structured environment. The staff is helpful and caring. The expectations are clear. Reprimands are delivered with respect, and needs and questions are not dismissed or ignored.

What You Can Do

A library can take various paths to serve homeless youth. Many teenagers are intimidating; and homeless youth may have even more barriers up, both in physical appearance (i.e. body language, wild hair, and lots of piercings), and also emotionally. One of the most important things anyone who works in a library can do for any teenager, but most importantly one who is at risk, is to smile and say "Hi!" Even if this greeting appears to be ignored or barely elicits a response, the gesture means a lot. It means that you welcome them to the library, you remember them, and they will remember that.

Another way to serve homeless youth is to seek out the agencies in your community that work with such youth and discuss what the library can do for them. Bringing books and library card applications to a youth shelter, day center, or teen feed is another great way to reach homeless youth.

Keep in mind two very import points once a connection has been made with the youth or agency. First, be flexible and empathetic. A homeless teenager's life is constantly in flux, and you may have to adjust your typical library policies. A teen volunteer may not show up on time or at all one day due to some unforeseen problem, or a book may end up lost if a backpack containing everything he or she owns is stolen. Second, communicate with the entire library staff. Each staff member must be aware of the partnership with the agency and of the young people you are serving, in order to ensure that the youth receive consistent service and not get mixed signals from the library. If possible, make the entire library system or the youth services department aware as well.

The University District Youth Center and the University Branch Library have successfully developed a partnership to ensure the library and the youth are connected. The benefits are visible. The youth from the UDYC have become frequent users of the library even after they have graduated. Hopefully this connection will continue throughout their lives, and they will know that the library is a safe and pleasant place to visit.

Kevin Geloff is Site Supervisor for the University District Youth Center Interagency School, Seattle School District. Darlene Nordyke is Youth Services Librarian at University Branch, Seattle Public Library.

Neither Geekish Nor Freakish: Two Librarians Put the "Pop" into Pop Culture

by Angelina Benedetti

When you hear the name Ozzy, do you think "and Harriet"?
Is Pink just the color of the tile in your bathroom?
Is your Morse code faster than your instant messaging?

If so, take heart. Two librarians may be able to help you.

Erin Helmrich from Royal Oak Public Library and Wendy Woltjer from Kalamazoo Public Library presented "Geeks and Freaks: Pop Culture and Teens" to a packed audience at the OLA/WLA Joint Conference 2002. Erin and Wendy both work with teens at their libraries and together co-author the pop culture quiz column for *VOYA, the Voice of Youth Advocates*. Their enthusiasm and lively presentation style made this hour-long foray into the world of teen culture fun for all comers.

According to Erin and Wendy, pop culture includes the books, the hair, the technologies, the clothes, the movies, the magazines, the music, and even the language of the time. It both defines a group and sets it apart from other groups. Teens embrace pop culture as a way to seek identity, try on new identities, and communicate with their peers.

The presenters began by asking the audience to name the wildest or trendiest thing they'd ever worn. Answers ranged from fringed bell-bottoms, to acid-washed stirrups, to black trench coats and beyond. The point could not have been better made: Every era has its own pop culture, its own trends. Whether it was Elvis and hula-hoops in the 1950s, or MTV and the Brat Pack in the 1980s, each successive generation embraces the fads of its day.

So what defines the generation of teens we see in our libraries today? Called everything from "millennial" and "Y", to "viewsers" and "telewebbers," the population fitting this generational niche is defined by its buying power and technological savvy. More than any generation that has come before, these teens are conditioned consumers who demand quality and aren't afraid to advise their parents in family buying decisions.

More than just an examination of teen pop culture and the teens today, Erin and Wendy's presentation connected the teen world to libraries, and offered practical suggestions for using pop culture in promoting our programs. The presenters referred to books that had "gotten it wrong" by inventing names for well-known products or by saying that curly fries were available at a fast-food chain where they were not on the menu (trying too hard and getting it wrong is the first and worst sin in using pop culture to lure teens). They suggested asking teens themselves for advice and staying attuned to pop culture as a regular part of the job. Attract teens to your library using a space designed just for them, a collection that features new and hot materials, programs that respond to pop culture phenomena (Buffy parties and World Wrestling Federation visits), and teen-friendly policies.

Their suggestions reflected hard-won experience. When the issue of teen spaces was addressed, one presenter described her own very chic-sounding teen area, sporting diner booths and READ posters. The problem? Elderly patrons like the booths too much. Whether it is because the booths remind them of their bygone youth or because they offer superior back support, no one can be sure. The other presenter noted that when she designed her own teen space, she furnished it so that only teens would be comfortable. Both suggested budgeting for consumables, food, and prize giveaways for programs. They had even gone so far as to host cooking classes for teens in their libraries, bringing in guest chefs from the community.

In connecting our libraries to the pop culture and teens of today, Erin Helmrich and Wendy Woltjer truly "built a bridge." Their breadth of knowledge combined with their energetic style and fun content made this presentation one of the most memorable on the program. We thank them for showing us how much fun this particular bridge will be to cross ourselves.

...pop culture includes the books, the hair, the technologies, the clothes, the movies, the magazines, the music and even the language of the time.

Angelina Benedetti is Young Adult Selector with the King County Library System.

Southwest Washington Loses Library Pioneer, First Director of Timberland

by Leanne Ingle

Timberland Regional Library (TRL) recorded a milestone recently with the passing of one of its pioneers. Louise E. (Becky) Morrison, Timberland's first director, died March 26, leaving a legacy of commitment to service in public libraries in Southwest Washington rural communities. "With a sense of humor and a commitment to creating a family, Becky established a philosophy of outstanding patron service that lives on today," said longtime TRL librarian, Jay Windisch.

Becky Morrison, Washington library pioneer. Photo courtesy of Mary Stough.

Until the late 1960s, library services were provided in Washington's Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston counties by stand-alone small town and city libraries; a two-county library system; and two separate rural county systems. Rural Lewis County and many other unincorporated communities scattered over the 6,943 square mile area had little or no library service. Morrison was appointed as director of a project to demonstrate what a unified regional library district could do for all these communities. Along with the Washington State Library, other library leaders, and citizen volunteers, Morrison was tireless in fostering the Timberland Library Demonstration, which established and provided bookmobile service in Lewis County; central ordering, cataloging, and processing of materials through pooled book budgets; a joint book catalog, listing the holdings of the participating libraries; a system for requesting the loan of participating libraries' materials, and a courier system for bringing them to the patron's nearest library; 16mm film service; and in-service training for staff.

Morrison directed the Timberland Library Demonstration project from 1967 until it received voter approval as a region-wide rural library district in 1969. She was appointed as Timberland's first director and served for seventeen years until her retirement in 1985. She devoted herself to strengthening the professional library value and tradition of topnotch service to patrons. "She inspired staff to make a difference for people. Her philosophy was to give the best service possible, to know your patrons and to be approachable," said Windisch.

At TRL's 30th Anniversary Celebration in November 1999, Bill Lawrence of Lewis County, one of Morrison's fellow TRL pioneers and a member of TRL's original Board of Trustees, led the dedication of the Louise E. "Becky" Morrison Conference & Learning Center, housed in the District's administrative service center in Olympia. "Becky is missed and will remain in our hearts and history," said current TRL Director Thelma Kruse.

Donations in Morrison's memory may be sent to the Timberland Regional Library Foundation, P.O. Box 7177, Olympia, WA 98507-7077. Donations will go into an endowed memorial fund for library collections and will be recognized annually.

Leanne Ingle is a communications specialist in Timberland Regional Library System

Morrison *(Continued from page19)*

that option, the mother preferred to do the book selection herself.

Becky had a good sense of humor and varied interests. She was a true Francophile. She loved boats and sailing and had completed the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's course of basic seamanship. Her passion for libraries was almost (but not quite) equaled by her passion for sports, first for the Huskies football team and then for the Mariners. Winning was not so much the point for her as enjoying a well-played game. In the early days of the Mariners, Becky often consoled her companions on the long drive home, with "Well, it was a GOOD game, anyway."

The highest accolade Becky could grant to someone—a board member, a political candidate (Democratic, of course), a fellow librarian, a quarterback, a right fielder—was he/she "really cared." All those who were fortunate enough to know Louise E. (Becky) Morrison knew a great librarian and a great person. We know that you "really cared," Becky.

Louise "Becky" Morrison, 1923-2002: Her Legacy

by Mary L. Stough

Becky Morrison was born in Melrose, New Mexico in 1923. She moved to Washington in 1942 and attended the University of Puget Sound while she worked as a clerk in the Tacoma Public Library. In 1961, she graduated *magna cum laude* with majors in French and English. The following year she received her Master of Library Science from the University of Washington. From 1962-1964, Becky worked in U. S. Army Special Services Libraries in France. When family illness brought her back to the United States, she took the position of Coordinator of Adult Services at the Pierce County Library. In 1968, Becky directed the Timberland Library Demonstration, then became the first director of the newly formed Timberland Regional Library System. She served in that capacity until her retirement in May 1985.

Always active in the library profession, Becky was a member of ALA, PNLA, and WLA, which presented her its President's Award in 1985. The award listed the many offices she held during her career and observed that "Of particular note are Becky's legislative knowledge, especially of the timber tax, and her behind-the-scenes work with legislators. Library service statewide has benefited from her skills and knowledge."

Becky was well known for her dedication to public service and to intellectual freedom. In articulating her public library service philosophy, Becky said, "It is my deep conviction that the public library should provide the best possible range of services for ALL the people it attempts to serve: the rich and the poor … the young and the old … those persons who are able to come to the library and those who cannot … I believe that the public has a right to all the facts on all sides of all questions … I have always insisted on a balanced collection which reflects this belief."

A parent who once demanded of Becky that the library remove from the collection *The Carrot Seed*, in which a little boy, having been told by his parents that his carrot seeds would not grow, watered them anyway. He had faith that they would grow—and they did. "The book undermines parental authority" said the mother. "I wouldn't have gotten that from the book," said Becky, then "Are you going choose what your children read, or am I?" Given

(Continued on previous page)

Mary Stough retired from Timberland Regional Library in 1984 as Assistant Director for Public Service.

Washington Legal Researcher's Deskbook 3d

New 2002 edition

This resource book was written to assist members of the public, legal secretaries, legal assistants, librarians and lawyers, in the complex task of solving legal problems. This practical legal research tool focuses on law in the state of Washington and legal materials that are available to the Washington practitioner.

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WLA and WLFTA Awards 2002

Held at our annual conference, the WLA Awards Luncheon recognizes particularly noteworthy contributions by members to the Washington library community. This year's honorees:

The library board, staff, and friends of the Orcas Island Library District received the **WLA Merit Award for Advances in Library Services** in recognition of their forging community partnerships to enhance lifelong learning on Orcas Island.

Clockwise from top left: Meredith Wagner, Jim Clements, Anne Haley, John Quast of Yes! For the Edmonds Library, Retired Col. June Rainey, and Ginny Rabago. Photos by Ed Vidinghoff.

Meredith Wagner, Associate Director of Jefferson County Library District, received the **WLA Merit Award for Outstanding Performance in a Special Area** for her leadership in the Cooperative Library Automated Network (CLAN), which includes three school libraries, a city library and a county library.

Ginny Rabago of Boeing Technical Library received the **WALE Employee of the Year Award** for her many contributions to the library community. Ginny has served on the WALE Conference Committee, the ALA Support Staff Interest Round Table (SSIRT), as chair of the WLA Membership Committee and as editor of *Link*. In a "support staff" position, Ginny has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism.

Bonnie Taylor, Trustee at Mid-Columbia Library District, received the **WLFTA Trustee Award #1**. Bonnie distinguished herself by involving diverse community and board members in developing a five-year plan for the district.

Retired Col. June Rainey, Trustee at Camas Public Library, received the **WLFTA Trustee Award #2** in recognition of her work in advocating the Camas Library Bond issue, for her work with the library's Friends group and foundation, and for her First Amendment advocacy in difficult times.

The **WLFTA Trustee/Friend Award #1** was bestowed on Jim Grayson, Trustee of the King County Library System, for his support of Friends and library boards locally, statewide, and nationally. Jim is further recognized for advocating library service to diverse communities, and for his optimism during times of change and challenge in libraries.

The **CAYAS Award for Visionary Library Service to Youth** was presented to Judy Nelson of Pierce County Library System in recognition of more than twenty years of exceptional, visionary leadership in youth library services, and particularly for her recent wide-reaching efforts on the Washington State Early Learning Initiative.

David Carnahan, President of the Friends of the Washington State Library, received the **Lifetime Membership Award: Honorary Membership** for his dedication in publishing *The Dynamics of Change: A History of the Washington State Library*. The award citation commends David for "invaluable documentation of the importance of libraries and the quality of library professionalism in this nationally recognized role-model for libraries."

Bruce Ziegman and Lynn Red received the **President's Award** for their unsung role in retaining corporate sponsorships and exhibitors over many years of WLA conferences. The citation states that Bruce's and Lynn's efforts in support of the conference have played a large role in keeping the organization financially healthy.

Four certificates of recognition were given by the WLA Board to groups across the state that provided distinguished service to libraries.

A certificate for **Outstanding Performance in Preserving the Washington Library Legacy** was given to Maryan Reynolds and the Research and Publishing Groups of Becky Morrison, Charlotte Wood, Dorothy Doyle, Dorothy Cutler, David Carnahan, Warren Bishop, Lee Doyle, and Joel Davis. Under Maryan's leadership, this group researched, wrote, and published *The Dynamics of Change: A History of the Washington State Library*, a literate and historically accurate account of library service in Washington.

Judy Nelson, CAYAS award winner. Photo courtesy of Karen Spence.

Three library groups were awarded certificates for **Special Recognition for**

Creativity in Increasing Library Service in Washington State.

The Othello Friends of the Library was honored for its role in saving library service in Othello and in Adams County. The group's efforts contributed to an over 80% approval vote creating the Adams County Library District #1.

Yes! For the Edmonds Library was recognized for its role in saving Edmonds Library from closure. The group rallied library supporters and helped achieve a 57% positive vote for creating a new tax and joining the Sno-Isle Regional Library System.

North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association/Friends of the Three Creeks Community Library were recognized for their successful negotiation with Fred Meyer to build a community library in a shopping center complex. With support of other organizations, the group ran a bond campaign that received a 62% "yes" vote. Under the agreement, Fred Meyer purchased the parking lot for the library.

Special recognition was afforded the following people for their work in saving the state library from the budget axe: State Representatives Bill Grant D-Walla Walla and Jim Clements R-Selah are recognized for their sponsorship of H.B. 2926, which established the State Library in the Secretary of State's office. Secretary of State Sam Reed is recognized for his commitment to preserving the State Library and for his belief in the importance of libraries to the people of Washington. Anne Haley, Chair of the Washington State Library Commission, is commended for her dedication and unflagging support for the State Library during this difficult period.

Victoria Parker, Audrey Stupke and Leonard Wood of Orcas Island Library District. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

President's Award winners Bruce Ziegman and Lynn Red. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

Three-Creeks/North Salmon group established a shopping-center library. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

Bonnie Taylor and Jim Grayson. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

Becky Macy and Jane Hanks of Mid-Columbia Library District. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff.

Maryan Reynolds group. Photo by Ed Vidinghoff

Profile: Sharon Snyder 2002 WLA Scholarship Recipient

by Nancy Huling,
University of Washington Libraries

"In a public library the entire spectrum of humanity is welcome and walks through its doors on a daily basis with some kind of need. The communication of this need is at the heart of everything a library does. I find that listening to all kinds of people, asking questions and offering direction is a magic part of what I do and it energizes every part of my work life. Becoming a librarian is my path." — Sharon Snyder's WLA Scholarship Application, 2001.

Sharon Snyder, full-time library technical assistant and a student in the University of Washington's Information School, is the 2002 WLA Scholarship recipient. Sharon divides her work time in the King County Library System between the Lake Hills Library and the Library Connection @ Crossroads. Connecting people with the information they need is a priority for Sharon. She clearly enjoys her daily opportunities to work with a wide range of library patrons. Sharon considers each patron to be an individual with unique needs, and she enjoys the challenge and reward of ensuring that those needs are met. She worked with the King County Library System's Escape Program, which targeted services and programming for young adults, and served on the Youth Initiative Plan Steering Committee as the support staff representative for KCLS. Already active in WLA, Sharon is the incoming Information School liaison to CAYAS. She is a graduate of Seattle University, and she taught middle school before finding her way to the library world. After completing her MLIS, she hopes to pursue a career as a young adult librarian.

2003 Conference Theme and Logo Announced!

by Mary Wise,
Central Washington University

The theme of the 2003 Washington Library Association Conference is "Journeys of Discovery." This conference—to be held April 9-12, 2003 in Yakima—promises many discoveries, both professional and personal.

Seamless WLA Membership

WLA members, please mark your personal calendars: WLA dues are due January 1. A renewal form is mailed by the last day of November each year. Because untimely renewals mean inaccurate budget planning, we must cut off mailings to people not renewing by February 15.

There are exceptions to this policy:

- ALA-WLA joint memberships under the current two-for-one offers through ALA. These are sent to ALA and we are reimbursed.
- WLMA-WLA reciprocal members who renew at the WLMA Conference.

Do your part to keep the budget process seamless. Renew on time.

Please note: WLA's website now features an Intellectual Freedom page, geared toward Washington libraries. The page features relevant associations and interest groups, a free speech and censorship watch, relevant email groups, key IF documents, sample IF policies, toolkits, and more.

The direct link is http://www.wla.org/iftools.html, or use this pathway: http://wla.org; select drop-down menu QUICK LINKS; select "Intellectual Freedom Tools and Resources for Libraries."

The Pacific Northwest REFORMA Chapter is Born!

By Carla McLean

Over thirty people attended a WLA/OLA Joint Conference workshop on forming a Northwest REFORMA chapter. Ken Ayala Gollersrud of Seattle Public Library's Southwest Branch took the initiative to get this workshop on the conference program.

As planned now, the Pacific Northwest Chapter would cover the states of Washington and Oregon. Meetings would probably be held within each state, except for the rare occasion of a joint conference such as occurred this year. The immediate goals are to set up a means of communication, and then to work on the process of actually forming the chapter. Tools and techniques for outreach are being discussed, and handouts are already being distributed. The plan is to submit the paperwork for approval of a new chapter to REFORMA by ALA's Midwinter Meeting in January 2003.

What is REFORMA? First, it is *not* an acronym—hooray! REFORMA is the "National association to promote library and information services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking," a 501(3)(c) affiliate of the American Library Association. It is very active in the heavily Hispanic areas of Arizona, California, and Texas, and just celebrated its thirtieth anniversary last year. (See the website at www.reforma.org for information about particular chapters.) One can actually join REFORMA as a member "at-large" without joining ALA, so there might be REFORMA members in the Northwest already.

According to its bylaws, the goals of REFORMA are: (i) to unite Hispanic librarians and all other librarians interested in working with the Spanish speaking, (ii) to promote and conduct research and studies concerning educational materials and library programs available to serve the Spanish speaking, (iii) to promote development of Spanish-language and Latino-oriented library collections, (iv) recruitment of bilingual, multicultural library personnel (REFORMA's mentoring program helps non-Latino librarians become familiar and confident in providing library services to the Latino population), (v) promotion of public awareness of libraries and librarianship among Latinos, (vi) advocacy on behalf of the information needs of the Latino community and (vii) liaison to other professional organizations.

One of REFORMA's most noteworthy activities is its annual scholarship drive, which awards a number of scholarships to library school students interested in working with Latinos. Other activities benefiting members include publication of a quarterly newsletter focusing on library services to Latinos and on the latest developments in the organization; publication of an annual membership directory which has, in effect, established a national network of librarians, library trustees, community members, and library school students with mutual concerns; and programs and workshops focusing on the needs of Latinos. You might have attended the June ALA Annual Conference last year and noticed the REFORMA theme, "Embracing a new commitment to activism! —¡Abrazando un compromiso nuevo al activismo!!" Two programs at that conference were titled, "Coalition Building with the Emerging Latino Community: A Necessary Investment for Every Library" and "De Colores: A Spectrum of Library Services to Latinos."

The 2000 census found nearly thirteen million more Hispanics in the U.S. in 2000 than in 1990 ("Latin ..."), although that number might be underestimated because of wording of the census and because census takers missed some 300,000 Salvadorans and 170,000 Dominicans ("Population ..."). The growth in the Hispanic population of the U.S. means the library community must learn about this constituency and share information and expertise about it.

Nationwide there are twenty-one REFORMA chapters, some representing single states, while others—like our chapter—representing regions. Seems the Pacific Northwest is long overdue for its own chapter!

Already, someone has queried our online discussion group for an explanation of the Dewey numbers in Spanish, and the answer included many good sources new to this writer. The online discussion group is provided by the Multnomah County Library System, some of whose staff are active in setting up this organization, and who presented an excellent program at the conference titled, "Going to the Source: Responding to Latino Library Needs by Developing Cultural Understanding." Multnomah County Library also has a very impressive website for Spanish-speakers. Some of the pages include clickable images of staff members who explain their services in Spanish ("Biblioteca ...")!

How can *you* get involved? SI, ¡SE PUEDE! Join us and become a "REFORMISTA"! We have a preliminary website that explains how to get on the online discussion group ("Watch ..."). Please take a look! ¡Gracias!

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"Watch This Space...REFORMA Is Coming to the Northwest!" <http://www.salemlibrary.org/reforma> (23 May 2002)

Carla McLean is a librarian at the Kent Regional Library, King County Library System.

Digital Preservation: The Future of Electronic Resources

by Sue Anderson

Preservation of information resources in the digital age differs from traditional library preservation.

For many in the library community, preservation of resources has traditionally involved identifying well-used books and journals, then repairing and rebinding them. If spines and covers are worn, we repair the items in-house with binding tape and glue. If spines and covers are broken or ripped off, we send the items to a bindery. We bind separate, loose journal issues into physically sturdier volumes. Although libraries continue to use these time-honored print preservation measures, preservation of online electronic resources requires thinking in different terms.

While we purchase print materials themselves to add to our collections, we usually "purchase" *access only* to digital collections. Digital materials are generally located outside our libraries, and reside on servers on aggregator, publisher, or government websites. We may use these collections as long as we pay for access, but we do not control their retention on the server. While libraries may want access to remote electronic materials under conditions similar to our access to print materials, we cannot archive remote online collections because they are not ours. And while some companies currently archive parts of their digital collections, there is no large-scale local, regional, or national archiving taking place at this time.

Format Preservation

Libraries often purchase microfilm or fiche to preserve content of journal and newspaper collections because these compact formats take less space than the original publications. Microformats are machine dependent, however, and will provide access to the historical record of journals and newspapers only as long as companies continue to produce reader-printers. Music has also been purchased in a variety of machine-dependent formats: 78 rpm and 33 1/3 rpm records, 8-track and cassette tapes, and CDs. Patrons' access to 8- and 16-millimeter film, videos, and DVDs also depends on continuing availability and repair of playing equipment.

As libraries buy newer materials, we may no longer have adequate shelf space or funds to purchase or repair machines that are necessary for use of older formats. Already, many libraries no longer retain some of these formats and machines to play them. Are any libraries retaining these formats of musical and visual materials? Do any consider them valuable enough to retain? Do patrons still want to view and listen to the older materials? What if the content is not available in a newer format?

Digital Access

In the digital era, publishers digitize print journals to provide availability in an electronic form. Publishers, aggregators, and state and federal government agencies provide online access to the electronic version; in fact, some journals are now available only in electronic format. Several companies also provide electronic access to books as well. Patrons may prefer electronic access to print because materials seem available "any time, any place."

Such arrangements, however, give libraries no control over the preservation of materials in electronic collections. Companies that manage content determine the extent of material archived, the deletion of back files from the site, and the length of time individual issues are embargoed (held out of electronic collections to avoid competition with print versions). Aggregators purchase rights to place materials on their sites. If aggregators lose access to journals, they remove them from their collections, so material available to library patrons on websites today may be gone tomorrow. Libraries may purchase access to content at the beginning of a licensing term, but end the licensing term with access to quite different content.

Digital government publications can also appear and disappear on government websites. Librarians may add a link in their online catalogs to a government resource, then find that the site disappears without notification to either the Government Printing Office (GPO) or depository libraries. Documents librarians have discovered that older documents are routinely removed from some state agency websites as newer documents are added. They are concerned that older materials are not being archived on agency servers.

WLA/OLA Conference

Digital preservation was a hot topic at the WLA/OLA Joint Conference in Portland. While some sessions described projects already underway, others reflected concerns that material is being lost because no one is actively pursuing its preservation.

Southern Oregon College Library is working on a project to digitize fugitive documents of the Southern Oregon BioRegion and also Indian tribal materials. Southern Oregon Digital Archives, known as SODA, will scan and digitize 409 documents—322 federal and seventy-seven state documents—for a total of 50,680 pages of maps, images, and text. The project is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Tom Stave, a University of Oregon librarian, compared the number of regional agencies in the Pacific Northwest, the number of government documents produced yearly, and the number of records for documents in the OCLC bibliographic database. Although the agencies produced a large number of documents, most were not listed in OCLC. State depository libraries may not receive many of these documents because they are non-depository publications, and an agency library may be the only owner of these documents. There is no indication that agencies are systematically archiving their publications.

(Continued on next page)

Sue Anderson is Acquisitions/Electronic Resources Librarian at Eastern Washington University Libraries.

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Sanford Berman, former cataloger at Hennepin County Library, spoke about the removal of locally-created subject headings from the catalog of his former library. Although these snapshots of materials' subject content are no longer part of the historical record at the library for which they were created, the headings will be preserved in a digital form on the University of Illinois website.

In the federal arena, several cooperative preservation efforts are underway to archive online collections. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is an independent federal agency that preserves federal records. In the last few years, the format of these records has changed from print to online electronic records; and NARA has promised to archive these documents to ensure future access for American citizens. The Agency Records Disposition Online Resource (ARDOR) is a project to place federal agency records of management schedules and manuals online. ARDOR is a reference tool and not a depository for records.

The Center for Electronic Records (CER) is an attempt by NARA to provide access to electronic records. CER evaluates, accessions, and preserves access to electronic records. Its holdings cover genealogy, education, environment, and military. Although most of its records date from the 1960s, earlier records from World War II are also available. At this time, records cannot be accessed online, though data file sets can be purchased from NARA.

Partnerships

Through the Federal Depository Library Program, the GPO sends government publications to depository libraries, for the purpose of making government information available to the public. In 1996, the transition from paper to electronic documents began; and by 2001, about 60% of federal documents "sent" to depository libraries were in electronic format. The GPO wants all GPO-accessed material archived. The Office plans to work with federal agencies to obtain memoranda of understanding specifying that content from websites will be permanently available. The U.S. Congress appropriated about $100 million to the Library of Congress for digital preservation, as well.

In April 2002, The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) announced that it would use a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to work with Dartmouth College Library on developing a Scholarly Communication Institute. This partnership will focus on transforming scholarly communication in a digital environment. The Mellon Foundation also began funding digital archiving in 2001, and Elsevier participated with Yale University in a digital archiving project. In addition, in 1999, Elsevier Science made a formal archiving commitment in its ScienceDirect license.

Grants are also available from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, which provides technical guidance for archival preservation and management as well as training for archivists and other preservation professionals.

Conclusion

Although several federal, regional, and local projects to preserve digital materials are underway, libraries, government agencies, and private foundations must continue to form partnerships to ensure that electronic resources will be archived. To ensure long-term availability of resources, we need to preserve print, film, visual, and music materials as well, both through traditional methods and through digitization.

Libraries contain resources of local, regional, and national historical value, including primary materials that future historians will need for research. Is it our responsibility to provide archives of these collections for historical preservation? Libraries have always been concerned with acquiring and preserving information in all formats. It is time for us to find partners and fund archive projects for digital information, to ensure future access to these digital information resources.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

Alki: The Washington Library Association Journal is published three times per year (March, July, and December). Each issue is centered on a theme relevant to Washington libraries. Unsolicited contributions are welcome and encouraged, but will be published based on the needs of specific issues. All submissions may be edited. The Editor and the *Alki* Committee reserve the right to make the final decision on any submitted material.

Deadlines for submissions are January 15 for the March issue, May 15 for the July issue, and October 15 for the December issue.

Format: Submissions should be in electronic form, if possible. The preferred formats are Word for Windows or ASCII text transmitted as an e-mail message or attachment (in rtf format), or submitted on a PC-formatted 3.5-inch disk. Hard copy will be accepted if the author does not have other options. Photos should be black-and-white. The Editor should be contacted before submitting artwork. Photographic prints and artwork will be returned, if requested. Otherwise, they will not be returned.

Articles typically range in length from 1,000-5,000 words and need not conform to the issue's theme, although theme-related articles are more likely to be published in the corresponding issue. Unsolicited articles unrelated to the theme, if they are selected for publication, will be published on a space-available basis. Articles should be in-depth examinations of issues of importance to Washington libraries. ***Alki*** publishes news and announcements in a column format.

News of personnel changes, professional organizations, awards, grants, elections, facility moves or construction, and/or establishment of newsworthy services can be submitted, and may be edited and included on a space-available basis. Items that require a timely response should be submitted to **The WLA LINK**, instead.**Columns** appear regularly and cover specific areas of library service or operations. Columns typically are pre-assigned in advance, and may be written or administered by a designated person. Anyone interested in submitting material for a specific column should contact the Editor.

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Baby Storytimes: Movers and Shakers in the Library

by Wilma Flanagan

One of the programs I most looked forward to in the OLA/WLA conference was the session on baby storytimes, presented by Monica McClaskey of Sno-Isle Regional Library System in Washington and Natalie Shilling of Multnomah County Library in Oregon.

I have provided preschool storytimes for over twenty years and toddler storytimes for nearly that many. While many babies have attended my programs, usually with their older brothers and sisters, I have never felt a strong need to plan and present a program aimed specifically at this youngest audience. I have often felt that people overexpose their babies to the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, and I did not want the to see the library add to that stress. This feeling was reinforced every time I saw a crying baby at the mall or in the library. Wouldn't this baby be happier in a calm, familiar home environment?

I had the great gift of being able to stay home with my own newborn daughter for six months. We rarely went out in public for the first few months; and she has grown into a very sociable, well-adjusted, and independent child. Waldorf child development resources suggest this may be because she was given the time as a newborn to fully integrate her spirit into her physical body, before being stimulated by sensations and people outside her own family.

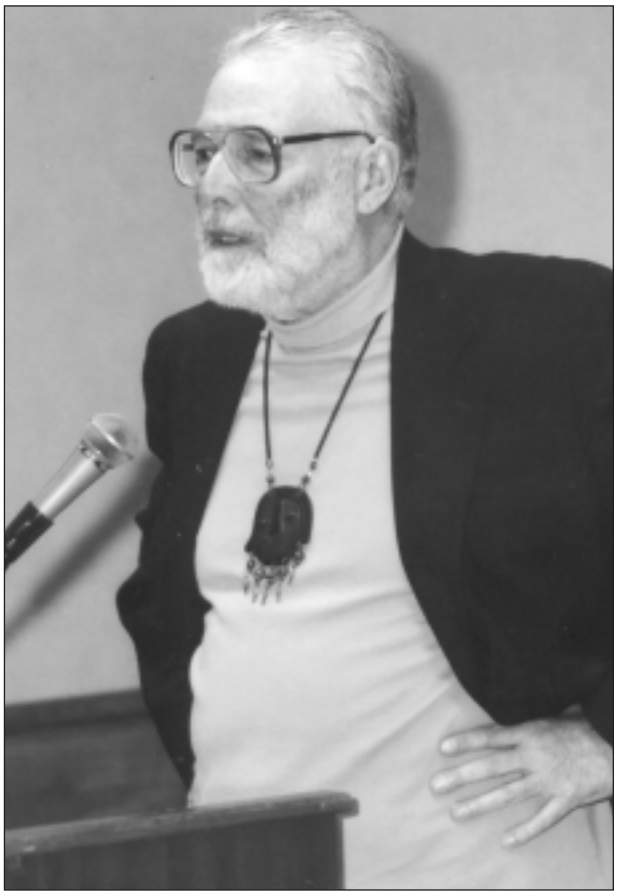
I went to this program with curiosity and an open mind, and left feeling that there is definitely a place for baby storytime in a library's schedule. Natalie and Monica greeted the audience with a display including books, puppets, a parachute used as a table covering, a bin full of baby toys, and on each chair a folder full of information such as program outlines, fingerplays, booklists, publicity, and articles about the why and how of providing baby storytimes. This folder contains a wealth of information, and by itself made the program worth attending.

The presenters explained why babies need books. Recent studies of brain development show how much growth and learning takes place in the first six years, so it is important not to wait until age six or even age three to introduce children to reading. The earlier you start, the earlier learning begins. And besides, babies love to interact with other babies and love to develop a relationship with the storyteller. The parents and caregivers also learn how to share books with their young children, and enjoy meeting other families with children the same age.

The two presenters' programs differed in some respects. Natalie does two different programs, one for infants who are not yet mobile and the other for babies who are starting to actively explore the world around them, whom she calls the "movers and shakers." I thought this division made a lot of sense, as there is a very large difference in ability of the two groups. Monica, on the other hand, aims her program at six- to eighteen-month old babies, up to toddler age. They both intersperse playtime with simple stories, fingerplays, flannelboards, and puppets, although one does the playtime in the middle of the storytime, and the other does it at the end. Playtime allows parents a chance to chat and interact with each other and their babies, and gives the babies a bit of wiggle time.

The audience quickly jumped in with questions about every aspect of providing storytimes for babies, so most of the session followed a question-and-answer format. By the time the session ended, I was convinced that baby storytime would be a fun and worthwhile new service to offer.

Wilma Flanagan is a youth services librarian at Spokane County Library District.



An interview with retired Hennepin County librarian Sanford Berman will appear in Alki's *March 2003 issue, which is devoted to intellectual freedom.* Alki *had planned to publish the interview in this conference issue, but decided to defer it since Berman's interview centered on workplace freedom of expression and workplace democracy. Including it with other works on intellectual freedom seems most appropriate, and we think it will be worth the wait.*

Who's On First?

Collateral Damage: Information, Intellectual Freedom, and the War on Terrorism

by Tom Reynolds

Collateral damage. The term has become a media fixture in our post-cold war world, a world characterized by civil wars and police actions fought with both high-tech and low-tech weapons, yet distinguished by a lack of identifiable battle lines and clear combatants.

Collateral damage refers to the death and injury of innocents resulting from military action. But in today's military goodspeak, the term has been cleverly fashioned to trivialize actions that would otherwise be unjustifiable. Orwell's Big Brother could learn a thing or two from our modern military and government propagandists.

In the wake of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and in the subsequent declaration of a worldwide War on Terrorism, Americans have suffered significant home-front collateral damage. Ironically, some of the worst of this damage has been self-inflicted. For in actions oddly parallel to those of the Trade Center terrorists, we have allowed a sneak attack on our Bill of Rights and rationalized it as a cost of increased security.

Americans have a long history of doing this in wartime. Acting out of fear, in the heat of anger, and with the demand for immediate justice, we pass bad laws and develop policies we later regret. Just ask the Japanese-American internees of World War II, our self-described Good War. The first casualties of such public policies are often minorities, ethnic and political. But the bigger, longer-term casualty is generally our civil liberties. In the months since 9/11, legislation was passed that undermines our basic rights to due process, severely limits our rights to privacy, and restricts our timely access to information about government policies. Even more disturbing is a developing climate in which public officials question each other's patriotism while suggesting that even the basic democratic process of government accountability is dangerous to our security.

In the post-9/11 environment, Congress sidestepped normal hearing and committee procedures to swiftly pass legislation that greatly expanded the power of federal law enforcement agencies investigating foreign intelligence and international terrorism cases. The result was the "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act," quickly christened the USA Patriot Act by the administration and its supporters.

The hasty and chaotic creation of the Patriot Act, passed without proper hearings and essentially no legislative record (it is the legislative record that is normally used to determine congressional intent in interpreting new laws), is recorded on the Electronic Privacy Information Center and ALA websites. (I recommend that everyone interested in how the Patriot Act came into being read "Libraries and the Patriot Legislation" on ALA's website, www.ala.org/washoff/patriot.html.) It is a troubling record.

A broad coalition of civil liberties organizations, including ALA, was rebuffed in its efforts to add speech and privacy-sensitive restrictions to this new legislation. Out of a very confused congressional process, and with little outside input, came a new law based primarily on Bush administration proposals. The few changes that were made (including removal of a limitation on *habeas corpus* protections) happened because the original proposals were viewed as too extreme for even our relatively conservative Congress.

In the end, only two major civil liberties provisions were added before the original legislation became the Patriot Act. One was a sunset requirement on the bill's electronic surveillance provisions. The other was a provision requiring judicial oversight of the use of the FBI's Carnivore system, a government electronic surveillance system.

Libraries and the Anti-Terrorist Environment

Arguing that due process rights and judicial review get in the way of investigating terrorism, the USA Patriot Act hands unprecedented power to federal police agencies. The act allows federal law enforcement broad authority to conduct "sneak and peek" searches of citizens' homes and offices without notifying the owners for weeks afterward, and broadens law enforcement power to conduct domestic surveillance of American citizens. The Patriot Act is so potentially dangerous to the exercise of democratic rights that *American Libraries* columnist Karen Schneider has labeled the law not just "anti-speech legislation," but "treason pure and simple" (Schneider, p. 86).

Of most interest to libraries are provisions in the Patriot Act that override existing federal and state privacy laws and allow the FBI to compel disclosure of library borrower records, as well as allow police agencies to collect undefined information on patron web browsing and email use with minimal judicial review, simply by claiming that the target is connected to an intelligence investigation. Libraries served with a search warrant would be required to give patron information to the FBI and be forbidden to disclose that the FBI is conducting an investigation. On the face of it, this requirement does not conflict with most state laws on the privacy of patron records. However, combined with a broadened definition of terrorism and a greatly liberalized procedure for obtaining search warrants, the result could have libraries receiving requests to search patron records in instances where there may not be an obvious terrorist threat.

Sen. Russ Feingold, Chair of the Constitutional

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Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, faulted key parts of the Patriot proposal and its hasty enactment. Feingold pointed out that the legislation allows sweeping new government access to our personal records.

> "But under this bill, the government can compel the disclosure of the personal records of anyone; perhaps someone who worked with, or lived next door to, or went to school with, or sat on an airplane with, or has been seen in the company of, or whose phone number was called by—the target of the investigation.
>
> And under this new provision all business records can be compelled, including those containing sensitive personal information like medical records from hospitals or doctors, or educational records, or records of what books someone has taken out of the library. This is an enormous expansion of authority, under a law that provides only minimal judicial supervision" ("USA Patriot Act ...," p. 52).

Sen. Feingold proposed four amendments to restore Fourth Amendment and privacy protections. Ten other senators, including Washington's Maria Cantwell, supported most of Feingold's amendments, all of which failed. The final Senate vote on the Patriot Act was 98 to 1. Sen. Feingold put his patriotic commitment to our Bill of Rights ahead of political expediency and voted no.

The months following 9/11 brought out the best in much of the library community. ALA developed a new privacy interpretation to the Library Bill of Rights and advised libraries on how to handle FBI requests for patron information. Led by our State Librarian, Nancy Zussy, Washington State's library community helped obtain support from one of our two senators for privacy-sensitive amendments to the Patriot Act.

While many states passed anti-terrorism legislation raising additional civil liberties questions, Washington legislators, led by State Sen. Adam Kline (D-Seattle), rejected such a statute. One of the biggest problems with the Patriot Act, and particularly its state clones, is their broad and vague definitions of terrorism. As ACLU Executive Director Kathleen Taylor and past president of the Washington Bar Association Jan Eric Peterson pointed out in an op-ed piece in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, such statutes invite use for "political purposes" because they potentially label any group that disrupts government for any reason as "terrorist" ("Anti-Terrorism Proposals Defeated ...," p. 1).

Concurrently with these Congressional efforts, the Bush administration and federal agencies have acted to restrict the public's access to government information. Some federal agencies in recent months have cited security concerns in removing information from their websites, while Attorney General John Ashcroft stated recently in a Justice Department memo his support for the withholding of sensitive material requested under the Freedom of Information Act. President Bush particularly angered librarians, historians, and publishers in issuing Executive Order 13233, which restricts access to presidential and vice-presidential records.

Congress passed the Presidential Records Act in 1978 to ensure the regular release of presidential papers twelve years after the end of each administration. But Executive Order 13233 gives former presidents, vice-presidents, and their families the right to withhold indefinitely release of such papers. ALA has taken the unusual step of asking librarians to raise public awareness on this issue "by creating engaging exhibits, developing book lists, and encouraging community conversation" ("ALA Targets ...", p. 13).

In February ALA's Freedom to Read Foundation and eight other groups filed a friend-of-the-court brief to support a Public Citizen lawsuit seeking to block implementation of Bush's executive order.

Such restrictive government actions certainly affect our access to information. For example, at the University of Washington libraries this winter, the Government Documents Department, on instructions from the Superintendent of Documents, destroyed a U.S. Geological Survey CD-ROM publication, citing concern that certain information might be used by terrorists ("UW Library ... "). The action denies the document to students and researchers.

United We Stand in Support of American Freedoms

Many have said that America has been permanently changed because of the actions of the 9/11 terrorists. I hope by this they mean that we will no longer take our freedoms for granted and that we will move away from the self-defeating principles of anger and complacency, which have characterized

(Continued on next page)

CIPA Case Decided—For Now

A three-judge U.S. District Court panel ruled on May 31 that Sections 1712(a)(2) and 1721(b) of the Children's Internet Protection Act, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 9134(f) and 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(6) are "facially invalid under the First Amendment and permanently enjoining the defendants from enforcing those provisions."

This means that for at least the near future public libraries can receive E-rate telecommunications discounts without installing Internet filtering software.

In its opinion, authored by Chief Circuit Judge Edward R. Becker, the court dwelt at length on the flaws in filtering technology, stating that "[a]lthough such programs are somewhat effective in blocking large quantities of pornography, they are blunt instruments that not only 'underblock,' i.e. fail to block access to substantial amounts of content that the library boards wish to exclude, but also, central to this litigation, 'overblock,' i.e. block access to large quantities of material that library boards do not wish to exclude, and that is constitutionally protected."

The court further found that libraries may employ other methods to prevent dissemination of obscene materials, such as, installation of privacy screens, requiring parental consent during unfiltered access, recessed monitors, or enforcing internet use policies that forbid viewing of obscene or other "patently offensive" content.

The government is expected to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The full opinion can be viewed at http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/documents/opinions/02D0415P.HTM.

(Continued from previous page)

much of our public life for too long. But I am not reassured by the initial response of our elected officials, the media, and the public to the 9/11 tragedies.

What should librarians do? In a democracy, it is the responsibility of each of us to see that our values are represented in the law. If you believe that freedom of inquiry, the right to question government actions, and individuals' right to privacy of their personal records, including website and email transactions, are fundamental to a free society, then as an American, you must *act* to see that those freedoms are preserved, not just rhetorically but in actual practice. America will likely be hit by another terrorist attack sometime in the future. This means that the pressures will increase to spy on all Americans, but especially on those who speak out against government action. Libraries, bookstores, and other organizations that disseminate information and opinion are likely to become targets if they exercise their legitimate roles.

Libraries, bookstores, and other organizations that disseminate information and opinion are likely to become targets if they exercise their legitimate roles.

Librarians and their supporters should consider joining ALA, and each of us should send the organization a check to support its lawsuit against the Children's Internet Protection Act. ALA is scrambling to gather over $1 million to pay for CIPA legal fees. To my mind, this is the most important immediate action individual librarians can take to help change the current anti-IF climate as it affects American libraries.

Locally, we need more people to become involved in civil liberties activism. Write your congressperson and our senators and tell them you are concerned about the Patriot Act and the administration's efforts to restrict the public's access to information and limit the privacy of library records. Talk to your friends and colleagues about these issues, and then support those legislators who dare to speak up for civil liberties in a political climate that does not reward such political integrity.

Do such activities have any impact? I think they do. Despite the ridicule Attorney General Ashcroft has heaped on those who even belatedly dared to question Bush administration actions, I believe this questioning was a major factor in the administration's backing away from some of its most extreme initial positions.

As for me, I have decided that it was not enough to maintain my membership in ALA and its Intellectual Freedom Committee, or to give that organization a check to support the CIPA lawsuit. Nor was it enough to email our senators. In fact, just speaking out on the threats posed to our system of free public libraries, as important as it is, was not enough. The dangers now are too great, the impact on our Bill of Rights potentially too devastating.

So I looked around for something else I could do to support the America I believe in, and when the call came to stand up for our country, I did what I could. I became a card-carrying member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington.

A correction: The correct date of "Boot This: The Ugly Truth About the West," which I quoted in my December 2001 column was July 16, 2001, not October 17.

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I'd Rather Be Reading…
The Pleasures of Short Stories

by Nancy Pearl

Nancy Pearl

I'll admit it: short stories never thrilled me. Somehow, they seemed so … meager, perhaps, is the right word for what I felt. I empathized with C.S. Lewis, who once said,"You can't get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me." And being a voyeur (aren't all novel readers?), I felt cheated that no sooner did I get used to and like a character, when bam! the story ended.

But now I think I've been comparing apples and oranges by expecting short stories to bring the same sort of pleasure to me that novels do, instead of appreciating what the best stories have to offer: a clarity and directness of vision, with no wasted words, no throwaway sentences, no space for set pieces within the confines of the genre. Or, as that master short storyist V.S. Pritchett wrote: The novel tends to tell us everything, whereas the short story tells us only one thing, and that intensely.

Probably the best way to discover good short stories, or glom onto authors that you might want to follow up on, is to check out the longstanding annual collections that feature the best stories of the year. The two best known are *Prize Stories: The O'Henry Awards* and *The Best American Short Stories*. Other worthwhile collections include the annual Puschcart Prize collections and *New Stories from the South*, published by Algonquin Books. Although there is inevitably some overlap among these anthologies, it is usually quite minimal, making these invaluable reading for the short story fan.

As for books of stories by individual authors, here are some of my favorites:

- The sparkly and engaging stories that comprise *The Lone Pilgrim* by Laurie Colwin keep it high on my list of all-time favorites. Though published way back in 1981, the stories have held up well, without a whiff of staleness or sense of being dated. My favorite story is "The Achieve of, the Mastery of, the Thing," but the title story is a close second.

- Besides having a wonderful title, *A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You* by Amy Bloom is marked by the author's sympathetic understanding of her flawed (and therefore all-too-human) characters. The title story, about a woman whose daughter is having a sex change operation, is one of the most moving stories I have ever read.

- When I first read Lydia Davis' *Samuel Johnson Is Indignant*, I was reminded of the short stories of both Laurie Colwin and Grace Paley, yet Davis is entirely original. This is a captivating collection, with some of the stories as short as a single sentence. The title story is, *in toto*: "Samuel Johnson is indignant: that Scotland has so few trees." My favorites are "The Old Woman and The Grouch" and "The Thyroid Diary."

- I had the absolute pleasure of interviewing T.C. (Tom, to his friends) Boyle last year at Northwest Bookfest. His new collection, *After the Plague and Other Stories* is a great introduction to this amazingly gifted writer's work. His stories are nervy, and they more than occasionally leave you uncomfortable with yourself and the world, but at the same time they are very often very, very funny. And his use of language—wow. When is the last time you read a sentence as well crafted as this: "His thirty-eight-year-old face was as trenched with anal retentive misery as our father's was." Anal-retentive misery: I love it. Everyone will have a favorite story or two from this collection. Here are three of mine: the title story, "My Widow," and the devastating "The Love of My Life."

- *Among the Missing* by Dan Chaon is a superb collection of twelve stories, all of which explore loss: of people, of places, of possibilities, and of the various ways we try to fill the loneliness at the heart of our lives. Sometimes, while I was reading these stories, I had to wonder how someone could be so good at describing the most indescribable feelings—guilt, sorrow, love, hate, and a sort of existential despair. There are no really weak stories here, but among the best are "Big Me," in which a twelve-year-old boy believes that a new arrival in the neighborhood is him—all grown up; the title story, about a family whose death by drowning in a Nebraska lake has a profound effect on a family living nearby; and, especially, "Here's a Little Something to Remember Me By," in which the disappearance of a fifteen-year-old boy reverberates throughout his best friend's life.

And if you haven't read them, don't waste a moment in checking out from your local library *The Stories of John Cheever*, *The Complete Stories of Eudora Welty*, and *The Collected Stories*, Vols. I and II, by Edith Wharton.

Nancy Pearl directs the Washington Center for the Book at Seattle Public Library.

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