



The Voice of the Library Community

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## Mark your calendar

### May 3 - 5, 2007

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### May 9, 2007

2007 SMART Workshop  
Cataloging 411  
Canandaigua, NY

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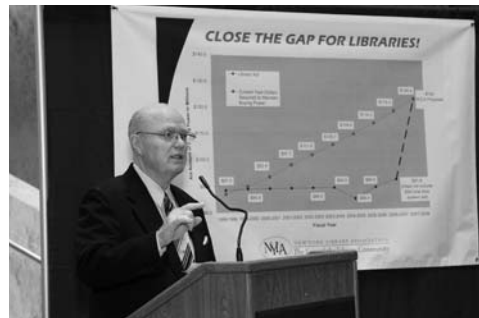
WiFi @ Your Library  
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### June 6-8, 2007

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## Legislature Responds to NYLA's Advocacy Efforts – \$5 Million Increase in Library Aid in 2007-08 State Budget

by Michael Borges

The Legislature passed the State Budget on April 1st that includes for the second year in a row an increase in Library Aid. The 2007-08 State Budget provides a \$5 million increase in operating aid on top of the record increase received last year. In total, the 2007-08 State Budget includes \$102.2 million in operating aid and \$14 million in construction aid.

NYLA's Library Lobby Day on March 13th, which attracted over 800 library advocates from across the state, came at a perfect time during state budget negotiations and once again demonstrated the commitment and strength of the library community to state policy makers here in Albany. Sixty-five legislators turned out for the Legislative Breakfast Reception and had their photos taken for the READ posters and book-marks.

As a result of Library Lobby Day and other ongoing advocacy efforts by the library community, library funding issues

remained a priority for both houses of the Legislature. The Senate had proposed a \$5 million increase for this year as well as making the 2006-07 increases permanent and the Assembly proposed a \$3 million increase. "The Senate believes that continued investments in our libraries and library systems are essential to insuring universal access to information for all New Yorkers. The library community, under the auspices of the New York Library Association, has done a great job in building support among the Legislature for libraries," said Senator Hugh Farley, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Libraries.

The Legislature compromised and agreed on the \$5 million proposed by the Senate but without making the increases permanent. "The Assembly recognizes that libraries are an essential public service and an important component of our educational system. As the new Chair of the Assembly Libraries and Education



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## INTERVIEW WITH NYLA MEMBER

# Peter Edelman

by Michael Borges



PETER EDELMAN is the Assistant Head Librarian at the *New York Daily News*. Peter graduated from Hobart and William Smith College in 1976 with a history degree and remembers Paul Crumlish (past NYLA President in 1998) as being the librarian then as he is now.

Peter graduated from Pratt Institute with an MLS in 1984 and went on to work at CBS News and then the Rockefeller Foundation as a special librarian/archivist. He then went to work as a public librarian at the New York Public Library from 1986-1991 at the 40th Street/5th Avenue Branch in the Specialized Collections Dept., which ideally suited his deep interest in history. He joined the staff of the *Daily News* in 1991.

Working as a special librarian at a newspaper is very hectic and involves responding to reporter's deadlines and reference questions in an expeditious manner. In addition to research and reference, Peter is also involved in archiving the newspaper's daily editions which are all on microfilm and online. "The internet and access to online information has definitely changed how we provide information and the pace of our jobs", said Peter.

Staff at the *Daily News* Library need to be available seven days a week and evenings to respond to reporters working on breaking stories. In addition to his work at the *Daily News*, Peter is a freelance researcher for journalists and authors.

Peter has also been very involved with his local library, the Hasting Public Library, as a past member of the friends group and on a fundraising committee. I met Peter at a speaking engagement I had with the Friends of the Westchester Library System in late January. "Libraries are where the whole community intersects, readers and non-readers, young and old, for a variety of reasons like cultural events, special interest group meetings or educational programs", said Peter. "We have a great library in Hastings, because we have leadership that knows how to stimulate public interest and support for the library, which makes the library a dynamic place to be for people of all ages", continued Peter.

"NYLA should continue working towards bringing the whole library community together. We need to involve more people in becoming advocates for their library at the local and state level and NYLA has an important role in making that happen," concluded Peter. ♦

**On the Cover:** New York State Senator Hugh Farley (I.) and Assemblymember Amy Paulin addressing some 800 library advocates at Library Lobby Day at the State Capitol in March.

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## Stories from the Stacks.....

STORIES FROM THE STACKS is a special feature of *The Bulletin* where we ask our members about the profession and library issues and print selected responses in the newsletter.

**For the Spring Bulletin**, “What is the oldest item in your collection?”

The **Long Island Division at Queens Library** has in its manuscripts collection a document dated April 5, 1642. The document is a land patent issued to Cornelis Lambertsen Cool for Gowanus, located in Brooklyn, New York. The patent was issued by the Director General of New Netherland, Willem Kieft.

– **Judith Todman, Manager**

The **Freeport Memorial Library** has collected some pretty old stuff over the years. As we continue to organize our L.I. Room with the help of Librarian and Village Historian, Cynthia Krieg, we hope to find more. So far we have found: A circa 1865 flag, donated to the Library in 1949 with a statement that the flag had been made by Mrs. Lucy Keith. It was made for Lincoln's inauguration and used at his funeral. An official copy of the book Opening Ceremonies of the New York and Brooklyn Bridge, May 24, 1883 signed by New York and Brooklyn Bridge trustee James S. T. Stranahan. 1899 Library Charter signed by Melvil Dewey (see <http://www.nassaulibrary.org/freeport/images/CharterDewey.jpg>). A letter and a \$20 pledge card from Assemblyman Theodore Roosevelt Jr. – the President's son, dated August 10, 1920 (see <http://www.nassaulibrary.org/freeport/images/TRoosevelt.jpg>).

– **Regina Feeney, Librarian**

Our oldest item is a codex of two works by Francesco Petrarca, dating to the mid-15th century, housed in our Special Collections. This extraordinary codex contains two complete works of Francesco Petrarca: *De rota (remedii) utriusque fortunae* (folios 1 -158) and *De vita solitaria* (folios 159-218). The two manuscripts are bound together as one, and date to ca. 1405 – 1424. The codex's provenance can be traced back to the Salvatorberg Charterhouse of Erfurt, Germany, a monastic library

– **Sarah Maximiek, Subject Librarian, Binghamton University (SUNY)**

The **Cazenovia Public Library** owns a 2,000-year-old mummy. The date was verified with carbon dating of a small part of the wrapping.

– **Betsy Kennedy, Library Director**

I mulled over your question and would have to say that the oldest “things” in our high school library are the many artifacts collected which relate to local history.

The collection of books and texts from our one-room schools dating to before 1900, the antique snowshoes and mounted Adirondack mammals and birds displayed over the non-fiction, and my basket of ephemera – old broadsides, election pamphlets, school yearbooks, advertising materials, and early ledgers would all take top honors. Old is not always to be discarded. My students have had great fun with analysis projects and trying to date found objects and decide their place in our history. It has certainly helped to build connections through social studies and one wonderful side effect – a new found appreciation for everyone's family “junk” drawer. I have often had students share stories about how they went home to check out what might be lurking in kitchen drawers or to try to learn the history of family heirlooms. Old is beautiful!

– **Sharon Waagner, K-12 Librarian, Long Lake Central School**

The answer tells us a bit about our local community and its history. The oldest item is an English/Dutch Dictionary by Evert Visscher published in 1729 in Amsterdam. The dictionary is signed by its former author George M. Van Hoesen. Patrons won't be able to borrow this, but they can view it in the Isabelle K. Savell Local History Room in the Nyack Library. If you are looking for the oldest circulating book in our regular nonfiction collection in the Nyack Library, then the honor goes to David Cole's *History of Rockland County, New York with Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men*, published in 1884.

– **Brian Jennings, Librarian, Nyack Library**

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## Executive Director's Report

The New York Library Association's successful advocacy efforts have again resulted in an increase in Library Aid. This is the first time since the mid-1990's that Library Aid has been increased two years in row. A growth in membership and the corresponding increase in resources available to the Association contributed to the success of our advocacy efforts. The resources provided by an increase in Membership (as well as contributions by Lobby Day sponsors) helped fund efforts to increase the visibility of libraries and the Association among state policymakers.

At the end of March, NYLA Membership reached an all-time high of 3,830 members and we will continue our outreach efforts this year that will target lapsed members, ALA members and organizational members. The NYLA Council also recently approved a petition by members to create a Retiree Roundtable, and efforts are underway to establish a Library Assistant Roundtable as well.

NYLA will also launch in June a new Library Assistant/

Technician Training Program at Schenectady County Community College that provides newly hired staff or individuals interested in working in a library a week-long, non-credit certificate program that provides them with a basic understanding of the skills and issues needed to work in a library.

From June 6-8th at the Saratoga Hotel in Saratoga Springs, we will also hold our Summer Session for the Leadership and Management Academy that includes courses on Facility Management, Conflict Resolution and Team Building, and Time Management and Organizational Skills.

As part of our continuing efforts to better serve the library community, we are also currently working on developing an Online Resource Directory of library policies and procedures, and hosting a library information exchange on our website for libraries to post information about equipment they need or want to give away. ♦



Michael J. Borges

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## 2007-08 State Budget continued from page 1

Technology Committee, the New York Library Association was very helpful in providing me with the information needed to gather support among my colleagues for an increase in Library Aid." commented Assemblymember Amy Paulin.

In addition, the Governor's proposal to increase Library Materials Aid from \$6 to \$6.25 per pupil was accepted by the Legislature without change. NYLA was hoping that with a record increase in School Aid some additional funding would be provided for school libraries. NYLA will be making this a top priority for next year and is already developing a promotional campaign to educate state policymakers and the public about the positive impact of school libraries on student academic achievement.

The Governor's \$50 million proposal for a Universal Broadband Initiative was scaled back by the Legislature to \$5 million, with \$2.5 million allocated to fund cooperative efforts among schools, libraries and other non-profits to enhance or upgrade internet access.

One of the main reasons that the State Legislature responded favorably to NYLA's funding requests, was the positive exposure and feedback many of them received for their efforts last year in securing the \$19.7 million increase in Library Aid. It is crucial to our ongoing advocacy campaign that every effort be made by libraries and library systems to publicly thank their legislators for their continued support of library funding. Recognition of their efforts in library or system newsletters, press releases and ceremonies/events at libraries are what makes legislators feel good about making library funding a priority.

Congratulations to everyone in the library community who did their part in making 2007 another successful year in advocating for library funding! Special thanks to Senators Hugh Farley and Stephen Saland, as well Assemblymembers Amy Paulin, Patricia Eddington and Sandra Galef for their efforts on behalf of libraries. ♦



# Some Progress in Serving a Growing Undocumented Population

by Mark Curiale

The common ground between two sides in a controversy that's centered on how libraries can serve undocumented immigrants can be summed up in the words of Dr. Gail Golden, chairperson and co-founder of the Rockland County Immigration Coalition: "All we're trying to do is give people the ability to take out a book."

The disagreement surfaces over the identification and address-verification requirements for obtaining a library card. Ms. Golden complained last September that one library system's photo ID requirement was preventing some immigrants and their children from getting cards.

"We are not trying to deny anyone use of the library. Our purpose in requiring a photo ID is two-fold," explained Robert Hubsher, Director of the Ramapo Catskill Library System, target of Dr. Golden's complaint. "One is to confirm that you live in our service area, and two, that you are who you say you are. And this is simply to protect the taxpayers' investment in materials." RCLS is a consortium of 47 public libraries in Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster counties; the consortium issues cards valid at any RCLS library.

This issue of credentials is not an uncommon problem. There are some 830,000 undocumented immigrants in New York State according to the American Immigrant Law Foundation. Obtaining any kind of government service is problematic for this population, and getting a library card is among them.

Like RCLS, many libraries ask for a picture ID such as a driver's license, but there's no legal requirement to have a license – as long as you don't drive. New York State DMV does issue non-driver identification cards, but these require a Social Security Number or a statement from the Social Security Administration stating that one is ineligible for a Social Security Number, an avenue few undocumented immigrants elect to pursue. Other acceptable IDs include picture credit cards and military identification cards, but both of these require Social Security Numbers at the very least.

But this credentials problem is not a problem at all libraries. Sometimes presenting a utility or cable bill is sufficient. Mr. Hubsher points out that this is not a valid form for RCLS because "anyone can get an old utility bill out of the garbage. Then what do you do? Are you protecting the investment that the local taxpayers have made in their library and library materials?"

The Finkelstein Memorial Library, in Spring Valley, is a member of RCLS. It is also the consortium's busiest library, and Spring Valley itself has the most ethnically diverse population in Rockland County. The ID problem hit hard there. Last year Bob Devino, the library's director, met the challenge by instituting a local-use only card which can be obtained by proving residence with a utility bill. Mr. Devino stated that about 20 people have acquired this library-specific card. "But of those 20, several are local business people who live outside the area. So we are trying to get the word out to the local immigrant community that this service is available."

RCLS has asked attorneys at the Education Department's Division of Library Development to review Spring Valley's direct-access policy; at issue is the legality of offering two tiers of service. A lawsuit filed against the Worcester, Massachusetts, Public Library challenged that library's policy of restricting borrowing privileges for homeless residents, limiting them to 2 books – versus 40 for everyone else. The suit was settled late last year when the library scrapped its two-tier policy. While not an exact parallel, the two-tier distinction applies: Finkelstein's RCLS card holders can borrow from the entire consortium, but their direct-access card holders can borrow only from that library.

Should Spring Valley's approach be found to be legally acceptable, "we feel that this is an eminently workable solution and should fit the needs of most of your undocumented constituents," wrote Richard Treleven, Chair of the RCLS Directors' Association to Dr. Golden in a March 2006 letter outlining the association's position on the photo ID requirement.

"But there is another wrinkle," stated Dr. Golden. "What of the citizens – children born in the United States – born to undocumented immigrants?"

Mr. Treleven's letter addressed this issue. "These children are generally enrolled in Rockland's schools, and therefore some form of documentation as to their status – likely a birth certificate – must be available. We are hoping ... to make it possible that children enrolled in our schools can get a library card."

Mr. Hubsher sums up the overarching issue: "Nobody's trying to prevent somebody from using the library; we're just protecting our resources." ♦

## Members on the Move



**Dionne Mack-Harvin** has been appointed as Executive Director of Brooklyn Public Library, the fifth largest public library system in the country. Mack-Harvin, who began her career at BPL as a librarian at the Crown Heights Library, was serving as Interim Executive Director. She is the first African-American to serve as Executive Director at BPL, and the first African-American woman to lead a major library system in New York.

**Sharon Kullberg**, a recent graduate of the Long Island University Palmer School for Library and Information Science, has received the school's E. Hugh Behymer Award for Academic Achievement.

**Christine McGinty** is the new Head of Youth Services at the Bethlehem Public Library. Christine comes to Bethlehem from Newark, NY, where she was a children's/young adult librarian. She currently serves on NYLA's sections for Management of Information Resources and Technology, Youth Services, and New Members Roundtable.

**Katie Donahue** has joined the McGrath Library at Hilbert College as Assistant Director and Information Literacy Coordinator. Donahue serves on the boards of the Buffalo Junior Chamber of Commerce and the School Librarians' Association of Western New York.

**Jeffrey W. Cannell**, former Director of the Albany Public Library, was appointed New York State Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education. Jeff will oversee libraries, museums, archives and public records, and public broadcasting, all of which are under the Board of Regents.

**Tim Burke**, Assistant Director of the Albany Public Library since 2002, has been appointed the Interim Director of the Albany Public Library filling the position of Jeff Cannell.

**Rachel R. Baum**, NYLA President and Trustee of the Bethlehem Public Library, and formerly Assistant Dean, College of Computing and Information, University at Albany, is the recipient of The Hudson-Mohawk Library Association's 2007 Distinguished Service Award. Rachel has also announced the opening of Bark Busters of Upstate New York. Rachel is fulfilling her lifelong dream to have her own business and to work with dogs.

**Denise L. Coblisch**, has been appointed the new director of the Round Lake Public Library. She previously worked at the Bethlehem Public Library from 1995-2004 and the Brooklyn Public Library from 1993-1995.

**Kelly Kranick**, has been appointed the Assistant to the Director at the Round Lake Public Library.

**Pamela Thornton** became director of the Chappaqua Library in January 2007.

Previous to this Pam had been director of the Somers Library in Somers, NY for the past six years.

**Rob Cullin**, cofounder and co-owner of E-vanced Solutions, Inc. was recognized by Library Journal as a "2007 Mover and Shaker" for his contributions to the library community.

**Eleanor Henricks**, a children's librarian at the George F. Johnson Memorial Library, retired after almost three decades.

**George Bobinski** recently published book entitled "Libraries and Librarianship: Sixty Years of Challenge and Change, 1945-2005."

## Libraries in the News

**Prattsburg Free Library** received the Pursuit of Happiness Bookshelf from the NEH.

**Poets House**, a 45,000-volume poetry library and literary center currently located at 72 Spring Street in New York City, has been designated one of the non-profit tenants of the new "green," residential building at One River Terrace in Battery Park City (Lower Manhattan), where it will relocate in 2008. Founded in 1985 by the late Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz and Elizabeth Kray to provide "a place for poetry" in American culture, Poets House invites poets and readers, aficionados and first-timers, to enter the living tradition of poetry.

The **Buffalo and Erie County Public Library** (B&ECPL) renamed the African-American Resource Room at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library after retired library administrator William A. Miles. Mr. Miles instituted the African-American History Collection at the former North Jefferson Branch Library. This collection serves as the foundation for the new center now located at the Merriweather Library, which opened in April of 2006, and is the largest resource room in Western New York for information on African-American history and culture.

The **Queens Library** is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of its incorporation back on April 17, 1907.

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# A Paradigm Shift is Taking Place in Public Libraries

by Evan St. Lifer

Now before school library media specialists consider the mention of the word “public libraries” in the previous sentence as a cue to gloss over this column, here are two more words that I hope will keep you engaged, regardless of what type of librarian you are: school readiness.

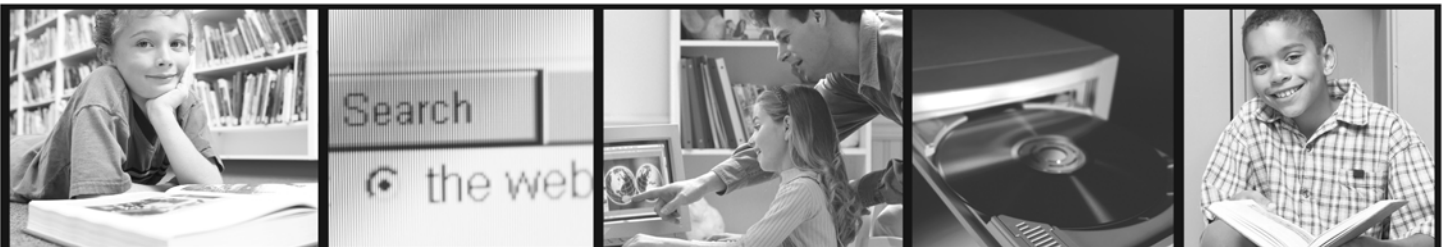
Paradigm shift. Public libraries. School readiness. School libraries. How do they connect? How do you? No one would argue that public libraries have always been about community; in fact, many of you know the first line of the ALA Library Bill of Rights: “books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves.”

This “paradigm shift” in service has come as libraries now must balance all the great services and programs within their four walls with outreach and programming that has provided them with new challenges and responsibilities. Some public

librarians will say, “But we have always done outreach (book-mobiles, etc.)” And while that is true, public libraries are emerging in a more formal way as the community’s de facto purveyor of early learning materials, resources, and training.

Some public library systems have actively cultivated this role (Brooklyn Public Library and Multnomah County Public Library in Oregon to name a couple), but many others have come to this realization as heavy demands are being made of them, from child care centers that need direction on how to conduct Read Alouds to Head Start Programs that need books for families they serve. This has created another emerging need for the public library to become the central agency or intermediary to a variety of community-based organizations (including child care centers) that DO NOT have the expertise around books, reading, and literacy, and look to the public library to be a leader and partner.

*continued on page 9*



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# Zoning and Permitting Issues for Public Library Projects

by David R. Everett, Esq. and Robert T. Schofield, Esq.<sup>1</sup>

**L**ibraries face many challenges when embarking on building projects. Chief among these challenges are how and when libraries must comply with local zoning regulations and building permits. This article provides an overview of zoning and permitting, and how they affect libraries.

## Zoning

Zoning regulations are local laws and rules which establish limits on how a particular parcel of real property can be used. Zoning rules proscribe, among other things: what kinds of buildings can be built on land; the use that can be made of land; the distance buildings must be from neighboring land; and, whether a building must have a certain appearance. There is no general, express statutory exemption of libraries – public or otherwise – from the power of local governments to enforce zoning laws with respect to library-owned land.

In the absence of a legislative act, New York's courts have established an eight-part test for determining whether a political subdivision is subject to the zoning regulations of another political subdivision.<sup>2</sup> The test is known as the Monroe balancing test because it was first adopted by New York's highest court in a case called *County of Monroe v. City of Rochester*. The Monroe test starts with a presumption that an encroaching entity (in this case, a library) is subject to a host government's zoning rules. To establish an exemption, a variety of factors are weighed,<sup>3</sup> none of which are individually controlling.

Public libraries are included in the State's definition of a municipality. See N.Y. General Municipal Law §800(4). Moreover, based on the nature of libraries and their usage, library buildings will be deemed compatible-uses in almost any zoning district. Thus, public library projects can often be found to be exempt from local zoning rules when applying the Monroe test. Local politics may, however, make the process of obtaining confirmation of such an exemption tedious and, sometimes, contentious. Libraries should, therefore, consult with their library counsel or an experienced land-use attorney to pursue these issues and provide advice on how to obtain an exemption under the Monroe test.

## Permitting

Obtaining an exemption under the Monroe case does not absolve libraries from obtaining any local, state, or federal

permits needed for their building projects.<sup>4</sup> Permitting describes the various building and development permits which local governments issue and enforce with respect to building projects within their borders. The term also describes environmental permits which will be required, in certain circumstances, by State and Federal agencies.

The most common of these permits is known as the building permit. A building permit is typically issued and monitored by a local building inspector who is charged with ensuring that a building is being designed and built in accordance with state and local building codes. If a local government does not have a building inspector, the function may be carried out by the State.

As a general rule, public libraries will be required to comply with local permitting rules and building codes. There are some exceptions to this general rule, the most common of which is in the case of a public library which is planning a project on land owned by a school district. For projects on school district-owned land, the project will typically be supervised and permitted by the State Education Department's Office of Facilities.<sup>5</sup> Again, because the issues surrounding the issuance of permits for library projects can be complex and technical, libraries are advised to consult with their project architect and library counsel for advice on their particular circumstances. ♦

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1. The authors are attorneys with Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP in Albany, New York. Mr. Everett practices zoning and land use law and has worked with libraries on such issues. Mr. Schofield has represented a number of libraries in litigation and with regard to general legal matters for several years. The firm is a member of NYLA.
  2. Formerly, the test was simply whether the entity seeking exemption was performing a governmental function (exempt) or a proprietary function (not exempt). Under the former test, the Comptroller had opined that all public libraries were governmental in nature and, therefore, exempt from local zoning.
  3. The Monroe factors include: (1) the nature and scope of the entity seeking the exemption; (2) the use of the land involved; (3) the extent of public interest to be served; (4) the effect zoning would have on the proposed project; (5) the impact on legitimate local interests; (6) the legislative grant of authority of the applicant; (7) alternative locations for the project; and (8) alternative methods to provide the needed improvement. Although no factor is controlling, any one factor could be so influential as to overshadow the others.
  4. Nor does the Monroe test absolve a library of complying with the State Environmental Quality Review Act in planning, financing, and constructing a project.
  5. Counsel to the State Education Department has opined that only those library projects being built on school district-owned land will be subject to SED permitting. The Office of Facilities is prohibited from permitting any other library project.



## A Paradigm Shift is Taking Place in Public Libraries continued from page 7

Public libraries are also struggling with how best to meet overwhelming foreign language needs, particularly acute among children aged 0-6 and their English-language-learning (ELL) families. These patrons not only need bi-lingual and foreign language materials, but the families also need easy-to-use literacy materials in their native language that will help them support their children's reading development.

At the same time, out-of-school-time programs are beginning to dot the school landscape. You may have one being held in your school that may even be using your library media center. The bulk of these programs are for young, impressionable elementary-aged students. How can children's librarians and school librarians work together to create continuity between the public and school library? Think about contacting your school librarian or the children's librarian in your neighborhood school or public library branch to initiate something exciting for the kids.

States across the country are falling in line, making school readiness a high priority. Public librarians and school librarians must work together to ensure a proper transition into the community's or neighborhood's school system. Who better to work together than school and public librarians, both of whom understand the importance of making the critical transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." ♦

*Evan St. Lifer is Vice President of Business Development for Library and Out-of-School-Time Markets for Scholastic.*


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## From the President... continued from page 12

tried and found to be successful. At the NYLA Annual Conference, the Empire Friends offers programs on topics from fund-raising to staff-trustee relationships. They even give an award every year to honor outstanding volunteers: the Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award (The nomination form must be submitted by July 17, 2007; go to [http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page\\_id=58](http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=58) for details)

Friends are people who gladly give of themselves, their time, their enthusiasm, and their good will, and contribute immeasurably to the growth of libraries. "We are advertised by our loving friends," said well known philosopher and comedian William Shakespeare. We in libraries surely know this to be true. ♦

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# Librarians were young once, too, y’know

by Mark Curiale

Think about “that picture” that was taken during your senior prom, or about any snapshot of you when you were a teenager. Contrast that with the professional image you present today as a librarian.

How much courage would it take for you to show that picture to your patrons? Or put that picture up on your library’s website?

The staff at the Tompkins County Public Library knows exactly how much courage it takes. “It was really no big deal” said Adelle Leise, Youth Services Librarian, who helped create the library’s “who r we?” site. “The idea was to show teens that ‘we were once like you.’ And it’s succeeded.” Adelle worked with Jennifer Schlossberg who first came up with the idea. Jennifer had seen something similar and thought that this would be a great idea for her library.

## A “Teen Site” with a twist.

“The intent was to make us more approachable,” said Rosemarie Rice, the library’s Assistant Director. “It has certainly worked. And it was fun for the staff, particularly finding pictures of ourselves. In those days pictures were taken only for special occasions, which is why so many of us are in prom dresses or tuxedos.”

While the pictures are certainly a study in changing styles and make the library staff easier to talk to (nothing like

seeing Gary, a librarian, in his ‘70’s-era pale-blue tuxedo to instantly give him a human dimension), it’s the accompanying mini-biographies that help teens – and adults – understand the professionals on the other side of the patron service desk. Here are insights into how librarians become librarians:

The path to becoming a librarian began with my interests in history, archeology, art and music ... All these interests pointed the way to my future as a librarian, although I never previously thought about or imagined I would become a librarian. My first year employed at the library convinced me that becoming a librarian was the ideal profession for a person with my interests.

— Larry

Me a librarian? “Never” would have been my response as a teen. In fact, I was constantly kicked out of my high school library. However, I always found my way back in. And so it goes.

— Adelle



Gary in full ‘70’s prom regalia.

## Nominations for 2008 NYLA Council

The following slate of candidates was approved by NYLA Council at the February 8, 2007 meeting, and amended subsequently via electronic vote. According to the NYLA Bylaws, once nominations are approved they are then submitted to the members of the Association. Additional nominations may be added by May 15 by petition of Association members. Petitions must be signed by 1% of the total voting membership as of

12/31/06 (34). Candidates’ statements will be printed in the Summer Bulletin and listed on NYLA website. Elections begin August 15.

The Nominating Committee was chaired by Jennifer Morris, immediate Past President. The composition, as defined by the Bylaws, consists of 4 members, each from different Sections. Members included Fran Roscello, Meg Van Patten, Bill Crumlish and Carol Clingan.

### For President (3 year term commencing fall 2007 as VP/President Elect, then President, then Past-President)

**Bob Jaquay**  
Library Director  
William K. Sanford Library  
Loudonville, NY

**Josh Cohen**  
Executive Director  
Mid-Hudson Library System  
Poughkeepsie, NY

### For ALA Chapter Councilor (3 year term)

**Anne Hofmann**  
Chief Librarian,  
Donnell Library Center  
The New York Public Library  
New York, NY

**Bea Angus**  
Director  
Madison-Oneida BOCES SLS  
Oneida, NY

### For NYLA Councilor-at-Large (3 year term)

**Marcia Eggleston**  
Librarian  
Norwood-Norfolk High  
School Library  
Norwood, NY

**Bernie Tomasso**  
Retired Librarian  
Port Byron Central School  
Port Byron, NY

### For NYLA Councilor-at-Large (3 year term)

**Debby Emerson**  
Assistant Director  
Rochester Regional Library Council  
Fairport, NY

**Lorie Wies**  
Acquisitions/Periodicals Librarian  
Schaffer Library  
Union College  
Schenectady, NY

These two entries are instructive. Neither Larry nor Adelle thought they would become librarians, but there they are. On the other hand, there are profiles that almost smack of predestination:

I literally lived in a library in my hometown, where my parent's house was attached to the local public library. So, since the age of five, I have never used a library like a normal person would. I usually grabbed books after the library was closed, and read a lot as a child. . . . These days I read a lot – almost a hundred books a year – and love being a librarian because I get to order fiction books for the library, help people find good things to read, and solve people's questions at the reference desk.

By the way – I still have my prom dress and still think it is pretty.

— Sarah

Of course, these observations are through the lens of life reflected. Think back to those moments as a pre-teen when you absolutely knew what you wanted to be (and no, that yearning at 7 years to be a policeman or a ballerina does not count), and marvel at life's twists and turns revealed here. (There's a person here who *actually* was at Woodstock.)

Today when the tide of technology has given everyone the opportunity for an unprecedented level of personal visibility



Larry in his high school photo.



...and a more recent photo.

if not overexposure, it's refreshing to find a site where you can learn something valuable about the people who play a supporting role in our lives. Before the advent of this site, the patrons at the Tompkins County Public Library no doubt viewed the staff as friendly, helpful people who provided answers and information. But now these patrons can view these professionals as individuals who *grew* into working at their library. ♦

*This is a site worth seeing now:* <http://www.tcp.org/teen/aboutus.html>

# Unshelved™

by Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum

## Drawing on Experience

A special fund-raising raffle was held during last November's NYLA Conference. Many entered and one was, well, drawn. Barbara Nichols Randall, director of the Guilderland Public Library, won the raffle and

the honor of being profiled in this Unshelved comic strip. Our thanks to Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum for donating their creativity to supporting New York's libraries.



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## From the President... Jumper Cables and Airport Transportation: What Are Friends For?



Rachel Baum

Someone once said “Friends aren’t jumper cables. You don’t throw them into the trunk and pull them out for emergencies.” Obviously, it wasn’t Shakespeare or Confucius who offered up those pearls, but think about it. Who else is there when you need them, helps you out in times of need, saves your butt on more than one occasion, and doesn’t ask for anything in return?

In our smallest and most rural libraries, Friends groups can be the difference between the library staying open and the Closed sign. Friends traditionally run the library book sales – in some cases their bookstores – raising much needed funds for programs, materials, and in dire circumstances, operating expenses. In larger libraries, they bring in the big names that most libraries want but can ill afford. They are the face and force of our communities, and are often the breeding ground for our trustees and strongest advocates.

Well known philosopher and comedian Jay Leno says “Go through your phone book, call people and ask them to drive you to the airport. The ones who will drive you are your true friends.” Friends of the Library provide invaluable services when you need them the most. For example, the Friends of the New York State Library publish the *NY State Library News*. Like many libraries, even the NYSL would not have a

newsletter if not for their Friends.

In the libraries that I have visited as part of my Library Learning Tour this year, Friends groups bring magic to their lucky communities. The Friends of the Port Washington Public Library are featuring bestselling novelist Alice Hoffman and noted historian David Nasaw at their annual book and author luncheon. The Friends of the Hawn Memorial Library in Clayton are throwing a “Pasta on the Greens” fundraiser at a local restaurant. The Plattsburgh Public Library Friends sponsor an annual Pretty Pots silent auction, as well as an annual Blossoms & Blooms art exhibit – both fundraisers to benefit the library. The South Huntington Friends of the Library have an ongoing Buy-A-Book campaign fund raising effort,

Sometimes our Friends need a friend. That’s where the Empire Friends Round Table, a NYLA organization, comes in. The Empire Friends assists local Friends groups in so many different ways. They give workshops, they have a speakers’ bureau, they produced a videotape and manual. Their newsletter has great ideas and projects that other groups have

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