

Letter To Libraries Online

An Electronic Newsletter



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LIBRARY BOARD NEWS

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STATE LIBRARY BOARD CONSIDERS NEW DIRECTIONS

At the State Library Board's planning retreat on December 8th, the Board heard from Consultant Sara Behrman and OLA Lobbyist Nan Heim about new directions that the Board might choose to take as they look ahead to the next legislative session. Behrman presented preliminary findings and recommendations from the early literacy planning project led by the Multnomah County Library with support from LSTA. The planning process has involved meetings throughout the state of youth services librarians, public library directors, and community partners in the provision of early literacy programs. There appears to be strong momentum building to refocus the State Library's Ready to Read Grant Program to place a stronger emphasis on early literacy activities and

summer reading programs. The State Library staff also brought up the idea of setting minimum grant amounts, so that every public library would get a grant that might be enough to really make a difference for children in their communities. Nan Heim said that though she didn't anticipate much change in the makeup and dynamics of the Legislature, that she was cautiously optimistic about more opportunities for OLA to address their legislative agenda in the next session.

Board Chair Jim Hayden appointed a Board Budget Committee consisting of Freda Vars of Corvallis, Yvonne Williams of Portland, and Doug Henrichs of Milton-Freewater. The Budget Committee will have their first meeting on February 2nd to begin to work on the Board's recommendations to Governor Kulongoski for the 2007 legislative session. At their business meeting on December 9th, the Board made appointments to advisory councils and approved a Ready to Read Grant to the Clatskanie Library District, based on their appeal of a staff decision to deny the grant.

STATE LIBRARY NEWS

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WELCOME NEW LSTA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Welcome to the new members of Oregon's Library Services and Technology Act Advisory Council; Susan Hathaway-Marxer, Diana Pearson, Max Leek, and Sara Charlton. Susan Hathaway-Marxer, representing library users, has been involved for many years with the Multnomah County Library, serving two terms on the Advisory Board, and many years with the Friends of the Library. Diana Pearson, representing disadvantaged users, is currently an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher for the Blue Mountain Community College in Baker County, and is a board member for the Baker County Community Literacy Coalition, Inc. She also brings 20 years of experience as a school librarian to the post. Max Leek, Director of the Douglas County Library System, and Sara Charlton, Director of the Tillamook County Library are representing public libraries on the LSTA Council.

2005-06 READY TO READ CHECKS MAILED

The 2005-06 Ready to Read Grant checks were mailed the second week of December. This year 119 public libraries received grant funds for a total of \$598,021. Along with the checks, which were sent to each public library director, is a list of all the grants being awarded.

BEVERLY CLEARY CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS CONTEST

Remember to check out the webpage for this Oregon reading contest started in 2002 at: <http://www.oema.net/cleary/index.htm>. Elementary level students may be participating in this contest through their school libraries. Home school students should be encouraged to participate. These titles might be heavily requested as the deadline

for voting approaches in mid-March. For collection development purposes the lists of nominees from various years could prove useful too!

2006 Nominees include:

Davey's Blue-eyed Frog by Patricia Harrison Easton
The Key Collection by Andrea Cheng Meow
Means Mischief by Ann Whitehead
Nagda Prairie Friends by Nancy Smiler Levinson
Snowed in with Grandmother Silk by Carolyn Fenner
Tippy Lemmey by Patricia McKissack
Turkey Monster Thanksgiving by Anne Warren Smith

JANUARY IS BRAILLE LITERACY MONTH

January is Braille Literacy Month in honor of the inventor, Louis Braille. We are encouraging libraries to host an event, such as a children's story hour, using and demonstrating Braille. The Talking Book and Braille Services has Braille bookmarks, Braille alphabet cards, and twin vision books (books that have print and Braille words) that are available to have or for loan. Also there are Braille activities at the American Federation for the Blind website: www.afb.org/braillebug/. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 503-378-5435.

OTHER LIBRARY NEWS

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TWO PUBLIC LIBRARIES AWARDED CDBG GRANTS

Word came in December that the Mt. Angel Public Library and the Port Orford Public Library would each be receiving Community Development Block Grants awarded by the Oregon Department of Community and Economic Development. Both of the grants, from federal funding sources, were for \$500,000. In addition, the Port Orford Public Library learned of another \$50,000 Rural Development Grant that they were awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. CDBG grants have been key to the success of several public library construction projects, including the recently completed project in Alsea. A successful funding strategy has been to use these federal grants to leverage foundation support and local fundraising support to finance new library construction. For more information about Community Development Block Grants, go to the Oregon Department of Community and Economic Development website: <http://www.econ.state.or.us/cdbg.htm>.

NCLIS HEALTH AWARD FOR LIBRARIES

The 2006 National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Health Award for Libraries has been established to recognize libraries that excel in helping citizens find the consumer health information

they need and learn how to live healthy lifestyles. All libraries in the United States are eligible. If your library is working to encourage healthy lifestyles, share what you do. Apply for the 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries. In each state, a top candidate will be selected by a panel of distinguished judges, chosen by State Librarians. From these 52 candidates, ten winners will be chosen, with one \$20,000 prize winner and nine \$1,000 finalists. The application deadline is January 31, 2006. To learn more, or to apply go to www.nclis.gov.

LAMPMAN AWARD NOMINATIONS

Here's your opportunity to bring recognition to a deserving individual. The winner will receive the OLA Children's Services Division Evelyn Sibley Lampman Award.

The Lampman Award is presented by the Children's Services Division to honor a living Oregon author, librarian, or educator who has made a significant contribution to the children of Oregon. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006, is the deadline for nominating someone you believe has made a lasting contribution to libraries, children's services, or children's literature. Former award winners include Ursula K. LeGuin, Walter Minkel and Ellen Fader. For further information please contact me or visit: <http://www.olaweb.org/csd/lampnom.html>.

Nomination eligibility requirements are as follows:

- ? The person shall reside principally in Oregon.
- ? The award shall be given for personal accomplishments to recognize the individual's contribution and shall not be conferred upon an individual representing the accomplishments of many.
- ? Only living persons may be considered for the award.

Please include the following in the award submissions:

- ? Nominee's name, title, address, and phone (if known).
- ? Description of the nominee's significant and lasting contributions over the years that have benefited the children of Oregon.

You can submit your nomination by e-mail or post. The deadline for nominations is Saturday, January 7, 2006. Submit your nominations to: Debra Bogart, Lampman Committee Chair, debra.s.bogart@ci.eugene.or.us, phone: 541-682-8480, Eugene Public Library, 100 West Tenth Avenue Eugene, OR 97401.

PS. (FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN)
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Today is the day that Harry Bruce takes over from Mike Eisenberg as the new dean of the Information School at the University of Washington. It brings to a close a remarkable eight years in which Eisenberg

transformed a fairly mediocre library school into one of the leading schools of library and information science in the country.

The State Library had very little to do with the library school at UW until Mike arrived. What I heard back in the 80's and early 90's was that enrollment was essentially capped and they had their hands full just dealing with Washington students. But it wasn't long after Mike got here from Syracuse that his vision became apparent to build an outstanding regional school of library and information science that would serve the entire Pacific Northwest. Mike reached out to us. He and his faculty made many visits to Oregon. He formed an advisory board and recruited outstanding Oregon librarians like Ginnie Cooper and Janet Webster and Cindy Romaine. Soon the residence program was enrolling Oregon students, and several years ago, the new distance program (the first distance Master's degree program at UW) began enrolling Oregon students. Today Oregon students comprise the second largest group, after Washington students, in the distance program.

Creating a regional school of library and information science was only part of Mike's vision, and only part of his considerable record of accomplishment. The iSchool now has a doctoral program and an undergraduate program in informatics. Overall enrollment has quadrupled. In October, in his annual state of the university address, UW President Mark Emmert lauded the iSchool as exemplifying the kind of transformation he would like to see in all departments at UW. I watched the streaming video of the speech. He spoke of a metamorphosis that is quite astounding, and recommended that the entire university follow the example of the iSchool in setting high standards of excellence and pursuing collaboration across disciplines. What a tribute to Mike and his achievement!

Mike has recruited outstanding faculty in the past eight years. People like Joe Janes, Karen Fischer, Harry Bruce and his wife Lorraine Bruce, who is working closely with OEMA on the Oregon School Library Information System. Harry was a great choice to succeed Mike because they share the same vision, and Harry has indicated he will continue on the path that Mike has set.

When I came to the State Library twenty years ago the situation with library education here was dire. The University of Oregon library school was becoming a distant memory, and there were really no other alternatives for Oregon students without moving to California or some other faraway state. Today the situation has really turned around. Oregon students can choose between two great programs offered by Emporia State University and UW. There are many differences in these two programs in terms of their emphases and their instructional methods. This diversity is good. And of course there are many other distance programs available to Oregon students as well.

Mike Eisenberg is stepping down as dean, but he will continue on the faculty at the iSchool. He tells me he will now be able to devote more

time to research and advocacy for school libraries, his specialty. That's great news. Maybe Mike, the turnaround specialist, can show school libraries in Oregon and the Northwest how to achieve the same kind of transformation that the iSchool has seen in the past eight years. -- Jim Scheppke

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