



nhLa

FALL 2006 • VOLUME 59, NO. 2

# NEWS

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## From the President

*By Doris Mitton, President, NHLA*

A contract was signed with the Local Government Center to renew our relationship with them for the coming year. The Local Government Center has handled all of our mailings, helps maintain our membership database, and lays out our newsletter. All previous services will remain with some additional services added to the contract. Please use their address (25 Triangle Park Drive, PO Box 617, Concord, NH 03302) for all mailings. This service will be a big help to our association and our needs.

In the next few weeks you will see a ballot to vote for your new Board Members to the Association. Please take the time to fill it out and mail it back to the Local Government Center. Every vote counts! Included with the ballot will be the changes to the By Laws and Constitution for you to read and approve. Our members have worked many hours on these changes.

Summer Reading is over and we are all looking forward to a fabulous fall!

## Report for 2006 ALA Annual Conference New Orleans, LA June 25-28, 2006

*By Diane Tebbetts, ALA Councilor*

As all of you know, this year's ALA Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. This was the first major conference to be held in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. While there is still much damage in New Orleans and a lot of work still to do in some of the parishes, the area of the conference was in fairly good condition. The Conference Center had been completely renovated and the hotels were in good condition. I stayed at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside and it was fine—the facilities and services were as good as they always are. The area of the French Quarter and immediately around the Conference Center was in fairly good condition, although there were still buildings that had not been renovated and businesses that had not returned. The level the water had reached was still evident on the sides of the buildings. However, the Café du Monde was open and serving café au lait and beignets, so it's evident New Orleans is coming back. The city and everyone we spoke with, including hotel employees, were very grateful that the American Library Association had decided to continue with the New Orleans location. Much of the Conference was focused on New Orleans. Several major speakers were from New Orleans or were concerned with the city and the aftermath of the Hurricane. I went

*continued next page*

### In This Issue:

From the President.....	1
Report for 2006 ALA Annual Conference .....	1
Ellen Goodman Receives Sarah Josepha Hale Award.....	3
What Was Your Library Doing on September 11th?.....	4
On the Job With... ..	5
NHLA Fall Conference.....	6
Guide to Dues Reimbursement for Your Employer.....	7

### 2005-2006 NHLA EXECUTIVE BOARD

\* **President—Doris Mitton** \* **Past President—Catherine Redden** \* **Vice President—Annie Donahue**  
\* **Secretary—Dianne Hathaway** \* **Treasurer—Carl Heidenblad**

to hear Anderson Cooper and he gave a very moving talk about his experiences in covering the Hurricane and the last time he had been in the Conference Center before this speaking engagement. I didn't realize that he had family connections to New Orleans. We also heard an editor of the *Times-Picayune* recall his experiences during the disaster. Of course, the state of the libraries both in New Orleans and in the Mississippi Gulf Coast was of concern and some librarians went to help in the recovery efforts.

The Conference itself went along fine. Although the numbers were a little low, it was still respectable with almost 17,000 librarians and vendors in attendance. Madeleine Albright gave the opening general session and First Lady Laura Bush held a town meeting for the American Association of School Librarians (AASL).

ALA Council did its work efficiently and in a collegial spirit. The resolutions adopted:

- Opposed the so-called "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" (TABOR) bills that have been adopted in some states.
- Urged libraries to help educate the public about the genocide occurring in Darfur, Sudan.
- Urged Congress to direct the EPA to fund the EPA library network
- Supported the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006, which directs federal agencies to supply their documents to depository libraries
- Urged Congress to stop the destruction of Federal libraries and employ professional librarians to staff them

- Supported online social networks as developers of information literacy skills
- Affirmed Network Neutrality
- Supported the E-rate discounts for libraries and schools
- Supported the American Association of Law Libraries resolution on public access to (PACER) Public Access to Court Electronic Records in federal depository libraries
- Endorsed HR676, Single Payer Healthcare "Expanded Medicare for All" and S2772, "Health Partnership Act"
- Recommended standards for retention of library usage records
- Recommended collaboration among ALA units "toward a national conversation about privacy as an American value"
- Commended the Connecticut "John Does" for their resistance to a National Security Letter from the FBI.
- Adopted the "Resolution on Lessons Learned from Meeting in New Orleans" which commends librarians in the Gulf Coast area for their response to the disaster, calls on conference attendees to bear witness to the extent of the work that remains to be done there, asks librarians to continue to support "adopt a library" programs, and urges librarians to establish or strengthen their relationships with state and local emergency planning agencies to ensure that libraries are part of the preparation, response and recovery in future disasters

The ALA-APA seems to be making progress, especially in the certification programs with 11 approved courses being offered. Also, the librarians' salary survey is underway and APA is working on a new non-MLS survey. The financial situation

## NHLA NEWS

New Hampshire Library Association  
P.O. Box 2332  
Concord, NH 03302-2332  
[www.state.nh.us/nhla/](http://www.state.nh.us/nhla/)

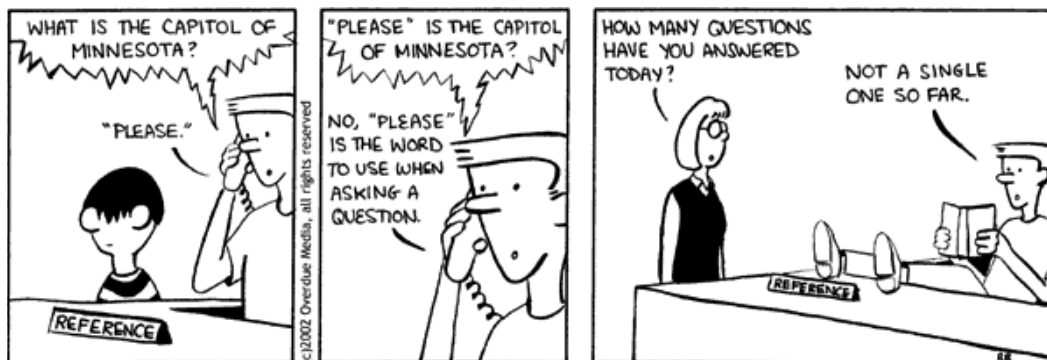
(ISSN 1083-0324)

The **NHLA News** is the official newsletter of the New Hampshire Library Association. The newsletter is free to NHLA members and \$6/year for nonmembers.

### NEWSLETTER BOARD

Rebecca Clerkin, Editor  
Annie Donahue, Article Facilitator

Send articles, announcements and dates of upcoming events to:  
Rebecca Clerkin  
NH Community Technical College  
277 Portsmouth Avenue  
Stratham, NH 03880  
[rclerkin@nhctc.edu](mailto:rclerkin@nhctc.edu)



Unshelved™ by Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum. © 2006 Overdue Media LLC, all rights reserved.

For more Unshelved™ subscribe at [www.unshelved.com](http://www.unshelved.com)

seems to be improving but contributions are still needed. The ALA-APA Council supported its Committee on the Salary and Status of Library Workers' resolution on support for Freedom to Form Unions: Employee Free Choice Act, but defeated a second resolution supporting overtime pay protections.

In summary, the ALA 2006 Annual Conference went very well. New Orleans was extremely pleased to host our conference and the city rose to the occasion with remarkable fortitude and courage. The librarians, who attended, showed courage and support for a great city and

for the American Library Association.

Personally, it has been a great pleasure and a wonderful learning experience for me to represent New Hampshire on ALA Council. Thank you for your support during my two terms as Councilor. I will continue to represent you until the elections in the fall, and I will provide all the assistance and help I can to the new Councilor so there will be a seamless transition.

*Thank you again,  
Diane*

---

## Ellen Goodman to receive the 2006 Sarah Josepha Hale Award

*By Andrea Thorpe, Director, Richards Free Library - Newport*

**R**enowned journalist, Ellen Goodman will receive the 2006 Sarah Josepha Hale Award for distinction in writing by a New Englander on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 p.m. at the Newport Opera House.

A native of Massachusetts, Goodman graduated from Radcliffe College and later was a Neiman Fellow at Harvard. She began her career at Newsweek and then moved to the Detroit Free Press. In 1967, she began her association with the Boston Globe. Her Pulitzer Prize winning column, now syndicated in more than 375 newspapers, broke journalistic ground by expanding the debate on op-ed pages to include social change and its effect on the family.

In addition to her 1980 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, Ellen Goodman has received the American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award (1980); the Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (1988); the President's Award by The National Women's Political Caucus (1993); and the American Woman Award by the Women's Research & Education Institute (1994).

Her writings include: *Turning Points*, 1979; *Paper Trail: Common Sense in Uncommon Times*, 2004; *Close to Home*, 1979; *At Large*, 1981; *Keeping in Touch*, 1985; *Making Sense*, 1989; *Value Judgments*, 1993; and with her friend and co-author, Patricia O'Brien *I Know Just What You Mean: The Power of Friendship in Women's Lives*, 2000.

For fifty years, the Sarah Josepha Hale Award has been given by the trustees of the Richards Free Library, Newport,

New Hampshire, in recognition of a distinguished body of written work in the field of literature and letters. Named for Sarah Josepha Hale, the award honors the contribution of one of America's most powerful women of the Nineteenth Century. Hale, author of several books and hundreds of poems, shaped the opinion of American women for forty years through her editorials and essays in *Godey's Lady's Magazine*.

For more information please contact Andrea Thorpe, Library Director 603-863-3430 or [rfl@newport.lib.nh.us](mailto:rfl@newport.lib.nh.us).



*Sarah Josepha Hale*

# What was your library doing on September 11<sup>th</sup>?

By Steve Viggiano, Assistant Director, Goffstown Public Library

The Goffstown Public Library was proud to be one of 290 libraries in 23 countries participating this year in The September Project. To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks, we hosted several programs, both in the library and out in the community.

Since 2004, The September Project has been an opportunity for libraries to promote dialogue about topics that matter, like democracy, freedom, and citizenship. Libraries have hosted book and photograph displays, held book discussions, sponsored lectures and forums, and organized community events like flag ceremonies and vigils. Some have even remained open all night in quiet witness to the freedoms they represent.

The relationship between these social issues and libraries are probably clear to most of us in the profession. They are summed up quite eloquently, however, by Bill Erbes, Library Assistant Director of the Bensenville Community Public Library, and founder of Libraries Remember. He writes:

*Libraries represent the sum of all human knowledge, and they represent equal access to that knowledge. Libraries represent freedom of expression, celebration of diversity, a level playing field, preservation of heritage, and commitment to the future. Libraries represent everything antithetical to that which gives rise to misunderstanding, hatred, fanaticism, and terrorism. There can be no more fitting tribute, no more appropriate commemoration of September 11, 2001, than for libraries across the United States to simply be there.*

We first asked ourselves what we would do on September 11<sup>th</sup> last spring, when we received a letter from Bill Erbes inviting our library to take part in The September Project. At the time, we were in the midst of preparing to host The Moving Wall, a half-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This community-wide event had taken two years of hard work and planning to realize, and we wanted our first year participating in the September Project to stand well outside the shadow of this great undertaking. We also decided the fifth anniversary of the tragedy would mark a more meaningful time to start.

Sandy Whipple, who had been instrumental in bringing The Moving Wall to Goffstown, quickly embraced our taking part. Jessica Stevens, well experienced in planning and

leading successful children's and young adult programming, was equally enthusiastic, and the two quickly applied their enthusiasm and passion to The September Project. The three of us, wanting to involve as much of the community as possible, came up with a list of activities for all ages.

Events for 9/11 and the days leading up to it included the airing of two films: *The Guys* and *Seven Days in September*. On the morning of 9/11, we held a community vigil on The Common at 8:45 a.m., the time coinciding with the first plane hitting the North Tower of the World Trade Center. That afternoon, we hosted an online discussion with Holocaust survivor Marion Blumenthal Lazan. Crafted for all ages, her story was one of courage and the will to survive, as she related coming through her ordeal not with bitterness but with optimism and hope. She also took questions from listeners around the country. That evening we hosted a program called *Civil Liberties vs. Security in Post 9-11 America*, presented by Richard Hesse, Professor Emeritus at Franklin Pierce Law Center, and funded through a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

We felt it was important to offer something not just for people to watch or attend, but something tangible in which children and adults could take part together. Entitled *Wishes for our World*, our program allowed the community to reflect upon the innocent life lost that day, while at the same time articulate a hopeful vision for the future. We made small paper stars available to the public, on which people could write a wish, hope, prayer, or memory. Local businesses agreed to carry blank stars, as well as post completed wishes in their store windows. Community response was overwhelming, and we collected over three thousand stars, one for each of the lives lost on 9/11.

While we mourn the tragedy of 9/11, we are also inspired by the hopes and aspirations of our community. In providing a place and opportunity for people to come together and share ideas, we hope our library has done its part in promoting the ideals that make our nation great and give us the strength to withstand those who would do us harm. Why not join us next year? Visit [www.theseptemberproject.org](http://www.theseptemberproject.org) and find out how!

# On the Job With...

By Sarah Leonardi, Reference & Adult Services Section (READS)

## *On the job with...*

*Eleanor Croteau – Manchester City Library*

### **READS: How did you get started working in libraries?**

Eleanor: When I was in high school my dad worked for the city of Manchester. He found out that there was an opening at the library and what the requirements were. He frequently used the library resources and was instrumental with my decision to apply. The rest is history.

### **READS: What is the best thing about your current job?**

Eleanor: I truly believe the best thing here at MCL are the employees! They are a very dedicated and talented group of individuals. Often times we need to work as a team and, by doing so, we provide so much genuine care and support for one another. I feel very fortunate to be associated with this group of people.

### **READS: What is the *one* thing we should all know about you or your library?**

Eleanor: Manchester City Library has the largest circulating collection in the state.

### **READS: What is the strangest request you have received from an adult in the library?**

Eleanor: I honestly can't recall just one situation. But rather many obscure titles from foreign languages, religious and technical material.

### **READS: What piece of advice would you give a new librarian entering the profession?**

Eleanor: Try to build relationships with your patrons. Here at Manchester City Library the building is large and can seem intimidating to patrons who might ask for assistance. If you can use a friendlier approach, the patron may remember the encounter as a positive experience and feel more empowered for their next visit.

### **READS: What/Who is your favorite book/author?**

Eleanor: I am really not able to choose just one author and title. It depends on my mood and what time allows! I've enjoyed Diane Mott Davidson, Alice Sebold, Dan Brown, Rachel Ray, and Shel Silverstein to name a few.

### **READS: How do you spend your time when you are not at the library?**

Eleanor: When I am not at the library I am shuffling between

my oldest high school daughter's activities (currently taking Driver's education classes) and my youngest fifth grader's engagements. Last but not least...when time allows, I occasionally get to see my husband. Also, I am very lucky to have my parents and siblings nearby and without their assistance none of my hectic schedule would be possible!

## *On the job with...*

*Darcy Coffta – Rochester Public Library*

### **READS: How did you get started working in libraries?**

Darcy: I guess it all really started when I was in photography school at the Rochester Institute of Technology. I was working at the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House adding description and cross-referencing a collection. It was years later that I applied for my first library job at the University of New England where I worked in Circulation. After that I moved to the University of New Hampshire and worked in Technical Services. Now I am in Reference Services at Rochester Public Library.

### **READS: What is the best thing about your current job?**

Darcy: Without a doubt, it is the people at Rochester Public Library that I am privileged to work alongside. I am constantly amazed at the wealth of knowledge and life experience in the Library and it usually comes out over a shared lunch or quick cup of coffee in the morning. It is a remarkable group of people that are dedicated to serving the patrons and working together to consistently do and learn more.

### **READS: What is the *one* thing we should all know about you or your library?**

Darcy: The *one* thing you should know is that there is just not *one* thing! There's a lot happening at Rochester Public Library! We now provide the community with wireless Internet access. We continue to provide 24/7 Reference Service via the website. Our Children's Programming is incredible – they just concluded their Summer Reading Program and are now getting ready for Story Time and Crafts. Likewise, our Teen Summer Reading Program was another success. We are offering new events in the way of adult programming and provide local artists with display space in the Library. The collection is growing with more and more books, audio books, music, and dvds. And best of all is that the community really supports the library and takes full advantage of the available resources. For example,

*continued next page*

through the efforts of VITA and AARP, free tax assistance was made available at the Library right up through April.

**READS: What is the strangest request you have received from an adult in the library?**

Darcy: Nothing really strikes me as “strange” – it’s the range of questions that is most remarkable. Questions from quotations to recipes all the way to requests for information that are very scientific or technical in nature.

**READS: What piece of advice would you give a new librarian entering the profession?**

Darcy: Know Technical Services – it’s the “brain” of the library. I have learned more about how to make our catalog easier for patrons to search, how to interpret records and

how to locate resources all from the time I have spent in Technical Services.

**READS: What/Who is your favorite book/author?**

Darcy: Some of the books I have read lately and highly recommend are Tom Hunt’s *Cliffs of Despair*, *The Lost Men* by Kelly Tyler-Lewis, *The Winds of Change* by Eugene Linden, *The Lobotomist* by Jack El-Hai, and most recently I am reading, *The Oracle* by William J. Broad.

**READS: How do you spend your time when you are not at the library?**

Darcy: I am a homebody – my free time is spent at home, either on the lake or in the woods with my husband and two dogs. I love to cook and hope to run my first marathon in 2007.

---

## NHLA Fall Conference

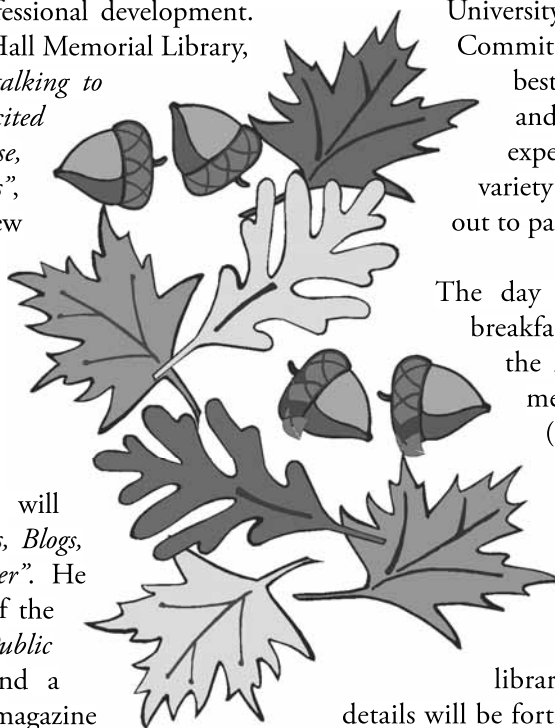
*By Annie Donahue, Vice President, NHLA*

The NHLA annual meeting will take place on November 2, 2006 at the *Capitol Center for the Arts* in Concord, New Hampshire. This one-day conference/meeting will offer several opportunities for professional development. In the morning, Mary Ahlgren, of Hall Memorial Library, will present “*The P’s and Q’s of talking to the Press . . . how to handle unsolicited questions from the press with poise, preparation and plenty of pauses*”, then Kathy Smith, of the New Hampshire Humanities Council (NHHC), will provide a brief informational session followed by a short performance by one of the Chautauqua scholars from the NHHC program offerings.

In the afternoon, Steven Cohen will present a session entitled “*Libraries, Blogs, and RSS - An Affair to Remember*”. He has been the contributing editor of the Internet Spotlight column for *Public Libraries* magazine since 2001 and a columnist for *Information Today* magazine since 2006. Cohen’s presentation is a part of the **Todd Trevorrow Commemorative Series**

**on Managing Knowledge in the Digital Era**, which is funded through a NHHEAF Network Initiative grant and sponsored by the New Hampshire College and University Council (NHCUC) Libraries Committee. Following Cohen’s presentation, a best-practices panel, made up of academic and public librarians, will discuss their experiences and offer practical tips from the variety of innovative ways they are reaching out to patrons.

The day begins with registration and light breakfast from 8:30am to 9:00am and then the morning sessions begin. The annual meeting will take place following lunch (included in your registration fee) and then the afternoon sessions will continue until 3:00pm. This full-day event is a great way to connect with fellow librarians throughout the state and to learn some terrific new ideas to take back to your library. A registration flyer with complete details will be forthcoming so mark your calendars and plan to join us.



# Guide to Dues Reimbursement for Your Employer

By John Chrastka, ALA Manager for Membership Development. [jchrastka@ala.org](mailto:jchrastka@ala.org)

If you're not the only one benefiting from your association membership, then why are you the only one paying for it?

Your library association membership isn't just valuable to you, it's valuable to your library, too. As a member, you know you receive top-quality professional publications, gain opportunities for essential continuing education, and have access to a unique set of resources to improve your own worklife. But is your employer aware of how these benefits can advance your entire library's mission and work?

By demonstrating how your library association membership improves your work, and therefore your workplace, you can encourage your employer to pay your association dues. Here are 4 simple steps to help you build a compelling case with your boss or board to pay for your professional memberships:

1. Make a list of all member benefits that directly AND indirectly benefit your library. We've included some ideas at the end of this article to help get you started.
2. Review your library's mission and strategic goals. Match up specific organizational or departmental objectives with association resources that help you meet those goals.
3. Talk with your supervisor about why membership has been valuable to you, and go through the list of ways that association benefits 'match' your library's goals.
4. Ask your supervisor to cover all or part of your library association dues as an investment in your own professional development, and as a benefit to the entire library.

Don't be shy. Remember, pennies a day in dues, your library gets a well-connected and informed staff member who is up-to-date on new trends around the library world and understands how the latest technology, legislative issues and new media affect your patrons. Plus, you get the personal bonus of an employer who understands and acknowledges this in a special way.

You know how important your membership is. Here are a few facts about membership benefits to share with your employer:

- Your membership will help you stay up to date with the latest news focused on the work you do every day through members-only publications, e-lists, and special interest sections.
- Members-only discounts on professional products and conference attendance. These discounts help the library stretch its budget for purchasing and continuing education.
- Your association offers grants, scholarships, and awards that can directly subsidize the library budget for conferences, continuing education, and special programs.
- You are eligible to serve on committees and work groups that set the course for the future of libraries. Boards and community leadership are proud of, and find added value in, staff members who are recognized by their peers for outstanding service.
- Your own staff development goals can be enhanced through the continuing education, skills training, and mentoring programs offered by the association. Plus, you bring back new ideas to your coworkers from every outside training.
- Members have unique opportunities to contribute articles, propose new publications, become a reviewer and bring your library's best-practices to a new audience. This brings recognition to your library in the wider community of professionals.

For more information on association member benefits, or to learn more about the opportunities described above, visit <http://www.ala.org> for the American Library Association or <http://www.state.nh.us/nhla/> for the New Hampshire Library Association. We are glad that you are a member and support your efforts to gain the recognition from your employer that you deserve.



*PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!*

The NHIA Fall Conference is scheduled for Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will be held at the *Capitol Center for the Arts* in downtown Concord. Program details are still under construction but will be included in the fall newsletter.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

