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The **MBLC FY2002 Annual Report**  
is inserted between pages 4 & 5.



The Board of Library Commissioners is the agency of state government with the statutory authority and responsibility to organize, develop, coordinate, regulate and improve library services throughout the Commonwealth. The Board advises municipalities and library trustees on the operation and maintenance of public libraries, including construction and renovation. It administers state and federal grant programs for libraries and promotes cooperation among all types of libraries through regional library systems and automated resource sharing. It also works to ensure that all residents of the Commonwealth, regardless of their geographic location, social or economic status, age, level of physical or intellectual ability or cultural background, have access to essential new electronic information technologies and significant electronic databases.

### Commissioners

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John E. Henderson, *Brockton*  
Elia D. Marnik, *Reading*  
Robert F. Mooney, *Nantucket*

Robert C. Maier  
Director

## Legislative Agenda Stresses Statewide Core Library Services

This year's Legislative Agenda that was adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners at their November 2002 Board Meeting is the result of discussions with Regional Library System administrators, the Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Committee, Commissioners, Board staff and other stakeholders.

Due to the increasingly difficult financial constraints of the State Budget that are due to a drop in revenues for FY2003, and projected for FY2004, it seemed essential to focus on working to restore the statewide infrastructure for library service and content provided to libraries statewide.

In doing so, the following objectives were considered: address core statewide services, create a single legislative focus, assure that every type of library, region and network benefits from the package, try to simplify the message, make it affordable and keep it flexible so that it could be funded either with an appropriation or bond bill.

The Legislative Agenda for Fiscal Year 2003 seeks to restore approximately \$3 million in funding for library services that was cut from the state budget for each of the next three years.

### Background

In 2001, Massachusetts residents made 25,809,565 visits to public libraries. Since then, state funding for library programs has suffered the largest reduction ever. The six regional library systems that serve more than 1,700 public, academic, school and special libraries across the state lost 24 percent of their funding, and funding for library technology, electronic resources, and the networks that give local libraries access to one another have been cut by 92 percent. Budget cuts have also hit programs for the blind, state aid to public libraries and the operating budget of the Board of Library Commissioners.

### Legislative Agenda

Budget reductions in FY2003 have basically eliminated the core services provided to libraries. The Legislative Agenda for FY2003 seeks to restore these core services, including:

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## West Warren Library Burns

A fire on Saturday evening, December 28, 2002, reportedly started by a candle in an apartment above the library, totally destroyed the West Warren Library on Main Street. Though early reports indicated that firefighters took measures to protect the library's materials, by the time the fire was extinguished, the building was not salvageable.

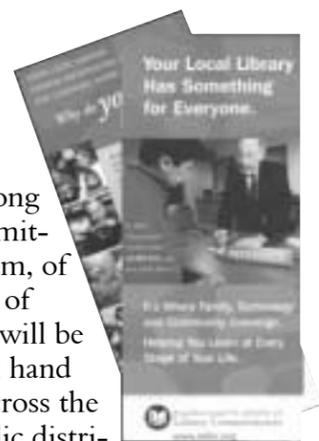
According to the *Springfield Union News*, "the one-room library had 75 cardholders who depended on the library's 11,000-plus books and 600 videos... On an average day, 15 adults and 30 children would stop by the cozy athenaeum, located on the first floor of the building."

According to **Rita Culliton**, librarian, the contents of the library, which leased space in the building, were insured. Fire Chief **James Dolan** said that 12 to 15 people were left homeless. Culliton and West Warren Library Association President **Robert Dougan** said that they would be looking for a temporary space, setting up a fund at Spencer Savings Bank and asked library users to return items to Culliton.

**Mildred Gushue**, president of the Board of Directors of the Warren Public Library, also offered her library's assistance, and reminded residents of West Warren that they are welcome at the Warren Public Library.

## Spring Public Awareness Campaign to Feature Hand Card

Looking for a way to broaden its message that "Your Local Library Has Something For Everyone," the Public Relations Committee, along with the Executive Committee and Management Team, of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, will be sending an informational hand card to public libraries across the Commonwealth for public distribution during the month of April.



"The hand card highlights the message that libraries are "where family, technology and community converge," says Commissioner **Dr. Em Claire Knowles**, secretary of the Board and chair of the Public Relations Committee. "It also highlights the vast number of citizens who use our libraries and their state-supported services such as interlibrary loan and magazine and newspaper databases." The cards also have a space on the back where each local library will be able, if they wish, to customize them with their logo, slogan or a fact, by affixing a label to the card.

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## Board Meeting Highlights



The **November 7<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) was held at the Newburyport Public Library where Head Librarian **Dorothy LaFrance** and Mayor **Alan Lavender** welcomed them and thanked the Board for its assistance in helping fund and work to build the renovated and enlarged library building. "Building usage is up 70 percent and circulation 37 percent since our reopening," said LaFrance.

Due to an extremely full agenda, Chairman **Joseph Hopkins** deferred his report, and asked for **Robert Maier** to give his Director's Report. Mr. Maier said that he had attended the recent Massachusetts School Library Media Association Conference in Sturbridge at which he had received many comments regarding the proposed revisions to the Eligibility Requirements for Participation as a Member of a Regional Library System. He also mentioned that he, along with several Commissioners, had attended the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CW/MARS, and that the agency would be meeting with a visiting librarian from Moldova soon. Lastly he thanked Commissioner **Edward Bertorelli** for his efforts in arranging a meeting with Secretary **Kevin Sullivan** from the Executive Office of Administration and Finance that resulted in release of construction funding that would be voted on. He also thanked **Patience Jackson** and **Anne Larsen**, MBLC Library Building Consultants, as well as other Commissioners, who have done such an excellent job of making sure that these library projects are of the highest quality. Lastly, he stated that his former position as Head of Library Development would be advertised shortly.

There being no Legislative Report, the Board then voted to grant 18 General Construction Public Library Grants totaling \$36,499,449 to the following communities: *Ashby, Ashland, Berlin, Boylston, Canton, D racut, Lakeville, Leominster, Lunenburg, Maynard, Mendon-Upton, Merrimac, Norfolk, North Adams, Orange, Rochester, Rutland and Watertown.* They also extended the date by which these communities must accept their awards to November 7, 2003. "This additional six months," said MBLC Library Building Consultant **Patience Jackson** "will give these communities greater flexibility in meeting their local requirements." Commissioner **Deborah Hill Bornheimer** as Board Liaison for Construction stated how "pleased she was to be able to see this day," and she also thanked Commissioner **Edward Bertorelli** for "his efforts in helping to move this Bond Bill (S2207) forward."

Director **Robert Maier** then presented the Legislative Agenda for FY2003 that included four major components:

- No further cuts in library funding
- Restore core services
- Maintain the services of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
- Re-Authorize the Federal Library Services and Technology Act.

He went on to state that the Executive Committee of the Board and the regional administrators had worked together to come up with this Legislative Agenda that provides something for every library and library user throughout the Commonwealth. By linking this agenda to real programs and dollars, it is hoped that the library community and the various library professional associations in Massachusetts can help present this message to the legislature, incoming administration and congressional delegation, he said. Following some discussion, the Board then voted to adopt this Legislative Agenda, and to work with the Public Relations Committee and others to present it in a meaningful way.

**Anne Meringolo**, MBLC State Aid Specialist, then brought before the Board the first 99 "municipalities meeting the requirements for FY2003 State Aid to Public Libraries." She informed the Commissioners that the vast majority of the rest of the municipalities would be presented at the December Board Meeting, and that municipalities applying for waivers would be presented at the January Board Meeting. She also stated that instead of one lump sum payment, each municipality would be receiving 50 percent of its payment upon certification, and the balance later in the fiscal year, due to the state's cash flow into the Board's State Aid Account Line Item.

**Paul Kissman**, MBLC Library Information System Specialist, brought before the Board two recommended grant awards for the FY2003 State Grant Round: Network Connections for Libraries and the Virtual Catalog/ILL Development. Five Network Connections for Libraries Grants totaling \$76,472 from account 7000-1991 were approved for Cape Libraries Automated Resource Sharing (CLAMS), Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing (C/WMARS), Metro Boston Library Network (MBLN), Minuteman Library Network (MLN) and Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC). In addition, \$200,000 was approved for the Boston Library Consortium "to permit the continued operation of the virtual catalog and the addition of both the central and western Massachusetts catalogs of the C/WMARS network," said Mr. Kissman.

In other actions, the Board approved the Library Services and Technology Act Direct Grant Program and Calendar for the FY2004 Grant Round with projected funding of \$921,579 in Mini-Grants and \$870,000 in Targeted Grants.

Appointment of **Diane Wallace**, Coordinator of Library Services at Brockton Hospital Medical Library, to a three-year term representing Institutional Libraries on the State Advisory Council on Libraries.

A FY2003 budget revision for the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System with a changed bottom line of \$1,381,063.

## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

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Certification of Library Personnel  
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Public Library Advisory and Technical Assistance  
Public Library Construction  
Public Library Emergency Assistance  
Regional Library Systems and Library of Last Recourse  
State Aid to Public Libraries  
Statewide Services to Libraries and Library Users

### Publication Information

MBLC Notes is a bi-monthly publication printed in January, March, May, July, September and November. The editor welcomes unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and publish it based on space and suitability. Submissions must be sent to the editor at least four weeks prior to publication date.

For further information contact David Gray at [david.l.gray@state.ma.us](mailto:david.l.gray@state.ma.us) or by calling 617-267-9400.

(continued on page 6)

## Legislative Agenda (continued from page 1)

Specialized databases. On-line magazines and newspapers give library users free access to accurate information on health, business - just about anything. These databases were accessed approximately 7.5 million times last year. (\$1,000,000)

Regional delivery. Each year the regional library systems transport more than 6 million books and other materials from one library to another for library patrons within 24 hours. (\$600,000)

Automated networks. Libraries depend on computers and computer networks to check out books, maintain catalogs, borrow books from other libraries and for Internet access. (\$1,000,000)

Small Libraries in Networks. Sixty-five public libraries in the smallest towns in Massachusetts require ongoing support to offer automated services to their residents. (\$140,000)

Virtual catalog. With a library card, library users can search library catalogs via the Internet and find a book, its location and reserve it. (\$200,000)

MassCat. This service makes accessible the catalogs of more than 120 school and special libraries. (\$125,000)

Journals. Last year, 14,000 articles, not available at local libraries, were requested statewide by students and researchers from the Journal Article Clearinghouse through the Boston Public Library. (\$210,000)

Cuts to the Board of Library Commissioners to restore positions providing technical assistance to public library trustees, and oversight and support to libraries implementing grant projects.

The legislative agenda also seeks to increase federal funding to Massachusetts libraries. Massachusetts presently receives about \$3.3 million annually of which about \$2 million goes out to libraries of all types in grants and statewide services.

## Central Region Exploring Ties to Worcester Area Cooperating Libraries

The Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (CMRLS) and Worcester Area Cooperating Libraries (WACL) are investigating ways to combine programatically to provide service to people who live, work or study in central Massachusetts, says **Carolyn Noah**, CMRLS Administrator.

WACL is a coalition of primarily academic libraries who work together to facilitate the sharing of resources and services. Members of WACL are also members of CMRLS and currently receive free services with an average annual value of \$39,000 through their memberships.

The two organizations have formed a joint transition team to develop a plan for CMRLS to provide programmatic support for WACL activities. Basic services, such as committee support and professional development, were transferred during the latter part of 2002.

The WACL libraries engage in several

distinctive programs that are outside the boundaries of CMRLS' basic service to libraries. Among them are the Worcester Area Union List of Serials and a library cross-borrowing program. For those, the team will consider scope of services and negotiate a long-term agreement. Also addressed will be governance and organizational structure.

Transition team members include **Suzanne Hoey**, Director, Worcester Law Library; **Janet Baker**, Trustee, Conant Library, Sterling; **Susan Shelton**, Director, Leominster Public Library; **Dawn Thistle**, Director, Assumption College's d'Alzon Library; **Penelope Johnson**, Head Librarian, Worcester Public Library; **James Hogan**, Director, Dinand Library, College of the Holy Cross; **Helen Shuster**, Director, Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Gordon Library, and **Carolyn Noah**, Administrator, CMRLS.

The transition team will present its recommendations to the Board of Directors of WACL and the Executive Board of CMRLS by April 1, 2003.

## Bush Foundation to Award School Library Grants

As school budgets have become stretched, school districts have had to apply their resources to programs and services other than libraries. As a result, some libraries lack a good collection of enjoyable and engaging books that encourage children to read, as well as up-to-date subject area books and reference materials. One of the purposes of the Laura Bush Foundation is to help libraries find a balance between technology and contemporary books by providing needed funding for book purchases.

"Connecting children with books is a critical step toward instilling the love of reading at a very young age," said First Lady **Laura Bush** in establishing the Foundation. "I look forward to working with other book lovers to ensure that every child in our great nation has access through books to the building blocks of learning."

The Foundation has announced its first round of grants of up to \$5,000 to school libraries to update, extend and diversify their book collections. Any school may apply, but priority for grants will be given to those schools in which 75-100 percent of the school population receives free or reduced lunch.

Applications must be received prior to the close of business at 5 pm, February 28, 2003, for consideration.

No school can submit more than one application per grant cycle.

Schools are encouraged to submit their application using the online form; however, print forms will be accepted. Applicants will be notified of receipt of their grant application, and awards will be made on or before May 15, 2003.

Online applications are available at the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries at [www.laurabushfoundation.com](http://www.laurabushfoundation.com).

For questions regarding the grants, contact **Meg Pearson** at the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, at

[mpearson@cfncr.org](mailto:mpearson@cfncr.org) or 202-955-5890, ext. 125.

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is a fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, an IRS approved 501(c)(3).

## ARIS Q&A

**Q.** How can I convert the 35-hour FTE data in the various Data for Massachusetts reports to make staffing level comparisons with other departments in my town that have a 40-hour work week?

**A.** These two quick steps will enable you to make staffing comparisons based on a 40-hour work week:

Multiply the FTE figure appearing in the report by 35 to get the total hours worked per week by the staff. For example, 9.5 FTE (based on 35-hour work week) x 35 = 332.5 hours per week worked by the library's staff.

Divide the hours worked per week by the staff by 40 hours to convert the FTE. For example, 332.5/40 = 8.3125 = 8.3 FTE based on a 40-hour work week.

Use the same steps to convert the 35-hour FTE to one based on any variety of work weeks that may be relevant in your community or in its peer communities, for example 37.5 or 33 hours per week.

The Data for Massachusetts reports show FTEs based on 35 hours because that is the most frequently occurring work week for library directors in public libraries.

*Mary Litterst  
Planning & Research Specialist*

## Fast Facts

### Who is helping the director @ your library?

Just under half of public libraries in Massachusetts report funding an Assistant Director's position. As of July 1, 2002, 178 Massachusetts public libraries (48%) reported positions in the Assistant Library Director classification. This is a slight decrease (3%) from three years ago (July 1, 1999) when 184 libraries reported Assistant Director positions.

In addition, a total of 115 public libraries report funding an Administrative Assistant position; about 31 percent of the state's public libraries. This is a 13 percent increase from three years ago (July 1, 1999) when 102 libraries reported such positions.

Source: FY2003 and FY2000 ARIS

### Public Awareness (continued from page 1)

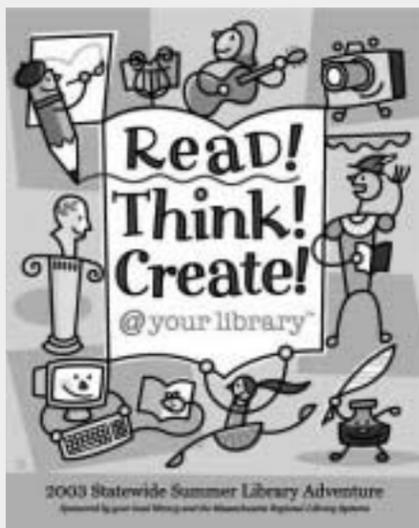
Although the majority of the 500,000 cards will be used during April when National Library Week is held, the cards will also be used at the upcoming Legislative Breakfasts and other events sponsored by the Massachusetts Library Association, said **David Gray**, MBLC Director of Communications. In addition, it is also hoped that during April more than 30 communities throughout the state will feature stories of library users and special events as a way to focus on both their local and state library services, he continued.



## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

### Summer Library Adventure Coming

The Youth Services Consultants of the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems are pleased to announce the publication of the first online manual for the 2003 Statewide Summer Library Adventure, **Read! Think! Create! @ your library™**. After studying the components of summer reading and considering the possibility of budget cuts and how that would impact current summer reading program funding, going online as many other states have done was the best choice.



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All Read! Think! Create! @ your library™ artwork is the property of the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems and 2003 artist Kent Lew

Many of the regular features that were in the print version such as press release samples, promotion and display ideas, and programs and activities for a variety of age ranges are included. The bibliography, another typical feature, is evolving into the Suggested Thematic Reading List, which will be a stronger and more carefully crafted tool, and closely connected to the arts theme. It will be online in February.

New features include the programs and activities broken down to specific age ranges: Birth - Two Years Old, Three Years Old, Four - Five Years Old, Six - Eight Years Old, Nine - Eleven Years Old, and 12 Years and Up. Other new features include a planning calendar, a section of self-contained reading programs and a feedback form.

Participants will be receiving a Summer Reading Program "Bright Ideas" Newsletter that will give the latest summer reading updates, including user names and passwords to the password protected sites (primarily the artwork) in the Manual.

Many of the regions are also presenting workshops about the manual. Check your region's Continuing Education Calendar and register! You can view the Online Manual at [www.nmrls.org/sum/2003\\_resource\\_index.html](http://www.nmrls.org/sum/2003_resource_index.html)

Susan C. Babb, Youth Services Consultant  
Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System

### Building for the Future in Gardner

Neither the cold nor an impending storm could keep away the crowd who gathered in Gardner on Wednesday afternoon, December 11, 2002, for the groundbreaking of the new Levi Heywood Memorial Library.

**Ronald Cormier**, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, welcomed the many dignitaries, supporters, staff and friends of the library that spilled out of the tent. Library services in Gardner go all the way back to 1884 when the current Library Association was founded, he said. "This project has been a long time in coming," he continued, "but we are very grateful to the many individuals who have helped us in making this become a reality."



State and Gardner city officials ceremoniously toss the first shovels of dirt on the site of the new Levi Heywood Memorial Library on Wednesday, December 11, 2002.

wonderful.

Following a number of accolades, Heywood Library Director **Gail Landy**, said "This is a moment for everyone... This is incredible... This is for Gardner."

### Allston Branch Library in Boston Wins Kudos



Boston Globe Photo

Exterior of the Allston Branch of the Boston Public Library.

and Silveti of Boston." The jurors point out that it occupies a difficult site, which they call "an urban neighborhood on a heavily trafficked thoroughfare lined with triple-decker wood residences, one-story brick warehouses and occasional commercial buildings."

The jurors go on, "There is a timeless quality to the building as a whole and a wonderfully effortless, beautiful [floor] plan.... The architects have done an extraordinary job ... a truly wonderful mix of materials.... The craftsmanship is clearly superior, the interiors are delightful and welcoming.... This is ... a glorious work of architecture... Wow!"



Courtyard



Gail Landy, Director of the Levi Heywood Memorial Library in Gardner, showing MBLC Director Robert Maier, left, Gardner Mayor Dan Kelley and Henri Sands, clerk of the Levi Heywood Memorial Library Association, right, the new building plans.

Others taking part included Gardner Mayor **Dan Kelley** who said that the partnership between the Library Association and the city "were the ultimate in a public private partnership." Massachusetts Attorney General **Tom Reilly**, also present, said he was happy his office had been able to help Gardner with a Massachusetts Brownfields Act Grant, and said "people did not just see this site as an empty lot, but decided to do something about it."

**Robert Maier**, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, said he wanted to also recognize the many people present who love their community and their library. These (groundbreaking) events are really

## Spotlight on LSTA

### Digitizing Historical Resources: Sports Temples of Boston

Through the "Digitizing Historical Resources" grant program, Massachusetts' libraries have support to create digital images of historical materials and make them available on the Internet. Moreover, the original documents can then be preserved and stored in secure, climate-controlled storage for those who actually need access to them for their research.

"The Boston Public Library (BPL) originally proposed to document sports venues in Boston by scanning postcards, photographs, posters, maps, lithographs, other printed images, scorecards and book illustrations published prior to 1923 from the four departments housing these images within the library," said **Aaron Schmidt**, Director of the Photo Collection in the BPL Print Department. "However, knowing the wealth of images in other institutions in Boston, the State Advisory Council on Libraries suggested that the project be



Aaron Schmidt, Director of the Photo Collection in the Print Department of the Boston Public Library, showing Mary Frances O'Brien, Assistant to the Director of Public Services at the Boston Public Library, a photo that has been scanned, cataloged and entered into the Sports Temples of Boston Online Exhibit.

expanded to include images from other repositories," said **Gregor Trinkaus-Randall**, Preservation Specialist at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. "We then approached a number of institutions and persuaded the Boston Athenaeum, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Sports Museum of New England, the Bostonian Society, the State Library of Massachusetts, the Metropolitan District Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Society to collaborate with us," said Schmidt, "and as a consequence, this project took on a whole new dimension."

The focus of the project was to identify and gather images of ballparks, stadiums, arenas, racetracks and other sports venues that combined both the active playing of sports, as well as the viewing of sports, said Schmidt. The Online Exhibit will focus on the years 1872 to 1972 and highlight 1,200 images that will have been scanned and annotated using cataloging information already available at the respective institutions plus other information gathered while preparing the images for scanning. The "temples" chosen include Boston Arena (Matthews Arena), Boston College Alumni

Stadium, Boston Garden, Boston University Nickerson Field, Braves Field, Charles River Speedway, Congress Street Grounds, Cyclorama, Fenway Park, Harvard Stadium, Huntington Avenue Grounds, Mechanics Hall, Readville Race Track, South End Grounds and Suffolk Downs.

In preparing for this grant project, the BPL staff collated information on the previous use of these materials in each of the depart-

ments of the library and in the other participating institutions to form a baseline for comparison at the end of the project. "It is our goal to see an increase in the use of these images by at least 50 percent during the first year they are mounted on the BPL's Web site," says Schmidt. Although not officially launched yet, the exhibit can be viewed at [http://projects.bpl.org/dbtw-wpd/textbase/sports\\_temples/exhibit/home.htm](http://projects.bpl.org/dbtw-wpd/textbase/sports_temples/exhibit/home.htm).

## Agency News

### Staff Adopts Shelter

This year, the staff at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners decided that instead of the usual Yankee gift swap or Secret Santa exchanges, they would adopt a charity that could use their giving-power. After exploring several options, the staff adopted the Boston Family Shelter, part of Shelter Inc., thanks to the responsiveness and enthusiasm exhibited by **Maria Martin**, the Shelter's volunteer coordinator.



Marlene Heroux, left, and David Gray, right, preparing to take the gifts purchased by the staff of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to the Boston Family Shelter.

In their 2002 Annual Report, Shelter Inc. says they achieve their mission of ending homelessness by serving "all in a respectful and personal manner while emphasizing the values and tools of self sufficiency, stability and independence within the greater community... Shelter services include individualized case management, housing search, life-skill and child development education, and referrals for educational and job training programs to assist families secure housing and successfully sustain independent living."

The shelter in Boston's South End is a six-story building housing nine families of 24 people, including a couple, single moms and dads, and their children, with office space for the volunteer coordinator, social worker and program manager. It has an immaculate eat-in kitchen, small TV room and play room for the kids stocked with books and toys. While residents initially lived at the shelter up to six months, the current economic environment has led to stays of more than a year in some cases.

MBLC staff took great delight in hunting for presents on the residents' wish list, like a Spiderman comforter and cartoon backpack. Non-perishable food items were also donated. On Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, as I knocked on the door of the shelter and introduced myself, four people came out to help unload the car. Once unloaded, **David Gray**, Director of Communications, and I,

were invited in for a tour and overview of the shelter services. We also met some of the residents from our gift list. One mother is an honor student and was on her way to attend class. We took delight when we saw the room she shares with her two-year-old daughter, complete with Sponge Bob blow-up chair and matching clock.

We are already thinking of making this a holiday tradition.

Marlene Sue Heroux  
Reference Information Systems Coordinator

### Monica Vega Receives Recognition Award

Along with hundreds of other individuals who work for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, **Monica Vega**, an accountant in the Operations & Budget Unit of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), was selected as the Agency's recipient for the 2002 "Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance." Known for her vivacious smile and willingness to help in paying the Agency's financial obligations, **Robert Maier**, MBLC director, congratulated Monica for her contributions to the Agency and libraries throughout the past year. Monica was feted during an awards ceremony at the State House in Boston on Thursday, December 12, 2002.



Monica Vega displays her citation in the Great Hall at the statehouse.

In other news, **Rachel Devin** was recently promoted from Administrative Assistant to Administrative Coordinator in the Library Development Unit, according to **Robert Maier**, MBLC director.

Board Highlights (continued from page 2)



The **December 5th** Board Meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners was held in Boston at the Agency headquarters.

Commissioner **Joseph Hopkins**, Chairman, opened the meeting and mentioned that several Commissioners had met with The Rendon Group to discuss future public awareness messages, and State Representative **Carol Donovan** who filed a Bond Bill to restore "the infrastructure of library services for residents of the Commonwealth."

**Robert Maier**, MBLC Director, then outlined several other events and meetings that he had attended during the past month. Among them was an interview that he and Commissioner **Dr. Em Claire Knowles** had with WBZ-TV4 News, the six regional library systems' annual meetings, hearings for the Standards for Regional Library Systems, a meeting of the Fenway Library Consortium, and a meeting with administrators of Simmons College regarding a possible Institute of Museum and Library Services grant. He also stated that Congress had adjourned for the year and that the Library Services and Technology Act had not been reauthorized. "This means that although legislation will need to be reintroduced into the next Congress, it was still funded at the FY2002 level," he said.

In her Legislative Report, **Maureen Killoran**, MBLC Head, Public Library Advisory & Government Liaison, passed out the bill "Relative to Restoring the Infrastructure of Library Services for Residents of the Commonwealth," that was filed and was supported by more than 40 state representatives and senators. She stated that Governor-Elect **Mitt Romney** would have until February 2003 to submit his budget. In addition, she stated that more than 3,000 bills had been filed in the House and more than 1,000 in the Senate, and that she would be reviewing them prior to the next Board Meeting for any items of relevance to libraries.

In the first action before the Board, **Anne Meringolo**, MBLC State Aid Specialist, presented an additional 194 municipalities that have met the minimum standards of free public library service. The Board then voted to authorize the "disbursement of 50 percent of said awards, totaling \$1,984,530.11 upon certification, and 50 percent of said awards, by the end of the fourth quarter of FY2003." Following the vote, Ms. Meringolo presented five proposed policies for the FY2004 State Aid to Public Libraries Program. She stated that there were no changes to these policies from this year.

Chairman Hopkins then called on **Cynthia Roach**, Administrator of the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Library System, to present her FY2003 Budget Revision. She stated that since the reductions in funding caused a change in their Plan of Service, it necessitated a member vote at their annual meeting on November 21, 2002. Among areas changed were the elimination of the Net Lender and Union List programs and reductions in databases and workshops. The Board then approved the budget revisions, "with a changed bottom line of \$2,156,188."

**Deidre Brennan**, Administrator of the Boston Massachusetts Regional Library System, then presented her region's FY2003 budget revision. Items that were reduced were personnel by \$107,365, operating expenses by \$95,942 and contractual expenses by \$40,800, for a revised "bottom line of \$781,597 for the Regional Budget," that the Board approved.

Presentations of the FY2004 Plans of Service and Programs, along with the budgets for the Regional Library Systems, were then given by Boston Administrator **Deidre Brennan**, Central Administrator **Carolyn Noah**, Metrowest Administrator **Sunny Vandermark**, Northeast Administrator **Gregory Pronevitz**, Southeastern Administrator **Cindy Roach** and Western Administrator **John Ramsey**. Each administrator stressed that these Plans of Service and Budgets reflected what each of their regional members considered basic services with delivery and databases at the core. Commissioners **Edward Bertorelli** and **Joseph Hopkins** in their comments to the administrators stressed the need to continue to review what our core library services are, especially in these fiscally tight times.

Two other reports were given to the Board. One, by MBLC Library Building Consultant **Patience Jackson**, on the status of the various library projects that had been awarded Planning and Design Grants during the past two grant rounds. She stated that all of these projects had received their money and that many of them had hired architects and had begun to look at the many different issues that they faced. "When is the next Grant Round going to be?" is the question many of these, as well as other communities that did not apply for Planning and Design Grants but are looking at future construction or renovation projects too, are asking, she said.

**Dianne Carty**, MBLC Head of State Aid and Data Coordination, also gave a preliminary report, which MBLC Director **Robert Maier** also commented on, on the Public Hearings on Regulations for the Regional Library Systems. All of the hearings have been held, however, public comments would still be accepted until Friday, December 13, 2002, she said. Several school library media specialists have spoken or written to the Board regarding the school library eligibility requirements, they said. Other comments have centered on the regional reference center standards, the geographical designation and per capita threshold. Further discussions will take place said Mr. Maier prior to the final recommendations coming before the Board.

The Commissioners each gave updates on their recent attendance at the regional library systems' annual meetings and construction and fundraising workshops. A short video of a WBZ-TV4 Newscast featuring Commissioner **Dr. Em Claire Knowles**, Director **Robert Maier**, and Chairman of the Brockton Public Library Board of Trustees **Diane Wallace**, that aired on Monday, November 18, 2002, was also shown.

The meeting concluded with Commissioner **Robert Mooney** announcing that he would not be seeking reappointment to the

Board at the end of his term in January 2003. "Each of you is so knowledgeable and dedicated to library service in the Commonwealth," he said. "I also want to commend the staff of the Board," he continued. "They really know their business and the State is very lucky to have this level of service." Chairman Hopkins said that the feelings of each of the members of the Board were reciprocal and that Commissioner Mooney would be missed, where upon he was given a standing ovation.

## NEH Announces Preservation Grants

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has announced award grants of up to \$5,000 on a competitive basis to support the preservation of materials in libraries, archives, museums and historical organizations. A focus of the program is to promote preservation planning and preservation activities within the country's smaller institutions. There will be no geographic priority, and awards will be made nationwide. Applicants will be asked to describe the nature and significance of their collection. The following activities can be supported through a Preservation Assistance Grant:

General preservation and conservation surveys designed to help an institution identify its preservation needs and develop a long-range preservation plan to address them.

Consultations with preservation professionals to develop a plan to address a specific preservation problem.

Attendance at preservation workshops and training programs.

The purchase of preservation supplies, equipment and storage furniture.

Grant applications and guidelines are available at NEH's Web site, [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov), or by calling 202-606-8570. The application deadline is May 15, 2003.

## Supreme Court to Hear CIPA Appeal in March

Arguments on the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2003, according to a schedule released in December by the U.S. Supreme Court. In May, the American Library Association (ALA) received a unanimous lower court ruling that CIPA is unconstitutional. The opinion was written by Chief Judge **Edward R. Becker** of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and joined by U.S. District Court Judges **John P. Fullam** and **Harvey Bartle III**.

The three-judge panel held that CIPA is unconstitutional because the mandated use of filtering technology on all computers will result in blocked access to substantial amounts of constitutionally protected speech. The Court found that filters both overblock (block access to protected speech) and underblock (allow access to illegal or unconstitutional speech).

To learn more about the ALA and the lawsuit against CIPA, please visit [www.ala.org/cipa](http://www.ala.org/cipa).

## Preservation Inquirer

**Q.** I have been approached by a number of people to digitize my collections (especially the local history ones) so we can dispose of the originals. Is this a viable option? What are the ramifications for future preservation of the materials?

**A.** Currently, digitization is a popular way to make materials accessible to a wider audience. Many people may be under the illusion that anything electronic is permanent, and so can serve as a preservation tool for the future. Unfortunately, there are a number of reasons why this is not the case.

While it is true that generally the bytes do not degrade over time, the medium on which they are stored have been shown to have a finite (i.e. less than 100 years) lifespan. In some cases the lifespan may actually be only a decade or two at the most. What then happens to the information when the medium deteriorates and cannot be read? Even if the media were to remain viable for a century or more, there are other, more serious questions that need to be addressed.

Technology is changing at an amazing and accelerating rate. Whereas a decade ago, new generations of software and hardware occurred maybe five years apart, that time span has dramatically diminished. At the same time, not all software is backwards compatible so that it can read more than one or two previous generations of the software in which something was created, let alone different software. The same thing occurs when people use proprietary instead of open source software because there is no guarantee that the software will continue to be available or that the institution will continue to want to use that company's products. For example, in the word processing field, how many people have software that can currently read WordStar 2.0?

Hardware has also been changing at an increasingly rapid rate. This presents problems because what was accessible ten or even five years ago is no longer there. For example, how many PC's have a 5 1/4" slot and can read those floppy disks? iMACs do not have an internal 3.5" disk slot. An external drive is necessary to access that information. These situations do not apply only to PC's and MAC's. They apply to much larger computers and software applications as well.

As a consequence, if digitization is to be considered as a preservation tool, the following question must be addressed: Can and will the institution make the staff, facility and financial commitment to ensure that the electronic files are consistently migrated to new media and to the most recent version of the software that was used and that hardware purchases will continue to be current so that the material can be accessed? In the case of some large academic and research (and corporate) libraries this commitment is being made. However, they have the resources to hire the staff, continually upgrade their hardware and software, and maintain a regular schedule of inspection and migration of the files to be preserved.

The number of these institutions is miniscule when compared to the vast number of institutions that are considering digitization projects on a local level. However, even these institutions run the risk of losing files and bytes over time, either during migration or through degradation of the media.

Therefore, it is important to put all this activity into perspective. Digitization has a potentially exciting role for most institutions. What that role is, however, depends significantly on the ability of that institution to maintain the staff and infrastructure necessary to continue to make this information available in electronic form. This may come down to something as simple as continued funding for the project. Therefore, for the vast majority of institutions, digitization still remains only an access tool. It has wonderful potential as a means of making materials available to local or remote researchers. This has the potential of enhancing the research value of the materials since many more patrons have the ability to access the materials for their work.

It is often said that while digitization does not address preservation, it may reduce demand from researchers to see the originals. However, research indicates that exactly the opposite is true. Once materials are available electronically, researchers are more apt to want to see the originals.

There are at least two ways to address the desire to digitize the materials and still provide preservation for the originals. In cases where it is only the informational content of the materials that is important, the originals can be microfilmed at the same time that they are scanned (the hybrid approach). That way the preservation microfilm masters can be stored in a secure, environmentally-controlled location for preservation.

In other cases, the artifact itself, as well as the informational content, is important. In these instances, actual item(s) conservation may be necessary. When this is not possible, storing the materials in a secure, environmentally-controlled location with little or no access by researchers may be the only solution.

When all is said and done, digitization has the potential to be a preservation tool. However, at this point in time, using digitization in this manner is really limited to those few institutions that have the staff, facilities and financial wherewithal to maintain the files in a current state by migration or other means. For the rest of the information world, digitization remains an access tool. Therefore, it is incumbent upon institutions to ensure that the original, or when applicable, a proven preservation surrogate, is available for access and research in the future.

*Gregor Trinkaus-Randall  
Preservation Specialist*

## Trustee Forum

**Q.** As a library trustee what library services are available on a statewide level for the visually impaired?

**A.** Access to information is a right that should be afforded to every citizen of Massachusetts, regardless of ability or disability. The Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library in Watertown, along with the Talking Book Library at the Worcester Public Library, both work with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, in cooperation with the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, to provide braille and talking books and magazines, free of charge, for Massachusetts residents who have visual, physical or learning disabilities.

The talking book program offers those who can't see regular print, hold a book or turn a page, an opportunity to continue to enjoy reading through listening. These high-quality recordings of books and magazines are available on easy-to-use equipment that plays at a slower speed than commercial audio books to allow for up to six hours of listening per tape. The talking books and playback equipment are loaned and sent by mail, at no charge, to any individual who is eligible for the service.

With nearly 70,000 book titles available in both recorded and braille formats, the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library provides a range of books similar to any public library collection. The program also offers recordings of 46 national magazines, such as *Good Housekeeping*, *Cricket*, *National Geographic*, *People*, *Sports Illustrated* and *U.S. News & World Report*. New reading lists, produced and distributed in large-print, braille and on audio cassette, contain listings and bibliographies of available new releases, as well as older materials in the collection. Other special services include accessible information and referral, reference services, summer reading program, braille transcription, online public access catalog and a descriptive video collection.

Currently, the Talking Book Program is only serving one out of every five individuals who are eligible – approximately 18,000 – with an estimated eligible population of more than 100,000. As a library trustee, you can help us reach out and spread the word about Talking Books.

For further information on the talking book program or eligibility, contact Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library by mail at 175 North Beacon Street, Watertown, MA 02472 By Phone at 1-800-852-3133. On the Web at [www.perkins.org](http://www.perkins.org) or by e-mail at [kim.charlson@perkins.org](mailto:kim.charlson@perkins.org).

*Kim Charlson, Director  
Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library*

## Calendar of Events

### Board Meetings

#### MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2003, 10 am  
MBLC, 648 Beacon St., Boston

#### MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2003, 10 am  
Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

#### MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2003, 10 am  
Perkins School for the Blind, 175 North  
Beacon St., Watertown

### Legislative Breakfasts

#### Central Region

Friday, February 28, 2003, 8 am  
Forbush Memorial Library, 118 Main St.,  
Westminster  
Marlborough Public Library, 35 W. Main St.  
Milford Town Library, 80 Spruce St.  
Friday, March 7, 2003, 8:30 am  
Beaman Memorial Public Library,  
8 Newton St., West Boylston  
Dunstable Free Public Library, 511 Main St.  
Friday, March 14, 8 am  
Rutland Free Public Library, 246 Main St.  
Shrewsbury Public Library, 609 Main St.

#### Metrowest Region

Friday, March 7, 2003, 7:30 am  
Brookline Public Library, 361 Washington St.  
Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main St.  
Dover Town Library, 56 Dedham St.

#### Northeast Region

Friday, February 28, 2003, 8 am  
Nevins Memorial Library, 305 Broadway,  
Methuen  
Friday, March 7, 2003, 8:30 am  
Dunstable Free Public Library, 511 Main St.

#### Southeastern Region

Friday, February 21, 2003, 8 am  
Fireside Grill, 30 Bedford St.,  
Middleborough

#### Western Region

Friday, March 7, 7:30 am  
Jones Library, 43 Amity St., Amherst  
Friday, March 7, 8 am  
Monson Free Library, 2 High St.

Friday, March 14, 8 am  
Westfield Athenaeum, 6 Elm St.

Friday, March 21, 8 am  
Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

Friday, March 21, 7:30 am  
Norman Rockwell Museum, Rt. 183,  
Stockbridge  
Wilbraham Public Library, 25 Crane Park Dr.

### Mass Legislative Days

#### MLA Ways & Means Day

Wednesday, February 12, 2003, 10 am  
The State House, Boston  
Registration: [www.masslib.org](http://www.masslib.org)

#### MLA Library Legislative Day

Wednesday, April 2, 2003  
The State House, Boston  
Registration: [www.masslib.org](http://www.masslib.org)

### Workshops

#### Trustee Symposium

Saturday, April 5, 2003, 9 am – 3 pm  
Clarion Hotel & Conference Center,  
1 Atwood Dr., Northampton  
Registration: Contact Sharon Zitser at 800-  
952-7403

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Forum on Historical Records

Celebrating History: Anniversaries to  
Educate, Promote and Preserve History  
Friday, May 9, 2003  
Merrimack College, North Andover  
Sponsors: Massachusetts Historical  
Records Advisory Board, Essex National  
Heritage Commission and Secretary of the  
Commonwealth William Francis Galvin.  
Registration: Contact Bill Milhomme at  
617-727-2816 x257 or  
[william.milhomme@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:william.milhomme@sec.state.ma.us)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Museum & Library Archives Institute

Thursday & Friday, June 20 & 21, 2003  
Wilbraham & Monson Academy, Wilbraham  
Sponsors: Monson Free Library and  
Reading Room Association, Massachusetts  
Board of Library Commissioners, New  
England Archivists, New England  
Museum Association and Worcester  
Historical Museum.  
Registration: Contact Theresa Rini Percy at  
413-267-3866 or [tpercy@cwmar.org](mailto:tpercy@cwmar.org)

## Sendak to Present Arbuthnot Honor Lecture

The Association for Library Service to  
Children (ALSC), a division of the  
American Library Association (ALA), is  
pleased to announce that children's illustrator  
and author, **Maurice Sendak**, will present the  
2003 *May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture* on  
April 5, 2003, at 1:30 pm, at Kresge Auditor-  
ium on the campus of Massachusetts Insti-  
tute of Technology in Cambridge. This  
event is co-hosted by the Cambridge Public  
Library (CPL) and Children's Literature  
New England, Inc. (CLNE).

**Susan Flannery**, Director of the CPL  
observes that, "Sendak and the city of  
Cambridge make a perfect fit. The city  
shares a deep and abiding concern for social  
justice and the unique travails of children."  
Children's book author and CLNE co-  
director, **Gregory Maguire**, agrees adding,  
"In works of unparalleled complexity, moral  
beauty, and respect for the young reader,  
Maurice Sendak has enriched the literature  
of childhood."

Although the lecture is free, tickets are  
required. Requests for tickets will be  
accepted by phone, 617-349-4032; fax, 617-  
349-4028; e-mail, [arbuthnot@ci.cambridge.  
ma.us](mailto:arbuthnot@ci.cambridge.ma.us); or by mail, Cambridge Public Library,  
449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138.

### FY2002 Annual Report

The Massachusetts Board of  
Library Commissioners  
*Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002*  
is included in this issue of  
*MBLC Notes* as an insert. For  
libraries or individuals wishing  
to have a separate copy of the  
report for their files, please  
remove this insert.

Additional copies of the report are  
available by contacting  
Sean Walley, Print & Operations  
Specialist, MBLC, 648 Beacon Street,  
Boston, MA 02215



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