Message From The ILA President

I have just returned from Legislative Day, where we met with Representatives and Senators from around the state. There was a good turnout, and the legislators were very receptive to what we had to say. If you were not able to attend Legislative Day, please contact your legislators and urge them to support additional funding for Iowa Library Services and to continue funding the LearningExpress Library database. Don’t stop communicating with your legislators after Legislative Day—it’s more important than ever to continue to tell our stories throughout the year. Make your stories personal: legislators will remember those personal stories better than statistics.

The theme for the Fall Conference is *Healthy Libraries Build Healthy Communities*. We are building on the Blue Zones and the Healthiest State Initiative that we heard about at last year’s conference. However, we are not just talking about physical health. Being healthy also involves economic health, cultural health, mental health, and environmental health. There are a lot of ways that libraries can contribute to being healthy. Set up some new displays, work with new partners to bring programming to the library, or offer to bring your services outside of the library. Start a walking book discussion group, partner with a grocery store for a cooking program, have a class on journal writing, invite an economics professor from a local college to discuss the economy, borrow a golf cart and load it up with books to deliver to daycare centers (if you decorate it, it will attract a lot of attention!).

In June the ALA Annual Conference will be held in Chicago. Think about partnering with surrounding libraries to charter a bus and take anyone interested to Chicago for a day at the conference. Even if you just visit the exhibits, it is a good way to learn about new things, meet new people, and say “thank you” to the vendors who support us throughout the year.

Congratulations to the Marshalltown Public Library and the Czech & Slovak Museum & Library of Cedar Rapids who have been named finalists for the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ National Medal! The winners will be announced later this spring.

*Mary Heinzman*
ILA President
Get To Know ILA Finance Committee Member

Tom Kessler

Although it may sound a bit quaint today, the primary reason I became a librarian was a love of reading and books. My mother instilled within me a reading ethic at a very young age, and I still remember the excitement of getting my first library card in the children’s room of the old Iowa City Public Library.

My first library job was as a student assistant during my freshman year of college at Indiana University at South Bend. The following year I returned to Iowa City and soon ended up working as a student in the University of Iowa Libraries system. After graduating from the UI with a General Studies degree in 1976 (and following a summer bicycling across the U.S.) I was back in the UI Libraries for a few years in a series of merit positions, experiences which convinced me to attend library school. After completing my library degree and an MBA at the UI, in 1983 I joined the library faculty at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. Over the past 30 years I’ve served in a number of capacities in reference, acquisitions, and collection management, currently serving as a Social Sciences Bibliographer.

I joined the Iowa Library Association (ILA) as a graduate student, drawn first to the conferences. Later I served on a number of ILA and ILA/ACRL committees, and I have many fond memories of the overnight ILA Planning Retreats at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center. After a term on the ILA Executive Board, my primary focus was service on the Iowa Library Association Foundation (ILAF) Board of Directors, where I served as President for two years in the mid 90’s and more recently as Treasurer for several years. My term on the ILAF Board concluded last December, and this January I joined the ILA Finance Committee.

In 2001 I was able to arrange to move to a half-time appointment at UNI, providing the time and flexibility to get involved more directly in the local Cedar Valley community working on a variety of issues related to justice and peacemaking, most specifically of late in the area of racial justice. The community efforts coincide well with my library responsibilities as bibliographer in the disciplines of crim inology, family services, social work, and sociology. I have experienced great synergy between my professional life in the university and vocational life in the community, which played a significant role in my involvement with the development of The Postville Project: Documenting a Community in Transition (www.postvilleproject.org).

On the home front, my wife Adel retired last summer after 34 years as an elementary special education teacher, and we are both adjusting quite well to changing schedules and routines. (She has not retired from finding items for the ILAF Silent Auction and already has several items for next fall.) In my spare time I spend far too much time in used bookstores building our personal library.

Retirement is likely a few years off yet for me. I enjoy being a librarian and love the opportunities to take part in the intellectual life of the university community. The last four decades have been an amazing ride in Library Land with the transition from primarily print to increasingly digital resources. I am fascinated to see what the future holds, and whether the reality of finite financial support will foster transition to more sustainable organizational and service models. Perhaps even along the lines of one of my personal philosophies ... less is more.
Announcing The Iowa Health Science Library Association’s Spring Meeting

When the Iowa Health Science Library Association meets at Drake University’s Cowles Library for our Spring Meeting on April 13, 2013 we will welcome Samantha Hewakapuge as our presenter.

Samantha is a Consumer Health Coordinator for the NN/LM Greater Midwest Region and has extensive experience with intercultural communication and libraries. She is going to conduct a hands-on class entitled *From Beyond our Borders: Providing Health Information to Refugee Populations*. 3 CE credits are available from MLA and are pending from PLA. For more information about this training go to http://nnlm.gov/training/refugee/.

With Iowa home to roughly 140,000 immigrants (2010 U.S. Census), librarians are at our best when we have the health and social information to serve the needs of this growing population.

**Registration for the conference is due April 2.**
Register at: http://survey.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1YP44sqJPDbq2Oh.

The cost for attendance is:
- $15.00 - ILA HS subdivision Member
- $20.00 - ILA member only
- $20.00 - No lunch/Non-ILA member/Post April 1st response
- $25.00 - Non-ILA members/Post April 1st responses
- $25.00 - Day of registration - no food guarantee

If you have any questions please contact IHSLA Chair Priya Shenoy, MLIS, RN, priya.shenoy@drake.edu.

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**Friday Keynote Speaker Will Highlight The Healthiest State Initiative**

"According to the 2012 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, Iowa is number nine in the nation when it comes to being physically, emotionally and mentally healthy. This is a great improvement from the number sixteen position we previously held, but we know we can claim the number one spot by 2016. It’s ambitious, but with your help, we can help change Iowa and show the rest of the nation the road to wellness."

www.iowawellbeing.com

Friday morning’s keynote speaker at the ILA Fall Conference this year is Dr. Marianette Miller-Meeks, Director, Iowa Department of Public Health. Dr. Miller-Meeks is a member of the Healthiest State Initiative Cabinet and is responsible for advising the Board on the issue of nutrition. She will speak about the progress that has been made and the work yet to be done on this ambitious goal. And she will share with us how we can be a part of making Iowa the healthiest state.

Dr. Miller-Meeks was appointed Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health in December 2010. With experience in both academic and practical medicine, as well as leadership roles in numerous medical and service organizations, she understands the challenges of promoting and protecting the health of Iowans. She served as the first woman President of the Iowa Medical Society and was the first woman on faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa. Dr. Miller-Meeks is a 24-year veteran of the United States Army, both active and reserve service, and retired after 24 years as a lieutenant colonel.

In keeping with the theme of the Fall Conference, *Healthy Libraries Build Healthy Communities*, Dr. Miller-Meeks will encourage and inspire us to help make Iowa the healthiest state.
**Spotlight on Iowa Libraries**

**Name of Library:** Waukee Public Library (WPL)

**Age of Library:** WPL opened in January 1929 with a collection of 190 volumes. The Traveling Library of the State of Iowa provided an additional collection of 500 books, which changed every 90 days. In 1941 the entire library collection was lost in a fire, but by April 1942, WPL had obtained 150 new books. At the time of Waukee’s Centennial in 1969, the library was housed in the back of City Hall and owned 3,866 books. Librarian Amy Hoffstot reported that nearly 300 books were checked out in February 1969. Driven by the efforts of our active Friends Group and Board of Trustees, the library purchased the old Christian Church building in 1990 and moved. A bond issue for a brand-new library building was placed before the voters in May 2000, and passed by 89%. The new 14,000 square foot, prairie-style building opened March 3, 2003. Circulation of 53,000 items currently exceeds 160,000 checkouts annually. Former Waukee resident Hiram Ori left a bequest to WPL in 2012, designated to be used for a meeting room addition. The addition, which will also house Waukee historical items, is projected to open in the fall of 2013.

**Library Director:** Erik Surber has been Director of the Waukee Public Library since September 2011.

**Number of Staff and Hours Open:** WPL has five full-time and six part-time staff. Hours are Mon–Thu, 9:30 am–8:30 pm; Fri, 9:30 am–5:30 pm; Sat, 9:30 am–3:30 pm; and Sun, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm (Sept–May only).

**Programs:** WPL offers more than 50 programs each month for children and young adults. The library has grown an active Teen Advisory Board and group of teen volunteers. Adult programming includes a book discussion group, a writer’s group, and occasional special interest presentations. Summer reading programs for all ages are popular and well attended. Friends of the Waukee Public Library operate a book nook year-round and hold semi-annual book and bake sales, with the proceeds providing new materials and programming support. The Waukee Public Library Foundation helps the library prepare for long-term funding requirements.

**Special Collections/Features:** A small addition housing the Harold C. "Hal" Manders museum exhibit was opened in February 2009. This museum showcases information and items donated by Manders, a Waukee native who played professional baseball in the 1930s and 1940s. After leaving the sport, Manders farmed near Dallas Center where he raised corn, soybeans, Hampshire hogs, and beef cattle. The project was funded by the Stine Family Foundation. Mr. Manders passed away in January 2010.

**Where Located:** Waukee is 25 minutes west of downtown Des Moines, and easily accessible from Interstates 35 and 80. It’s located in Dallas County and is a Size F library.

**Challenges and Opportunities:** Waukee is one of most rapidly growing communities in Iowa, has the fastest growing school district in the state, and is located within one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. Our current building has been open for ten years, and we are already looking ahead to an addition. The steady influx of new patrons serves to constantly bring fresh ideas and outlooks to our library while challenging the staff to keep up with service offerings.

**Website:** www.waukee.lib.ia.us

**Interesting Story:** WPL has numerous, beautiful flower beds, an ornamental grass bed, and the Virginia Clark Memorial Butterfly Garden. These lovely features are possible largely due to the unceasing labor of the Waukee Garden Club members. When RAGBRAI overnighted in Waukee in 2006, two riders were married in the Butterfly Garden.
2013 GODORT Summer Workshop

Registration is now open for the 2013 Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) Summer Workshop. The workshop will be held at Iowa Library Services (State Library of Iowa) in Des Moines on July 19.

The GODORT Summer Workshop will feature department experts from a number of state agencies, including Iowa Workforce Development and the Iowa Department of Transportation, who will show you how to best access their data-rich websites. Knowing how to navigate and get the most out of a state agency’s online resources will enable you to better serve your users no matter what type of library you represent. The day’s events will also include a tour of Iowa Library Services.

For more information about the presenter, events of the day, and the registration form, watch for the new GODORT newsletter on our website.

Lynn Friesner
GODORT Chair

Committee Chair Update

The Chair of the By-Laws Committee is Louise Alcorn, West Des Moines Public Library, rather than Sherri Muller, Grandview University, as noted in the last Catalyst. Sherri is a member of the By-Laws Committee.

To see all Committee appointments and Subdivision officers go to the ILA website and click on the About tab.

Meet The 2013 ILA Conference Planning Committee

First Row, L-R: Kara Logsdon (Local Arrangements), Lorraine Borowski, Ellen Van Waart, Sarah Willeford, Linda Adams, Beth Burrow, Barb Corson, Ruth Halterman (Local Arrangements), Beth Bartlett (Local Arrangements)
Second Row, L-R: Melissa Primus, Amy McGraw, Becky Johnson, Kathy Rieger, Larry Marquardt, Kris Stacy-Bates, Jill Sanders, Paul Gillespie (Vendor Representative), Ellen Hampe Alexander (Local Arrangements), Dee Crowner
Not shown: Sarah Meyer-Reyerson, Alison Ames Galstad (Local Arrangements), Mary Heinzman, Pat Means
Rules Of Engagement: Librarians As Community Leaders

ILAs Leadership Development Committee and LLAMA collaborated to put on a workshop on building community and advocacy in our local libraries at the Urbandale Public Library on Friday, February 15. Gina Millsap, CEO of the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library in Kansas, graciously returned to Iowa to present this terrific workshop. Gina previously worked in Iowa at the Ames Public Library and was ILA president in 2002, so her knowledge of the importance of advocacy and being involved in your local community is relevant to our experience in Iowa.

“Communities that want to grow and prosper are concerned with increasing citizen engagement, forming strategic partnerships, and building leadership capacity for the future. Librarians and library directors throughout Iowa are engaging in those activities too. If we really want to make a significant impact on the community beyond our own front doors, every library employee must be a leader.” – Gina Millsap

We also heard from a panel of “rock star” Iowa librarians who are putting their libraries at the table and making things happen in their communities. Discussion featured: an academic library helping local public school students with History Day projects; building and fostering quality relationships between the Library Board, city administration, and library staff; and involving the community in a library renovation in which community members helped to move the library to a temporary location.

37 people attended the workshop and the evaluation comments overall were very positive, along with some great ideas for future workshops or topics.

Some of the comments:

• Gina is always inspiring, passionate, and knowledgeable. Excellent points on why we have to get involved in the community. Good call to action!
• Showed the variety of ways to be involved in the community and to make a difference.
• Again, great ideas on involvement and getting advocates for the library and expanding the vision.

Nancy Medema
Leadership Development Committee Chair

ILA/ACRL Spring Conference Scholarship Is Announced

The ILA/ACRL Awards Committee is pleased to announce the availability of its annual Spring Conference Scholarship. The conference will be held on May 10, 2013 at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. For more information about this excellent educational opportunity click here.

The ILA/ACRL Spring Conference Scholarship is available to:

• Any ILA/ACRL member, working full time in an academic or research library, who is planning to attend the spring conference for the first time, or has worked in the state fewer than three years.
• Library science students or support staff working in an academic or research library. Recipients in this category do not need to be members of ILA/ACRL.

The scholarship covers conference registration, along with up to $100 in travel, food, and lodging expenses. The deadline for application is April 10, 2013. For more information and to apply click here. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us.

ILA/ACRL Awards Committee
Rebecca Funke, Chair
Leslie Ross Ferm
Mary Heinzman
Randy Roeder
Cara Stone
ALA Associate Executive Director To Keynote Conference

Emily Sheketoff, a tireless advocate for all libraries, and for the citizens served by those libraries, will be the Thursday morning keynote speaker at this fall’s conference. Emily is the Associate Executive Director of the American Library Association’s Washington Office. She will be speaking on a variety of topics of interest to ILA members including advocacy, intellectual freedom, hot legislative topics, the 21st century library, and technology. She’ll also share experiences of her years in Washington and the characters that make up Washington politics past and present.

Join us to hear how libraries are on the forefront of connecting learners of all ages with formal and informal digital literacy skills training, a subject all Iowa libraries are addressing in various ways. She’ll also tell us about several emerging opportunities and about how the need for active, vibrant advocacy is more important now than ever.

As Associate Executive Director, Emily directs lobbying efforts before Congress and the Executive Branch to fund libraries. She also oversees policy work for the Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP). The OITP promotes the development and utilization of electronic access to information as a means to ensure the public’s right to a free and open information society.

Prior to joining the ALA Washington Office, she held numerous positions in the federal government and legislative branch: Director of Interagency Affairs and White House Liaison for the Office of Personnel Management, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Office of Presidential Personnel in the Clinton Administration, Special Assist to the Director of Office Administration in the Carter Administration, and she was also personal assistant to Lillian Carter during the Carter administration. In the media, Ms. Sheketoff served as the Washington Bureau Producer for the Monitor Channel of the Christian Science Monitor and covered the Pentagon during the Gulf War.

As Thursday’s Keynote speaker, her bubbly personality and motivational presence will be a welcomed and informative kickoff for the ILA Fall Conference in Coralville.

Iowa ALA Councilor Parsons Represents ILA’s Interests At ALA Midwinter Meeting In Seattle

The 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting was held in cool (warm by Iowa standards), cloudy, rainy Seattle, WA, January 25-29. Kathy Parsons was there to represent ILA in meetings and in voting, and to bring back “oodles of good ideas from other state associations”.

For the complete details about sessions Kathy attended and her observations about an upcoming ALA vote, click here.
Librarians And Legislators Enjoyed ILA Legislative Day

Librarians, trustees, and legislators enjoyed great discussions in the Law Library at the annual ILA Legislative Reception, held on March 6th. Around half of our state Senators and Representatives took time out of their busy schedules to come to the Law Library to hear from librarians and library advocates about important issues facing Iowa libraries.

Our primary talking points were:

• Rebuild the support system for Iowa Libraries by returning funding for Iowa Library Services/State Library to its 2009 funding levels.

• State funding for Iowa Library Services is down 37% since FY09.

• Restoring funding will allow Iowa Library Services to continue to provide vital services to all Iowans through their libraries.

• Continue to restore funding for Enrich Iowa to support the vital role of libraries in Iowa communities.

• The 2012 Legislature restored half of the money going to local libraries through Enrich Iowa.

• Restoring additional funding will strengthen library resource sharing and interlibrary loan services as well as Direct State Aid to public libraries.

• Continue funding the state-wide access to a career and work-force related database for Iowans.

• The LearningExpress database has been implemented in Iowa libraries to assist in the career and work-force needs of Iowans.

• It provides 24/7 access to resources to improve job skills and a wide variety of practice tests.

• Recognize the important role Iowa teacher librarians play in developing 21st Century information and digital literacy skills by insuring that each school district employs a teacher librarian.

71 librarians/library advocates attended ILA Legislative Day. If you were unable to attend, please take a moment to contact your Legislators via phone, email, or at a Legislative Coffee.

Thanks to all of the Iowa librarians, trustees, and library advocates who participated in this important event, and to those who have contacted their legislators on these important issues.

Please continue to share your library’s story with your legislators.

Sarah Willeford,
Governmental Affairs Committee, Chair
It’s Not Too Late to Register For The Iowa Small Library Association Spring Meeting & Program

Register now for the ISLA Spring Meeting & Program to be held on Friday, April 12. The Business Meeting will be conducted in the morning, we’ll break for lunch on our own, and come back for the program. You have your choice of ICN rooms across the state.

You do not have to be an ISLA member to attend but it does have its benefits. Cost is $5 for ILA/ISLA members, $10 for ILA/non-ISLA members and $15 for non-ILA members.

ISLA Spring Business Meeting & Program (At an ICN Room Near You!)

AGENDA
Spring Business Meeting – 10:00 am
Break for lunch – 11:30 am
Resume for Panel Discussion – 1:00 pm
Moderator – Karen Burkett-Peterson, Bondurant
Panelists – Brandie Ledford, Sac City; Karen Burns, Iowa Library Services; Ted Anderson, Glenwood
  • How do we engage and connect our communities to physical, virtual and digital spaces in our libraries?
  • How do we remain relevant in a changing landscape?
  • Hear about an active online teen space, how in-library programs can take on a life of their own and explore ways to promote your databases to provide users the tools to get the most benefit from them.

After the panel discussion, break out with your colleagues at each ICN site to network and share your own ideas.

Click here for the registration form. Please feel free to call me or email with any questions.

Jennie Garner
Iowa Small Library Association Chair