

NEWSLETTER

June 2004 Volume 7, No.2 135 Beaver Street Waltham, MA 02452-8424

MARLS Cooperative for FY05

Information for the FY05 Massachusetts Regional Library Systems Material and Supply Cooperative will be sent to all members who have joined the purchasing cooperative. Information for the FY05 coop will include contact information, vendors, and a list of supplies relevant to the coop which commences on July 1, 2004.

If you have not received this information, or are interested in learning more about the coop, please contact the Metrowest office.

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Regional Reference Service Change

by
Sunny Vandermark

On July 1, 2004 the provider of Regional Reference Service will move from the Wellesley Free Library to the Newton Free Library, and we anticipate that the transition will go smoothly.

Metrowest wishes to thank the Wellesley Free Library for its dedication to providing reference support service for over 30 years. I have enjoyed working with Janice Coduri, Director of the Library. I would like to make special recognition of Mary Durda, Supervisor of Reference Services, for her excellent management of the regional reference service. Mary wrote a reference article for most issues of the Metrowest newsletter, attended regional reference meetings held around the state, and supported Wellesley's participation in Mass Answers, the LSTA funded 24/7 regional reference service. Thank you Mary, to you and your staff for your efforts on behalf of Metrowest libraries and their library customers.

Over the years, Reference Service has changed due to the addition of electronic databases and the extent of information available online. Libraries and library users have found that they can answer questions themselves that in the past required additional resources. Due to this availability of online information, the number of questions referred to the Regional Reference Center has declined.

The Newton Free Library will be updating their web site with additional web-based materials that will be useful to librarians and library customers alike. A flyer outlining the new service will be provided by Newton through Metrowest later this month.

Metrowest Services are provided through state funds administered by
Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners



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MLA Conference Falmouth, MA April 28-30, 2004 A first-timer's impression

by
Carol Shilakowsky

"If you're fond of sand dunes and salty air"... you would have loved the MLA Conference at the Sea Crest Hotel and Conference Center in Falmouth, April 28-30, 2004. Astounding views of ocean and sunsets and very cool sea breezes reminded me of the once popular recording by Patti Page (*Old Cape Cod*). I assume you would be able to locate this recording as an ILL item from audio-visual departments at many MA libraries? Maybe, as in the presentation "Tweaking Dewey," with Barbara Gibson, and Maggie Rioux, librarians from Falmouth and The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, you would find it as, "Cape Cod, audio recordings regarding" and shelved with books about Cape Cod? An interesting concept.

If you were interested in learning about Communist China's Youth Camps from a first hand memory, everything from bayonet training and Communist Propaganda about Americans in Vietnam, to two forms of Chinese opera and a young woman's rise and fall from favor within the Communist Regime, along with Madam Mao, you would have loved the MLA Conference and a powerful presentation by author Anchee Min.

Where else in the space of three days could you have: voted? (the Para Professional sector became Paralibrarians within the confines of the Conference!); gone to an auction? (More than \$6,000 garnered for MLA Programs); read poetry and sang in a group? (Rose Hickey and Carol Jankowski of Duxbury presented a sample "poetry circle," and I heard group singing from the "Sing it! Say it! Stamp it! Sway it!" presentation sponsored by the Youth Services Section on my way to "One Town, One Book" led by Leane Ellis, Wakefield, Jane

Dutton, Holden and Diane Giarrusso, Boxford Thursday morning.

By Friday, censorship for young readers, in a program that featured authors Robie Harris and Lois Lowry and hosted by Jane Dutton, renewed my awareness of the librarian's job to serve young and old, along with earlier presentations about developing programs for the multi-lingual communities that many Massachusetts libraries serve.

These venues, along with others I attended, achieved the theme of the conference with professional panache: CONNECTIONS; connections made to other librarians and to communities. MLA did an exceptional job uniting all the various sectors into a pleasant experience of learning, relaxation, and camaraderie.

FY2005 Budget Update

by
Sunny Vandermark

The Massachusetts Senate Ways and Means Committee released its FY'05 state budget recommendations on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at noon. The Senate budget is very similar to the Governor's Budget and House Budget released earlier this spring.

Following Senate budget debate, a joint House and Senate conference committee will resolve budget differences. The budget then goes to the Governor who has line item veto power. The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2004. For the latest information on budget activity check out the Metrowest blog at <http://metrowestnews.blog-city.com>.

Share Your Success Stories

Arlington High School
Book Cafe

by
Judy Ogilvie

When Barbara asked me to write about the Arlington High School Book Café, I felt uncomfortable, not because it wasn't successful, but because it wasn't my own original idea. At the annual MSLMA Conference, Jane Connolly of Natick High School spoke of A Latte Days café she had held at her school. It sounded perfect for an all-school program to highlight the Media Center. Which brings me to the point of this column. In what can be a lonely job, we need to support each other, and what better way than to swap best practice ideas. No matter how closely you feel like you are 'copying' someone, once you start to work with an idea you'll tweak it and make it your own.

It was my first year as the high school librarian. I wanted everyone to see the great program and space we have here. I wanted to do something that would involve all students and staff. We decided to go with a Border's-style Book Café featuring book displays, and café snacks. Regular library programming would be on hold for this 2 day event. Our goals were set:

1. Celebrate School Library Media Month with a just-for-fun whole-school activity
2. Show the students that the library offers more than research opportunities
3. Have a venue to display our wide range of materials for pleasure reading from fiction to yoga
4. Students see the librarians in a less formal light (we are very strict about no eating in here and now we would be providing food)

We began by contacting the staff. Since all the students take English, we asked the English Dept. head if we could cycle the students through the café during their English classes. The literacy connection being foremost, he readily agreed, and even offered to do the 2 day schedule. The culinary arts classes were hired to bake 150 dozen cookies. Cafeteria staff provided drinks coolers and ice. For publicity, the art classes made huge hanging banners. Notices of the event went in the local paper. Our TV Production class was 'hired' to advertise on the local station and to film the actual event. The computer technology teacher taught us how to use Photoshop to make posters. We adapted those great A.L.A. posters of famous folks reading by photographing the staff reading books that were relevant to their particular subjects. This included cafeteria staff reading cookbooks and the superintendent with a budget tome. The photos were blown up to small poster size, a colorful READ typed across the top or bottom, and we decorated the library with

them. They were, as you can imagine, a huge hit! Some still hang in classrooms today! The performing arts folks were asked to provide small groups of singers or instrumental players whenever possible. All school administrators and school committee members were issued formal invitations.

The day finally arrived. Posters and banners were hung. Food and drink were out. The book displays were many and beautiful. Classical music played in the background. We even had some donated books that we used as giveaways. It was an exhausting, but exhilarating, 2 days. It was a break for everyone in the building from the 'same old'.

We deemed it a huge success. Our high mark measure of success was walking around and hearing students chatting with each other about the books on display and others that they had read. It was exactly the response we had hoped for – to stimulate discussion of a literary sort.

Database Tips

by
Barbara Andrews

Newsbank

In addition to the Boston Globe and Boston Herald, Newsbank also provides other content.

Click on the Hot Topics link for a list of current event topics with suggested search terms to retrieve relevant results. In addition to current events, there are also research topics divided by subject areas to include Social Studies, Science and Health, Arts and Literature, and Global Issues.

Another Newsbank feature is the Special Reports section. Special reports are available for the Presidential Campaign 2004, Black History, Infectious Diseases, Ocean Policy, War on Terrorism, Iraq, and the newest Special Report which focuses on Our Environment. These Special Reports contain links to background and related articles, pictures, maps, up to date information, and suggested search terms.

MLA Inducts Three to the Hall of Fame in 2004

This year three librarians, including two from the Metrowest Region, were inducted to the Massachusetts Library Association Hall of Fame.

The inductees, selected from a field of 13 nominated in late 2003 by their peers, include **Louise Brown**, recently retired from the Wayland Public Library, **Kim Charlson** of the Braille & Talking Book Library, at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, and **Marjorie L. Judd**, Director of the Middleborough Public Library.

Louise Brown has served on numerous library service committees of MLA, the Minuteman Library Network, the Eastern Region, the Metrowest Regional Library System, and as ALA Counselor, and MLA President. She has worked tirelessly to promote the profession of librarianship.

She has also worked closely and successfully with elected officials to advocate for Massachusetts libraries to build the network of support that is crucial for library success.

During Kim Charlson's library career of some twenty-five years she has been a champion of providing the printed word for people with all types of disabilities as well as working diligently in a wide range of consumer advocacy arenas including arts access and audio description, Braille literacy, adaptive technology, civil rights, guide dog access issues, and special education. She is recognized nationally and internationally for her expertise in library services to people with disabilities, Braille literacy, adaptive technology in libraries, and information access.

Kim is the Director of the Braille & Talking Book Library, located on the campus of the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown.

She is the only library director with an MLS in the U.S. who also happens to be totally blind. She has a deep love of books and learning and is an effective advocate of reading.

Marjorie Judd has been Director of the Middleborough Public Library since 1985. Marjorie has served as president and secretary of MLA; on the Legislative Committee; on the SAILS Executive Board; as secretary of ABLE; as a representative to the Eastern Region Executive Board; and more. Marjorie has unselfishly provided support to libraries sharing her expertise as a building consultant in free training sessions and also worked with many libraries on successful projects.

This information was taken from MLA materials. For additional details about the 2004 MLA Hall of Fame inductees and their acceptance comments please see <http://www.masslib.org/halloffame>

What's Happening @ YOUR Library?

by
Carol Shilakowsky

The Morse Institute in Natick (<http://www.morseinstitute.org>) is certainly a library that knows how to involve patrons and promote their library. We applaud their efforts at community librarianship.

According to Joan Craig, Community Relations Coordinator, Morse Institute Library sponsors a number of events for fundraising and "fun raising," along with an annual "Giving Program." More than 400 people attended the 5th Annual Library Gala (Luau) held Saturday, February 7, 2004, lighting up a dreary winter, Hawaiian-style. Food was provided by local restaurants, and donated desserts kept costs down. A local bank, which uses the space for their own staff Holiday parties, has donated their themed decorations for this annual library event for several years. Past themes have been *Mardi Gras*, *Flavors of Natick*, and *International Holiday* (flags and food of many cultures). These "shared" decorations also keep costs down. "Save the Date" press releases went out in December. In early January, colorful flyers were placed in the library, town hall and senior center, and at local businesses. Local newspapers and cable TV was alerted. Flyers went home with every elementary and middle school student. The committee of 7-10 staff and volunteers followed up on request letters sent to local restaurants, markets, and wholesale distributors for food and supplies. Tickets were sold at the Circulation Desk, including discounted tickets for seniors and families of entertainers at the event.

Summer at Morse Institute will include all ages with events such as: the 4th Annual Patriotic Hootenanny, Wednesday June 30th, to kick off their Wednesday Adult Reader Summer Series supported by the Friends of the Library. YA Readers (Gr.4-9) will "Explore the World of Books" with YA Librarian, Abby Reidy, in two 4-week programs. Younger readers will have an entertaining summer of concerts, storytelling, and crafts.

Youth Services News

Summer 2005 Online Manual Submissions Needed

by
Susan Babb

Yes, that says 2005! Work is already beginning on 2005. Please visit <http://www.nmrls.org/sum/2004/update2005.html> to view submission guidelines.

The materials will be presented in the same format as was provided in 2004: sample 6-8 week summer reading programs for several age groups ranging from birth to young adult. Each sample program provides book lists, activities, songs, and reproducibles to go along with the 2005 theme.

Please submit your programs and activities for the Statewide Summer Library Adventure 2005 "Going Places @ your library®" as an email attachment. Please remember that all submissions must be copyright free.

Other submissions can include, but are not limited to:

- * Models of successful ways to run a summer reading program
- * Drop-in craft ideas
- * Ceremony programs for participants completing the program
- * Reproducible activity sheets
- * Display suggestions

All submissions must be received by September 15, 2004 to allow time for revision and proofing.

On behalf of the Summer Reading Program Committee and the Regional Consultants, thank you for your help and participation! If you have any questions, please contact Sunny Vandermark at Metrowest.

Don't Be Afraid to...

by
Sunny Vandermark

Metrowest YSLead participants presented 'Don't Be Afraid to...' at the Newton Free Library on May 11, 2004. Topics included Don't be afraid to... make a change (Bonnie Peirce Dover Town Library), promote yourself (Dorothy McQuillan Newton South High School), network online (Robin Brenner Cary Memorial Library, Lexington), and make contacts (Lindsay Patterson Watertown Free Public Library). Ann Ritchie (Country-side Elementary School, Newton) was the facilitator and gave a brief overview of the YSLead Institute and its value to participants.

- Bonnie gave some specific examples of how she implements change at her library. Change requires leadership plus time and commitment to implement the process.

- Dorothy talked about how a new library website at Newton South provides a communication tool on services for students, parents, and teachers—and helps them use the library and the librarians more effectively.

- Robin told attendees how to get started on email discussion groups and described how to use email filters to send email directly to folders so the information can be read at a more convenient time.

- Lindsay stressed the concept of taking ideas from others and adapting them to what you do. Through contacts at a local school she increased awareness of library's resources, sparked informal conversations about new books for kids, and initiated a dialogue between publishers and educators.

In the afternoon session, Barefoot Books, Candlewick Press, and Charlesbridge publishers presented their latest titles. There was a general discussion about using picture books for information, no matter what age the reader. Valuable data on publisher websites and information about setting up author visits were highlighted.

Congratulations to all the presenters!

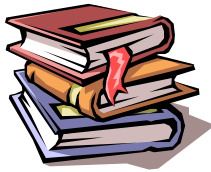
New Ellison Dies

by
Judy Zomer

Old MacDonald has a farm, and now so does Metrowest. That is to say we have a selection of new farm animals that have been added to our expanding collection of dies. The farm animals are part of a group of 25 new, and exciting, dies that have recently been added to our collection. These dies include some neat interactive dies such as a domino set, glasses, 3-D pyramid, and clothespin bat, to name a few. Other new dies include three new bookmarks, and other thematic dies.

Metrowest has three Ellison machines available for members. One that can be used at our office, a second portable machine which you can take with you, and a third machine at the Franklin Public Library. Dies can be sent through delivery or picked up at our office. We encourage you to take advantage of this great resource!

To see a complete list of available Ellison dies please visit the updated web page at <http://www.mmrls.org/ellison.html>, or call the Metrowest office at 781-398-1819.



From the Regional Reference Service at the Wellesley Free Library

Thank you!

by
Mary Durda

It is hard to write this last column – hard to find just the right tone – harder yet to know just what that right tone should be. In March I wrote about the big change that is coming up for Newton, Wellesley, and all of you as the Regional Reference Center contract changes hands. I have to admit a certain sadness about this – providing extra service has benefited the region, the town, the library, and the reference department. A more gracious side congratulates Newton Free which provided the winning bid.

According to a just published report about an online survey that was done in early spring by Minuteman Library Network to learn how users feel about the new catalog, we learn that 8.6% of the respondents said that they used Newton Free – by far the biggest draw of all of the libraries in this system. Nancy Johnson and her team of excellent reference librarians will be answering questions, providing tours and other programs for regional customers from a well-grounded base of a fine materials collection and seasoned staff. An 800 number will soon be published; the regular lines are (617) 796-1360. TTY: (617) 552-7154. Look for more information on their web page - <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Library/>

But back to Wellesley for a minute. It has been a pleasure answering regional questions, attending many regional and state committees, providing enrichment classes and simply being involved in Metrowest issues. A bit of an ego trip really. Providing two sessions on legal reference sites in the past year with librarians at the Norfolk Trial Court Library was a great learning experience for me. 2003/2004 provided many major changes for us – a switch from DRA to Triple I, a new e-mail service provider, a whole new building! We have a dynamic new Assistant Director, have added virtual reference to our list of skills, and continue to provide live, phone and e-mail reference. Now we will use the Regional Reference Center rather than provide that service. Things change and we appreciate how much we have been given. On behalf of Debra, Tyson, Megan, Tiffany, Dee, Judy and Rob and all of us at the Wellesley Free Library – Thank You for all of the very nice moments we have shared as the Regional Reference Center. Best Wishes to Newton as well.

And now for a few new reference titles.

The Encyclopedia of Russian History is designed (according to the preface) “to help dispel the mystery of Russia”. The 4 volume set is aimed at general readers, students and scholars. Five hundred international Russian specialists provided 1,500 articles using an “A” (Abkhanazians) to “Z” (Zyuganov, Gennady Andreyevich) approach with photographs, see also suggestions and a bibliography for each topic.

Encyclopedia of Russian History. James R Millar (Ed.), Gale Group. 2004. ISBN: 0-02-865693-8. \$475.00

The Encyclopedia of Cuba - a two volume set produced by Oryx Press is a more modest effort. The editors arranged the 700 entries into 12 topical chapters such as “Geography, the environment and urbanization” or “Performing arts”. There are also photographs and bibliographies for each article. Distortions that dominated our understanding of this country are discussed as is the Cuban diaspora.

Encyclopedia of Cuba: People, History, Culture. Luis Martinez-Fernandez (Editor), Greenwood Publishing Group, 2003, ISBN: 1-57356-334-X. \$175.00

The New Harvard Guide to Women’s Health, the second edition of this title is also an “A” (Abdominal pain) through “Z” (Zink) work with related entries listed - though no bibliography. Web sites for further reading on major topics are provided. There are illustrations (I unfortunately flipped to drawings on fat distribution as one ages, better to go to the illustrations for desk exercises.) Conditions that have more than a medical component such as pesticides, domestic violence, or organic foods are also treated. A helpful feature is the “How can this condition be prevented” which goes along with many conditions.

The New Harvard Guide to Women’s Health. Karen J Carlson, ED. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. 03/2004. ISBN: 0-674-01282-8. \$55.00

All About Delivery

by
Judy Zomer

It has been a year of phenomenal growth for Metrowest delivery. I am sure those who deal with delivery first hand will agree that the increase is impressive. This reality is a challenge for everyone involved in delivery and all constituencies are doing their best to keep things running smoothly!

To give you a perspective of how delivery has increased, here are some numbers to consider.

Last April, (2003), the spring delivery survey showed that 36,537 items were sent in delivery during the week of the survey. The October delivery survey, our first in FY04, indicated 45,396 items

had been sent through delivery. The question was whether this year's spring delivery survey would reflect a leveling off of delivery numbers, or a continued increase? With all but one library reporting their numbers as of this writing, the total number for the last delivery survey stands at 52,145 items. Annualized this number represents more than two and a half million items traveling through the Metrowest delivery system!

Deliveries numbers for FY04 are up around 43 percent.

These numbers demonstrate how vital this service is to library patrons, and reflects the efficiency of the new Triple I system. I have heard people outside of the library community talk about the value of this system - all the more important to include the MBLC promotional slip "this item traveled

miles to reach you" with patron requests.

New delivery slips have been developed to help libraries cut down on the time and paper used for delivery. Several options for libraries are available including masters with three or four on a page which can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.mmrls.org/delivery.html>

Metrowest has ordered new bins to augment the increase in delivery volume and alleviate some of the problems we have experienced. We hope to get the bins within the month.

Please continue to communicate your delivery concerns and any changes to your library schedule to Metrowest so we can best serve you.

From The Book Shelf

by
Carol Shilakowsky

Along with kids who are looking for good summer reads and fun filled Summer Reading Programs, public librarians will find the kids and teens eager to use the computer. In her preface to *Teens.Library*, Linda Braun, one of Metrowest's popular guest instructors says: "...there is a gap between what teens find most appealing about the Internet and what libraries are providing to teens via their websites."

Braun suggests that the biggest reasons teenagers do not use libraries is: Librarians don't encourage use of the Internet because they believe kids should read more; filtering is a controversial issue; most libraries don't have interesting Websites and Librarians are not in tune with what types of Interactive computer programs involve kids enough to get them into the library, where books and Library Programs are also available.

At Metrowest we have titles that may help librarians plan Internet programs or develop websites that are challenging, fun, and safe. Some of these are:

Benson, Allen C. *Connecting Kids and the Internet: a handbook for librarians, teachers and parents*. Neal-Schuman NetGuide Series: 1996. (LB1044.87 .b45)

Braun, Linda. *Teens.library*. ALA: 2002. (TK5105.888 B7 2002)

Pedersen, Ted and Francis Moss. *Internet for Kids: A Beginner's Guide to Surfing the Net. (Includes a Parent's and Teacher's Guide)*. Price Stern Sloan 2001 (TK5105.875 .I57 P43 2001).

Schneider, Karen G. *A Practical Guide To Internet Filters*. Neal-Schuman Special Report: 1999 (updates online at www.bluehighway.com/filters, the website for the book.) . (TK5105.875 .I57 S388 1999)

Metrowest Continuing Ed Courses June 2004 CE Calendar



All courses listed below, unless indicated otherwise, are held at:
Metrowest Massachusetts Regional Library System
135 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA 02452
Please register online with Metrowest at: <http://www.mmrls.org>

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
June 2	Introduction to Word - Hands on Workshop	9:30am-11:30am
June 3	Introduction to Excel - Hands on Workshop	9:30am-11:30am
June 8	Power Point III - Advanced - Hands on Workshop	9:30am-11:30am
June 9	It's happening @ your library	9:30am-11:30am
June 10	Create Your Own Blog - Hands on Workshop	9:30am-11:30am
June 10	It's happening @ your library	1:00pm-3:00pm
June 15	First Steps First: Planning Your Library's Website for Teens	9:30am-12:30pm

***** PLEASE ROUTE THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOUR LIBRARY STAFF - THANK YOU *****

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