

Inside this Issue

NMRLS News:

Annual Meeting
Executive Board Summary
NMRLS Member Raffle!
New! MA Library License Plate!
Digital Commonwealth Conference – Save the Date!
***American Libraries* – More Access Online!**
CE Snapshots
Library Grant Links and Awards
Regional Reference Center Update
MBLC Update
MSLA Update
Youth Services Column
News about Staff and Libraries in the Region
New Member Libraries

NMRLS News:

NMRLS members are invited to attend the

NMRLS Annual Council of Members Meeting & Luncheon

Thursday, November 13, 2008

11:30 AM - 3:30 PM

The Stevens Estate at Osgood Hill

North Andover, Massachusetts

Please join us for the NMRLS Annual Meeting on November 13th at The Stevens Estate at Osgood Hill in North Andover. Members have always enjoyed the opportunity to network at this pleasant annual luncheon event.

Executive Board Summary – October 16, 2008

Business:

Approved Financial Reports: Greg Pronevitz provided an overview of the current financial reports. He explained that we were on target with FY2009 spending; however, due to the budget crisis facing Massachusetts, NMRLS is holding off on spending in the following areas until the budget situation is more settled: professional collection, databases, supplemental deposit collection grants, computer hardware/software, printing, and web development.

Approved the FY2008 Annual Report

Greg reviewed the final FY2008 Annual Report with the Board, which will be presented to the full membership for approval at the Annual Meeting. The document includes reports submitted by committee chairs and staff liaisons as well as information about services. The format combines Committee and program area activities, placing Committee rosters separately. The FY2008 Budget report reflects actual spending during the most recent fiscal year.

Approved the FY2010 Plan of Service & Budget

Greg reviewed the final FY2010 Plan of Service & Budget, which will be presented, to the full membership for approval at the Annual Meeting and then to the MBLC for approval.

Accepted Auditor’s FY2008 Financial Reports

Susan Grabski explained that the annual audit is standard for not-for-profit organizations. Our auditor generates two reports – the standard Financial Report and the Special-Purpose Report that goes to the MBLC to report on NMRLS funding from the state. There were no issues or concerns noted by the auditor.

Upcoming Meetings

2008

Annual Meeting	Board Orientation & Meeting
Thursday, November 13, 2008	Thursday, December 18, 2008
11:30 AM - 3:30 PM	11:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Stevens Estate in North Andover	NMRLS, Danvers

2009

January 15, 2009 – 2:30 – 4:30 PM – Location TBA
 February 12, 2009 – 2:30 – 4:30 PM – Location TBA
 March 19, 2009 – 2:30 – 4:30 PM – Location TBA
 April 16, 2009 – 2:30 – 4:30 PM – Location TBA
 May 21, 2009 – 2:30 – 4:30 PM – Location TBA
 June 18, 2009 – 2:30 – 4:30 PM – NMRLS
 September 17, 2009 – 2:30 – 4:30 PM – Location TBA
 October 15, 2009 – 2:30 – 4:30 PM – Location TBA
 November 12, 2009* —Annual Meeting -- 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM – Location TBA
 December 17, 2009 – Orientation & Meeting -- 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM – NMRLS

NMRLS Member Raffle!

Hewlett Packard Color LaserJet 4500 DN Printer

NMRLS is offering for raffle a used Hewlett Packard Color LaserJet 4500 DN printer. The model is discontinued. The printer comes with toners + 4 brand new toners: 2 black, 1 cyan, and 1 yellow.

The winner must be a member library, and the printer must be used for the library, not for personal use.

If your library is interested, fill out this application http://www.nmrls.org/surveys/hp_printer.htm by

5:00 PM on Friday, December 5. One entry per library, please.

The winner will be picked at random from the entries and notified by December 9. The winning library must arrange for pickup.

The LaserJet 4500 DN comes with an add-on duplexing tray and 500-sheet paper feeder.

Congratulations to the winner of the SmartBoard Raffle – Bancroft Elementary School in Andover,
Nancy Snow, Library Teacher

New! MA Library License Plate!

Help celebrate libraries by proudly displaying the new MA library license plate and encouraging your staff members, friends, trustees, or members to join us!

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) requires CMRLS to collect 3,000 applications and checks prior to producing the plate. If each of us finds just two enthusiastic library lovers to participate, we'll be in production in no time.

In collaboration with MSLA, MLA, MLTA, MFOL, the Regional Library Systems and the MBLC, CMRLS offers you the opportunity to be among the first library plate holders.

Understanding how beneficial this endeavor will be to the statewide library community, well-known Massachusetts authors Lois Lowry and Gregory Maguire have teamed up to help promote the plate and expedite sales. Applicants who submit their order to CMRLS by Nov. 30 will be entered into a drawing. The winners will be given the opportunity to communicate with Lois Lowry or Gregory Maguire, and to be named as a character in a work-in-progress by one of them or to help invent a name that suits the story. Two names will be selected.

Proceeds will benefit public, academic, special and school libraries across the state, which belong to a Regional Library System. Equitable shares of the proceeds will be made available to qualifying libraries through an open grant process. Funds will not be used to supplant library budgets.

Want to know more? A complete press release, downloadable bookmarks, an image of the plate (subject to change) and a reservation form are available at <<http://www.cmrls.org/plates.htm>>.

You are welcome to distribute the press announcement as is to your organization's newsletter or to your local newspaper. Please don't alter it, as the RMV must approve any publicity we release.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Noah at CMRLS (508-757-4110) or email: <libraryplates@cmrls.org>.

Digital Commonwealth Conference – Save the Date!

The Digital Commonwealth will host its next Conference on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. We will send information on the conference theme, speakers, breakout sessions and registration details when it becomes available in the next few weeks. In the meantime, **SAVE THE DATE!**

Vivien Goldman
Past President
Digital Commonwealth
617-699-8197

American Libraries lifts access restrictions

American Libraries, the flagship magazine of the American Library Association (ALA), celebrated the first Open Access Day, October 14, by opening up its content on the Web and making its companion weekly e-newsletter, *American Libraries Direct*, available to anyone for the asking.

"Opening up American Libraries' searchable PDFs at <<http://www.ala.org/online/>> is just the first step toward making all future features and columns available on the site in HTML format in 2009," said Leonard Kniffel, editor in chief. The current issue of the print magazine will be open to all, as will back issues through 2003; they were all formerly accessible only with a member log-in. The revamped AL website will link content to the AL online forum <<http://al.ala.org/forum/>> where readers are encouraged to express their opinions about professional issues, news and controversies.

See complete press release at: <
<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/october2008/ALaccess.cfm>>

CE Snapshots

Don't Miss These November Workshops! Register at
<<http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=NMRLS&ref=EK&refNote=TaF#11/13/2008>>

The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly: New Young Adult Literature

Thursday November 13, 2008

10:00 AM until 12:00 PM

Ever wish someone would tell you what new teen books are any good? Want to know which ones are really terrible too? Join Maureen Ambrosino, Youth Services Consultant at CMRLS, and hear about what's new and what's ahead in YA literature! (You may even get to hear about some titles before they're even on sale.) This program will present fun and interesting books that will be appreciated by readers in your libraries.

Location: NMRLS, Danvers

NOBS/NMRLS Library 2.0 for Youth Services

Monday November 17, 2008

9:30 AM until 3:30 PM

9:30 - 12:00 - Independent Consultant Barbara Andrews presents Web 2.0 tools such as online collaboration tools, creating and using social networking sites, social bookmarking, photo sharing, iGoogle, and Google Page creator.

12:30 - 3:30 - NMRLS Consultant Scott Kehoe presents his famous Gadgets and Gizmos!

Location: Peabody Institute Library, Danvers

Basic Computer Skills All Library Staff Should Master

Thursday November 20, 2008

10:00 AM until 1:00 PM

What should library front line staff know and what skills should be mastered to be able to assist patrons on public access computer workstations? This workshop will look at all aspects of computer technology including hardware, operating systems and file management, computer security, software applications, and basic troubleshooting. It will provide you with the basic knowledge to maintain your equipment and answer patron questions related to using software, browsing the Internet, and using email. We will also look at how to keep up to date on these issues.

This workshop is taught by Barbara Andrews, Andrews Consulting, Sagamore Beach, MA.

Location: NMRLS, Danvers

Readers' Advisory Round Table

Tuesday November 25, 2008

9:45 AM until 12:00 PM

No more ducking under the desk when you are asked to suggest titles to people who read books that you do not!

Join us for a year-long mini-genre study. The R.A. Round Table meets every other month to tackle a genre that might be outside what you ordinarily read. We'll discuss each genre's appeal and build a skill set of appeal categories and familiarity of genre particulars.

For this meeting the genre is Mystery. The benchmark novel is Dennis Lehane's, *Darkness, Take My Hand*. Everyone will read this. Then, select a second mystery of your own choosing. We'll dissect and compare the two.

Meetings will be on the last Tuesday of odd-numbered months. Come to one, two, or more!

Facilitators are Leane Ellis (Beebe Library, Wakefield) and Nanci Milone-Hill (Nevins Library, Methuen).

Location: Nevins Memorial, Methuen

On-site Workshops - By Request at Your Location




Can't get out for workshops? Did you know that NMRLS staff will come to your library to train staff in a variety of topics? Our most recent addition is an orientation to NMRLS programs and services – perfect for new (or seasoned) staff.

See the complete list of on-site training at <<http://www.nmrls.org/ce/#onsite>>!

NMRLS CE RSS Feed:

You can also subscribe to the NMRLS Workshop RSS Feed on the workshop description page.

- On the NMRLS workshop description page, click on the orange RSS button. 

- This works best if you are using the Firefox 2.0 or the IE 7 browser. Both have built-in RSS feed/live bookmarking.

We hope to see you in a workshop soon!

Library Grant Links and Awards

For Young Adult Staff

The **Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)** is accepting applications for the Margaret A. Edwards (MAE) Award for a Young Adult Reading or Literature Program. The Award is open to members of YALSA and will provide \$1,000 to support the winning member's attendance at the upcoming American Library Association Annual Conference in July

<<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/index.cfm>>

This funding initiative has a deadline of December 1, 2008.

For more information, visit:

<<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/awardsandgrants/ReadingAward.pdf>>

For Public and School Libraries

The **National Endowment for the Humanities** and the **American Library Association** and is currently accepting applications for the "We the People Bookshelf ." This year's theme "Picturing America."

The deadline is January 30, 2009.

For more information, visit <<http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf/guidelines.php>>.

Regional Reference Update

NMRLS Regional Reference and Research Center

Memorial Hall Library, Andover

New Reference Additions:

The articles in the *Encyclopedia of Earth and Physical Sciences* define phenomenon present in the world today. The 13 volume set contains brilliant color pictures and descriptive graphs and charts.

Fluent in Fantasy: The Next Generation divides the diverse genre of fantasy into 12 major genres including epic fantasy, alternate worlds, mythic reality and time travel.

Interesting Web Sites:

Stop You're Killing Me <<http://www.stopyourekillingme.com/>>

Search for mysteries, thrillers, and suspense titles by genre, location, and historical time period, as well as by author and title.

Readers Advice <<http://www.readersadvice.com/>>

Readers Advice lists fiction by genre including fantasy, horror, humor, and historical fiction. The site is

maintained by librarians.

Stumper for October:

What is the name of the English newspaper in Mauritania? Try finding this information using a database.

Answer: Afrol is an English language newspaper in Mauritania.

Source: *Grolier Online* has a World Newspaper section that lists the names of newspapers in countries worldwide. The information includes the frequency, focus, and language.

Gwen Charter from the Peabody Institute Library in Peabody searched onlinenewspapers.com and found that Irin News publishes in English in Mauritania. Thanks, Gwen.

Stumper for November:

Can you help me find a list of Korean American authors for teens? Try answering this question using a database.

Eleanor Sathan
Regional Reference Librarian
<esathan@mhl.org>

MBLC Updates

MBLC Sustains \$388K in 9C Cuts

On Wednesday October 15, 2008 Governor Deval Patrick announced over \$1.4 billion in spending cuts, cost controls, and other budget solutions to bring the state's operating budget in line with the revised consensus revenue estimate for fiscal year 2009.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) received its share of what are known as 9C cuts. Reductions totaling more than \$388,000 are being taken against the two programs for the blind, library technology & resource sharing and the public library matching grant fund. Please see <<http://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc/news/releases/past-releases/2008/nr081017.php>> for reduction details.

The largest reduction comes from the elimination of funding to the Public Library Incentive Grant Program (account 9507), which provides a matching incentive for public libraries to raise private funds to supplement their budgets and offer new or expanded services. Last year 176 communities reported just over \$5 million in eligible fundraising and received just under five cents for every dollar raised.

Technology and Automated Resource-Sharing, account 9506, provides funding to the library networks to offset the cost of telecommunications and the cost of filling loan requests which totaled more than 4.9 million last year. It also pays for statewide electronic content available in libraries and directly to any resident who has a library card and access to the Internet.

The talking book programs for the blind (Accounts 9402 and 9406) use funds from the MBLC for staffing and support to the more than 22,000 current users of the programs.

Governor's Advisory Council Holds Public Hearings

Let the state hear your opinion about services to New Americans

Providing services to immigrant populations is nothing new to the Commonwealth's public libraries. What is new is that this year Governor Deval Patrick has made services to "New Americans" the focus of a year-long effort to develop a series of policy recommendations on immigration integration challenges and solutions. On July 9, 2008 Governor Patrick signed the New Americans Executive Order launching an intensive statewide project headed up by Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI) which focuses on how to better integrate Massachusetts immigrant and refugee populations into the civic and economic life of the Commonwealth.

The MBLC's Public Relations Advisory Committee is working with MORI to help the agency better understand the vital role that libraries play in the lives of New Americans. However in the coming weeks, individual libraries as well as New Americans who benefit from library services will also have the opportunity to speak directly to MORI representatives and others responsible for developing these new policies.

A series of public community meetings and hearings will be held across the state to gather input and information. Written comments are also being accepted in English of four pages or less. Written comments may be submitted at the meetings or through the Web site: <<http://www.newamericansma.org>>. Below is a list of dates, times, cities (locations for many meetings are still being finalized). Please encourage your patrons to attend one of these meetings or to submit written comments.

Hyannis: Wed. 11/19, 5:30-7:30pm
New Bedford: Wed. 12/10, 5:30-7:30pm
Lowell: Wed. 1/21, 5:30-7:30pm
Springfield: Wed. 2/18, 5:30-7:30pm
Fitchburg: Wed. 3/18, 5:30-7:30pm

For general information and updates, please visit <<http://www.newamericansma.org>>.

Youth Services Column

By Susan Babb, <susan@nmrls.org>

NOBS Discussion List set up

Clare Dombrowski has started up a NOBS Yahoo groups! Here is her message:

Hello All!

I have set up a yahoo groups for NOBS so that we can send out reminders to you of upcoming events (by the way there's one on Nov. 17th in collaboration with NMRLS). Please subscribe so that you can get the current happenings of NOBS.

Just send an email (with no subject or message) to: <nobslibrarians-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>

It will send you an email to confirm and you just click on the link and then click on the “join group” button.

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Thanks,

Clare

Children’s Librarian

Amesbury Public Library

149 Main St.

Amesbury MA 01913

978-388-8148x4

Mock Newbery Online Program!

The Metrowest Region has put together a Mock Newbery program–ONLINE! It will end with the winners being announced on January 16. This program is open to staff from libraries that are members of one of the six Regional Library Systems.

Using our <<http://ReadsinMA.org>> online reading program, nominate titles for our 2009 Mock Newbery Awards! Enter in the titles, authors, and reviews that you feel are contenders for this prestigious award. Nominations will close on December 12. A survey will be sent out to all participants, where you will be able to vote for your choice from the list of nominees. The winners will be announced on January 16, 2009!

This CE opportunity will be conducted completely online using the ReadsInMA program and a survey program. Register for the program at <http://www.readsinma.org/mmrls>

www.ReadsinMA.org is supported by your local library, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, with funding from the Institute of Museums and Library Services, an independent federal agency that grows and sustains a Nation of Learners because lifelong learning is critical to success.

For more Youth Services updates, be sure to visit <<http://www.nmrls.org/youth/services/>>

News about Staff and Libraries in the Region

Kim Cochrane is the LMS for NMRLS new school member, **Swallow-Union School, in Dunstable.**

Mamie Custer has left her position as Senior Librarian Information Services at the **Newburyport Public Library** to take a position as an Assistant Manager for a library in the Sno-Isle library system in

Washington state.

Stevens Memorial Library, North Andover, 1 Book Program

Kathleen Keenan, Assistant Director

1 Book programs are bringing communities together across the nation stimulating discussions, generating ideas, and changing perceptions.

The goal of *1 Book, 1 Community* is to encourage all individuals in our community to read the same book and participate in programs and discussions.

Because the **Stevens Memorial Library** wants to engage the community at all ages, 3 books on a topic were chosen. While the surface thread between the books is slavery, the greater conversation touches on how an understanding and respectful community develops.

The **Stevens Memorial Library's (North Andover)** 1-Book, 1-Community culminates in November with events relating to the town-wide reading. The Library was pleased to have worked with the school system. Their 1-Book titles were included in this summer's reading lists for the appropriate ages: elementary, middle and high school. The program brochure went home in the backpack of every child in town K-12.

“Prince Caspian” on stage at the Rockport Public Library

The Hampstead Stage Company will present a special adaptation of the C.S. Lewis classic “Prince Caspian” on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 2:00 p.m. in the **Rockport Public Library**. The show is geared for students in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

In declaring **November as Family Literacy Month**, Gov. Deval Patrick called on libraries to “provide families with opportunities for family literacy and reading activities that encourage families to read with their children and use public libraries.” The Prince Caspian performance offers families the opportunity to share the classic story by reading the book together and attending the dramatic performance.

The Hampstead Stage Company is one of the largest national educational touring companies, presenting more than 2,000 shows a year. Shows are performed by two actors, each playing several roles, and include some children from the audience. The script is based directly on the book. The play lasts one

hour, with a question and answer session after the performance.

Tewksbury Public Library welcomes **Amy Martin** as the new children's specialist! Amy previously worked at the **Saugus Public Library**. She and the Children's Librarian **Noelle Couture** will be working hard and having fun this fall starting our Mother Goose on the Loose programming!

On Monday, October 6th Tewksbury hosted a "Heath Brook School Library Night" here for one of the elementary schools in town that turned out to be an overwhelming success, drawing over 250 people! The program was promoted as a chance to get familiar with the Library and see a demonstration of Tutor.com (the online tutoring/homework help service) and added a few incentives to entice families to come out on a weekday evening. The biggest hit was the free homework passes handed out by the school principal. In addition overdue fines were cleared for any Heath Brook student that attended and the Children's Librarian, Noelle Couture, hosted "Book Bingo" in our craft room.

The event was bigger than anticipated: there wasn't much time to give tours or demonstrate tutor.com. There was time for meeting a bunch of new families and registering kids for library cards: 45 new or replacement cards were issued that night! Jen Hinderer hopes to expand this program and invite every elementary school in Tewksbury to its own "School Library Night" this year, but maybe next time plan for a few more staff members.

Keelyn Welch is the new LMS for **Winthrop Middle School**; **Lauren Rainer** is the new LMS for **Winthrop High School**.

NMRLS New Members:

Swallow-Union School, Dunstable.
Winthrop Middle School
Winthrop High School

Deadline for the December/January Newsletter: December 1, 2008

Share information about your staff and your library with the NMRLS community! Book reviews, articles, letters, success stories are all welcome!

For our Profiles in Collaboration column, we are always looking for stories about collaboration between at least two different libraries!

For our Library Spotlight column, we are looking for articles which spotlight your special programs and services, and unique collections!