

Come celebrate COLA's 25th Anniversary on Monday, February 8th at the State House

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Dorothy Frechette

At its Annual Meeting on February 8, 2010, COLA will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its official incorporation. The meeting and gala celebration will be held from 4:30 to 7 PM, in the Governor's State Room of the Rhode Island State House, amid distinguished speakers, elegant refreshments, and festive decorations.



Camila Alire, president of the 65,000-member American Library Association, will be the keynote speaker. Her main theme will be advocacy for libraries, which is the main theme of her presidency of ALA, and also what COLA is all about. Alire is an author of books and articles focused on marketing and advocacy, library services to Latinos and other minorities, library disaster recovery, leadership development, and recruitment and retention of minorities in the library profession.



Sweetheart of the Year will be Louise Blalock, of Hartford, Connecticut, formerly Director of RI's Barrington Public Library. In 1979, Blalock originated the concept of a statewide library-advocacy group for RI and suggested it be named COLA. Though COLA was not incorporated until 1984, it functioned as an organization of organizations for its first five years.



Acting Chair William Allen will chair the meeting, at which officers and the Board will be elected, scholarships will be awarded to students at the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, and past COLA Chairs and Sweethearts of the Year will be honored.

The meeting will be a highlight during Library Advocacy Week, a week of appreciation for libraries sponsored by the Karla Harry Commission, a legislative commission established to promote and do strategic planning for library service in RI.

The Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) is a grass-roots library support group that seeks to improve the quality of life for Rhode Islanders by supporting libraries of all kinds.

Admission to the Annual Meeting and celebration is free. Friends, trustees, library directors and staff, library users—all are welcome.

More about our keynote speaker...

Camila Alire is Dean Emerita at the University of New Mexico and Colorado State University. She was also Dean/Director of Libraries at the University of Colorado in Denver. She is an adjunct Professor of Practice in Simmons College's PhD program in Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions. A Master of Library Science graduate of the University of Denver, Alire has a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Northern Colorado.

Her record of service to the library community nationally is outstanding. She has chaired ALA's Committee on Legislation and several other ALA committees. She has been president of REFORMA (the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to the Spanish Speaking) and of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

She has received many awards for her accomplishments, including the first ALA Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award. (The late Elizabeth Futas was Director of the University of RI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.) Alire was a member of the ALA/ALTA (America Library Trustee Association) National Advocacy Honor Roll. Hispanic Business Magazine named her one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the country.

A Friends' Conversation with Howard Boksenbaum

with input from Veronica Croce

On October 17, COLA sponsored its fourth annual event for Friends' Groups, *The State of the State: Libraries in RI*. Howard Boksenbaum, Director, Office of Library and Information Services for the State of RI, began the conversation with a basic question: "What does a library advocate need to know?" By way of introduction, Howard traced his own passion for libraries: as a young aspiring poet and undergraduate at Washington University in St. Louis, he was overwhelmed by the stacks and stacks of volumes already on the poetry shelves in the library. He ultimately decided to take on the task of helping people navigate through library systems to take advantage of the wealth of books already there. Howard reported that Rhode Island's libraries today are in pretty good shape, compared to other states. Our legislators have always supported our libraries at the state and federal levels, beginning in 1960 when John Fogarty argued for an Act to fund Library Services, whose impact still resonates today.

Attendees recounted some of their major successes. A Friend from the Tiverton Library spoke about their progress toward building a new, energy-efficient, "green" library. The town held four public workshops, all well attended, to get support for the project. Howard reminded attendees that OLIS could help with building projects, including rehabilitation. A Friend from Johnston described the plans for their new library: voters approved a bond issue, and the project would go forward even though its size made it ineligible for state assistance. Everybody stressed the need to advocate for libraries at council meetings, budget hearings, etc, and to establish relationships with all representatives, both local and federal. Advocates can e-mail or write representatives with their concerns and recommendations.

Library advocates must make known to elected officials the value and need for a good library experience, especially in the current economy. There has been a 40% increase in the use of libraries – from job searches to book lending, from children's services to programs for adults. The group discussed the "Lederberg" state law delineating the state's share (25%) of library expenditures, based on the two prior years of local public spending. For Rhode Island, this translates to 41.5% state funding per capita, against 33.25% nationally.

In closing, Howard stressed that state manpower has been cut across the board; but in order to maintain and update the programs already in place, we must make the public aware of just what is needed to keep the library wheels turning. Some of the programs and services under OLIS include: interlibrary loan, delivery services, continuing education, the summer reading program, and Talking Books. State funds also support www.AskRI.org, with online databases accessible at home or in the library. Advocates should take this information back to their Friends' groups and pass on to their members what they can do to help.

Have you checked out
the resources available
to you
through



COLA 25th Anniversary Fund Established

To celebrate COLA's 25th anniversary, COLA has established a 25th Anniversary Fund. The fund will help COLA continue its outstanding record of success in supporting libraries into the next quarter of a century.

COLA, RI's grass-roots library-support group, has energetically and enthusiastically advocated for all kinds of libraries throughout the state. It has held educational programs for members of Friends' Groups, trustees, librarians, and the general public. COLA has fostered cooperative relationships among all types of RI libraries. It has achieved increased funding for libraries locally, statewide, and nationally. It helped achieve the formula that puts RI second in the nation in the funding of per capita expenditures for public libraries.

Contributions to COLA's 25th Anniversary Fund may be made in honor or in memory of a relative or friend. Please make checks out to RI Coalition of Library Advocates and mail to COLA, PO Box 3777, Cranston, RI 02910. Gifts are tax deductible and will be listed in the program of COLA's Annual Meeting and 25th Anniversary Celebration on February 8, 2010.

I enclose:

_____ Library Angel: \$5,000 and up _____ Library Lion: \$1,000 to \$4,999
_____ Library Sweetheart: \$500 to \$999 _____ Bibliophile: \$100 to \$500 _____ Patron \$25 to \$99

COLA Board of Directors 2009-2010 proposed for vote at the Annual Meeting

Officers: Neeltje Henneman, Chair Robert Schnare, Vice-Chair Frances Sadler, Treasurer Cherine Whitney, Recording Secretary	Susan Shepard Richard Waters Kristin Gerlach Jessica Barry Continuing term ending 2012: Elizabeth Cimini Florette Brill Nancy McEnanly Michelina Bonneau	Barry Press Continuing term ending 2011: Eleanor Sasso Veronica Croce Mary Frances Kiernan Nominating Committee: Stanley Abrams Joan Ress Reeves Rose Ellen Reynolds
Board Membership: <i>Appointed a a three-year term ending in 2012-2013:</i>		

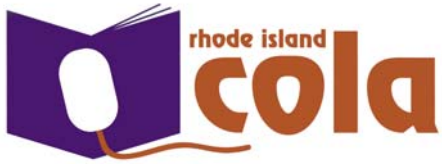
Library News

School Library Consortium Gets Federal Grant to Add New Members

The Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services has awarded a \$35,000 federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to the Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids (www.rilink.org) to support at least ten school libraries joining the consortium and its online shared catalog system called RICAT. The one hundred one (101) current RILINK member schools represent over one third (55,000) of Rhode Island K-12 students. Through RICAT, students can borrow online from other member libraries (1.1 million items !), and find authoritative subject-based web sites related to the topics they are studying and researching.

OLIS Announces New Contract for Statewide Reference Center

The 2010 Office of Library and Information Services contract continues subscriptions to four online services (EBSCO, Tutor.com, WorldBook Online, and Heritage Quest) that are available via AskRI.org, the online portal for the Statewide Reference Resource Center provided by the Providence Public Library. Added this year are WorldBook Online Digital Libraries (Living Green, Early Peoples, Inventions & Discoveries), Hispanica Saber, and a new resource called Dramatic Learning, which provides modularized units of readers theatre for classrooms and libraries.



Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates

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Cranston, RI 02910

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More research on the importance of reading

www.bodees.com/COLA/COLA.htm

Email: cola.rhodeisland@gmail.com

From the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development's *SmartBrief*:

Research shows brain connections improve with reading practice. Students who practice reading can strengthen their brains -- especially the white-matter connections essential to learning, according to research by scientists at the Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Researchers scanned students' brains, then enrolled struggling readers in an intensive reading program. Researchers again scanned students' brains, this time after 100 hours of reading practice, and found the training improved "not just their reading ability, but the tissues in their brain." [Also covered by National Public Radio (12/9) and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (12/10)]

Find more information about the importance of reading and how you can help kids succeed on the RILINK website at www.rilink.org/success.htm.

COLA is a statewide, grass-roots library support group.

COLA's work includes legislative advocacy, community education, public awareness, and support for library Friends groups.

Library Quotables...

"I've just surfaced from spending several days in a state of rapture: I was reading a book. I loved this book. I loved every second of it. I was transported into its world.... I felt alive and engaged and positively brilliant, bursting with ideas, brimming with memories of other books I've loved.

~Nora Ephron