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**COLA**  
*The Rhode Island Coalition of Library  
Advocates*

*Annual Meeting and Reception*

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

*5:00-7:00 p.m.*

*Rhode Island State House State Reception Room*

*Sweetheart of the Year*

*RI State Senator Rhoda Perry*

*Guest speakers*

*Authors Keith Staveley & Kathleen Fitzgerald*

*America's Founding Food*

Using sources as diverse as the novels of Harriet Beecher Stowe, poems, essays, and economic and environmental histories along with period cook-books, **Keith Staveley** and **Kathleen Fitzgerald** have written a complex and compelling regional social history, *America's Founding Food*.

**Presentation of Friends of the Library Awards and GSLIS Scholarships**

# Central Falls School Libraries Hit the Jackpot!

Library Media Specialists in the Central Falls public schools are busy ordering lots of new books this year. The district was awarded a \$339,173 grant through the federally-funded *Improving Literacy Through School Libraries* program, with a grant proposal put together by Debbie Fisher, the library media specialist at the high school. The grant program, proposed by Senator Reed, is part of the No Child Left Behind Legislation. Eligible communities must have a poverty level over 20%, and compete with other school districts nationwide. "Literacy and Information through New Connections and Services (LINCS)" will connect libraries, classrooms and homes to help students, teachers and parents improve literacy skills. LINCS will provide literacy-based books, add current non-fiction titles to each library media center collection, provide access to online databases, and add computers for student access. Students, teachers and parents will have more access to library and literary resources through workshops and orientations, extended library hours, and electronic access on the Worldwide Web. LINCS will also sponsor a literacy celebration for students and their families during "El día de los niños/ el día de los libros" (the day of the children/the day of the books).



## COLA's 2005 Sweethearts

COLA named Senator Elizabeth H. Roberts as its Sweetheart of the Year at its 2005 Annual Meeting. As a Rhode Island State Senator, Roberts has consistently crusaded for the highest level of library service to the state's broad-based constituency. Senator Roberts notes: "Effective libraries help bridge the digital divide between those who have access to technology and those who do not. Many new immigrants rely on libraries as their introduction to the country and use the library to learn English and to gain information about jobs and education. Plus, a growing number of senior citizens also use libraries for social interaction, health information, and - because many are on a fixed income - for free information and programs. Libraries help residents connect with the past as well as the modern world around us. Strong library systems support a successful education system, which leads to a better-educated workforce and contributes to a good quality of life."

In memory of Linda Aldrich (d. 1989), Bristol High School Library Media Specialist and vice-chairperson of the Middletown School Committee, School Library Media Scholarships were awarded to Jennifer Simoneau and Sheila Harvey, students at the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. Sheila Harvey fits in her studies at URI along with a full-time position as a seventh grade English/language arts teacher, team leader, and yearbook coordinator at Exeter/West Greenwich Regional Junior/Senior High School. Jennifer Simoneau has been working in the field of information technology training since her graduation from the University of New Hampshire in 1987. She hopes to provide leadership in the planning, management, and evaluation of school library programs while working as a School Library Media Specialist.

In memory of William Bergeron, COLA awarded the Public Library Scholarship to Eugene Jeffers. A staff member at the Pawtucket Library, Eugene has worked on developing library policies related to children's services and teamed up with the Teen Librarian to create an electronic Homework Center.

### Friends Groups Awards

For fundraising - To the Friends of the Cumberland Public Library for their Appraisal Day, led by Nancy Chaput, and inspired by the Antiques Road Show of PBS fame. Barrington Antiques donated their appraisal services for a SRO crowd, with long lines. Participants paid \$5 for one appraisal, \$10 for three. The Friends raised a total of \$900 for the library, and generated tons of good will. To become an annual event...???

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As we move into a new year,  
we remember....

**De Johnson**, President of the Rhode Island Library Association, and former director of the Marian Mohr Library in Johnston.

**MaryKay Schnare**, beloved Principal at Kennedy Elementary School, strategic planner for the Providence School Department, author, and middle school library media specialist. In 1996, MaryKay was named Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

**Jewel Drickamer**, one of the pioneers in the development of Rhode Island's state library network. She served as Deputy Director, and then Director of the state library agency from 1975 until she retired in 1980.

(2005 Awards, continued)

Outreach - To the Friends of the Kingston Free Library, for their community book sales, held three times a year, currently led by Mary Daley, Pamela Mead, and Library Director, Shirley Long. The Spring sale on the library lawn is part of the Village Fair, held in this multicultural community since the early 1900's. This year the Friends featured \$2 "grab bags" of children's books and brought in local authors to sign and sell their books. Proceeds from the book sales go to outstanding programs, including a "guest author" series. (Guest authors this year included Mike Stanton, Ann Hood and Jhumpa Lahiri.) These events bring together two essential literacy components: writers and readers.

Innovative Programs - To the Friends of the Library at Brown University, represented by Fraser Lang, Florence Doksanky (Interim University Librarian), and Sophie Blistein for their programs "The Dali Dimension: Art and Geometry", "Dance, Song and Wine" and "Small Splendors of State". This is the first time an award has gone to Friends of an academic library. Under Sophie Blistein as Membership Chair, the Friends reached (and passed) the milestone of 1,000 members.

Application forms for the William E. Reeves Friends Groups Awards for 2006 are available online at [www.bodees.com/COLA/friends\\_award\\_nomination.htm](http://www.bodees.com/COLA/friends_award_nomination.htm). Winning Friends Groups will receive a check for \$100, to be presented at COLA's Annual Meeting. (The deadline has been extended—it's still not too late !)



Use this convenient application to update your membership or to sign up a friend!

### COLA Membership Renewal/Application

#### Membership Dues

New member       Renewal

- Patron/Business \$100 and up
- Sponsor \$25—99
- Organization \$25
- Individual \$15

#### Members receive

- ◆ *Seasonal newsletters*
- ◆ *Invitations to the Annual Meeting & Reception, featuring local best-selling authors*
- ◆ *The priceless opportunity to support a rich community resource: Rhode Island's libraries*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

COLA needs Volunteers! Would you:

- Work on a committee?       Work on a short-term project?
- Serve on the Board?       Write for the COLA Newsletter?

Membership donations to COLA, a 501 C3 public charitable foundation, are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

**Online application form now available at [www.bodees.com/COLA/COLA.htm](http://www.bodees.com/COLA/COLA.htm)**

Make check to COLA and mail to:

**COLA**  
P. O. BOX 3777  
CRANSTON, RI 02910



Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates  
P.O. Box 3777  
Cranston, RI 02910

## COLA's Website

You can be up-to-date on current COLA activities, COLA news, and COLA members by visiting our website at

[www.bodees.com/COLA/COLA.htm](http://www.bodees.com/COLA/COLA.htm)

COLA is about communication ...timely communication. The website holds great promise and functionality for COLA as we evolve as an organization. COLA has been a vital and active organization within the library community and the state of Rhode Island for twenty years. Over the next year we

will continue to enhance and expand the website. Our Newsletter will not only be available in print format, but will also be available online for viewing and printing. If you forget our address, you can find the COLA website through Goggle by searching for COLA library homepage or COLA advocates homepage.

**Megan Southard**, while a student at the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, volunteered her time and talents in designing our web site. Many thanks, Megan. COLA welcomes your comments and suggestions.

### Library Quotables...

"What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it thinks about education."

Harold Howe, former U.S. Commissioner of Education