

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Toby Rossner**  
*Chair*

**Joan Retsinas**  
*Vice Chair/Chair-Elect*

**Stanley B. Abrams**  
*Treasurer*

**Mary Frances Kiernan**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Dorothy Frechette**  
*Corresponding Secretary*

*COLA Board:*

**William J. Allen**  
**Michelina Bonneau**  
**Gigi Edwards**  
**Patti Folsom**  
**Harriett Frank**  
**Harold Gadon**  
**Chester Ham**  
**Lyn Johnson**  
**Frances Sadler**  
**Lillian Schwartz**  
**Mary Walsh**

**Alan Axelrod**  
**Joan Ress Reeves**  
**Rose Ellen Reynolds**  
*Chairs Emeriti*

**Anne Toll**  
*Honorary Life Member*

*Newsletter Editor:*

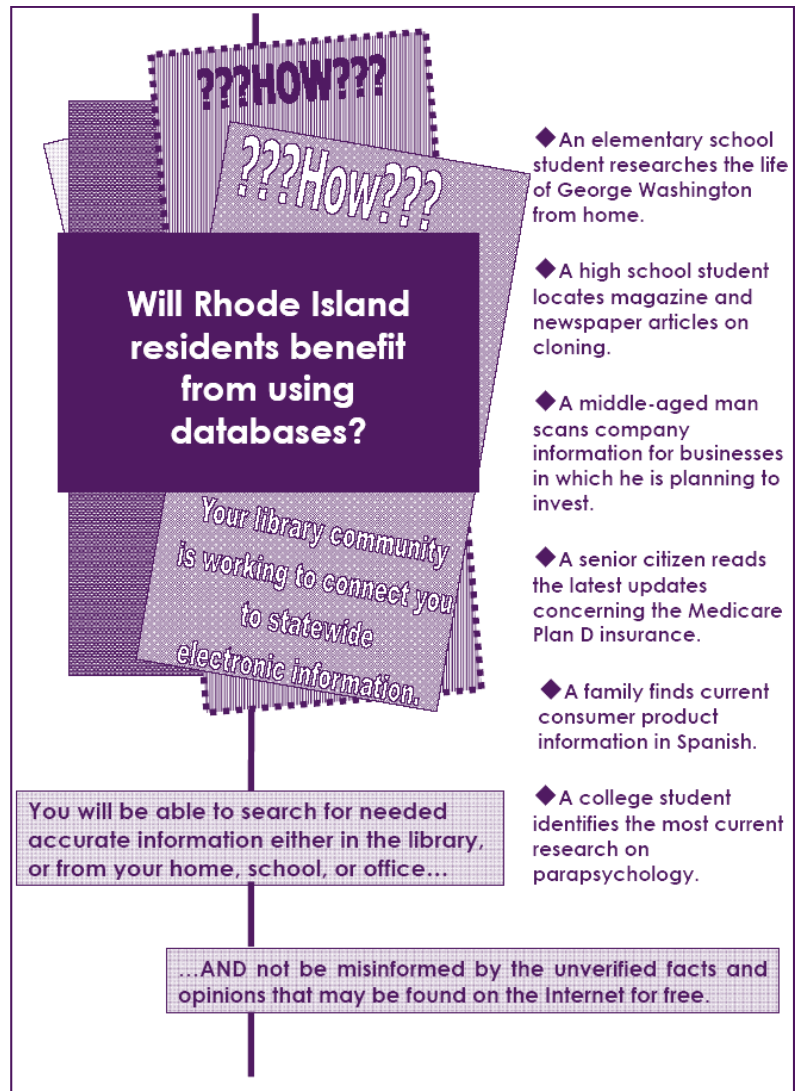
**Dorothy Frechette**

**Library Legislation needs your support**

HOUSE BILL H7219 needs your support. Contact your legislator (<http://www.sec.state.ri.us/elections/findyourofficials/>) to indicate your support for H7219 to provide Rhode Island citizens with equal access to information and to promote lifelong learning for all through

- **Statewide access to a core of electronic information databases** for use from libraries, schools, business and home. "63% of people 18 or older, and 81% of teenagers regularly go online for information." (Pew Internet Project, 2005 Report) Rhode Island is one of the LAST states to provide its citizens with this type of access. State funding of databases would free up local resources to address individual community needs. (Cost \$1,000,000)

- **"one-stop" access** to over 9 million information items available in public, college, and special library collections throughout the state, both public and private. A catalog displaying the combined collections of all public libraries (CLAN) and those of 10 academic and 15 health science libraries (HELIN) would be a huge first step toward creating a STATEWIDE LIBRARY CATALOG. (Cost \$1,300,000)



**Will Rhode Island residents benefit from using databases?**

Your library community is working to connect you to statewide electronic information.

- ◆ An elementary school student researches the life of George Washington from home.
- ◆ A high school student locates magazine and newspaper articles on cloning.
- ◆ A middle-aged man scans company information for businesses in which he is planning to invest.
- ◆ A senior citizen reads the latest updates concerning the Medicare Plan D insurance.
- ◆ A family finds current consumer product information in Spanish.
- ◆ A college student identifies the most current research on parapsychology.

You will be able to search for needed accurate information either in the library, or from your home, school, or office...

...AND not be misinformed by the unverified facts and opinions that may be found on the Internet for free.

# COLA's Annual Meeting 2006



## COLA's Sweetheart

COLA named Senator Rhoda Perry as its Sweetheart of the Year at its 2006 Annual Meeting.

Since she became a state senator in the early 90's, Rhoda has been a great friend to libraries in the General Assembly, introducing and supporting funding initiatives that help rank Rhode Island libraries among those with the highest level of state support in the country. She has introduced legislation that protests the incursion into the privacy of library records created by the Patriot Act, and has never been afraid to take a stand to support civil rights, open government, and campaign reform.

When she was told about the Sweetheart Award, Senator Perry, immediately stated, "Well I'm sweet on libraries!" As an instructor of English-as-a Second-Language, Rhoda Perry teaches her students to value books and libraries, helping them get their library cards and find their way around their local branch libraries.

## A Taste of New England

Our guest speakers at the Annual Meeting, Keith Stavely and Kathleen Fitzgerald shared their complex and compelling regional social history, America's Founding Food, along with samples. Using culinary, historical, and literary sources, the authors wove a fascinating story of traditions and the social significance of New England ingredients and recipes.

## COLA Scholarships

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 Denise Ledoux and Carol Herrmann, students at the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS). Denise is the Library Media Specialist at Curvin McCabe School in Pawtucket; Carol is completing her practicum at Dartmouth Middle School. Both have shown their commitment to teaching and libraries.

In memory of William Bergeron, COLA awarded the Public Library Scholarship to Diane Simmons, also a student at the URI GSLIS, and currently working at the Coventry Public Library. As an independent study project she is designing and implementing an outreach program of story hours for toddlers in at-risk families.

## Friends Groups Awards

This year, COLA awarded five William E. Reeves Friends Recognition Awards to Friends of the Library groups for creative, original and outstanding programs and events in support of their libraries:

Community Service - To celebrate their 50th anniversary, the Friends of the North Kingstown Free Library served birthday cake at several library programs, printed a special edition of their newsletter, and was recognized in the Sunrise Salute on WJAR-TV-10 for the tremendous role it plays in raising almost \$20,000 annually to fund a varied array of programs and special projects for all ages.

Fundraising - In its 25th year, the Friends of the Mount Pleasant Branch, Providence Public Library Annual Book Sale/Bazaar included an "Attic Treasure" flea market, a children's performer, a Penny Social for the selection of theme baskets, and refreshments - in addition to the sale of new and used books.

Outreach - The Friends of the Tiverton Library are publishing their newsletter online with clickable links to full reports of library programs, archival materials, services, and more. The online newsletter has increased the Friends visibility in the community far beyond the audience they reached with their printed newsletter.

Programs - The Friends of the East Smithfield Public Library were recognized for their 4th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration, a social and educational program designed to bring people into the library who aren't regular patrons. To the sounds of Irish music played with pipes, fiddle and banjo and Irish step dancing, Friends served up soda bread and tea, along with Irish books and videos for library users to borrow.

Lifetime Achievement - The Friends of the Rochambeau Branch, Providence Public Library received a Special Lifetime Achievement Award for the outstandingly consistent caliber of programs that they sponsor each year. In 2005, they sponsored a Limerick contest, funded new resources for the visually impaired, donated an additional \$25,000 to the library's building fund, and celebrated their 25th Anniversary to coincide with the 225th Anniversary of Count Rochambeau in the American Revolution.

## Library News

Academic libraries to establish "Digital Repository"

The Davis Educational Foundation, established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after his retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc., awarded a \$236,000 grant to HELIN (Rhode Island's Higher Education Library Information Network). Project funds will make it possible for this consortium of academic and health sciences libraries to digitally preserve current and historical materials documenting the social, business, political, educational, cultural and civic life of Rhode Island and New England. Using ProQuest's Digital Commons, HELIN libraries will archive and preserve faculty publications, student theses and capstone papers, university publications, and special collections. The Digital Repository will include rare books, manuscripts, book plates, photographs, slides, maps, artifacts, oral histories, and audio and video clips. This project continues the development of HELIN's twenty-one-year role as an educational model for inter-institution cooperation and resource sharing, designed to share costs associated with library collection development and automation.

School library consortium gets LSTA grant

RILINK (Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids) has received a \$20,000 LSTA grant through the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) to expand disk drive space and add nine libraries to its online library automation system for schools (RICAT). Using RICAT, each library's catalog will be available anywhere a student, teacher, parent, administrator or librarian can access the web. Each RICAT library also can easily mount its own web page RILINK currently has 66 members, and serves 28% of Rhode Island public school students.

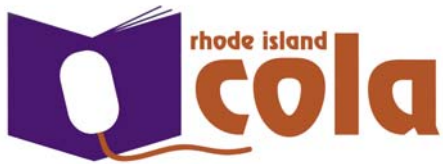
## Tidbits

Looking for an author to visit your library?

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) has launched Authors@Your Library, ([www.AuthorsAtYourLibrary.org](http://www.AuthorsAtYourLibrary.org)), that links publishers and library event planners to simplify the process of scheduling author visits. Authors@Your Library is a free online matchmaking service for librarians who want to schedule successful author events, and for publishers who are seeking enthusiastic audiences for their authors. Register your library, and then search for authors by name, title, geographic location, tour schedules, etc.

Library Friends and Books for Babies

Books for Babies is a literacy program that acquaints parents of newborns with the important role books play in the development of their children. If you are interesting in fostering this effort through your library, Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) can help, with Books for Babies packets, each containing a guide for grownups, reading tips, and baby's first book (*Where is Spot?*). Libraries have reached new parents with Books for Babies packets through hospitals, well-baby clinics, teen pregnancy clinics, Lamaze classes, literacy organizations, and local obstetrician's offices. Packets, available in both English and Spanish, cost \$6 each. Visit [www.folusa.com](http://www.folusa.com) on the web for order forms and more information.



Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates

P.O. Box 3777

Cranston, RI 02910

Forwarding Service Requested.

## Quotable Facts—American Library Association

- Reference librarians in the nation's public and academic libraries answer more than seven million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would stretch from Boston to San Francisco.
- In the United States, sales of video games and other entertainment software (\$7.3 billion in 2004) total more than nine times the amount spent on books, periodicals, audiovisual, and other materials for school library media centers (\$771.2 million in 2004).
- There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the U.S. – a total of 16,220, including branches.

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 have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."

*Jorge Luis Borges*

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

Email: [cola.rhodeisland@gmail.com](mailto:cola.rhodeisland@gmail.com)