

The EMIE BULLETIN is published quarterly.

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Editor's Note: This issue of the EMIE Bulletin has been abbreviated to make room for the "Perspectives on Islam" bibliography that will be featured in the Spring 2010 issue. The bibliography grew out of the cancelled session at the 2009 ALA Annual Conference and represents an effort by EMERT members to carry on the informational goals of the session. The bibliography will include annotations of major works written by the invited speakers and other commentators on aspects of Islam in the United States and around the world.

Library Community Project Increases Service Coverage in Tough Economic Times

Results are in for an innovative pilot project through which ten Colorado libraries boosted services to diverse populations. This project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Community Conversations Project showed that the ten pilot project libraries experienced an increase in support from expanded partnerships, an array of new patrons who attended events and are likely to support the library, increased usage of new collection materials, and an increase in community understanding of the library's role in serving all. Participating library staff reported a higher comfort level with serving diverse patrons and are likely to offer additional diverse programming using ongoing partnerships. Greeley's library in the High Plains District said the project showed "that there are ways to communicate even when there is a language barrier."

The majority of participants at the events acknowledged that this was their first time attending a library event, they planned to use the library again, and their library is an important community resource. Thornton, a branch of the Rangeview Library District, reported that, "More people in the community know about the resources at our library for new English learners."

Fifty-one local partners, including community leaders and organizations, participated in the organization of the projects. Some partners are expected to provide ongoing support for the libraries' programs as a result of their participation.

More than 1,600 patrons and dozens of library staff served by these Community Conversations projects reported an increased awareness of diversity, increased knowledge of civil discourse, and a greater association of the library with services to all sectors. As a result, libraries expect an increase in support of activities related to diverse populations, such as programs, event attendance, and materials circulation.

The 2008/2009 Community Conversations Project, sponsored by the Special Populations & Issues Committee, an advisory committee to the Colorado State Library, capitalized on the position that libraries hold in their communities as thriving and active locations where people mingle for education, entertainment, and information.

Each of the libraries designed an individual project to engage an underserved or diverse community and create diversity awareness. Community leaders and partners were involved. In 2009, the Special Populations & Issues Committee welcomed the involvement of eight community agencies. These statewide partners offered resources and expertise not only to the ten Community Conversations libraries but also the library community at large. The libraries received \$500 grants for library materials as well as mentoring from committee members and technical advice.

For information on the Community Conversations Project and to access resources, reports, and many Internet links for diversity, visit the Special Populations web site at www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/diversity.htm.

FOCUS ON ROMANIAN BOOKS IN AMERICA

Recently the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York, directed by Corina Suteu and located at 200 East 38th St., hosted an extensive and multifaceted Romanian book exhibition and sale called "Carturesti" (Scholarly), with the aim of providing a substantial and much needed resource of Romanian written culture to the American public at large. The exhibit consisted of about 700 current book titles (poetry, fiction, biography, history, politics, art albums, architecture, and music) and over 200 CDs and DVDs of Romanian traditional music, folk, ethno-rock, blues, and jazz in Romanian and English, plus Romanian films, documentaries, theatrical plays, and New Wave cinematography. Represented in the film collection are works by notable cineastes, such as Christian Mungiu, Andreea Valean, and Ciprian Proumboiu.

The exhibition's friendly and helpful curator was Marius Perghel,

who provided the online address <http://usa.carturesti.ro> for those who wish to see and purchase items featured in the exhibit. Writers and translators should know that the National Book Center (www.cennac.ro), part of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Bucharest, supports the translation and promotion of Romanian literature abroad, and Contemporary Romanian Writers (www.romanian-writers.com) publishes English-language works by contemporary Romanian authors through the publishing houses Polirom and Cartea Romanesaca. There is also the Observer Translation Project (<http://translations.observercultural.ro>), an international online magazine of Romanian writing in translation. Each month it features a recommended author and excerpts of his or her writing translated into English.

Vladimir F. Wertsman
New York Public Library

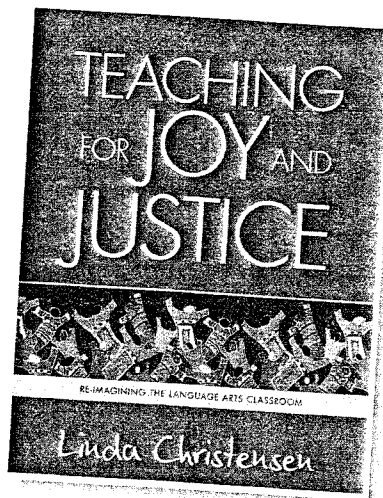
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