

American Library Association
Fall 2011 Executive Board Meeting
October 21-23, 2011
Report of President Molly Raphael

Past Presidents of ALA told me that my year as President would be one of great opportunity and also greatly increased workload. They were right, if the first few months are any indication. Being available to represent and speak for ALA is both demanding and rewarding.

Digital Content and Libraries Working Group

We have moved forward with establishing a new Digital Content and Libraries Working Group. We see this as not only a needed step coming out of the EQUACC Task Force but also supporting the "Transformation of Libraries" priority in ALA's *2015 Strategic Plan*. The Working Group is being co-chaired by Sari Feldman (Cuyahoga County Library) and Robert Wolven (Columbia University). Working Group members have been selected based on their high level of expertise and range of experience regarding libraries and digital content, and to be broadly representative of the various constituencies within the Association and library community and various types of libraries and library situations. The co-chairs have already begun moving forward with the assistance of Alan Inouye, Director of OITP. President-elect Maureen Sullivan will serve as the Executive Board Liaison to the DCLWG.

School Libraries Task Force

A new School Libraries Task Force has been appointed to address the urgent need for the advocacy for school libraries. The task force is being co-chaired by Pat Tumulty, Committee on Library Advocacy Chair, and AASL President-elect Susan Ballard, and has leaders from all types of libraries and several other ALA units. This representation is important to the work of the TF because of the importance of the school libraries to the overall library ecosystem. The SCTF has already begun its work and receives staff support from Marci Merola and the Office for Library Advocacy.

Meetings with Association of American Publishers and Carnegie Corporation

Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels, OITP Director Alan Inouye, and I met with Association of American Publishers' President Tom Allen and Vice President Tina Jordan in September to discuss issues of mutual concern. Our goals for this meeting were to articulate some of the major issues of the library community regarding e-books and to attempt to establish an ongoing relationship with AAP to address these issues. We received a favorable reception and discussed these issues with candor.

Executive Director Keith Fiels and I also met with Carnegie Corporation President Vartan Gregorian to discuss some proposals we wanted the Carnegie Corporation to consider. We were pleased to have the opportunity to present and discuss the concepts with President Gregorian and follow-up with two concept submissions.

Presidential Initiatives

"Empowering Voices: Communities Speak Out for Libraries" (Advocacy)

Initiative Co-Chairs Patty Wong and Barbara Stripling, along with OLA Director Marci Merola and Governance Office Director JoAnne Kempf, have been working with a larger team to develop tools and resources for supporting all types of libraries in engaging with their communities, developing and aligning services with the communities, and then motivating and empowering communities to speak out to community leaders about the value of those libraries. By using both conference calls and ALAConnect, we have been moving forward. Recently, we have realigned our approach so as to be more effective in reaching our goals.

"Empowering Diverse Voices" (Diversity)

Several projects are underway, with the support of Office for Diversity Director Miguel Figueroa, to develop leadership development opportunities for ALA members from diverse backgrounds. Two approaches are being planned for Midwinter. First, a Champion Connections event, which will bring together new leaders from diverse backgrounds (individuals early in their careers or in their involvement in ALA) with established leaders from diverse backgrounds, who are willing to mentor and advocate (champion) future leaders. This event will use a "speed dating" approach. This effort is being led by Rose Dawson and Mary Jo Venetis. Second, a Leaders Video Series will be recorded at Midwinter, with proven leaders from diverse backgrounds talking about how they became involved in ALA and their best advice for future leaders. This effort is being led by Loida Garcia-Febo.

President's Program at Midwinter

We have secured Richard Harwood of the Harwood Institute of Public Innovation (<http://www.theharwoodinstitute.org/>) for the President's Program in Dallas, since his approach to community engagement aligns so closely with what the "Empowering Voices" advocacy

initiative proposes. His presentation will follow a sequence of advocacy-related institutes and conversations at Midwinter in Dallas, beginning on Friday (Advocacy Institute, 1/20/12), two programs of "conversations" on Saturday and Sunday, and culminating with the President's Program on Sunday afternoon (1/22/12).

Spectrum Presidential Initiative

We have continued to work on efforts to reach the \$1,000,000 goal for the Spectrum Presidential Initiative, under the leadership of ALA Past President Betty Turock, Office of Development Director Kim Olsen Clark, and Office for Diversity Director Miguel Figueroa. Having such an involved group of ALA leaders (four Past Presidents, the current President and President-elect, the Treasurer, and Executive Director) means that we all can contribute to moving the initiative forward. It is rewarding to see such strong commitment from so many ALA leaders for such an important ALA priority.

Travel and Speaking Engagements

Fall is a busy time for chapter and affiliate conferences. I was able to accept invitations to speak at many of them. When I did travel to a conference site, I tried to spend at least a full day (in some cases two) at each conference so that I had a chance to experience how these conferences were similar and how they were different. Several conference organizers reported that attendance was up at their conference when compared to last year.

The following includes my participation for July through October:

August 2011

August 13-18 World Library and Information Congress: 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly (San Juan, Puerto Rico)

September 2011

September 15-18 REFORMA IV National Conference (Denver, CO)

September 24-26 Arkansas Library Association Centennial Conference (Little Rock, AR)

October 2011

October 4-5 Missouri Library Association (Kansas City, MO)

October 6-7 Georgia Library Association (Athens, GA)

October 13-15 Colorado Association of Libraries (Loveland, CO)

October 17-19 Illinois Library Association (Rosemont, IL)

Media Interviews

Library funding and the transformation of libraries based on the rapidly changing digital environment are the topics most frequently covered in media interviews. The following list includes media interviews through September 2011.

JUNE – JULY 2011

PRINT

Outlet / Journalist	Topic	Website Link	Date
Publisher's Weekly / Andrew Richard Albanese	Raphael inauguration	http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/trade-shows-events/article/47650-hail-to-the-chief-pw-talks-to-incoming-ala-president-molly-raphael.html	6/20/11

RADIO

Outlet / Journalist	Topic	Website Link	Date
KQED (NPR) "The Forum", Keven Guillory	Budget cuts, funding, future of libraries	http://www.kqed.org/a/forum/R201106090900	6/9/11
Oregon Public Broadcasting "Think Out Loud" / Julie Sabatier	Raphael inauguration, state of America's libraries	http://opb.org/thinkoutloud/shows/new-ala-president-molly-raphael/	6/28/11

TELEVISION

Outlet / Journalist	Topic	Website Link	Date
WDSU-TV (NBC) New Orleans / Scott Burke	ALA Conference, various topics	http://www.criticalmention.com/report/9157x222759.htm	6/26/11

INTERVIEWS

Outlet / Journalist	Topic	Date
KQED (NPR) "The Forum" / Keven Guillory	Library budget cuts, funding, future of libraries	6/9/11
Publishers Weekly / Andrew Richard Albanese	Raphael inauguration	6/9/11
WDSU-TV (NBC) New Orleans / Scott Burke	ALA Conference and various library issues	6/26/11
Oregon Public Broadcasting "Think Out Loud" Julie Sabatier	Raphael inauguration, state of America's libraries, library trends	6/28/11

AUGUST 2011

PRINT

Outlet / Journalist	Topic	Website Link	Date
CNN / Bob Greene	Reading for pleasure in tough economy	http://articles.cnn.com/2011-08-21/opinion/greene.books_1_traditional-books-library-shelf-public-library?s=PM:OPINION	8/21/11
"Spending Smart" National Column / Greg Karp	How libraries can save you money	http://www.chicagotribune.com/site/newspaper/business/sc-cons-0825-karpspend-20110826,0,4241463.column	8/26/11
Gazette Newspaper / Erin Cunningham	Library budget cuts	http://www.gazette.net/article/20110826/NEWS/708269639&template=gazette	8/26/11
New York Times / William	Budget cuts in libraries	http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/01/us/01library.html?_r=2&scp=3&sq=Libraries&st=cse	8/31/11

Yardley			
Baltimore Sun / Andrea Seagel	Libraries changing with the times	http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-library-20110904,0,3538920.story	9/4/11
Washington Times / Ben Wolfgang	Privatization of libraries	http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/sep/5/cash-strapped-cities-and-local-governments-across-/?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS	9/5/11

INTERVIEWS

Outlet / Journalist	Topic	Date
Gazette Newspaper / Erin Cunningham	Library budget cuts	8/10/11
Shareable.net / Cat Johnson	Changing landscape and future of libraries	8/11/11
CNN / Bob Greene	Reading for pleasure in tough economy	8/16/11
Washington Times / Ben Wolfgang	Privatization of libraries	8/16/11
“Spending Smart” National Column / Greg Karp	How libraries can save you money	8/17/11
Baltimore Sun / Andrea Seagel	Libraries changing with the times	8/22/11
New York Times / William Yardley	Budget cuts in libraries	8/31/11

SEPTEMBER 2011

PRINT

Outlet / Journalist	Topic	Website Link	Date
Shareable.net / Cat Johnson	Changing landscape and future of libraries	http://www.shareable.net/blog/the-evolving-library	8/11/11
Buffalo News / Mark Sommer	Changing role of libraries	http://www.buffalonews.com/city/communities/erie-county/article544341.ece	9/4/11
USA Today / Letter to Editor	Letter to Editor: Jonah Goldberg on BBW	http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/letters/story/2011-09-12/Banned-Books-Week/50374960/1	9/12/11
Wisconsin State Journal / Doug Erickson	Libraries changing with times	http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/article_9f85c77a-df22-11e0-a3f1-001cc4c03286.html	9/15/11
Huffington Post / OP ED	Banned Books Week	http://www.huffingtonpost.com/molly-raphael/banned-books-week-censorship_b_977058.html	9/22/11
Chicago Tribune / Brian Slodysko	Book theft in libraries	http://triblocal.com/lisle/2011/10/04/when-unusual-title-went-missing-library-took-notice/	10/4/11

INTERVIEWS

Outlet / Journalist	Topic	Date
Buffalo News / Mark Sommer	Changing role of libraries	9/1/11
Progressive Magazine / Antonio D'Ambrosio	Public library funding and closures	9/9/11

Chicago Tribune / Brian Slodysko	Book theft in libraries	9/9/11
Wisconsin State Journal / Doug Erickson	Libraries selling outdated materials, changing with the times	9/14/11
San Diego Union Tribune / Matt Clark	Book theft in libraries	9/19/11
Shareable.net / Cat Johnson	Library funding	9/28/11

I want to thank JoAnne Kempf, Director of the Governance Office, and her staff for the continuing terrific assistance they have provided me during my first four months as President. I look forward to working with them in the future. I also am greatly appreciative of the guidance I have received from Keith Michael Fiels and other ALA staff. In addition, ALA's current leadership and many past presidents continue to be invaluable in offering advice and assistance.

In August, I hired an assistant, Kim Read, a recent graduate of the Emporia State University's MLIS Portland Program, who has been very helpful in a variety of tasks. Her consultation and initiative demonstrate her ability to go beyond the obvious.

I look forward to working with all of them in the future. Without their competence and caring, I could not do the job of ALA President.

October 20, 2011