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Institute explores libraries and leadership

By Robin Kear

Thirty-two librarians from around the world came together near Champaign, Illinois, from November 7-10, 2006, to participate in a unique international leadership institute focused on meaningful cross-cultural communication about libraries and leadership. In its second year, *Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World Community* was sponsored by the Illinois State Library and the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and funded by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). I participated in this program as a way to learn more about libraries and librarians around the world. I learned that good leadership qualities are almost universal and many of us face the same issues.

Librarians at varying stages in their careers, entry-level to mid-management to senior management, and from various countries, including Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, South Africa, and the United States, lived, learned, and took meals together for three days. The setting was the peaceful, 106-year old Allerton House Conference Center twenty-six miles west of Urbana-Champaign. We told stories, learned about each other's countries and libraries, and, in some cases, talked well into the night.

Thinking Outside the Borders was an opportunity to push our own mental borders and examine our cultural bias.



Attendees of Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World Community enjoy a moment of collegiality in Champaign, Illinois, in November. Thirty-two librarians from around the world attended the unique event.

The speakers and learning activities reflected the international focus of the program and the Mortenson Center. Carol Brey-Casiano, past ALA-President and director of the El Paso Public Library, spoke to us about what it takes to be a leader. Her advice: find a good mentor, learn to follow first, be visionary, be a good servant, take risks, take care of yourself, maintain a positive attitude, never turn down a leadership role, learn how to motivate, and keep your sense of humor. Brey-Casiano also spent a morning leading us in a library advocacy presentation and exercise.

Sandra Rios-Balderrama and Ujala Santgoor of the University of Pretoria in South Africa led an extremely enlightening session and exercise related to leadership traits and cross-cultural communication. Participants were asked to list what they didn't like about behaviors that may be culturally related and then what behaviors made them feel better. The two exercises allowed us to create a list of desirable leadership traits that crossed cultural

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Two CALA events held in China

By CALA International Relations Committee

This summer, two CALA events took place in China, and both proved to be very successful.

From July 17th-21st, the CALAMW (Chinese American Librarians Association Midwest) Chapter delegation, which consisted of Shuyong Jiang, Xudong Jin (group leader), Haipeng Li, Haiwang Yuan, and Lisa Zhao, held a 5-day seminar on topics of librarianship at Yunnan University. The seminar, entitled "CALA Twenty-first Century Librarian Seminar Series," was co-sponsored by the Yunnan Provincial Commission of Academic Libraries (YPCAL), the CALAMW Chapter and Yunnan University. The focus of the seminar was to provide a practical way to examine librarianship in the United States. More than 100 librarians from China participated in the event. Topics covered include library management, reference and instruction, cataloging and digital libraries, library consortium and outsourcing, challenges and opportunities, and many others. Feedback from participants was very positive.

In fact the seminar turned out to be so successful that the YPCAL requested the group go back next year. After some discussions, the YPCAL and CALA signed an agreement to conduct the training project for a three year period: year one (2006) with

Yunnan University (already done); year two (2007) with Yunnan Normal University; and year three (2008) with the Kunming Polytechnic University. In addition, after sending their librarians to the seminar in Yunnan, three other institutions, the Yunnan Library Association, the Northeast Normal University in Jilin Province, and the Shanxi Agricultural University in Shanxi Province in China, also made agreements with CALA to conduct the CALA Twenty-first Century Librarian Seminar Series in summer 2007.

From July 24-26, the Library Society of China Annual Conference was held in Kunming. A 14-member CALA delegation headed by CALA President, Haipeng Li, attended the conference and was well received. The Conference was divided into the general meeting section with 5 keynote speakers, and interest group meetings on the following topics: 1. Libraries for users; 2. Building legal environment for libraries; 3. Digital libraries, building, sharing and services; 4. Literacy and society.

Proposals for presentation from nine CALA members were accepted and won the best paper awards of the conference. Eight CALA members made presentations on various issues of librarianship. The Conference provided an opportunity for participants to visit local libraries.

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Message from the IRRT Chair

By Susan Schnuer

The change in IRRT over the past five years has been amazing. We are now one of the largest Round Tables due to our increased membership. We have become a home for many of the ALA international members. With increased size, comes additional privileges and we have a newly elected ALA Councillor, Hector Marino, representing IRRT and IRC concerns on Council. A remarkable group of 10 young IRRT members applied for Leslie Burger's Emerging Leaders Initiative. Congratulations go to IRRT member Rebecca Miller-Banner who was selected to attend the Emerging Leaders Initiative. Rebecca will receive a \$500 IRRT grant towards her expenses.

Interest in IRRT committees is strong, and filling committee positions with such a talented group of volunteers was a real pleasure. A highlight this year was the appointment of Dr. Chihfeng P. Lin, a professor at Shih-Hsin University in Taiwan and our first international member to head an IRRT committee. IRRT programs at Annual conference are well-attended and creating interest and discussion about international library activities. In short, IRRT is thriving and developing. Our growth is due to the hard work of

several past IRRT chairs including Jeannette Pierce, Nancy Bolt, Lea Wells, and Karen Starr, to name a few. They, and their boards, have provided the steady leadership that was needed to develop a successful Round Table.

Interest in IRRT committees is strong, and filling committee positions with such a talented group of volunteers was a real pleasure.

We are now at a point where we need to pause and reflect on priorities for the next five years. I think that IRRT has a larger role to play both in engaging U.S. ALA members in international library discussions and work and also in our outreach to international ALA members. As part of my work I travel extensively internationally and I am touched by the conversations that I have with librarians around the world who are IRRT

members. They talk to me about their desire to be productive and involved members of IRRT and their dreams to share their experiences with colleagues in their countries.

I would like to invite you to join the IRRT Board and me at Midwinter to help set priorities and determine future growth areas for IRRT activities. We plan to meet on Sunday, January 21, starting at 10:00 a.m. during the regular IRRT Board meeting slot to focus on this discussion. I do hope that you can join us and share your thoughts on these issues.

To help frame our discussion, we will use the structure of the ALA 2010 International Strategic Plan. You can find the plan on the IRRT website. The plan has a list of objectives for internationally-related work in six key areas: Advocacy and value of the profession, Education, Public Policy, Building the library profession, Membership, and Organizational excellence. We will review the objectives, decide which seem to fit under the IRRT umbrella, and set priorities. I look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday, January 21, 2007, and to participating in a stimulating discussion.

ALA Black Caucus plans sojourn to South Africa

By Paula Smith

The Black Caucus of ALA (BCALA) has planned a trip to South Africa to coincide with the 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council. The trip will take place from August 16–31, 2007. After working closely with several travel planners BCALA has designed a trip that aims to broaden one's historical and cultural understanding of South Africa. It is our hope that you will join us on this sojourn.

South Africa, with its complex social history has shown the world its capability for forgiveness and transformation. Considered a country

of "extremes" it is at once progressive and developing. A trip to South Africa is unforgettable and inspiring. In preparing the activities of this trip, BCALA plans to show you some of these very facets of this beautiful country.

In addition to being able to enjoy the Durban library tours and cultural activities that are established events at the IFLA conferences, this trip will also take you to Cape Town and Johannesburg. Of the many planned activities, some of the highlights include a visit to a local school library

in Durban, tours of Nelson Mandela's former home in Soweto, the Apartheid Museum, and the historical Robben Island, a safari drive, and a visit to the Lesedi Cultural Village.

Join the Black Caucus of the American Library Association Delegation to the IFLA Conference in Durban, South Africa. This is only the second time that IFLA has met in Africa. Meet and interact with librarians from across the globe as we explore the beauty and complexity of South Africa.

For more information, please visit the BCALA website at www.bcala.org.

2006 Hong Kong Book Fair draws thousands

By Victoria Chu

The 17th annual Hong Kong Book Fair took place at its usual venue, the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center (HKCEC), from 19-25 July 2006. The organizer behind this successful yearly event is the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC). HKTDC has been working closely with the Sino United Publishing Holdings Ltd. (hereafter Sino United), the largest exhibitor at the Fair. Annual publications from Sino United and its subsidiaries account for about one-third of Hong Kong's annual publications.

The affiliation between the American Library Association (ALA) and the Fair became official in 2001 when the "Hong Kong Book Fair Free Press Program for Librarians" was formalized, and when the first ALA delegation attended the Fair. This year's ALA delegation consisted of 14 librarians from the U.S. involved with collection building of Chinese language resources. More specifically, there were seven public librarians, two school system librarians, and five academic librarians (including librarians from the Library of Congress). Once again, our delegation's leader was Frank Xu from the Brooklyn Public Library. Xu has been leading delegations from North America to the Fair since 1998, even prior to its affiliation with the ALA. Xu, together with Alabaster, reported on the 2001 Fair (2001, IL 15 (3)). Others who have attended and written on previous Fairs include Cundall (2003, IL 17(2)), Atwill & Hickey (2003, LCATSJ 2(1)), Liu (2003, JEAL 129), and Wang (2005, IL 19(4)).

Beginning of the Fair

The HKCEC is an architecturally impressive building. The two sides of its sculpted aluminum roof resemble a seabird spreading its wings and taking flight. The current building is an expansion of the original built in 1988. The extension was completed in June 1997, in good time to host the historic



Attendees enjoy the exhibits at the 17th annual Hong Kong Book Fair. The fair was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center from July 19-25.

Handover Ceremony on 30 June 1997 when Hong Kong was returned to Chinese sovereignty. The HKCEC has become the venue for hosting significant events since.

This annual large-scale Fair demonstrates major efforts in promoting Hong Kong's book trade. However, it is not just a commercial one where publishers congregate and showcase their products. Local Hong Kong people view this more as a cultural event, referring to it as a book lover's paradise. The Fair is also becoming one of Hong Kong's tourist attractions. One Hong Kong tourist website, *Discovering Hong Kong*, lists this as a special event. Reportedly over 6,000 foreign visitors came to the Fair this year.

"Share the Sheer Joy of Reading" was The Fair's catch phrase. Sir Donald Tsang, HKSAR's Chief Executive, not only took part in the Fair's opening ceremony, but also participated as one of the celebrity story-tellers to help promote the reading culture among Hong Kong people, especially young people.

Fair Statistics

The Fair has been getting bigger over the years. This year there were 434 exhibitors (compared with 392 in 2005). Not surprisingly, the majority consisted of 295 from Hong Kong, followed by 102 from Mainland China (63 in 2005), 22 from Taiwan (23 in 2005), 6 from

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IRRT and IRC Midwinter meetings in Seattle

IRC Meetings

International Relations Committee I

Friday, 1/19/07

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Washington State Convention &
Trade Center (WCC) - Room 201

Humphry/OCLC Forest Press Award

Saturday, 1/20/07

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Washington State Convention &
Trade Center (WCC) - Room 302
Closed meeting

Bogle Pratt Award Committee

Saturday, 1/20/07

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Washington State Convention &
Trade Center (WCC) - Room 201
Closed meeting

IFLA Update

Saturday, 1/20/07

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Washington State Convention &
Trade Center (WCC) - Room 602-603

International Relations Committee II

Tuesday, 1/23/07

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Washington State Convention &
Trade Center (WCC) - Room 604



IRRT-Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, 1/21/07

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Washington State Convention &
Trade Center (WCC) - Room 211

International Papers Subcommittee

Saturday, 1/20/07

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Washington State Convention &
Trade Center (WCC) - Room 202
Closed meeting

International Poster Session

Subcommittee

Saturday, 1/20/07

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Washington State Convention &
Trade Center (WCC) - Room 214
Closed meeting

IRC/IRRT Meeting

IRC/IRRT All Subcommittee Meeting

Saturday, 1/20/07

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Washington State Convention &
Trade Center (WCC) - Room 602-603

Additional Meetings

Public Libraries Interest Group

Saturday, 1/20/07

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Hilton Seattle Hotel - Leeward Room

Fourth China Planning Committee

Sunday, 1/21/07

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Westin Seattle Hotel - Stuart Room

News in brief

Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award for International Librarianship

The American Library Association is accepting nominations for the 2007 John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award for International Librarianship. The deadline for nominations is January 1, 2007.

The award consists of a prize of \$1,000 and a certificate, which are presented at the International Relations Round Table Reception at the ALA Annual Conference. The award is given to a librarian or person who has made significant contributions to international librarianship.

Created on the occasion of the retirement of John Humphry as Executive Director of Forest Press, publisher of the Dewey Decimal Classification, the award recognizes

Humphry's far-ranging work to internationalize the English language editions of Dewey and to ensure that translations were adapted to meet the needs of other cultures and countries.

All nominations should include, as appropriate, personal history or curriculum vitae, with emphasis on achievements related to international librarianship; bibliography, critical reviews, articles, etc.; and letters seconding the nomination or other letters of commendation or appreciation.

ALA accepts applications for Bogle Pratt International Travel Fund

The American Library Association is accepting applications for the 2007 Bogle Pratt International Library Travel

Fund sponsored by the Bogle Memorial Fund and the Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science. An award of \$1,000 is given to an ALA personal member to attend their first international conference. An international conference may be defined as a conference sponsored by an international organization or a conference held in a country other than your home country.

The deadline to submit applications is January 1, 2007. The winner will be announced after the ALA Midwinter Meeting.

The award is in recognition of Sarah Comly Norris Bogle, a prominent U.S. librarian who made notable contributions to international library service.

Going global presents challenges for MUSE

By Ann Snoeyenbos

There is a lot of talk in the media about globalization in the business community, and on college campuses there is much talk about how the libraries can serve students and faculty working from remote areas of the world. I am going to tell you a little about the challenges Project MUSE has faced as we “go global.” I’m hoping my experiences can help you better understand your sister institutions around the world, and also understand some of the questions you might get from your students and faculty as they try to login to your services from other countries, as you purchase resources from other countries, or as you offer your e-publishing products to the world market (whether for free or for a fee). Project MUSE was born in 1995 and in the early years it was an all-American product: all U.S. publishers and all U.S. customers. Around 2002, MUSE started to think more carefully about expanding beyond the United States, but it wasn’t until I was hired as International Sales Coordinator that we started to learn what it really takes to serve users outside the United States.

- We have had to clarify a lot of content on our website, to make it easier for non-native speakers of English to understand. We’ve had to take out the library jargon, buzzwords, and carefully nuanced phrasing and instead focus on being clear and concise but still accurate. Have you ever tried to wade through paragraphs of text in a foreign language? It’s hard.

- We found that our web forms didn’t work with non-U.S. addresses. For example, we had a field for zip/postal code and the form couldn’t be submitted if that field was blank. But we found out that many countries don’t have a postal code system (e.g. Afghanistan, Bolivia, Qatar, and many more), so they couldn’t send the form. We also found that a lot of addresses don’t fit the simple city/state structure so we lengthened the text boxes and made room for more free-form information. This continues to be a problem with the mailroom shipping software. Sometimes it is hard to tell which line of the address represents which data element.

- Before putting IP addresses into our fulfillment system, we check them using a public tool such as GeekTools. In the United States, most institutions own their IP ranges, and the IPs are static. Institutions in developing countries often don’t own their own IPs and they don’t get static IPs because that costs a lot more. We tend to be suspicious of IPs that belong to commercial Internet Service Providers, but when the telecommunications infrastructure is not well developed that’s all the libraries have.

- Libraries outside the United States rely on different technologies. For example, proxy servers are not as common in other countries as they are here. Many countries rely on third-party authentication tools, such as Athens in the U.K., and login/password

is still in big demand even on very large urban campuses.

- Abuse monitoring has become an important activity for the Tech Team. In the United States, the academic community is well informed about copyright issues and quite respectful, relatively speaking. But this is not the case in all parts of the world; in areas where the user community hasn’t been exposed to online information they might not understand copyright issues, or they might understand but choose not to respect them.

- Customer service patterns have shifted radically. Everybody at MUSE who serves subscribers outside the United States comes in each morning to a mailbox full of messages from the Far East. If I work late enough in the evening, I can exchange messages in real time with Australia or Korea at the beginning of their day. On Friday morning, messages from Europe close with “Have a nice weekend!” because they’re heading out the door.

I know more about libraries now after two years at MUSE than I did after 13 years at a big city ARL library. In this job, I’ve learned about education systems around the world, consortium structures and funding cycles, and library budgets and negotiation styles. But you know what? Librarians are very much the same all around the world—they are committed to providing information for their researchers, and they love to learn about new sources.

SEFLIN donates children’s books to Armenia library

By Tom Sloan

On October 17, 2006, Nerses Hayrapetyan, Director, Information Resource Center, US Embassy in Armenia, presented children’s books to the Gegharkunik Regional Library on behalf of the Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN).

These books will be well received in a community with an already high demand for educational tools for the young. Since the beginning of the year, the Marz Library has registered upwards of 600 youth readers. With the help of a local U.S. Peace Corps volunteers,

the library has also recently initiated an English language Gegharkunik Marz Library club.

In addition to Gegharkunik, the SEFLIN Gift Book Program has provided materials to libraries in Dilijan, Noyemberyan, Ijevan, Gyumri and Yerevan.

Hong Kong

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France, 3 from Singapore, and 1 each from Thailand, Macau, Malaysia, Japan, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

The opening hours this year were slightly longer compared to last year, with extended hours on Saturday night from 10pm until 2am Sunday morning. For this night, there were special public transit arrangements to get people home. Local news reported about 60,000 visitors entered the Fair during these extended hours. At last year's Fair, attendance was around 640,000, while this year's attendance was a record 686,490, an increase of about 7.3%. (More statistics available at <http://hkbookfair.tdctrade.com>)

Observations at the Fair

Hong Kong people of all ages flocked to the Fair to get books and resources at concessionary prices. Everything inside the halls was for sale, some starting with a discount of 30-40% off on day 1 already. Some offered the deal of buy 2 and get 1 free. The halls were always crowded, and long lines wrapped around the HKCEC daily.

During this 6-day extravaganza, the HKTDC and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council had organized many activities at the Fair.

Renowned Authors' Seminars

The line-up of authors at the Fair was impressive, including famous authors from Hong Kong, the Mainland, Taiwan and overseas. The most well-known included Louis Cha, aka Jin Yong, the finest martial arts and chivalry novelist, and Ni Kuang, a prolific science fiction novelist. Other contemporary writers included Tie Gang, Liu Xinwu, Hong Ying, Chu Anmin, and Chris Patten, former Governor of Hong Kong.

Book Review Write-Up Competition for Students

Intended for school children in primary and secondary schools to compete in three different age groups,

the 20 selected winners of this writing contest would join Sir Donald Tsang at a story telling session.

Impressions of the Fair

Children's Resources

I could not help noticing the abundance of children and youth targeted resources. Children's educational resources accounted for the biggest sale at the Fair. Local news reported that many Hong Kong parents spent thousands of Hong Kong dollars on children's educational materials. The very pricey set titled *Disney's World of English* cost about HKD\$48,000 per set (approx. USD\$6,166). Reportedly its sale went up 30% this year. Supplementary homework exercises for children, especially those on mathematics, Chinese and English languages, vocabulary, and grammar, were also popular with parents.

Local Preferences

I also noticed that local Hong Kong people tended to browse and purchase titles with subjects related to everything locally Hong Kong. Their preference is likely linked to their increasing interests in local politics, history, and culture. Such awareness among Hong Kong people has increased much since the early 1980s through the 1997 Handover to the present. Many publications on local politics sold well at the Fair this year. Titles in the political satire genre ridiculing local politicians have also remained popular.

The Mainland Connection

The Shanghai Pavilion brought in a number of Shanghai publishers who showcased their regional publications. This was a first in the Fair. Its success would likely lead to more city or provincial pavilions in future Fairs.

That Mainland publishers are becoming more inextricably connected to the Hong Kong publishing industry is obvious. Increasing numbers of Hong Kong readers now choose to read books with simplified characters from the Mainland. They consider simplified

character books to be more fashionable and these books are also of excellent quality and available at a lower price. In addition, Mainland publications are generally superior in scholarly fields such as classical Chinese literature, history, and philosophy.

Other Professional Activities

Our delegation also toured the Hong Kong University Libraries (HKUL), including the renowned Fung Ping Shan Library Collection. The Hong Kong Library Association (HKLA), in conjunction with the HKUL, hosted a workshop for our delegation. Julia Chan, president of the HKLA, welcomed us, followed by a presentation by Janny Lai, Electronic Resources Acquisitions Coordinator at the HKUL, on challenges in building e-book collections, and another presentation by Tammy Wong from the Library of Congress on their geography and map collections. The evening wrapped up with us networking and sharing our experiences.

End of the Fair

Nearly all librarians in our delegation left Hong Kong on the 4th day of the Fair to travel to the Mainland or Taiwan on library business or leisure, or to return to the U.S. I opted to stay longer in Hong Kong, visiting libraries, acquiring resources, while staying with relatives for free. I continued to go the Fair daily, and I stayed till the scheduled closing time at 6pm on the last day.

I witnessed the Fair packed with people from the beginning till the very end. It was certainly a popular and impressive event for all. As iterated by other librarians, the Fair helped strengthen my understanding of the changing publishing landscapes in Hong Kong and the Mainland. I also learned a lot about the changing culture in Hong Kong. Being present at the Fair and in Hong Kong also enabled me to acquire many unique, hard to locate, and locally published materials, especially audio-visual titles. I definitely felt recharged and would recommend this experience. Next year's Fair will be held from 18-24 July 2007.

Leadership

Continued from page 1

boundaries. My moment of enlightenment occurred at the listing of international leaders throughout the last century, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, Jimmy Carter, and the common characteristics that transcend mental and geographic borders. Some of the common traits that our group came up with were: honesty, integrity, taking risks, being fair, emotional intelligence, strong values, diplomacy, and flexibility.

Other speakers included Tom Claeson on planning for disasters, Mary Ann Mavrinac of the University of Toronto on the Campbell leadership descriptor, and Professor Harry Triandis of the University of Illinois on cross-cultural communication. We also used a role-playing game called Pamoja to understand cultural value systems and how that influences interactions. Participants were also responsible for creating a partnership project with one other library. The projects range from exchanging information and expertise to exchanging staff and creating sister libraries.

The institute was a great way to network with librarians in other countries and see how we can help each other. I thoroughly enjoyed the program and highly recommend it to others.

IRRT public libraries group to meet at Midwinter in Seattle

The prospective IRRT Public Libraries Interest Group will meet at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle.

Public Libraries Interest Group

Saturday, 1/20/07
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Hilton Seattle Hotel -
Leeward Room

The IRRT Public Libraries Interest Group (PLIG) will create a forum for the exchange of ideas, best practices and challenges of public libraries around the world.

PLIG will work to promote the values of public libraries worldwide and encourage and advocate for awareness of international public libraries within the American Library Association.”

IRRT Interest Groups are self-organizing units of librarians passionate about a particular issue. Potential activities of PLIG

could include discussion groups, an online forum, social activities and programming at conferences.

I am interested in other librarians, particularly public librarians, interested in forming a Public Libraries Interest Group to help forge PLIG and determine its initial mission and objectives.

If you are interested let me know by sending me your name, e-mail address, library institution address and a contact phone number.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions/thoughts/ideas at Mollie Fein, Library Manager, Baltimore County Public Library, Essex Branch, 1110 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, MD, 21221, 410-887-0295, x100 or 110, mfein@bcpl.net. Hope to hear from you soon!

Thanks to Jeannette Pierce, IRRT Past Chair, and Susan Schnuer, IRRT Chair for their help and encouragement.

-- Mollie Fein

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Postage