

NEWSLETTER

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Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries Lobby for Full Funding

PCBL Board members joined with the Pennsylvania Library Association in leading a contingent of some 500 Pennsylvania citizens to the Capitol in Harrisburg on May 11, 2004 where they called upon Governor Rendell and state legislators to restore full state funding for the Commonwealth's 625 public libraries.

Library funding was cut 37% in FY 2003, from \$75.2 million to \$47.8 million. The preliminary impact of budget cuts has forced 75% of libraries to reduce collections, 43% to reduce hours of service and 34% to reduce staffing.

PCBL pitched in to help the cause by underwriting the costs of a news conference held in the State Capitol rotunda and which featured testimonials from children and families affected by the cuts in service. State Representatives Steve Samuelson and Steven Cappelli both spoke to the crowd of the affects of reduced library service in their districts and both pledged their support and leadership in persuading their colleagues to restore library funding.

Jonelle Darr, President of the PA Library Association and Executive Director of the Cumberland County Library System, warned the audience, "Pennsylvania's libraries today stand at a crossroads. We now rank in the bottom 15 states in the nation for overall funding of library services. To be competitive in today's changing economy, we need strong libraries not only for today's workers, but for their children who will become the backbone of tomorrow's knowledge economy." PCBL president Sara Oates reminded legislators, "Libraries are at the heart of the development of sound minds and the fostering of literacy skills that will help them compete in tomorrow's workforce."

Every legislator and each press kit for the news conference contained a copy of "Pennsylvania Libraries: Learning Starts Here!", a booklet showcasing the innovative early literacy work of 16 Pennsylvania public libraries. The publishing of this booklet was underwritten by PCBL because the organization strongly believes in the public libraries pivotal role in early childhood learning and wanted to be a part of communicating this fact to a broad audience. This "best practices" booklet is the result of the first annual Best Practices Awards for Programming and Services to Children Under the Age of Six, Their Families and Caregivers given by the PA Library Association in April.

World-famous children's author and PA native, Marc Brown, creator of Arthur™, taped a new public service announcement shown as part of the news conference. In it he says, "I am here today to support your efforts to keep our libraries in Pennsylvania open and active as an important resource to children and families. We end every episode of 'Arthur' with a single sentence: 'You can read Arthur books and many other great books at your local library.' I hope we can always say that."

Library Advocates voices were heard, at least temporarily, for later in the day the House of Representatives passed its version of the budget which contained two amendments. One added \$5 million for library operations and another fully restored library funding – which would allocate a total of \$80.2 million to public libraries. Both were approved!

We now await the Senate's version. PCBL will be busy in the coming weeks contacting every legislator and the Governor asking for full restoration of library funding as budget negotiations proceed.



Budget Survival Kit

The goal of any attention-getting item is to get people to look twice or to talk. You can quote stats until you're tongue falls out, but unless it's tied to real people, there's very little impact. Nor is there a reason to talk about it. There's something to the old adage that it doesn't matter what press you get as long as they get the name right. Human nature allows you to remember that something happened to "someone."

In an effort to keep libraries in the forefront of the legislator's minds, especially during difficult Pennsylvania budget negotiations, the Monessen District Center, and Westmoreland County Federated Library System, tries to approach the matter with "something different." Last year, I would have preferred to make rounds in the capitol building playing a dirge and pounding a nail into a piece of wood outside of each legislator's office. Since I didn't want the hassle with capitol security, we opted to send a snack size bag of pretzels with a tag attached pointing out that Americans spent more money on salty snacks than they do on public libraries. We also sent half a CD with a tag attached pointing out important library facts.

This year, we presented the legislators in our District, and those with ties to the District, with a "budget Survival Kit." We printed small, specialized boxes and filled them with the following items (the items and their use were listed on the box); Battery (a AAA) – energy to keep going during budget negotiations; Magnet (refrigerator magnet with library promo) – to help pull things your way; tissues (purse size pack) – to wipe your eyes after sleeping during the last discussion; Cotton balls (2 in small bag) – for when you can't hear yourself think; Starburst (candy) – to remind you that you're a "star" in our book; Coffee (individual filter pack for pot) – to keep you perking' during late hours; Antacids – for those upset with library funding; Mounds Bar (candy) – for the mounds of knowledge libraries hold. The boxes were printed with our name and contact information. The entire package was wrapped in light colored tulle and tied with a ribbon.

Chances are that many of the items distributed will not make it to the intended audience for more than a moment before it's passed on. That's okay. We want that one moment to be memorable. And the fact that the item is passed onto a staff person or a family member, or even a stranger – that's okay too because now at least one more person knows our name.

I hope we made the point that we appreciate that the legislators are human, we do appreciate what they do, and that most of all, when they pop that battery into their clock, or pull a tissue from the pack, or eat the candy, they remember that it was from the library.

Tara Manderino
Report/Grant Writer

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PCBL 25th Anniversary

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries is proud to be celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. The major part of our celebration will occur during the traditional Awards Luncheon on Sunday, September 26, 2004 during Pennsylvania Library Association's Annual Conference at the Valley Forge Convention Center.

This year's luncheon program will highlight the organization's 25-year history of citizen advocacy for libraries. Founded in 1979 as a result of the first Governor's Conference on Libraries, PCBL will celebrate this significant birthday by honoring organizations and individuals who have been partners through the years in advancing the cause of Pennsylvania's libraries. Luncheon speaker Elliot Shelkrot, executive director for the Free Library of Philadelphia, whose leadership has helped shape and direct PA libraries, will "tell stories" about libraries and their friends as they've grown together in this 25 year journey.

During the luncheon program we will also be presenting three awards, one for Lifetime Achievement in service to libraries, one to an outstanding Friends group and a third media award for coverage highlighting libraries during the past year. We invite you to nominate individuals and/or a group for these awards, using the form found in this newsletter.

Ticket and registration information for the Luncheon will be sent to every PCBL individual and group member, and it will also be posted on our website at www.pcblpa.org. In addition, the information will be a part of the PaLA Conference publicity sent to every library.

Please plan to join us at this wonderful celebration! We look forward to seeing you there.

Dennis Leeper
Anniversary Chairperson

25th Anniversary Speaker

Elliot L. Shelkrot, 60, is President and Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia, which consists of 55 libraries including the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the newest branch library opened in February 2001, Independence Branch.

Since coming to the Free Library in 1987, Shelkrot has initiated a wide range of innovative programs to increase library services. His major accomplishments include opening all branch and regional libraries for at least six days a week for the first time in the Library's history. To date, all three regional libraries and the Central Library also open on Sundays from September to June.

Shelkrot instituted a Volunteer Services Office that has recruited more than 1,100 volunteers each year for the last three years. He also established a Development Office that raised more than \$40 million in the last five years. Additionally, Shelkrot implemented a five-year plan to renovate and revitalize all 53 neighborhood branches by the year 2001.

Shelkrot is past president of the Urban Libraries Council and the Public Library Association, a division of the American Library Association. He served as State Librarian for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1980 to 1987. As State Librarian, he initiated Access Pennsylvania, a statewide library card and bibliographic data system, and directed the Division of School Library Media Services and the Public Library Development Program. During his tenure as State Librarian, state aid to public libraries increased from \$9.7 million to \$19.5 million. Shelkrot's earlier experience includes four years (1976-80) as Chief of Public Services Support for the Baltimore County Public Library and service in the state of Maryland's Division of Library Development. He began his career working with inner city teenagers at the Free Library of Philadelphia (1966-69).

A leader in civic affairs in the City of Philadelphia, Shelkrot serves as a board member for the Allegheny West Foundation, the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Council and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. He is also a former board member of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Shelkrot is the recipient of the Philadelphia Committee on City Policy Leadership Award (1997), the second annual Benjamin Franklin Founder Award (2000), the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (2001), and the Wyck-Strickland Award (for cultural contributions to the Philadelphia Region.) In 2003, the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations honored Shelkrot with a Special Achievement Award calling attention to the leadership role that he has played in "... helping Philadelphians address and enjoy their diversity and experience intergroup harmony and cooperation."

Shelkrot holds a Bachelor's degree from Oberlin College and a Master of Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh.



State Budget News

As of July 4th, Pennsylvania has a new state budget. House Bill 2579 appropriates \$57.9 million for state aid to public libraries. This is a \$10.2 million increase over last year, or an increase of a little more than 20%.

Obviously, on one hand, this is not the full amount for which we advocated. On the other hand, it is not the dire amount of \$37.5 million first proposed 18 months ago by Governor Rendell and hastily passed by the General Assembly in March. It is \$5.2 million MORE THAN the Governor requested, and another big step in the proper direction. For that, we are grateful to EVERY SINGLE LIBRARY SUPPORTER, who persevered, to members of the General Assembly who increased it, and to Governor Rendell who signed it.

We would have preferred----and advocated strongly----that this year's funding NOT be built on top of the 2003-04 flawed distribution which hit the district centers the hardest. But in the intensity of this long legislative weekend filled with the contentiousness of expanded gambling, property tax debates, and, finally, deep into the night, the state budget, the best distribution that we could get was across-the-board along with a promise to revisit this issue in the next year.

We'll probably learn more in the coming days. Thank you all for hanging in there, for your persistence and professionalism, and for recognizing this is marathon, not a sprint.

Glenn R. Miller
Executive Director
e-mail: glenn@palibraries.org

To learn more, visit the PCBL website at: www.pcbllpa.org

Passport Services Aid Patrons and Libraries

Last year, Jim Hollinger of Commonwealth Library, distributed a request or offer from the United States passport service to give public libraries the option of being centers for passport services. As libraries grow and offer greater varieties of services to their patrons, two libraries in the Library System of Lancaster County have been offering U.S. passports. The Milanoff-Schlock Library in Mt. Joy was the first to take training and serve clients. Ephrata Public Library followed suit in January of this year and a third, Adamstown Library has had the training.



An eight hour training session is required by the passport service and can be taken in Philadelphia or, if at least five trainees are involved, training can be done on site of your library. There is an execution fee of thirty dollars (\$30) for each passport processed. Ephrata Public Library has realized approximately \$15,000 in fees during the first four months of operation.

Many patrons are vocally appreciative of the service. Since there is adequate parking and easy access to the library they do not have to travel into the city, find paid parking and really are grateful. The library's budget is also enhanced with the fees. There is, of course, the downside of having trained staff to process the passports but these libraries have arranged to rearrange personnel assignments so that other services are not adversely affected.

If any dedicated Friend's groups are seriously interested, volunteers would need the training and commitment to set up appointments and be at those libraries to do the processing, mailing and accept delivery of the said passports. If interested, libraries may call Brenda Penny of the U.S. Passport service at 215.418.5937.

Barbara Grater

INTRODUCTION OF THE *NEW* NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

A Friend of our "Friends" invited me to a PCBL Board Meeting to share my experience in serving our Friends Group (The Easttown Library & Information Center) - and guess what! I now have the privilege of serving on this Board. You won't believe this - they even think I can help with the newsletter: an overwhelming thought - if you think too long, but as in any undertaking, many hands make "light work!" Sooo, I am asking all members for your help. If you have any "hot" items (or even mildly warm ones) please get in touch and toot your own horn!

Send Your Article To:

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604 Hunt Club Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601
Attn: Newsletter

Or Email Your Article to:

Dottieshoemaker@aol.com

Microsoft Word Format is preferred.
If you have questions, call Dottie at 610-644-6402

Many of us scan these pages for new ideas. There must be a million of them out there, so please share. I am so impressed with the wonderful group of servants on the PCBL Board - a fabulous assembly offering their talent and expertise to all of us.

Dear reader, you will provide a barrel of encouragement by sharing your gift with all of us. I look forward to an avalanche of communications and am anxious to meet in September at the 25th Anniversary celebration. I am,



Hopefully,
Dottie Shoemaker
(Dorothea A. Shoemaker)

Getting to Know You: PCBL Board Member Highlights

Sara Jane Cate (Mrs. Donald J.)

4502 Coventry Road Harrisburg, PA 17109-1638

As a very young child my parents bought a book each week for both my younger sister and for me. I told my parents that I needed more books to satisfy my hunger for reading. So, my Mother took me to what is now the Downtown Branch of the Dauphin County Library System. Wow! There were so many books to read and I vowed to read all of them. I know I never read ALL of them but, it was exciting to know they were there. Many years later (1979) I took our daughter, Beth, to the East Shore Area Library (branch of the DCLS) near our home and while there learned the rest rooms were closed, the staff and hours were being reduced and, of course, materials budget was being reduced. I couldn't believe it! Libraries are important and I had made the mistake of assuming they would always be there when I needed them. I called the Library Director and asked what I could do to help improve the situation. Not long after that phone conversation I was asked to serve on the Board of DCLS. That situation taught me that anything you value requires your constant care and attention. That is precisely why I care and I stay involved in library advocacy.

Service to Libraries:

Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development – Appointed by Gov. Tom Ridge 1998 – 2002; Reappointed by Gov. Mark Schweiker 2002-2006

Dauphin County Library System – various terms starting in 1979 –

President of Board – 1991-1993

Secretary of Board – 1981-1983

Campaign Co-Chair, Libraries are for Life Capital Campaign – 2001-2003

Chair of Various Committees over the years including: Executive Committee,

Buildings and Grounds, Library Services, Nominating, Personnel, etc.

Pennsylvania Citizen for Better Libraries - 1984 –

President – 1987 – 89

Co-Chair of Legislation Committee for a very long time, having responsibility for Federal Legislation

Member, Executive Committee

Chair and Co-Chair of Awards Committee and various other committees over the years

Pennsylvania Library Association

President of Trustee Division for two terms – 1983 – 1985

Initiated the "Trustees' Tidings" Column in PaLA Newsletter

Initiated "Trustee of the Year" Award

Member of Executive Committee – 1984

Board Member – 1997 – 2000

Member of Legislation Committee at various times

Received "Trustee of the Year" Award - 1998

Pennsylvania Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services – 1989 – 90

Co-Chair – Arrangements Committee Member – Planning Committee and Steering

Committee which was chaired by Mrs. Robert (Ellen) Casey – 1989 – 1990

Delegate to Governor's Conference, etc. – 1990

Elected as a Delegate from PA to White House Conference on Library and Information Services

Attended White House Conference on Library and Information Services in Washington, DC, as one of 28 Delegates from PA – July 1991

Elected as PA's Lay Delegate to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) – 1991 (One Lay Delegate and one Professional Delegate from each state and territory – to continue the work of the Conference)

WHCLIST – 1991

Chair – Legislation Implementation Committee – WHCLIST – 1993-1997, 2000-

Chair – WHCLIST – 1997 – 2000

Public Library Project (run by State Librarian, Sara Parker)

Member of Project 1992 – 1995

Awards:

1998

Pennsylvania Library Association
"Trustee of the Year"

1997 – 1998

Colonial Park Rotary Club
"Colonial Award" for

Outstanding Service to the Community

1996

Harrisburg Branch of AAUW
"Community Woman of the Year"

1993

Rotary Club of Harrisburg
"Service Above Self" Certificate

1986

Pennsylvania Library Association
"Certificate of Merit for Outstanding
Service to Libraries"

1985

Civic Club of Suburban Harrisburg
"Outstanding Volunteer"

1983

PTA of Pennsylvania
"Life Membership"

Welcome Aboard

John E. Crispino

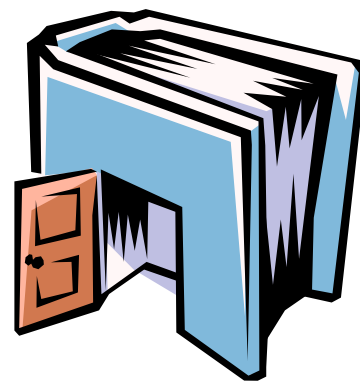
Married Jennifer Leigh Crispino in September of 2001. We had our first child, John H.P. in February of 2003. We have enjoyed renovating our home the past few years. We enjoy our families, golf, swimming, travel and tennis.

I came to Philadelphia to attend Drexel University in 1985 and received a BBS in Marketing 91. The city is a wonderful place and it has given me innumerable opportunities.

Regional Wholesaler, MTB Funds/Portfolio Architect. Manufacturers and Traders of Buffalo NY came to Pennsylvania in 99. I was recruited on the Investment & Insurance side of the bank. I cover the state of Pennsylvania as a Wholesaler of MTB Group of Funds, Portfolio Architect and 3 variable annuities. My licenses include: 7, 63, 65, life, accident & Health, studying for my 24. My career includes time with Delaware Investments and Rittenhouse Trust Company (now Haverford Trust.)

Allan Brodsky

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I resigned as a member of the Shaler North Hills Library Board after 22 years of service having held all offices and committee assignments when my wife and I moved from Shaler Township into our new community in Hampton Township last fall (a move of 2.5 miles).

In 1991, when Judge Frank Lucchino released The Quiet Crisis, a report dealing with the state of Library services in Allegheny County, I became the Shaler representative to a group that formed CLASP (County Library Association Serving the People). This group developed into the Allegheny County Library Association. (In our part of the State the organization is known as ACLA.) I was President of the Organization when it voted to become a Federated Library System.

I sold my document management business about two years ago and now help organizations where needed.

Julie R. Rinehart

Berks County Public Libraries 1037F MacArthur Road Reading, PA 19605 610.378.5260 email: bcpl@epix.net

- M.L.S. Kent State University, B.S. Boston University
 - Currently Administrator of Berks Country (PA) Public Libraries
 - Administrator - Meridian Library System (a 17-county multi-type library cooperative in central Nebraska)
 - Librarian - Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center
 - Reference/Adult Services Librarian - Toledo-Lucas County (OH) Public Library System
 - ALA Chapter Councilor (1996 - 1998) - Pennsylvania Library Association
 - Member, Board of Directors (1997-2002) Treasurer (1999-2002) Interlibrary Delivery Service of PA
 - Member, Board of Directors (1997-2002) Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries
 - Chair, Public Library Division (1996) - Pennsylvania Library Association
 - Chair (1993 - 1995) - Council of Pennsylvania Library Networks
 - President (1993-1994) - Berks County Library Association
 - President (1992-1994) - Association of PA Public Library Systems
 - Member (1991-1992) - Small & Rural Libraries Committee - Public Library Association
 - Co-Chair, Program Committee (1993-1994) - Small and Medium-size Library Section Public Library Association
 - Member (1990 - present) Pennsylvania Library Association
 - Member (1984 - present) American Library Association
 - Member, Beta Phi Mu - National Library Science Honor Society
 - "Divorce: A Reader's List." Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA), December, 1986.
 - The Travel Book: A Guide to Travel Guides (2nd ed.) with Jon O. Heise (Scarecrow Press, 1993)
-

SUCCESSFUL 2004 FRIENDS INSTITUTE

Because of the sad and continuing reduction in state aid to Pennsylvania's libraries, the Friends of libraries need to speak out with even more vigor and outrage. As never before, libraries need their Friends and Friends need to be there for their libraries! This years Institute focused on how that partnership can be made stronger and more effective.

Sixty attendees, including members of friends groups, Librarians, and trustees from across Pennsylvania, heard keynote speaker Pat Carroll, Library Advocate and columnist for the Harrisburg Patriot.

Sessions included:

- "Fund-raising Tips for Small Libraries", presented by Robin F. Glossner, President of Friends of the James V. Brown Library in Williamsport, PA.
- "Fund-raising Tips for Large Libraries", presented by William Schell the Director of the Martin Library in York, PA.
- "The Basics of Effective Library Advocacy," presented by Patricia Owens, Consultant and chair of the PCBL Program Committee.



Above: Lois Albrecht, Gary Wolfe, and Betsy Fordon. **Right:** Pat Owens and Betsy Fordon, Coordinators of the Institute.

Below: President Sara Oats and Pat Carroll, Harrisburg Patriot –News columnist and keynote speaker.



Above: Wayne Stebbins, President Sara Oates, Jan Stebbins and PCBL Display.

Below Left: Nan Cavanaugh receives a check from PCBL Vice-President Dennis Leeper.

Below: Past President Sara Jane Cate and PCBL Vice President Dennis Leeper.



Above: President Sara Oats honors Past President Dennis Leeper.

Right: Attendees at the 2004 Friends Institute.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: PCBL AWARDS FOR 2004

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is that time of the year again and PCBL is sending out a call for nominations for Three Awards to be presented at our 25th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Luncheon. The noon luncheon will be on Sunday, September 26th as part of the Pennsylvania Library Conference at the Valley Forge Convention Center/Radisson Hotel in King of Prussia.

The special Anniversary Celebration awards are:

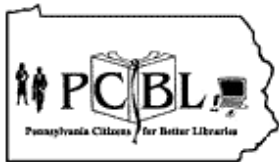
- Lifetime Achievement– A citizen or group who has shown exceptional meritorious service to libraries.
- Friends Group of the Year – a Friends group which has provided the greatest assistance to its library.
- Media Award – The best newspaper, radio or TV editorial, article or video in support of libraries during this past year.



Please submit a letter of recommendation along with supportive documentation no later than August 15, 2004 to:

Carolyn M. Poff
Branch Administrator

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