

# NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2005

## The Prez Sez..... Help Us to Help You

We need each other. You, the local Friends Group and we, PA Citizens for Better Libraries, have a lot to communicate about, a lot to offer each other. We are eager for some direct interaction with you. Let's make this happen soon.

We are offering to visit your local group, or even a potential group that your library is hoping to start, or possibly, a group needing renewal. Our board members, who are located in all corners of the State, are available to bring you a presentation on PCBL and to hear from you about what help, what information, what support you need from us. We know, too, that many of you are doing wonderful things for your libraries and your stories need to be shared with others in the State looking for ideas that they can use. It's time we got this communication flowing. Won't you call - 1-800-870-3858 or complete the form below to arrange for a board member to come to your site for a visit.

I'd like to call attention to another resource available "on your doorstep." PA Library Association's Public Relations/Marketing Committee has developed a tool kit to promote awareness of the important part your library contributes to early learning in your community. This is an ideal cooperative project between the library and the Friends Group. Ask your librarian about the tool kit, called *101 Easy Ways to Love Your Library* and investigate the possibility of working together to help the public understand the library's significant contribution to the education of the youth in your community.

And a third resource, currently waiting in the wings for a Fall introduction, is PCBL's Listserv. With this newest resource, we hope to provide a means for Friends groups to exchange ideas, ask for help and suggestions and just generally talk to one another. Down with isolation! Up with communication! This will also provide a way for us to contact you with information on legislative advocacy issues and immediate needs to contact legislators. More on this exciting venture as we get closer to launch time.



### Breaking News

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 25, 2005 for our Annual Award Luncheon and Meeting.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Clare Zales, Deputy Secretary of Education, in the loss of her father John J. Zales of Steelton, Pennsylvania May 3, 2005.

Finally, mark your calendars for Sunday, September 25, 2005 for our Annual Award Luncheon and Meeting.

### Please Visit Our Friend's Group!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Day & Time of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: PCBL, PO Box 752, Camp Hill, PA 17001  
or email us at [pcbl2002@yahoo.com](mailto:pcbl2002@yahoo.com)

Hershey Conference and Convention Center is the location. All members will receive detailed information in August. (Another reason to keep your membership current!) You can also check our website for registration information. Several Sunday afternoon programs will address Friend's issues ... one on advocacy and another one attracting New Friends and retaining the old. In the meantime, be sure to submit your nominations for awards!

May your summer be filled with lots of good reading!

**Sara Oates**  
PCBL President

# PCBL Slates 26th Annual Meeting

Celebrating 26 years of service to libraries, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries will welcome Dr. Carla Hayden, PhD, as speaker for its annual meeting luncheon. To be held on Sunday, September 25 at 12:00 noon at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, it will highlight Citizen's Day at the Annual PaLA conference.

Dr. Hayden is the immediate past president of the American Library Association and currently serves as Executive Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland. She was named as one of the Women of the Year by Ms. Magazine (2003) and Librarian of the Year by *Library Journal* (1995). Many other honors have been presented to her as a result of her Library work and efforts to promote minority librarians.

According to the schedule planned for the day, PCBL will hold its annual business meeting at 11:00 am, followed by the luncheon. Other features of the luncheon will include presentation of annual awards to the outstanding Friends group, best Newsletter, a media award, and more. (See complete list below.)

Other sessions planned for the afternoon include "Walking the Walk, Talking the Talk" a panel of County Commissioners about library funding; "Intellectual Freedom Issues" presented by Carrie Gardner; and "Make New Friends But Keep the Old" by speaker Nancy Davis of the Ivy group, sponsored by PCBL.

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## Call for Awards/Nominations

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is that time of the year again and PCBL is sending out a call for nominations for Nine 2005 Awards to be presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon during the Pennsylvania Library Conference on September 25, 2005 at Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA. Nominations will be accepted for the following awards:

- **Citizen of the Year** – A citizen who has contributed the most to the improvement of Pennsylvania Libraries.
- **Corporate Citizen of the Year** – a business or company that has been supportive of a local library as well as the entire Pennsylvania Library Community.
- **Friends Group of the Year** – a Friends group, which has provided the greatest assistance to its library.
- **Friends Newsletter of the Year** – the best Friends group newsletter
- **Elected State Official of the Year** – an official who has been a leader in promoting and supporting Pennsylvania's libraries.
- **Library Public Relations Award** – a library that has conducted an effective public relations campaign for a specific program or event that has resulted in significant community support.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – A citizen or group who has shown exceptional meritorious service to libraries.
- **Local Public Official of the Year** – a local public official who has been supportive of his/her local library.
- **Media Award** – The best newspaper, radio or TV editorial, article or video in support of libraries.

Please submit a letter of recommendation along with supportive documentation *no later* than August 1, 2005 to:

**Diana G. Murphy,**  
**PCBL Awards Chair,**  
**135 Wiltshire Circle**  
**Monroeville, PA 15146**  
**(724)327-5976 HOME Phone**  
**(724)327-1479 FAX**

### 2004 Winners

#### Media

**The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader**  
**Mark E. Jones, Staff Writer**

**Friends Group – Local Library**  
**Friends of the Easttown Library**  
**and Information Center**

**Friends Group – County System**  
**Friends of Berks County Public**  
**Libraries**

**Lifetime Achievement**  
**Sara Jane Cate**

**Special 25th Anniversary Award**  
**Lois Albrecht**

# Friends of Friends...and Libraries...and the Community

By Linda Baer

The Friends of Berks County Public Libraries is a unique group of Friends. Through its membership, fund-raising, and programs, the Friends support the twenty public libraries in Berks County, their Friends groups, and the community at large.

For more than twenty years the Friends have been involved in a variety of projects that support the libraries and enrich the community. It is for this unique support of the libraries that the Friends group was recognized as the "Friends Group of the Year" by PCBL at the PaLA Conference in King of Prussia in September 2004.

The list of projects is long.

Each summer the Friends mount a three-day book sale—their biggest fund-raising activity—in conjunction with the Reading AAUW. In preparation for the book sale, Friends collect and sort books; during the sale they set up, work the cash lines, and help clean up when the sale is over. Most of the Friends' proceeds from the sale are donated to the countywide summer reading programs.

The Friends publish a newsletter six times a year to inform the public about people, programs, and issues of interest to the library community. "Bookends" is available free to the public at any public library and at selected businesses in the community.

Twice a year the Friends sponsor "Lunch in the Library," a cultural program which features a writer, historian, photographer or other person of interest from the community. These guest speakers make their presentations at a local library where folks have gathered to enjoy a catered lunch or their own lunch from home. These programs are free and open to the public and held in a different local library each time.

In 2002 the Friends began a new program, the Friends Forum, which takes place in November. The Forum was begun to provide workshops and recognition for local Friends groups. Each Forum includes a speaker on a topic of interest to Friends, a \$500 award to the group chosen as "Friends Group of the Year," and of course—refreshments. All of this is provided free of charge.

Among the other projects of the Friends are a collection of works by Berks County authors; a contribution to BardFest, which is a month-long poetry celebration sponsored by a local poetry group known as BerksBards; a quilt challenge with a library-related theme; and a workshop for library trustees to acquaint them with the finer points of the County library system.

The Friends also support the local Friends groups more directly by making funds available to any group in the process of forming or one experiencing difficulty in maintaining its membership. This loan is to be paid back only when the Friends have the funds to do so. In addition, the Friends have paid the dues for FOLUSA and PCBL for any Friends group which did not have the funds to join. Two Board members are also designated as Friends Liaison and are available as consultants to any Friends group on any subject or project with which they need help.

Each of the other Board members is responsible for a different area, such as hospitality, programs, public relations, etc. In addition, Board members serve on various committees and attend the events of the Friends and help out when needed. There is no such thing as a "free lunch" for the members of the Friends Board, and they wouldn't have it any other way.

The Friends of Berks County Public Libraries have long been committed to the welfare of the local libraries and have long been advocates for libraries everywhere. The members take pride in the job they do, a labor of love, for the libraries, their Friends, and the community in which they live.

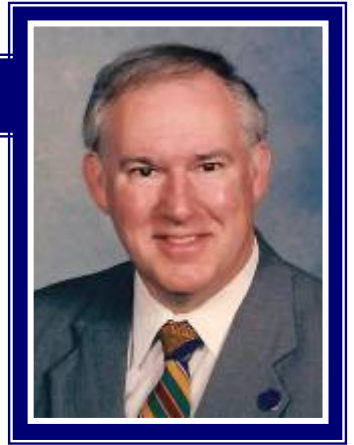
## County Wide Friends Group of the Year, PCBL Award 2004



Representatives of Friends Berks County Public Libraries with PCBL's award for 2004 Friends Groups of the Year for a countywide Friends group.

## P.C.B.L. Board Members - Getting to Know You

### Dennis Leeper, Vice President PCBL



Since his first year on the PCBL Board in 1985, Denny Leeper has been a vital member of the organization. He has served as President, Vice-President and chair of the annual meeting and nominating committees as well as the chair of the 25th anniversary committee. When asked why he continues to serve PCBL, Denny replied, "I enjoy working with the many devoted library advocates who are PCBL board members."

Denny grew up in southwestern Pennsylvania where he spent summers working as a farmhand on dairy and livestock farms owned by his family. After graduation from Millersville with a B.S. degree in Education, Denny earned an M.L.S. degree and an advanced certificate from the School of Library and Information Sciences at Pitt.

He then went on to receive a PhD in higher education from the University of Colorado.

Over the years, Denny has worked in libraries in Pittsburgh and Edinboro, and has taught at Edinboro and at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Currently, Denny is the director of instructional support services at Temple University, where he supervises a staff of ten full-time and more than fifty part-time employees who provide audiovisual, computer and video technology for use in classroom instruction.

In addition to his PCBL service, Denny is a long time board member of the Easttown Library and Information Center in Berwyn and is currently serving as the chair of the Centennial Committee.

Other library affiliations include the Chester County Library System Advisory Council, the Pennsylvania Library Association, the American Library Association, Friends of Libraries, USA and Beta Phi Mu.

When he has time after his library commitments, Denny enjoys intercollegiate athletics and roots for the Pitt Panthers, Temple Owls, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates and the Philadelphia Phillies, Eagles and 76ers. Other pleasurable pastimes include reading, movies, traveling, and - most of all - spending time with family and friends.



### PCBL Legislative Directory

Get complete listings of PA elected officials including the Governor and his administration, State Senators, State House of Representatives, PA members of the US Congress.

#### A Valuable Resource & A Great Advocacy Tool!

We ask for just \$3.50 to cover our printing and mailing costs.

Call 1-800-870-3858 or email [pcb12002@yahoo.com](mailto:pcb12002@yahoo.com).  
PCBL, PO Box 752, Camp Hill PA 17001

# Welcome!

### PCBL New Affiliates

Centre County Library and Historical Society Friends  
Northern Cambria Library Friends

PCBL New Group  
Narberth Community Library

## Homeschooling and the Public Library

Homeschoolers present public libraries with an enormous opportunity to promote public awareness of library usage.

Kathy Kennedy, PCBL board member and Director of the Monroeville Public Library, has noticed an increase in homeschoolers using her library. In fact, she found there were 32 homeschooling families with 47 children registered with the local school district. In addition, there were several other families from neighboring districts that were using her library's facilities.

Luanne Sokolowski, Monroeville's Head of Children's Services, created a Homeschool Survey. Responses indicated that most of the children were in grades pre-K through Sixth with two others in middle school. All of those surveyed relied upon the library for educational resources, with the top four areas of interest being history, science, geography and poetry. The homeschoolers praised the children's librarians, saying that they were very helpful and related well to children. In addition to using print and electronic resources, homeschoolers also participated in library programs and activities, such as summer reading, story hours and family craft nights.

Checking Google, Kathy Kennedy found more than 580,000 articles dealing with "homeschooling and libraries", illustrating the wide impact of homeschooling in today's society. The National Home Education Network has an excellent website ([www.NHEN.org](http://www.NHEN.org)) that includes information of specific interest to librarians. According to one of the articles, the "wants" for homeschoolers include family-oriented activities and programs, access to technology, video and audiotapes, and support for academic needs. Of course, public libraries do support these "wants" in their mission to serve all aspects of their communities.

When looking for library users to help promote advocacy and garner increased monetary support for libraries, homeschoolers and their extensive use of library facilities can be excellent resources. Homeschoolers who use the library as a primary resource for information are an integral part of Pennsylvania's mandate for family literacy and lifelong learning.



### *Editor's Note:*

**Have any Friends Groups created networking potential with homeschooling families, enhancing membership, while offering expanded partnerships with these families?**

**Please share your experiences with us. (See forthcoming "Letters to the Editor" in next issue.)**

## Advocacy – Legislative Update

PCBL members and friends are urged to continue library advocacy with personal letters to State Senators, Representatives and Governor Rendell. Be sure to mention the following:

- Since the drastic budget cuts in 2003-2004, the Public Library Subsidy formula has not been used due to insufficient dollars. With these inadequate dollars, the incentives for greater local funding are absent. (Under the formula, a library's state funding increases as its local support grows.)
- The Pennsylvania Library Association is asking for an increase of at least \$3.6 million over the Governor's recommended budget of \$59.3 million. This increase would enable the state's libraries to fund district center programs and begin to work on increased local support.
- Additional funding would benefit libraries by providing money for children's programs, additional story hours, more books and audio books, and restoring library hours that were cut due to budget constraints.
- Libraries are centers for lifelong learning and impact all the residents of a community from preschoolers to senior citizens.

**Stand before the people you  
fear and speak your mind –  
even if your voice shakes.**

*Maggie Kuhn*

## Welcome Back to the Board

PCBL is happy to have two former members back on the board. We appreciate your dedication and need your experience!

### John Fordon

John Fordon returns to the PCBL Board after a year's absence. When he served before, he was treasurer and was instrumental in securing PCBL's own and its member affiliates' tax exempt status. He also conducted many of PCBL's fund-raising workshops and Friends Institute programs. Before moving to Pennsylvania, John was also the president of a large public library Friends group in New York and then went on to become the president of that parent library's board of trustees. Dr. Fordon is a retired minister but in his "secular life," also had his own financial consulting practice. He is married to Betsy Fordon, who is on the faculty of the Department of Library Science and Information Studies of Clarion University. They reside in Camp Hill and are very active patrons of the Fredericksen Library.

### Philip R. Albright

**Personal Information:** Phil and his wife Barbara are natives of Evanston, IL, and have been married for over 50 years (3/20/04). They have two children and five grandchildren.

**Professional Experience:** Retired engineer and insurance executive, having come to Philadelphia in 1977 as Vice-President and Secretary of the Mutual Assurance Company. He subsequently became a partner in the firm of Weeks-Worthington and Co., from which he retired in 1991. Formerly a Registered Professional Engineer in the states of Rhode Island and California.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Stanford University. Participated in Stanford Honors Cooperative Program

**Interests:** Grandchildren, Golf, Travel, Gardening, Reading and Stock Market.

**Service to Community:** Wissahickon Valley Public Library Trustee 12 years  
Chairman Board of Trustees 3 years – Vice Chair 2 years  
Former Chairman, Pennsylvania Library Association Trustee Division  
Former Director – Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries

**Honors:** 2003 – Fundraising Volunteer of the Year presented by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals  
2002 – Patricia A. Dobbin Memorial Award for Outstanding Commitment to Library

Service

## Friend's Institute Encourages Idea Sharing

Issues addressed included encouraging positive relationships between Friends, staff and trustees, how to activate your Friends group and how to develop community partnerships.

At annual Friend's Institutes sponsored by PCBL Friends, trustees and librarians have a chance to share ideas with other library-focused people. Featured sessions have included how to activate your Friend's group, how to develop community partnerships, how to encourage positive relationships between Friends, staff and trustees, how to incorporate with a 501C3 designation, and best fund raising suggestions.

Scheduled for Saturday morning and early afternoon, each year Institutes are held in different regions of the state. Required are an interest in being a Friend of libraries and a willingness to share ideas as well as concerns. If you think your region would be interested in being the center of planning for the sixth Friend's Institute, please contact committee chair Pat Owens at

[powens@frontiernet.net](mailto:powens@frontiernet.net).



### 2005 Friends Institute

Above: Sara Oates explains the PCBL Legislative Directory.

Center: Clare Zales, Deputy Secretary of Education speaks to the group.

Left: Registering for the programs.

## Editor's Corner

We are looking forward to "Letters to the Editor" column in the next issue hoping to learn more about the activities of our extraordinary Friends Groups across the state. We all need to offer our praise in writing to share the good news with our members. We are anxious to hear from you. Deadline for next issue, September 30, 2005.

<p><b>Editorial Committee</b>          Marcy Abrams          Kathy Kennedy          Dennis P. Leeper          Dorothea Shoemaker</p>	<p>Newsletter articles in Microsoft Word Format may be sent to:          PCBL NEWSLETTER OR EMAIL TO:          C/O Marcy Abrams          P.O. Box 412          Broomall, PA 19008  <i>Dottieshoemaker@aol.com</i>  <i>marcy_abrams@juno.com</i></p>
<p>Questions: Call Dottie 610.644.6402.</p>	

## We've Got You Covered!

PCBL members are advocates for libraries who want to promote strong and well-funded libraries for all residents of Pennsylvania. They want libraries to be foremost in importance to each and every funding body. They want people to understand the wide array of benefits for library users from infancy through adulthood.

Be a PCBL member and receive current legislative information, newsletters about PCBL events and issues, opportunities to attend library advocacy and library fund-raising workshops and speak up for libraries. PCBL uses your dues to support advocacy programs, provide legislative information directories and updates and to provide newsletters and other communications.

Individual and organizational members are part of an organization that speaks for libraries in their communities and throughout the state. Affiliate members have the additional benefit of being part of a 501C3 with its inherent tax advantages.

Fill out the form in this newsletter and send in your dues today-be an active voice for libraries in Pennsylvania. The cost to you? Only \$70 a year, regardless of your group's size or budget, and there is no further obligation to PCBL in any way. Come in under our umbrella and get out of the rain!

For more information, contact our treasurer Barbara Grater, at 717.733.7544, write her at 105 North Maple Street, Ephrata, PA 17522, or see the Tax Exemption page at [www.pcbllpa.org](http://www.pcbllpa.org).



**PCBL MEMBERSHIP FORM \***                      New \_\_\_\_ Renew \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ or Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: Personal \$20 \_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$50 \_\_\_\_ Sponsor \$100 \_\_\_\_ Patron \$500 \_\_\_\_

Organization: Group \$40 \_\_\_\_ or 501(c)3 affiliate \$70 \*\* \_\_\_\_ Corporate \$250 \_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Educational & Legislative Efforts

Mail check payable to: PCBL, PO Box 752, Camp Hill, PA 17001

\* All memberships are based on a calendar year.

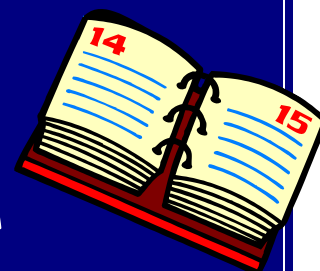
\*\* Application required.

Applications available online at <http://www.pcbllpa.org/Membership.htm> or by phone at 1-800-870-3858.

# SAVE THE DATE!

## PCBL

### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon and Awards Presentation



September 25, 2005

Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

Annual Meeting 11:00 AM      Luncheon 12:00 noon

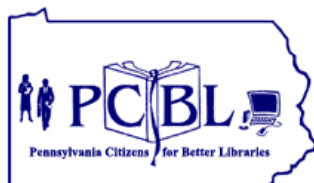
Guest Speaker:

Dr. Carla Hayden Ph. D.,

Immediate Past President of the American Library Association

**For more information**

See <http://www.pcblpa.org> or Phone 1-800-870-3858.



Dottie Shoemaker, Editor  
Carolyn Pfeifer, Exec. Sec.  
P.O. Box 752  
Camp Hill, PA 17001

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