

MAINE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2013-2014

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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I am reflecting on my first year as President of the Maine Library Association and feeling proud to be a part of this hardworking team charged with the stewardship of our long-standing organization. I want to welcome Alisia Revitt, Mike Dignan, Pam Bonney, and James Higgins to the MLA Executive Council, and thank Ann Rea, Barbara McDade, Mamie Anthoine Ney, and Leigh Hallett for their years of service and thoughtful contribution to the board. It has been my pleasure to work with and learn from you.

We have had some turnover on committees and on the council as some of our long-serving and valued members retire from active service and as new members become more involved. Participation is always welcome, and more active members means that we can move faster and do more things. As an all-volunteer organization, we are all aware of the limits on our time that we all face, but becoming involved in your professional organization is a great way to build your network, expand your skills, be a leader, give back to the profession, and feel engaged in the community. I urge all members to look through some of the things MLA's committees have worked toward and accomplished this year, and join any committee which interests you. If you care deeply about the future of libraries, as do we all, keep an especial eye on our Legislative Committee for ways to let those in power know how to support us.

This year brought an influx of librarians from near and far to attend the NELA/MLA joint conference in Portland. This was the first year that NELA brought their conference to Maine, but it was such a success that I am sure they will be back. The energy at that conference was fantastic, and we look forward to continuing those conversations across different types of libraries at our upcoming MASL/MLA fall conference in Bangor. This year's conference theme is Maine Libraries: Expanding Your Possibilities.

MLA continues to support the New England Library Leadership Symposium and I would love to congratulate this year's graduates of the program on their dedication to professional development and growth. They are bringing back lots of enthusiasm and knowledge to their libraries, and we are all so lucky to be able to learn from them. Devin Burritt, Samantha Cote, Sonja Durney, Ann Filley, Beth Kane, Kate Pickup-McMullin, Kara Reiman, and Holly Williams are all to be commended.

MLA is proud to continue to support the Maine Reader's Choice Award, now in its second year, as well as the Katahdin Award, given since 1999, and the Lupine Award, given since 1989.

MLA had a slow financial year, with level membership and no income from the joint conference. Our income did not meet our expenses, but our savings was sufficient to cover the difference. I intend to be able to tell a very different story next year, as we have some changes coming to our membership structure, and anticipate some income from the MASL/MLA joint conference. Our annual tax information may be found on our website at [mainelibraries.org](http://mainelibraries.org).

Where are we going? In an age of interconnectedness, increased availability of professional development online, with such a robust State Library and so many groups advocating for libraries, what is the role of MLA? MLA creates a place where all librarians are welcome to the table, regardless of the type of library you work at, the ILS your library is running, or the size of your staff.

MLA provides a way for you to demonstrate leadership, personally connect with other librarians in Maine, and advocate for libraries. Since 1891, the Maine Library Association has been working for and with Maine libraries and librarians, and our methods of connecting have evolved and changed over the last 120 years. Please consider renewing your membership and getting personally involved in the Maine Library Association - shape the future of MLA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nissa Flanagan

Maine Library Association President

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#### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

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The Nominations Committee consists of Valerie Osborne, Stephanie Zurinski, and Bryce Cundick of Mantor Library (University of Maine at Farmington). To fill holes on the Executive Council this year, we contacted past members as well as members who haven't been involved as much before, in an effort to keep institutional memory but also bring fresh perspective to the fold. Additionally, I created a separate chair of the Membership Committee in hopes of lightening the burden on future Vice Presidents of MLA, a position which wears many hats at the moment.

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#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

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Bryce Cundick (VP of MLA and chair of the Membership Committee at the start of the year) sent out an email to all MLA members early on, asking for volunteers to help work on a membership packet that could be sent to prospective and new librarians. He ended up with a committee of about 15 people. They in turn came up with a draft of such a packet, under the guidance of Holly Williams (Pittsfield Public Library) and Wynter Giddings (Lithgow Public Library). At the end of the year, Alisia Revitt (Maine InfoNet) was appointed chair of this committee, and she's currently planning our next steps.

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#### **CONFERENCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

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The conference committee for this year's MLA/MASL Joint Conference consists of Bryce Cundick, Edna Comstock, Stephanie Zurinski, Nissa Flanagan, Joyce Lucas, Tina Taggart, Eileen Broderick, Margaret Vital, and Janet Patterson. We're hard at work planning the conference in Bangor at the Cross Center this coming November, and most of the pieces are already in place. We're inviting Eli Neiburger as our keynote speaker, and we'll be having a farewell reception for Edna Comstock and Linda Lord as part of the programming. We hope the conference can be used as a spring board to help us propel MLA to new heights.

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## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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The Legislative Committee consists of Anne Davis, Steve Norman, and Past-president Andi Currently, \$12,785.40 is loaned to ten Maine librarians to help fund library education.channels what legislation is being discussed both at the State and National levels which affects libraries. Steve Norman traveled to Washington, D.C. in May to represent MLA at National Library Legislative Day.

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## SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN COMMITTEE

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The Committee had a successful basket raffle at the NELA/MLA conference in Portland. We'd like to thank everyone who contributed baskets and bid on them. Four Maine library employees were able to attend this conference because they received conference grants of up to \$250 apiece.

In 2014, the Scholarship and Loan Committee gave a \$2,000 scholarship to Emma Gibbon, the Adult Services Librarian at Topsham Public Library. Emma is an M.S.L.S. candidate at Clarion University in Pennsylvania. She is an active member of the MLA Communications Committee and edited the MLAtoz newsletter for almost three years.

Currently, \$12,785.40 is loaned to ten Maine librarians to help fund library education.

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## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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At the combined NELA/MLA Fall 2013 conference, former chair Jeanne awarded the Outstanding Librarian Award to Deanna Gouzie and the Outstanding Journalism award to Russ Van Arsdale.

In November, Kara Reiman took over as committee chair. In March, Emma Gibbon stepped down as editor of MLAtoz but remains on the committee. Samantha Cote took over the MLAtoz duties.

### Accomplishments:

- Redesigning/formatting MLAtoz newsletter to be more appealing to the eye as well as work better on all devices/browsers
- Working on updating website (still ongoing)
- Keeping social media up to date and interesting

### Members:

Chair-Kara Reiman  
Newsletter editor-Sam Cote  
Emma Gibbon  
Holly Williams

The committee is looking for more members interested in web design and social media.

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## INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE

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The Intellectual Freedom Committee received no notices of official book challenges in Maine in 2013. The Committee encouraged libraries to note and celebrate “Choose Privacy Week” in May, and “Banned Books Week” in September. In addition, the Committee posted numerous updates about intellectual freedom matters to MELIBS, including several items and resources that deal with the tendency of libraries to “over filter” access to the web through library computers. The Committee is working with MASL to update the Intellectual Freedom Handbook, last updated over a decade ago. The hope is that it will be ready for presentation at the MLA/MASL conference in the Fall of 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Campbell, Chair

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## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL REPORT

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FY2014 programmatic priorities (in line with the 2015 ALA strategic plan), which Council endorsed:

- Diversity
- Equitable Access to Information and Library Services
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Intellectual Freedom
- Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession
- Literacy
- Organizational Excellence
- Transforming Libraries

ALA Council reports and actions from the 2013 Annual Conference are available at <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/node/567> (see docs marked “AC”) and reports and actions from the 2014 Midwinter Meeting are at <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/council-documents-midwinter-2014>.

Four items that I really want to bring to the attention of MLA membership are:

**Resolution to formally allow programming at Midwinter Meetings** – There was a resolution at Midwinter (MW 40 Resolution to Allow Programs at American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meetings) to allow formal continuing education sessions at Midwinter, something traditionally associated with the ALA Annual Conference. This resolution will come back at Annual. So far the feedback I have gathered from Mainers is to oppose any move to expand Midwinter. This was also my initial inclination, so I intend to oppose the resolution when it comes back to us. The Councilor from Alaska has offered a counter amendment suggesting that Midwinter become a virtual meeting. I’m inclined to favor that motion.

**Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity** - This award approved by ALA Council See document at [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/cd\\_36\\_Lemony%20Snicket%20proposal%20-%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/cd_36_Lemony%20Snicket%20proposal%20-%20FINAL.pdf) It is the opinion of Lemony Snicket, author, reader, and alleged malcontent, that librarians have suffered enough. Therefore he, with the help of ALA’s Office for

Intellectual Freedom, will establish a new ALA award honoring a librarian who has faced adversity with integrity and dignity intact. The prize will be a generous amount of cash from Mr. Snicket's disreputable gains (\$3,000 + \$1,000 for travel), along with an odd, symbolic object from his private stash, and a certificate, which may or may not be suitable for framing.

**ALA Strategic Framework and Enabling Strategies** – There is wide agreement within ALA that our organization needs to change. The nature of that change has been subject to intense debate. Recently ALA President Barbara Stripling and the ALA Executive Board identified three areas and enabling strategies for closer examination by ALA Membership and posted related documents to ALA Connect:

Advocacy: [connect.ala.org/node/218696](http://connect.ala.org/node/218696)

Information Policy: [connect.ala.org/node/218695](http://connect.ala.org/node/218695)

Professional and Leadership Development: [connect.ala.org/node/218693](http://connect.ala.org/node/218693)

Enabling Strategies: [connect.ala.org/node/218691](http://connect.ala.org/node/218691)

- See more at: <http://connect.ala.org/node/218697#sthash.T68QPkjv.dpuf>

**ALA President-Elect Courtney Young** will take office as President at the end of the 2014 Annual Conference. At Midwinter she announced a break with precedent that I welcome. Instead of starting a new Presidential initiative, President Young will focus her energy on supporting current efforts focused on the "Value of Membership" in ALA. You can read more about her specific proposals at [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org/aboutala/files/content/governance/officers/eb\\_documents/2013\\_2014ebdocuments/ebd14\\_5\\_proposed\\_pres\\_initiatives\\_budget.pdf](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org/aboutala/files/content/governance/officers/eb_documents/2013_2014ebdocuments/ebd14_5_proposed_pres_initiatives_budget.pdf).

I want to thank the Maine Library Association for giving me the opportunity to serve as its representative to ALA Council for the past three years. I hope I have served as a good representative for the Libraries in our state. I have learned much.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. McDade

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#### NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL REPORT

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NELA activities in 2013-14 included:

- Representing MLA as the co-chair of the joint NELA/MLA Conference in 2013. The conference was held in Portland, Maine at the Holiday Inn by the Bay and was successful for both library associations.
- Participating in the Nominating Committee for the NELA Emerson Greenaway award and officer slate.
- Participating in the Annual Conference planning committee for the 2014 NELA Annual Conference.
- Acting as an advisor, in my capacity as Past-President, for several issues that the NELA Executive Board discussed.

The NELA 2014 Annual Conference will be held October 19-21st in Boxborough, MA.

I have enjoyed my time as the NELA Representative and look forward to continuing to serve MLA as the ALA Councilor in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Alvino  
NELA Maine Rep 2013/2014

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#### YOUTH SERVICES SECTION

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Members: Abby Morrow: Chair; Cassie Savage: Vice Chair; Laurel Parker: Chair of the Lupine Committee

Awards: YSS sponsors the Lupine and Katahdin Awards which are given out annually at Reading Roundup. Here are this year's Lupine and Katahdin winners:

2013

Picture Book Winner - The Secret Pool by Kimberly Ridley, illustrated by Rebekah Raye  
Picture Book Honor - Brave Girl by Michelle Markel, illustrated by Melissa Sweet  
Juvenile/Young Adult Winner - Out of Nowhere by Maria Padian  
Juvenile/Young Adult Honor - The Water Castle by Megan Frazer Blakemore

Anne Sibley O'Brien won the Katahdin Award in 2013.

**Accomplishments:** YSS hosted a Beg, Borrow, Steal event (a meeting for Youth Librarians) in August 2013. Carrie Jones and a representative from Cornerstones of Science were guest speakers. The event was held at the Ellsworth Public Library.

Goals: We are currently planning another Beg, Borrow, Steal for the summer of 2014.

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#### REFERENCE AND ADULT SERVICES INTEREST GROUP

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- A new chair, James Higgins, was appointed in late March.
- A RASI meeting has been planned for the fall Joint MLA/MASL Library Conference on November 16th.
- Plans to create forums for RASI members to communicate more easily are being developed.

Anyone wishing to learn more information or become involved may email James Higgins, Chair, at [james.higgins@ellsworth.lib.me.us](mailto:james.higgins@ellsworth.lib.me.us). They may also sign up via the Maine Library Association web site, [mainelibraries.org](http://mainelibraries.org), and check the box for interest in joining RASI when applying for membership.