

BCLA Shelflist

Fall 2005

Newsletter of the Berks County Library Association



Greetings! Here is another issue of the BCLA electronic newsletter. If you have comments, questions or problems please let us know. lpirlroth@state.pa.us or chris@wyopublib.org

Fall Meeting

Where: Muhlenberg Middle School Auditorium

When: Tuesday, October 18th at 6:00 PM

What: We will conduct a short business meeting that will conclude by 6:30PM. Rachel Simon will be speaking for approximately one hour about her book "Riding the Bus with My Sister". Those interested in attending this presentation must have tickets. For more information on the program & how to obtain tickets, please see the article below.

Please RSVP if you will attend the business meeting: chris@wyopublib.org or call 610-374-2385

BCLA Sponsors "One Book Berks 2005" Author Presentation

BCLA and the "One Book Berks 2005" committee are proud to announce that Rachel Simon, author of *Riding the Bus with My Sister* (Houghton Mifflin, 2002), will make a rare Berks County appearance on Tuesday, October 18 from 7-8 PM. This program is sponsored by BCLA and will follow a brief 6:00-6:30pm Fall BCLA Business Meeting--both to be held at the Muhlenberg Middle School Auditorium, 801 Bellevue Avenue in Laureldale (located just off Business 222 behind Sheetz). Ms. Simon will autograph books following the event (books will also be available for purchase that evening or you may bring your own copy along to be signed).

Tickets are \$12.00 each and available exclusively to members of the Berks County Library Association (BCLA)--the event sponsor, or to members of any Berks County public library Friends organization. Tickets will be available at all Berks County public libraries beginning September 6th (or you may order yours by mail to Mindy Smith, BCLA Treasurer, Carpenter Technology Corporation, R&D Center Library, P.O. Box 14662, Reading, PA 19612-4662). Checks are to be payable to BCLA. Tickets will not be available at the door. (Note: If your library co-workers are not yet members of BCLA, this is the perfect time for them to join for as little as \$10.00. New memberships that begin within the next two months will be extended through the 2006 calendar year as well as the remainder of 2005.)

One Book projects, since the premiere Seattle, WA "All Seattle Reads" in 1998, encourage readers in a particular locale to read, explore and discuss one specific book and create a shared community experience. This year "One Book Berks 2005" will showcase *Riding the Bus with My Sister* by Rachel Simon--the journal of an older sister coming to understand and accept the eccentricities of a younger sister with developmental disabilities. Her sister's chosen path of riding city buses is completely foreign to Rachel's fast-paced life of newspaper deadlines and college syllabi. Almost as a dare, the younger sister, Beth challenges Rachel to ride the bus with her for a year and meet the people who form her 'bus family.'" Rachel's discoveries on-board are life lessons, both joyful and bittersweet.

This book will appeal to a wide range of readers: sisters, siblings, friends, transit workers, public transportation users, those who have a family member with developmental disabilities, and anyone who values relationships. "Readers hear the voices of both sisters. There is much to mull over, to enjoy, and to

savor in this book," says a review in the February 2003 issue of School Library Journal. This book is "absorbing and honest" states reviewer June Pulliam in Booklist (August 2002).

Individual public libraries in Berks will hold discussion programs and other activities featuring this book throughout the month of October (a listing of these activities will be available at Berks public libraries in September). For further information at the "One Book 2005" programs or the Rachel Simon lecture, contact Diane Pawling (610-777-3911) at Mifflin Community Library (mifflincl@berks.lib.pa.us).

*Minutes
Berks County Library Association
Spring Meeting/Field Trip
Philadelphia, Pa
June 7, 2005*

Call to Order: Joe Zappacosta, BCLA President, called the business meeting to order at 1:10 PM in the Chemical Heritage Foundation Directors' Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA, with approximately 12 members in attendance. Joe thanked all the participants who were able to spend the day touring the National Constitution Center (N.C.C.) and the Chemical Heritage Foundation (C.H.F.). Prior to the Business meeting we viewed the N.C.C.'s "Freedom Rising" show, then we had a "behind the scenes" exposure to the workings of the N.C.C., and lastly we all visited the public constitution exhibits.

Approval of Minutes: Ron Fisk, Secretary, distributed the Minutes of the March 4, 2005 Winter Fall Meeting to all in attendance. After reading the provided copies, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Christa Prock and seconded by Kim Stahler. The approved 2005 Winter Meeting minutes will be filed by the secretary.

Treasurer's Report: There was no formal report available as Billie Walker was not in attendance. Joe Zappacosta reported that the bank balance was approximately \$1,500. Joe explained that although there were not enough people to hire a bus to Philadelphia today (it would have taken at least 25 for a bus) we had minimal expenses for the trip because we were able to car pool and we receiving free parking at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The three drivers will be reimbursed for their expenses.

Committee Reports:

Membership – there are still members who need to renew their membership for 2005. The membership renewals are not coming in as expected. We have had 48 or fewer so far.

Nominating Committee – The slate for the 2005-06 year was announced as follows:

President	-	Chris Ritter
Vice-President	-	Diane Pawling
Treasurer	-	Mindy Smith
Secretary	-	Jennifer Balas

A motion to accept the officer slate was made by Kim Stahler and seconded by Brian Leithiser. The motion carried.

Old Business: Again there was some discussion regarding the BCLA brochure that was distributed at the 2004 Spring Meeting. We are currently using the printed BCLA address "c/o Albright College Library" located on the back of the brochure. It was felt that it was not a good idea to change the address until more members are present. There was also a suggestion to make Reading Public Library the permanent address, but this also was not decided today as we were a small representation of the membership. As mentioned before in the prior minutes, the current Secretary keeps the supply of printed brochures if anyone needs them for recruitment. Julie Rinehart is also maintaining the electronic file for the brochure.

New Business: There was concern expressed that some members have not been receiving recent messages via the BCLA Listserv. We will need to resolve this problem.

After some discussion regarding the need to enhance our recruitment efforts, Christa Prock suggested some improvement possibilities. A cover letter with our organizational brochure could be sent to the Kutztown University library Science students. The letter might include our mission, our professional development efforts, and our accomplishments. We could also do more in posting library job opportunities and increase the job opportunity announcements catchment area up to 30-50 miles.

Since this trip was deemed a success, there was discussion about future BCLA trips to special libraries. Both the State Library and the State Archives in Harrisburg were mentioned as possibilities for next year.

Announcements: Joe Zappacosta acknowledged our appreciation for all the assistance that Mindy Smith gave us in helping to arrange this trip to the National Constitution Center and the Chemical Heritage Society. It was very helpful that Mindy was a former professional employee of the C.H.S. library and could arrange our tour there and the free parking.

Adjournment: The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 PM.

We then had a very interesting tour of the C.H.F. Othmer Library main reading room, the preservation area, rare book collection, and the exhibit areas including the special display on Joseph Priestley's life.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald D. Fisk
Secretary
6/7/2005

BCLA Takes over Philly! By Mindy Peters

On Tuesday, June 7th, 2005, BCLA held our Spring Meeting in conjunction with a professional development trip to Philadelphia. The focus of the trip was the National Constitution Center and the Chemical Heritage Foundation.

We started the day with a trip to the National Constitution Center. At the center, we saw an introductory video, "Freedom Rising", which gave an overview of the Constitution from birth, to present day. Afterwards, we had the chance for a Q & A session with the Director of Education. Covered was an overview of the exhibits, some insight behind their inception, as well as a description of some of the different types of exhibits. We finished up with a tour of the center and exhibits.

The second half of the day was at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF). CHF is a non-profit organization aimed at providing valuable resources for research and scholarly pursuit in the chemical and molecular sciences. To help in this noble pursuit, CHF maintains a closed stacks library – The Othmer Library of Chemical History. All of the materials housed at CHF are based on the needs of chemists and scholars, focusing primarily on chemistry.

We started our time at CHF with our Spring Meeting. After commencing, we were given a guided tour, from the Access Services Librarian and the Digital Librarian. We began in the Jacobs Reading Room, which houses the Reference Collection, Access Services (including circulation and ILL), current periodicals, scanning equipment for an ongoing digitizing project of rare books, a portion of the rare book collection, and work stations and computer terminals, for access to the library OPAC. Next, we moved onto the collections in the basement, guided by the Library Technical Assistant. The basement houses the bulk of the collection, the total number around 100,000 titles. Included in the basement tour we saw the monograph room, which has mostly textbooks and general titles; all of the serials – numbering around 1,800 titles; the majority of the rare book collection, as well as rare book cataloging; and an RFID tag station, used only on the monographs to help with inventory control, and possible future self-check-out stations.

We then moved on to the archives department. We were given an overall view of the work done by their staff, as heard from the processing archivist, senior archivist, and the image archivist. Included was

information on processing donations, the types of materials received in collections and donations – from personal diaries and journals, to sketches, and photographs. Also collected are artifacts and instruments, as well as a large collection of paintings.

We finished up our time at CHF with a tour of a special exhibit looking at Joseph Priestley. Priestley was an 18th century chemist and researcher, most well-known for his contributions and achievements in chemistry, most notably his work with the isolation of oxygen.

The Constitution Center provided an extensive overview of anything you might want to know about the Constitution, with a heavy emphasis of educating through fun, interactive exhibits. The Chemical Heritage Foundation offers a little known gem- the Othmer Library of Chemical History. Anyone with an interest in libraries, especially specialized collections, is encouraged to visit. Overall, it was an exciting fun filled day. If you have the chance, check it out!

For more info:

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org>

<http://www.chemheritage.org>

15 Minutes of Fame:

Kathy Thren

Position: Director, Spring Township Library

Where and when born: I was born in Reading in 1953

First job: Pool attendant at Antietam pool at 14.

Accomplishment I'm proudest of: Going to graduate school to become a librarian.

When I have spare time, my favorite thing to do is: Visit with friends, read, paint, and go for walks.

Dream vacation: Egypt: tour the pyramids and cruise down the Nile

How I plan to spend my retirement: Traveling everywhere and being part of a Friend's Group

Favorite TV program: Frontline or almost anything on PBS

All-time favorite book: The Autobiography of Malcolm X (As Told to Alex Haley)

The habit I just cannot break: Flipping my hair.

The craziest thing I've ever done: Went white water rafting on a class five river.

Proudest moment of my life: My wedding day with my entire family present.

Job I would like to have for one day: conductor for the Philadelphia orchestra on the 4th of July

People may be surprised to know that I: am a librarian.

Berks County's biggest secret: Nolde Forrest