

BERKS COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

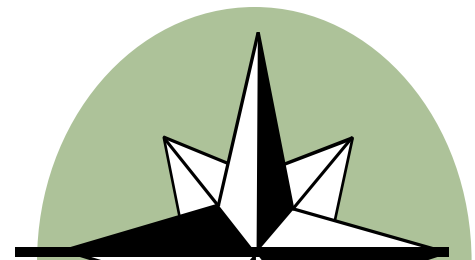
Spring 2008



Shelflist

I would like to take the time to thank everyone who supported me during my term of office as president of BCLA. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with members of the library community outside my own library. I am very grateful to have had the pleasure of working with an executive committee whose commitment to the success of this organization is unparalleled. Their enthusiasm and hard work ensure that high quality events and programs will continue to be offered. It was our intent this year to begin a process of evaluating what BCLA has to offer and how it fulfills the expectations of its members. We used the survey results in an attempt to better understand and address these expectations, to work toward a stronger, more vibrant organization. I hope that we will continue to actively engage in maintaining an environment conducive to the exchange of ideas and resources and to the support of our colleagues across Berks County. We hold, as a group, a wealth of knowledge and experience; let us share it.

• Jennifer Balas, MLS
Reading Public Library



The annual meeting, dinner and Berks Art Council presentation scheduled for Thursday, June 5 at Toscani has been cancelled.

Berks County Library Association
Winter Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2008
Mifflin Community Library

Call to Order:

Jennifer Balas, BCLA President, called the meeting to order at 1:17 pm at Mifflin Community Library.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2007 meeting. Motion carried. The Secretary will file the approved 2008 fall meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Mindy Peters, Treasurer, submitted the Treasurer's Report. The previous balance was \$1,223.33. For this reporting period, income amounted to \$880.00 and expenditures totaled \$1319.00. The remaining balance as of March 26, 2008 was \$784.33. It was reported by Mindy Peters that there are 55 members total.

Committee Reports:

Celia Colby reported that a continuing education seminar has been arranged for Friday, October 17, 2008. The speaker is Dr. Laura Gassaway, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor of Law, School of Law at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She will be speaking on Copyright in the Electronic Age.

Old Business:

Mindy Peters reviewed information about the upcoming Library Congress Bus Tour on Wednesday, May 23, 2008.

New Business:

A nominating committee was formed to create a slate of officers for the 2008 – 2009 year. Celia Colby will chair this committee along with Julie Rinehart and Wendy Gilbert Hampton.

Jennifer Balas announced that Jose Alby Fabiani stepped down as secretary of the BCLA. Interested people should contact a board member if they are interested in filling this position. [Kristin Brumbach, Outreach Services Librarian at Alvernia College, volunteered to become secretary for the rest of the year.]

Announcements:

Director, Helen Sheimo Flynn announced that Mifflin Community Library's Open House is scheduled for Sunday, April 13th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. She encouraged people to check out their website (www.berks.lib.pa.us/mifflincl) for more information.

Law librarian, Melanie Solon encouraged people to browse through and take extra books she brought from the American Library Association's mid-winter meeting she attended in Philadelphia this year.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Celia Colby, Vice-President.

BCLA VISIT TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

On Wednesday, April 23, 2008 BCLA sponsored a trip to the Library of Congress. We were pleased to have several BCLA members and guests, as well as some friends from the Lancaster Library System.

We started the day with a presentation on Digital Reference & Education Outreach Programs. We learned about the deep collections of digital materials and educational tools all available through the LOC website. Through the "American Memory" digital collection one can find everything from maps of civil war battlegrounds, collections of Thomas Jefferson's papers, to photographs from the Great Depression, audio interviews, even motion pictures from the early 1900's. On the "Learning Page" section you can find lesson plans and student activities that include how to incorporate primary resources into the classroom projects. We finished up with a firsthand view of how the LOC staff handles virtual reference questions.

Next there was a presentation on Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access. During the presentation we received an overview of how the LOC handles collection development; how they are involved with a duplicate materials exchange program, and some really interesting statistics on the collection and services they provide. Some of the primary functions include acquisition of materials in all formats, throughout the world – this includes purchases, gifts, and exchanges, and of course cataloging and classification for the materials in the collection. Although the LOC obviously uses LOC classification, they do still classify with Dewey, knowing that most of the schools and public libraries who utilize the records still use Dewey. To give you a feel for the vastness of the program, in FY 2007 there were 363,064 volumes cataloged, and the LOC has six overseas offices in New Delhi, Cairo, Rio de Janeiro, Jakarta, Nairobi, and Islamabad.

After a lunch break we received a presentation on the Inter-Library Loan Program. We learned the LOC ILL is not for individual use, rather for requests from other libraries, institutions, and congressional members. The ILL department receives ~ 400 requests a day, and ~ 40 requests a week from abroad. In the past ILL at the LOC was used more as a last resort, but now requests come in for everyday needs as well as for research materials. As with most institutions, the LOC will not loan videos, CDS or DVDS.

The last presentation gave us an overview of the Main Reading Room of the LOC. We learned about some of the history behind the inception of the LOC, some of the background on the statues and beautiful architecture, as well as an overview of the services and collections available in the Thomas Jefferson building, where the Main Reading Room is located. We finished up with a guided tour of the Reading Room area. Some of the highlights included a behind the scenes view of the closed stacks, a behind the scenes view of the control room, and a tour through the Main Reading Room. To accommodate the large volume of requested materials, the central desk in the reading room is equipped with a conveyor belt system. Patrons submit material requests and someone from the control room will send the material on the conveyor belt, which is then retrieved by staff at the central desk.

I think just about anyone can agree the Library of Congress is an amazing place for information and knowledge. This trip really helped to put into perspective the full value the LOC provides to the public, researchers, librarians and educators. Browse through the website and you'll find some great resources. If you get the chance, please take a tour of this beautiful gem.

Mindy Peters
BCLA Treasurer

For more information: www.loc.gov

For a virtual tour of the Thomas Jefferson Building: <http://www.loc.gov/jefftour/>

http://www.reading.lib.pa.us/BCLA/bcla.asp
2008 Membership Form

MEMBERSHIP: NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

TYPE: REGULAR - \$10.00 _____ STUDENT / RETIREE - \$5.00 _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

LIBRARY/INSTITUTION: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____ FAX: () _____

EMAIL: _____

TYPE OF LIBRARY: _____ PUBLIC _____ CORPORATE
_____ MEDICAL
_____ SCHOOL _____ SPECIAL _____ ACADEMIC

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE IS ANY INFORMATION THAT YOU DO
NOT WANT TO BE LISTED ON THE WEBSITE

Please make checks payable to: Berks County Library Association
Please mail membership form and check to:
Mindy Peters
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Carpenter Technology Corporation
R&D Center Library
P.O. Box 14662
Reading PA 19612-4662