

AWSL news

October 2010

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Report from the Chair



For many, the dawn of a New Year means making resolutions for the coming months. January 1st is also a time when many of us take stock of our lives and think about what we might want to do differently. For me, these thoughts start to creep in with the start of fall. The leaves change, it gets cold and I make a resolution to clean the basement. My daughters go back to school, classes start at the university and I think about taking an art class. Why should we wait until January 1st?

Let's start thinking now about resolutions relating to your membership in AWSL.

Attend the annual fall conference: Carrie Doyle, vice chair/chair elect of AWSL describes some great programs that AWSL is sponsoring at the conference later in this newsletter. Come to the Wisconsin Dells and tour the great Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center at the famous Circus World. Learn what "knowledge journaling" can do for you! And please make a resolution to bring a lunch and attend the annual AWSL business meeting on Wednesday at noon. The Association is yours and we want to hear from YOU about what you think we should do and what kinds of programming you would like to see. The AWSL Board will update you on the latest about WLA and its restructuring efforts and hopefully we can laugh a little and make new friends.

Learn more about what the Wisconsin Library Association does and what direction the association is taking: At the end of August, as chair of AWSL, I attended a WLA Strategic Planning meeting at DeForest Public Library. Not only was the company wonderful and the food good, but the brainstorming exercises were extraordinary. Much praise goes out the association on what a great job they did to get the creative juices flowing and the ideas flying. I was seated with librarians from around the state and across many librarianship disciplines. We brainstormed about the past and future of WLA (what we liked and didn't like; what we want more of and what improvement can be made). We covered a lot of ground and I have resolved to continue to bring the energy of that room to our smaller division. To see photos from the day, check out the flickr page.

Mentor a future special librarian: I think a resolution we can all stand behind is a commitment to encouraging recent graduates to consider special librarianship. As a mid-career librarian, I have met countless special librarians in my career who have inspired me with their creative ideas, their resourcefulness and knowledge

about what they do. There are many students in library school or professionals that are just starting out that might benefit from the collective experience of our members.

Get involved in AWSL: Finally, this might be the year to resolve to get more involved in AWSL. Make a resolution to do at least one thing relating to our division. The rewards will astound you! Here's to fulfilling resolutions!

Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference

November 2-5, 2010, Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells

AWSL sponsored programs

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

Business Meeting

12:00 p.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Ironwood Room

Bring your lunch and sit in on our annual business meeting. We will welcome our new officers and make plans for next year. It's a very pleasant way to spend an hour or two.

Thursday, November 4, 2010

10:45 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Tamarind Room

Knowledge Journaling

Linda Heisler, Training Director, State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services

While the impending mass retirement of librarians and other workers has been forecast for years, what have institutions done to prepare for this event? What will the loss of so much tacit knowledge and institutional memory mean to organizations? How can library administrators capture and transfer that information before it's gone? Linda will introduce the practice of "knowledge journaling," a systematic approach to determining where (and especially with whom) crucial knowledge resides within specific organizations. Linda has presented her program to several State of Wisconsin departments and agencies. As a former trustee, she has a soft spot in her heart for libraries and enthusiastically agreed to present her important program at WLA so that librarians can begin the process of capturing vital institutional knowledge.

2:00 p.m. – 3:13 p.m.

Tour of the Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center at Circus World

Presenter/tour guide: Rob Richard, Assistant Director, Circus World Museum, Baraboo

Circus World's Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center is the world's foremost research facility for circus history. The holdings document the history of the American circus from its inception in 1793 to the present day.

Participants will tour the main floor of the library and learn how things are stored; see some one-of-a-kind pieces (very rare posters, lithographs, photographs, etc.); view selected items from the library's exceptional three-dimensional collection; and tour the Deppe Wagon Pavilion and the C.P. Fox Wagon Restoration Center. The tour is first come, first served; 50 maximum bus capacity. Sign up for the tour when you register for the conference. There is no charge.

Special Library Association 2010 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO

Special Library Association 2010 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO, June 13-16, 2010, New Orleans

I had the good fortune to attend the Special Library Association 2010 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO, June 13-16 in New Orleans. It was my first time attending a national conference and my first time visiting New Orleans. Both experiences were worthwhile. I'd like to share a few thoughts on attending my first national conference. If you are attending a conference for the first time, it is a good idea to take advantage of receptions and sessions held for first-timers. It's a great way to meet other first-timers as well as people who have been involved in the organization for years. The most important piece of advice I received was that the way to get the most out of membership in SLA (or WLA or any organization) is to get involved. So many people spoke of the strong relationships they have forged over the years thanks to committee work and other service opportunities. Similar to the Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference coming up in November, social media was a big topic at SLA, as was the creation and use of taxonomies for information organization and retrieval, and embedded librarianship. A person need not sit alone in their hotel if they don't want to — there are many, many opportunities to socialize and network. Most divisions, sections and chapters hold evening open houses at area hotels which provide an informal way to learn more about the sponsoring unit and network in a fun and low-key way. Some sections hold No-Host dinners, where members and interested others meet at a nearby restaurant for a dutch-treat dinner. Spending time in the exhibition hall has many benefits — both professionally and personally. A popular vendor giveaway item was the iPad — usually all you had to do was listen to a presentation (or two, or three) to get your name entered in the drawing. I met several fun people at the daily Factini reception (a blue martini named after the vendor's main product) and had fun roaming the aisles with new friends looking for swag and free food. Of course, I also spent serious time in the exhibition hall speaking with vendors and learning about new products and solutions. New Orleans is a beautiful and fun city, and will play host to the ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition, June 23-28, 2011. Based on the great professional and personal experiences I had at SLA, if your budget allows, I would heartily recommend attendance.

- Carrie Doyle

AWSL Profile: Molly Hamm



Previous professional endeavors:

Before beginning my graduate degree in Library Science I bounced between several jobs, while living in New York and Chicago. Here are some of my past positions, most of which were a combination of Art and Business:

New York Times — Editorial Intern

American Institute of Graphic Arts — Program Manager

VSA Partners — Project Manager

Insurance Corporate of Hanover — Fine Art Claims Adjuster

Getty Images — Sales Executive

Why did you decide to work in the library profession?

I was drawn to the library profession primarily because it affords the opportunity to help others. Additionally, I really enjoy digital technology, research and the organization of information; all of which are central to my current position.

What is the favorite part of your job?

I really like that my job allows for on-going learning. I respond to reference questions from disciplines the across the organization, from human resources to engineering to business development. It helps make each day feel different from the last!

What is your favorite book of the last year?

I thought Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer was fascinating.

What is your dream vacation?

An art tour of Europe.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy yoga, running, travel, art museums, seeing live music and — of course — reading.

Anything else you want to tell us?

Because I'm the only librarian at my organization, I sometimes feel a little isolated. Consequently, I'm really grateful.

- Molly Hamm

Research Librarian, Cogdell Spencer Erdman

Report from September 10, 2010 COLAND Meeting

Gibraltar Area Schools, Community Room, Fish Creek, WI

The Governor's Council on Library and Network Development was treated to a very positive public school story at the Gibraltar Schools: Stephen Seyfer and his staff welcomed the council and shared some of their award winning practices that have been recognized on not only the State but National levels.

The Council formally thanked retiring Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction Rick Grobschmidt for selecting the COLAND meeting as his last official duty before retiring from DPI. The new DLTC Division Administrator Kurt Kiefer also attended this meeting and introduced himself to the Council. Librarians and retired librarians with special library experience currently serving on COLAND include: Bob Koechley, Professional Appointment until 7-01-13, Barbara Arnold, Public Representative until 7-01-12, and Mary Bayorgen, Public Representative until 7-01-11. During the Visioning Summit an issue of providing better library resources to the prison populations in WI was listed as a priority. COLAND formed a subcommittee to investigate the issue further and have formed a collaboration with the Department of Corrections to gather donations of library materials. Details of how and where to ship the donated materials is still under discussion. Sandra Melcher, samelch@yahoo.com is the taskforce contact for this project. There is a sore need for computers and a list of collection development areas needing updating includes topics that some AWSL members may be able to meet: Auto/Electric Car Repair; Building and Trades Skills; Business; Computer Science; Eco-friendly living; Entrepreneurship; Health and Wellness; Home Repair; and Welding. The project hopes to work with the statewide delivery service and the Department of Corrections regular delivery system to distribute the collected materials. Once a regular practice is in place for the prisons, COLAND hopes to add the statewide Jails too.

For more information see COLAND priorities on the Department of Public Instruction web site.

- Barbara Arnold

2010 Baylake Bank Tall Ship Festival, Green Bay, WI

Green Bay was the only Wisconsin host port for The Great Lakes United Tall Ship Challenge 2010. August 13-15 on the Fox River and Leicht Memorial Park, 12 square rigged and gaff rigged sailing vessels with topmasts and top sails, moored along both sides of the river. The festival web site has great color photos of the international fleet of ships and the festival program listed each vessel with: home ports, rigging and build dates. Many SLA

members who attended the SLA Annual Conference in Baltimore were treated to a more personalized tour aboard The Pride of Baltimore II. She is a topsail schooner built in 1987. The Denis Sullivan is the ship docked at the Discovery Center in Milwaukee. She is a three masted schooner that offers LakeWatch Expeditions (3 hrs,) Dockside Discovery programs for student 5th-12th grade. More extensive voyages are open to college and high school students that offer 5-14 days sailing and learning in the Great Lakes, Bahamas and Caribbean. There are a variety of instruction programs available on The Flagship Niagara. Her home port is Erie, PA and she is a brig. The historic storyboards set out in front of her berth were very well done. The Unicorn was built in Bridgeport, CT in 1947, a topsail schooner made from steel pieces of old German U-Boats. She has an all women crew and is dedicated to teaching teenage girls confidence, esteem, social conscience and the value of sisterhood.

On Friday, August 13th the festival grounds opened at 10:00 am. There was free parking close by. The festival booklet had coupons from area merchants including an irresistible: "Enjoy \$2.50 of complimentary candy at Beerntsen's Candies" on Broadway right next to the park grounds. Some of the ships had long lines of families waiting to board the vessels for tours. Appledore IV and Friends Good Will from Michigan sold tickets for excursions out into Green Bay. There were booths set up for buying food and books about the ghost ships of the Great Lakes. The Sea Grant College Program Marine Extension Service Office, Green Bay had a big exhibit on the water quality of the lakes, lake water levels and invasive species. Discover Wisconsin's booth almost blew away during a wind and rain storm that fortunately did not last long.

It was a great experience to see so many beautiful tall ships in one place.

- Barbara Arnold
UW-Madison SLIS, Emeritus Student Services Coordinator

Early Fall on the DOOR, Thursday, September 9, 2010

The September meeting of the Council on Library and Network Development provided a great opportunity to get a taste of Door County after the big rush of summer and before fall colors and holiday activities. The Newport Resort in Egg Harbor, WI most generously provided two bedroom suite rooms at the State rate of \$70 for the Council members who wanted to drive up for the meeting the day before. It was a beautiful day to drive from Madison to Egg harbor. After checking in and exploring the resort amenities, the collection of restaurant menus were the next item on the agenda. Mojo Rosa's seem to fill the bill, but first a driving tour up to Fish Creek to find the meeting location and a tour up to Sister Bay captured the rest of the afternoon. Not having been to Door County for several years, it was fun to explore the lakeshore neighborhoods. Racing officials were setting out signs for the weekend Century Bicycle race and marking the race route. As would be expected there are new developments, new shops and restaurants some new and some old favorites still operating. The Door County Dining Guide 2010 offers menus & valuable coupons: A brochure offering self-guided Culinary Tours of Door County compiled by the Door County Visitor Bureau: DoorCounty.com (800)-52-RELAX (73529) has tempting ideas for future visits.

The Dovetail Gallery & Studio: 7901 State Hwy 42 has a wonderful egg art museum including dinosaur, wild bird and Faberge' eggs. The gallery is open year round. Call 920-868-3987 for winter hours.

This Door County adventure included a tour of the national award winning Gibraltar Area Schools (see COLAND report for more details) and ended with a visit to the Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 South 4th Ave. Becca Berger, Director, Door County Libraries hosted a brief meeting in the second floor board room. She indicated that she had "the best job in the world." She gave the group some background information on the libraries served on Door County peninsula and then encouraged the group to visit the Miller Art Museum housed on

the first floor. "Sturgeon Bay: Past & Present," an invitational exhibit is mounted there until November 9, 2010. It is a wonderful collection of a variety of media including historical settings, landscapes and lakeshores. See: www.millerartmuseum.org for the museum hours.

Each trip to Door County offers a different experience and this was a delightful taste of another portion!

- Barbara Arnold
UW-Madison SLIS, Emeritus Student Services Coordinator

Two Wonderful Wildlife Experiences on Cape Cod

September is a wonderful time of year on Cape Cod, MA. The days are warm and the nights are cool and the wildlife on land, in the sky, and in the water are busy or on the move through the region on migration trips. Thursday, September 23rd was just such a perfect fall Cape Cod day for a Diamondback Terrapin Hatchlings tour. A naturalist from the Audubon's Long Pasture Sanctuary in Cummaquid, MA and a Sandy Neck Park Ranger from the Town of Barnstable Marine & Environmental Affairs Department (www.town.barnstable.ma.us/MarineEnvironmental) teamed up to offer a guided tour from the Sandy Neck Beach Gatehouse out on a trail where Diamondback Terrapins were crossing from the saltmarsh pans over the sandy trail into the sun facing sand dunes to dig nests and lay their eggs. Sandy Neck Beach between Sandwich and Brewster, MA is one of the northernmost sites for terrapin breeding. The turtles in the area are on the protected species list. They are a medium sized salt marsh turtle that have a wedge shaped top shell colored in diamond like designs of ash gray, light brown, green and black. Both males and females have grayish to black skin with dark green flecks and light colored upper and lower jaws. The adult females are much larger than the males ranging from 15-23 cm (6-9 in.) in length, while males are 10-15 cm (4-6 in). Hatchlings look like adults but are about 2.6 cm (1 in.) long. These turtle in the marshes that border quiet salt or brackish tidal waters. They may also be found in mud flats, shallow bays, coves and tidal estuaries. Dry sandy upland areas need to be near these sites for nesting. They overwinter in the bottom of the marshes and estuaries. Females reach sexual maturity between 8 and 10 years of age. In the Sandy Neck Beach area, females may dig nests and lay eggs from 1-3 times a year depositing about 12 eggs. The nests are dug in the south facing sand dunes up from the marsh as much as 3/4 mile back in the dunes. They do tend to return to the same nest areas year after year. Human disturbance is biggest problem for nesting females. Predation of the eggs and hatchlings by gulls, raccoons, skunks and snakes are the other major challenge to this turtle. The MA Division of Fisheries Two Wonderful Wildlife Experiences on Cape Cod Wildlife, Audubon, and Town of Barnstable "Head Start Program" has successfully gathered and incubated viable eggs. These Head Starts are raised in the lab and then adopted out to middle school classes in the area for rearing until late spring when the students release the hatchlings along the edge of the marsh.

On Thursday, September 23rd, the group was shown a recent (2-3 week) hatchling and one ready to go to a middle school class (almost 1 yr. old). Diamondback terrapin tracks were visible crossing the trail in several locations and crates marking nest sites were close to the trail for everyone to see. No turtles were visible to the naturalist, an ornithologist, nor to the Park Ranger, a botanist. Maybe if the "turtle guy" had been available for the tour the groups luck would have been better. In any case, it was an interesting and informative tour. Everyone asked lots of questions and the guides were helpful in their responses.

The Dolphin Fleet of Provincetown, MA was the host of the second memorable environmental experience. This time it was with a Humpback whale named Circuit and her second yet to be named calf, September 24, 2010, 10:00 trip on Dolphin VIII. Helpful links: www.WhaleWatch.com, www.WhaleWatchResearch.com, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies. The naturalist on board our boat worked for the Center for Coastal Studies and the Dolphin Fleet for over 20 years. There was a

civilian volunteer along to help with recording the trip notes while the naturalist took photos and gave a running commentary. Circuit and her still nursing calf were hanging out in the triangle region not all the way out to the Stellwagen. The captain was careful to stay back the recommended distance, but mother and calf seemed undisturbed by the boatload of guest oohing and awwwing. She tail flapped and blew and dove down only a short ways while swimming alongside the boat. Her calf, who will be named this winter in the Dominican Republic waters where they overwinter, rolled and splashed and tail flapped on the outside of his mother. The contact lasted almost 1/2 hour. One of the longest events for the naturalist who said we had been given a real treat.

In addition to Circuit and calf, Minke whales were observed arching and diving out from the boat quite a ways. Several different types of Near Shore Birds like Black Backed Gulls, Jaegers, Herring Gulls and Common Terns were spotted on the ride out. The wind was blowing and the seas had white caps but the ride was not that wet or cold. All in all it was a great whale watching experience.

- Barbara Arnold
UW-Madison SLIS, Emeritus Student Services Coordinator

WLA AWSL Election Results:

AWSL Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Molly Hamm

AWSL Secretary Amy O'Shea

AWSL WLA Board Representative Anne Moser

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