

The Lamplighter



IN THE SYSTEM

New Chapter in Bea Lebal's Life



It all started forty-some years ago, when Bea was in the seventh grade and volunteered to work in the Waupaca High School Library. After graduating from UW-Stevens Point, then teaching English for five years, she decided that libraries were her true calling and went on to get her Master of Library Science degree at UW-Oshkosh.

Bea worked for the next seventeen years as the director of the D.C. Everest High School Library in Schofield, where she introduced technology to the school library. When T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill was looking for a director in 1988, Bea decided that she was ready for a career change.

As Director of T.B. Scott Free Library for the last twenty years, Bea has had a huge impact on that community and how it utilizes its library services. Shortly after coming to Merrill, she convinced the Library Board and the City of Merrill to fund a Dynix online catalog system for T. B. Scott Free Library. That system eventually became the cornerstone for the WVLS V-Cat online catalog and circulation system that today links over twenty libraries in 7 counties. Bea then worked with the Library Board and other community leaders to build an addition that doubled the size of the library.

In 2007, Bea was awarded the Wisconsin Library Association's (WLA's) Muriel Fuller award for improving community access to library resources, developing collaborations with local organizations to promote library services, and other contributions to library services that benefit users. The T.B. Scott Free Library was named WLA's Library of the Year in 2002.

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At the end of December 2008, Bea is retiring from the T.B. Scott Free Library. She and her husband, Larry, plan on staying in the Merrill area and will continue to be active participants in the Historical Society, their church (Bea is choir director/accompanist and an organist), and other community groups. They are both avid readers and will be frequent library visitors (“Of course!”). Bea also hopes to have more time to play her piano and entertain their cat, Callie.

Throughout her career, Bea has been a strong advocate for libraries and feels that, now more than ever, they play a critical role in their communities. She is proud to have been part of the library community and says, “I’m so appreciative of the support I’ve received from colleagues over the years.”

We wish Bea much joy as she turns the page to new endeavors and we know that this new chapter of her life will be as rich and rewarding as the previous one.

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Best Wishes to Wabeno Library Director Radloff

After a “really good” six years as library director of the Wabeno Public Library, Lois Radloff is retiring and starting to plan for future travels. Lois’s philosophy of library service has been that “you must enjoy the people!”

Lois has a Master of Arts degree from UW-Milwaukee and a B.S. from UW-Platteville. Her background includes working in an office for 13 years, and she has also been a Junior High English teacher for 13 years. She enjoys reading and looks forward to sewing and visiting her local library on occasion. Her **current** favorite book is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer - “because it is a well written book of letters that includes a little history and a little romance.”

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Wisconsin Library Association Conference 2008 Scholarship Report

Julie Beloungy, Director of the Thorp Public Library, attended the 2008 WLA conference as a WVLS Wessler Scholar. She wanted to share the following report:

After attending my first Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) conference, I am convinced that I will be returning year after year. It was a great conference and I attended many informative sessions. I brought back great ideas to improve all areas of our library, but focused primarily on the research and reference aspect of library services.

BadgerLink Update! – The state funded information database offers access to any Wisconsin resident through secure Internet Authentication, IP Address, library card access, or individual username and password. Federated Searching (a simultaneous search of multiple online databases) is the latest improvement to BadgerLink as well as updates to EBSCO and Lit Finder. All are meant to be more

user-friendly with a simplified interface and more precise searching results. Another developing relationship will be between BadgerLink and Google Scholar. Users are so familiar with Google searching that this will be a way to link the familiarity of Google with the information resources available through BadgerLink.

Challenges for Reference Excellence: Realities and Possibilities – This session was both fun and informative. Marie L. Radford, a widely known and respected associate professor at Rutgers University, offered some great ideas for keeping reference services excellent. She reported on how quickly technology is changing reference service, for good and bad. Patrons now expect immediate responses through phone, email, face-to-face, and live chat (instant messaging). For a library to keep up in all of these reference areas, it is a formidable task, but essential to sustain the library's viability. Ms. Radford did a short skit on some of the negative stereotypes that hurt the reference librarian's image, but then offered suggestions to avoid those negative results. Don't let staff get burned out, offer flexibility in scheduling, avoid generational wars (between old staffers and new or young staff), and always remember – Excellence is a choice! Librarians must push into uncharted waters and embrace change, and just as important, don't forget to evaluate the results.

With all these sessions, it was reiterated how important customer service is to successful reference. Keeping up to date on changing technology was another common theme. All of these ideas are possible to accomplish in both large and small libraries, and I hope to implement as many as possible. It may not all happen at once, but with quality conferences and learning opportunities like this one, it keeps us moving in the right direction.

(Julie Beloungy, Thorp Public Library Director)

WLA 2008 Conference Pictures



Annette Miller with Mary Dunn (Tomahawk Public Library) receiving the Frances De Usabel Outreach Award from Laurie Magee, Chair of the WLA Outreach Services Roundtable.



Annette Miller, winner of the Frances De Usabel Award.



Doug Lay – WLA Trustee of the Year



Doug and Carol Lay



Jim Backus, WVLS Trustee, having a good time at the awards banquet.



Heather Eldred (WVLS Director Emerita), Marla Sepnanski (WVLS Director), Doug (WVLS Trustee) and his wife, Carol Lay, enjoying the awards banquet.

(Thanks to Heather Eldred (WVLS Director Emerita) for these photos.)

What's Out and What's In?

Wessler Scholar Mike Hartkopf, (Customer Service Manager at the Marathon County Public Library), attended the "Back in Circulation" Conference and shares another report with us:

What's Out

Comment Cards

Space for Books

The Library is Now Closed

Policies/Procedures

Fines

Confidentiality and Privacy

Trash Cans

It's On the Shelf

What's In

Social Network Sites

Space for Users

24/7 Availability

Satisfying the Customer Through Staff Empowerment

Late Fees, Pay to Replace, Borrow, or Own

Friends (MySpace and Facebook)

Shredders and Recycle Bins

Convenient Delivery

We Don't Own It

We'll Get It For You

Systems Designed for Our Workflow

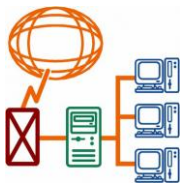
Systems Designed for Our Users

This was presented by Brenda Hazard who is the director at the Marvin Library, Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, New Hampshire.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Wisconsin Valley Library Service Presents . . .

Bandwidth and Beyond: Technology Network Fundamentals



Thursday, December 4, 2008
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Antigo Public Library
617 Clermont Street
Antigo, WI 54409-1943

John Pederson, Maddy Covelli, and Don Kasprzak of WiscNet will provide an overview of how this nonprofit, membership-based association of public and private organizations provides access to worldwide information and computing resources. They will talk about bandwidth in Wisconsin libraries and share with us the nuts and bolts of network equipment and what impact this has on our Internet connectivity.

(Scheduled right after the V-Cat Council Meeting and Potluck Lunch)

12:30 am - 3:00 pm Overview of WiscNet

The Big Picture of Big Networking

The "How-to" Types of Things & Troubleshooting Tips

Questions & Answers and Sharing of Information

Space is limited! Please register by **Wednesday, November 26, 2008**. Certified public library directors will be able to receive 2.5 contact hours. If you have questions or comments about this event, please contact: Inese Christman at 715-261-7256 or ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

To Register: Send this completed form to: Attn: Inese Christman; WVLS; 300 N First St; Wausau WI 54403

Name: _____ Library: _____

Bandwidth and Beyond December 4, 2008 Antigo Public Library



The Wisconsin Valley Library Service Presents . . .

Wisconsin Open Meetings Law

Online via OPAL @Your Computer (with Headset and Microphone)

Thursday, December 18, 2008 9:50 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bruce A. Olsen is an Assistant Attorney General in the State Programs, Administration, and Revenue Unit of the Wisconsin Department of Justice. He received his undergraduate degree from the Univ. of Minnesota-Twin Cities, his master's degree from Princeton University, and his law degree from the Univ. of Wisconsin Law School. His practice emphases include administrative law, constitutional litigation, and the open meetings law. Prior to joining the Dept. of Justice in 1981, he served as a law clerk for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals Judge Paul C. Gartzke.

9:50 am - 11:30 am Presentation via OPAL (and supporting written materials) aims to provide attendees with a workable understanding of the law, by explaining fundamental principles and addressing recurring questions. The topics will include the following:

- What entities are "governmental bodies" subject to the open meetings law?
- What communications are "meetings" subject to the requirements of the open meetings law?
- What is required if the open meetings law applies?
- When is it permissible to convene in closed session?
- Who enforces the open meetings law and what are its penalties?

Please register by **Monday, December 15, 2008**. Certified public library directors will be able to receive 1.5 contact hours. If you have questions or comments about this event, please contact Inese Christman at 715-261-7256 or ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

To Register: Send this completed form to: Attn: Inese Christman; WVLS; 300 N First St; Wausau WI 54403

Name: _____ Library: _____

Wisconsin Open Meetings Law December 18, 2008 OPAL Program

YOUTH MATTERS

ALSC Announces Exceptional Web Sites for Children

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, has added Web sites this fall to *Great Web Sites for Kids* (www.ala.org/greatsites), its online resource containing hundreds of links to commendable Web sites for children.

Great Web Sites for Kids (GWS) features links to valuable Web sites of interest to children, organized by subject headings such as animals; literature and languages; mathematics and computers; the arts; and history and biography. There is also a special section with sites of interest to parents, caregivers, and teachers, plus an area devoted to sites in Spanish.

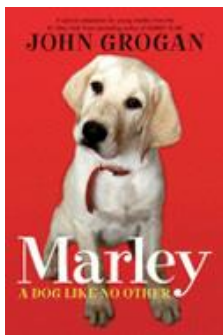
“Not all Web sites for kids are created equal,” said Karen Lemmons, co-chair of the GWS Committee and a library media specialist at Howe Elementary School in Detroit. “To make the cut and appear on the *Great Web Sites for Kids*, a site must demonstrate commendable quality and reflect and encourage young people’s interests in exemplary ways. Sites must stand up to an evaluation and voting process by the committee before being deemed ‘great’ and added to the GWS page.”

ALSC’s GWS Committee voted to add the following sites in fall 2008:

- ♥ Adolescent Literacy - www.adlit.org
- ♥ Bob the Builder - www.bobthebuilder.com/usa/intro.html
- ♥ Career Information for Kids - <http://www.bls.gov/k12/>
- ♥ The Children’s Book Review - www.thechildrensbookreview.com
- ♥ Exploring Nature Educational Resource - www.exploringnature.org
- ♥ The Federal Communications Commission Kids Zone – www.fcc.gov/cgb/kidszone
- ♥ GoGooligans - www.gogooligans.com
- ♥ The Harry Potter Lexicon - www.hp-lexicon.org
- ♥ Leading to Reading - www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/
- ♥ Nutrition Explorations: Kids - www.nutritionexplorations.com/kids/main.asp
- ♥ The Road to the Capitol/National Mock Election - www.nationalmockelection.org/game/
- ♥ Vicki Cobb’s Science Page - www.vickicobb.com
- ♥ We Shall Overcome/Historic Places of the Civil Rights Movement/National Register Travel Itinerary - www.nps.gov/history/NR/travel/civilrights
- ♥ Ziggity Zoom - www.ziggityzoom.com
- ♥ ZOOM by Kids, for Kids! - <http://pbskids.org/zoom/help/contact/general.html>

(American Libraries Direct, November 5, 2008)

Puppy Love



Marley and Me, a film based on *Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist John Grogan’s best-selling memoir (Morrow, 2005), bounds into theaters on December 25, 2008. Released by 20th Century Fox, the movie is directed by David Frankel with a screenplay by Scott Frank and Don Roos. This pet-lover’s delight follows reporter John Grogan (Owen Wilson) and his wife Jenny (Jennifer Aniston), as they adopt a rambunctious Labrador retriever puppy who manages to get into a heap of trouble, but also repeatedly reminds his humans what it means to be a family. Kids can go to the movie’s official web site <http://marleyandmemovie.com/> to view the cute-as-pie canine and catch a preview of his antics.

(School Library Journal Extra Helping, November 18, 2008)

INFO TO GO

MaintainIT Cookbooks

Do you know about the MaintainIT Project (<http://www.maintainitproject.org/>)? They produce 'IT Cookbooks'. For example, their latest cookbook is "Joy of Computing - Planning for Success", a guide for the overworked librarian - <http://www.maintainitproject.org/cookbooks/planning-for-success>

This free online resource brings together the most current ideas and best practices for planning, building, and managing your library's computer technology. Librarians around the country have contributed their knowledge on topics ranging from security solutions and strategic maintenance practices to community building experiences involving Web 2.0 tools and vital partnerships. And best of all, like all of the other MaintainIT materials, it is FREE.

Some great topics worth checking out:

- Sample technology plans
- Guidelines for collaborating with key stakeholders such as funders, IT departments, and vendors
- In-depth strategies that can help you save money, make the right decisions, document necessary information and test your equipment
- Important insight into daily management, from remote desktop software and help desk management, to extending the life of your computers and step by step troubleshooting guides
- Basic practices for ensuring your library's network security, including use of firewalls, bandwidth management, security policies, how to monitor performance and choose an ISP
- Examples of Web 2.0 in action in libraries

MaintainIT is also offering a lot of free webinars focused on public access computing and the new Cookbook. See the topics and register at: <http://www.maintainitproject.org/events>.

(Stephen's Lighthouse, Nov 6, 2008)

You might be a librarian if . . .

- ☞ You compulsively reshelve items and straighten shelves when browsing at Barnes and Noble.
- ☞ You alphabetize your spice rack (and everything else).
- ☞ You own more cardigans than shoes.
- ☞ You own cats named "Ernest", "Kerouac," or "Flannery".
- ☞ You have a secret desire to be on a bookcart drill team.
- ☞ You know the Dewey Decimal System by heart.
- ☞ Nancy Pearl is your idol and you own her action figure.
- ☞ You go on vacation and visit other libraries.
- ☞ You don't have a Netflix account and borrow all of your music and movies from the library instead.
- ☞ Your home library has just as many books as a small public library.

- ~ You were totally blogging and social networking before 2003.
- ~ You read banned books.
- ~ You can kick everyone's butt at Scrabble.

(From Examiner.com, by Danielle Dreger-Babbitt, found in Stephen's Lighthouse, Nov 4, 2008)

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

National Endowment for the Arts "The Big Read" - <http://www.neabigread.org/guidelines.php>

This site provides information on applying for the next series of grants distributed from the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest. "The Big Read" brings together partners from across the country to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment.

2008-2009 Presidential Transition Resources - <http://directory.presidentialtransition.gov/>

The Presidential Transition Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-293) authorizes the General Services Administration (GSA) to develop a transition directory which is a compilation of Federal publications and materials with supplementary materials developed by the Administrator that provides information on the officers, organization, and statutory and administrative authorities, functions, duties, responsibilities, and mission of each department and agency.

(Library Juice Blog, November 19, 2008)

Google LIFE - <http://images.google.com/hosted/life>

Google is now hosting millions of historical photographs from the LIFE photo archive. Photos date from the 1700s to today and most have never been published before. The interface is nicely designed with a keyword search. You can also browse by decade or look through some of the compiled categories.

(Sites and Soundbytes, November 19, 2008)

Popular Series Round-up -

<http://www.ifls.lib.wi.us/Services/YouthServices/PopularYouthSeries/tabid/838/Default.aspx>

Here is a list compiled by the Indianhead Federated Library System featuring series which are especially popular in libraries across the country for grades 1-12. This list was created in November 2008. Look for updates every six months!

(Leah Langby, Indianhead Federated Library System)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

December is: a month of Multicultural Holiday Celebrations, find more information at:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson246.shtml

Dec 4 **WVLS V-Cat Council Meeting** – Antigo Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

Dec 4 **WVLS Workshop on "Bandwidth and Beyond: Technology Network Fundamentals"** – Antigo Public Library, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. See flyer in this issue.

- Dec 13 **WVLS Executive Committee Meeting** - at the Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- Dec 18 **WVLS Workshop on “Wisconsin Open Meetings Law”** online via OPAL, at your computer, 9:50 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. See flyer in this issue.
- Dec 24 & 25 **WVLS Office Closed.**

JANUARY

January is: National Hobby Month, find out more at:

<http://www.cyfernet.org/hottopic/hobbymonth.html>

Jan 1 New Year’s Day – **WVLS Office Closed.**

Jan 17 WVLS Board of Trustees Meeting - at the Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY

February is: Library Lovers’ Month @ your library, find out more at:

<http://www.librarysupport.net/librarylovers/>

Feb 3 Library Legislative Day – Best Western Inn on the Park – Madison

<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/day/index.htm>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“There is only one boss - the Customer. And he can fire anybody in the company from the chairman on down, simply by spending his money somewhere else.”

--- Sam Walton



The **LAMPLIGHTER** is a monthly newsletter of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service, 300 N. First Street, Wausau, WI 54403. Back issues are available at:

<http://wvls.lib.wi.us/Newsletter/newsindex.htm>

(Note: Web links in past issues are not checked for currency and may no longer work.)

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