

Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates

NEWSLETTER
Winter, 2014

COLA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Rhode Island State House
Governor's State Room

OFFICERS

Chair: Gale Eaton
Vice-Chair: Jessica Barry
Secretary-Treasurer:
Neeltje Henneman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Howard Boksenbaum
Michelina Bonneau
Loretta M. Cimini
Susan Escherich
Donna Good
Brigitte Hopkins
Jay Litman
Nancy McEnanly
Thomas Viall

Harold Gadon,
Honorary Member

Joan Ress Reeves,
Chair Emerita
Rose Ellen Reynolds,
Chair Emerita

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Howard Boksenbaum
Neeltje Henneman
Joan Ress Reeves
Rose Ellen Reynolds

*You are cordially invited to join us
in celebrating and supporting Rhode Island libraries*

Guest Speaker: Padma Venkatraman

“FOR BETTER OR VERSE: A former scientist’s thoughts on reading, writing, and kindling hearts and minds”

Awards:

- Sweetheart of the Year: Howard Boksenbaum
- William Bergeron Award: Catherine Damiani
- Linda Aldrich Award: Lindsay Grant Aromin
- William E. Reeves Friends Recognition Awards

Business Meeting:

- Election of Officers and Board
- Bylaws Amendment

Plus: Greet old friends and new; trade library advocacy ideas; renew your membership on the way in; enjoy refreshments catered by Venda.

Come early, and shake hands with your legislators! The Rhode Island Library Association invites you to take part in **RI Library Legislative Awareness Day** on Tuesday February 11, 2012, from 2:30 - 4:30 pm in the RI State House Rotunda. Please give your legislators a shout out to let them know you'll be looking for them that day! This is a chance to tell them about all the great things your library is doing in your community.

ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

Guest Speaker Dr. Padma Venkatraman is the author of three critically acclaimed and multiple award-winning novels, *Climbing the Stairs*, 2008 (Julia Ward Howe Award, ASTAL RI book award), *Island's End*, 2011 (South Asia Book Award, Paterson Prize), and *A Time to Dance*, 2014 (we predict this will earn as many honors and starred reviews as the first two). Dr. Venkatraman has been invited to speak at various venues (including Harvard University and the international PEN festival) and her work was featured in the documentary "Library of the Early Mind." An American citizen (of South Asian Indian heritage), an oceanographer with richly varied experience in research, administration, and teaching, she now devotes most of her time to fiction, because – as she quotes Krishnamurthi – “the mind is in the heart.” Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Sweetheart of the Year Howard Boksenbaum retired in 2013 from the RI Office of Library & Information Services (OLIS), where he had served as Chief Library Officer since 2007. He joined the agency in 1988, when it was still the Department of State Library Services (DSLS), and held various positions in it before leaving for a stint as assistant director for Central Information Management Services at the RI Division of Information Technology. To his work in developing the state's cooperative library services and technology infrastructure, Mr. Boksenbaum has brought a remarkable combination of strengths: a quick grasp of how new technical and economic realities will affect people and institutions; an ability to explain shifting opportunities clearly and persuasively; patience, humor, and a genuine appreciation of other people's viewpoints as he negotiated library issues in Rhode Island and its municipalities. COLA is not the first to honor Mr. Boksenbaum. RILA gave him an Achievement Award at the June conference; Senator Jack Reed's tribute to him appears in the June 13 Congressional Record; and at his June 20 retirement party, he was presented with citations from Governor Lincoln Chafee and Karla Harry Commission co-chairs Senator David Bates and Representative Joy Hearn. COLA joins the chorus, honoring Mr. Boksenbaum's past achievements and looking forward to his future activities.

COLA Scholarships: Each year, we recognize two students in the University of Rhode Island's MLIS program. The William Bergeron Public Library Award and the Linda Aldrich School Library Award honor students whose academic achievement, professional commitment, and vision promise to keep our Rhode Island libraries vital. Originally the awards were drawn entirely from COLA operating funds. Now they are more than doubled by interest from the RI Coalition of Library Advocates Scholarship Endowment, funded by Herman H. Rose (our 2004 Sweetheart of the Year) and administered by the URI Foundation. (Anybody may contribute to this fund.) This year's scholars are both actively committed to libraries as educational resources for their communities.

Aldrich Scholar **Lindsay Grant Aromin** is a Pawtucket native, a 2006 graduate of Stonehill, and a North Smithfield English teacher whose senior course on “Exploring Genocide through the Lens of Literature” made her the RI Genocide Educator of the Year in 2013. A skating instructor with an active gift for multidisciplinary thinking, she is inspired by the school librarian's integral role in fostering collaborations and strengthening connections between readers and texts, books and technology, students and teachers. As she puts it, “I look forward to . . . creating a library media center that is just that—the center of the school and a truly inviting environment where students feel comfortable exploring new skills and sharing new ideas with one another.”

Bergeron Scholar **Catherine Damiani**, a 2010 Gordon College graduate, has already worked eight years at the Barrington Public Library, assisting in the children's room and at the reference and circulation desks. As a GSLIS student she works for the university library as well. She is the secretary of URI's award-winning Student ALA chapter and plans to attend the 2014 ALA conference in Las Vegas. Her interests include public and academic libraries, information literacy instruction, digital pedagogy, reader's advisory, and information behavior.

PROPOSED SLATE OF COLA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate for membership vote at the Annual Meeting:

- **Officers**, to continue for a second term: Chair, Gale Eaton; Vice-Chair, Jessica Barry; Secretary-Treasurer, Neeltje Henneman.
- **New board members**, for a three-year term ending in 2017: Stewart Blazer, Hildburg Herbst, Diane Strommer, and Alisson Walsh

Continuing board members (with their term expiration dates) are Howard Boksenbaum (2016), Loretta Cimini (2015), Susan Escherich (2016), Donna Good (2016), Brigitte Hopkins (2016), Jay Litman (2015), and Thomas Viall (2015).

We say farewell this month to Michelina Bonneau and Nancy McEnanly, whose terms expire in 2014. We thank them for their contributions, and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT, ARTICLE V, SECTION 3

Our proposed amendment adds an organization to those represented on the Board: Cornucopia of RI, whose mission is to serve the RI library community of color: <http://cornucopiaofri.blogspot.com/>. Founded in 2005, the group was represented at the first Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) in 2006, and has mounted excellent annual conferences in RI since 2007. The amended section should read:

Section 3. In addition to the elected Directors, the Board shall include one representative each of 1) Association of RI Health Sciences Librarians (ARIHSL), 2) Consortium of RI Academic and Research Libraries (CRIARL), 3) Cornucopia of Rhode Island, 4) RI Library Association (RILA), 5) School Librarians of RI (SLRI), 6) Special Libraries Association (SLA), 7) URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (URI GSLIS), to insure representation from RI's library constituencies. A representative of the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) shall serve on the Board *ex officio*. Each library organization shall be represented by its president or Chair or appointee; the organization shall accept or decline the opportunity to be represented, and shall name its representative soon after the COLA annual meeting. The appointee shall be authorized to speak and vote for the organization. No vote shall be delayed pending such authorization.

COLA FALL 2013 PROGRAM

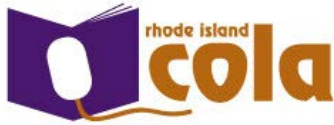
November 18, 2013: Most autumns, COLA hosts representatives from RI Friends groups for a Saturday morning advocacy event. This year we tried something different, joining forces with OLIS and RILA to present John Chrastka, a former ALA staffer, current library trustee, and consultant – as well as RILA's own Jenifer Bond and Aaron Coutu, who reported on the success of Rhode Island's "Geek the Library" initiative. The *Rhode Island Library Report* November 26 edition reported the event: <http://www.rhodeislandlibraryreport.org/>.

Chrastka draws strategies for library advocacy from political campaigning. Nationwide, he says, 37% of voters will definitely vote to support libraries, and 37% will probably do so. Only 26% will oppose a library vote; even non-users support what libraries do for others. To build and energize public support, the library needs a human face – a passionate librarian, actively involved in the community. Our trustees, friends, and staff should promote the library's image as a social leveler; an education partner; an economic development engine; a place of discovery; a personal refuge; and an incubator of new ideas in business, the arts, and other domains.

Over seventy people – including librarians, trustees, and friends – attended this "Essential Library" program at the Barrington Public Library, with catering by Dave's Market. COLA thanks all who made it possible, especially Deborah Barchi and her team at the Barrington PL.

Non-Profit Organization

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**Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates
P.O. Box 3777
Cranston, RI 02910**

Forwarding Service Requested

A Call to All Rhode Island Library Friends Groups

Now is the time to toot your horn, showcase your accomplishments – and most important, be a model for other Friends Groups across Rhode Island.

Nominate your Friends Group for a **William E. Reeves Recognition Award**, to be presented at the COLA Annual Meeting in February at the Rhode Island State House.

Each winning Friends Group will receive an Award Certificate and a check for \$100 (One Hundred Dollars). All eligible Friends Groups are invited to enter. A maximum of four awards will be granted. Friends Groups must be members of COLA to be eligible. One entry per group. Decision of judges is final.

Categories are: Fundraising, Outreach, Education, and Community Service. Applications must be received by **January 31, 2014**.

Mail or e-mail your completed application (as inserted in this newsletter or posted to www.colari.org) along with any printed publicity, photos, and other supporting materials to:

COLA, P.O. Box 3777, Cranston, RI 02910, Attn: Reeves Award, or cola.rhodeisland@gmail.com