

Wisconsin Library Association

FoundationNews

Supporting Wisconsin libraries as essential institutions

ISSUE 2, 2010

Strengthening the Profession and Promoting the Value of Libraries

This spring the WLA Foundation welcomes two new Board members, Rob Zimmers, Quality Books, and Bill Robison, Engberg Anderson Architects. If you have any comments or questions about the Foundation, feel free to contact any WLA Foundation Board member listed on this page, Lisa Strand,



Lisa Strand, WLA executive director, or Pat Eschmann WLA Foundation communications coordinator. We would like to hear from you.

It's not too early to start thinking about the fall conference in Wisconsin Dells. Remember the Wii game night at the 2008 WLA Conference? Well, dust off your bowling shoes and plan to

move from the virtual world and have a real "ball" at the Kalahari lanes. And all for a good cause.

The silent auction will have a new twist this year. Eschmann has researched the possibility of moving to a hybrid or exclusively online silent auction. This would open up bidding to a broad spectrum of people and make bidding easier for both those at the conference and other WLA members who may wish to participate, but who are unable to attend. A Web site presence also would allow WLA Foundation to solicit and link to sponsors. The auction

committee, with Bernie Bellin and Rob Zimmers as co-chairs, will be seeking donations valued at \$50 or more in the coming months. Consider teaming up with friends or library colleagues to fund a collective gift—or someone you know may have given you a great deal on a timeshare that you're willing to donate!


Back by popular demand, Marcy Heim, CFRE, will be presenting a pre-conference on creating a development fundraising plan for your library.

If you haven't already done so, mark your calendars for the 2010 "Say Cheese" day, scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010. Pete Gilbert and his industrious committee have been hard at work this spring on this year's event. The June/July American

Libraries issue features an article about the 2009 Wisconsin Libraries Say Cheese! day, with photo documentation of all the ways libraries enrich the lives of people across the age spectrum. The day also advances the Campaign for Wisconsin Libraries. The WLA Foundation Board just approved offering three free conference registrations for a drawing: libraries whose home page contains a link to the Campaign Web site (wisconsinlibraries.org) will be entered! Stay tuned.

Did you know that WLA's first library conference was held in Madison on March 11, 1891? Larry Nix continually updates the Wisconsin Library Heritage Center so be sure to check the site periodically for the new entries. The WLHC is just one way you can target your WLA Foundation donations. And it's not too late to be designated as a Founding Contributor. If you wish to donate to the WLHC at any level, visit: <http://heritage.wisconsinlibraries.org/support-the-wlhc.html> for more information.

After the June 1, 2010 deadline, the important work of the scholarship committee under the leadership of Peg Branson will intensify as committee members review the applicant pools. On a recently mailed postcard you saw the faces of recent recipients. When we talk with scholarship winners, their stories of how these scholarships have made a difference in their lives are powerful.

Thank you for partnering with the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation to strengthen the profession, to promote the message about the value of libraries and to showcase library history in Wisconsin! 

—Anita Evans, WLA Foundation president

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Campaign for Wisconsin Libraries

Donate to the WLA Foundation Silent Auction!

This popular event will be back at the 2010 WLA Conference with a new twist – some items will be available to bid online for those not able to attend the fall WLA Conference at the Kalahari! Proceeds will again benefit the *Campaign for Wisconsin Libraries*. To make the auction a success, we need your help! Do you have a piece of lovely art, in good shape but that doesn't match your décor any longer? Do you find yourself creating handcrafted items that you don't have room for at home? Why not donate these items to the WLA Foundation auction — we'd love to put your items out for bids! Take a look at our contributors' guidelines, and then complete the form below. Whether you bring your items with you to the Conference (preferred method) or send them to the WLA office (if you won't be attending the Conference this year) **please let us know in advance** what you will be contributing by **completing and sending us a copy of this form**. Including a digital copy of your auction item(s) would be a real bonus!

Suggested Items, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Fine art, such as jewelry, paintings, sculpture, pottery
- ✓ Products or services that a library or librarians would find useful (story hour, consulting)
- ✓ Entertainment packages (theater or sporting event tickets, golf packages)
- ✓ Hotel packages (weekend getaways with one or more meals included)
- ✓ Theme baskets (a great and economical gift

- ✓ Trips inside or outside Wisconsin
- ✓ Collectibles, antiques, memorabilia

Contributor Benefits

- Your name listed on the bid sheet and on the receipt provided to the winning bidder.
- Recognition listing on the Conference Web site auction information.
- Recognition listing in the WLA newsletter, Oct/Nov/Dec 2010 or Jan/Feb/Mar 2011.

Guide for Contributors

Please donate items that are \$50 or higher in value.

Items are tax-deductible as charitable contributions at their actual value.

WLA Foundation owns the items once contributed.

How to Contribute

The preferred method is to bring your item(s) with you to Conference! If you do this, please send us this completed contribution form and, if possible, a digital photo so we have advance notice of the items to expect at the auction. You can also deliver your contribution to the WLA office via mail or SCLS delivery service (no later than Oct. 1, 2010, please) if you can't make it to the Conference. Our new office facility is *much smaller* than the space we occupied previously, so even though our gratitude for your donations is HUGE, space for storing them is at a bare minimum! **WLA Foundation will mail receipts to all contributors after the auction.** 📧

Campaign Advisory Committee

- Peter Gilbert, Chairman
- Val Edwards
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- Leah Liebergen
- Anne Rauh
- Kris Stabo
- Lisa Strand, Executive Director
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Auction Contribution Form

WLA Foundation Silent/Online Auction

November 2–5, 2010 Kalahari Resorts, Wisconsin Dells

Name _____ Company _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ E-mail _____

Business Phone _____ Value of Contribution _____

Item Description _____

If you are contributing more than one auction item, please include a separate form for each item.

Return this form to WLA Foundation, 4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison WI 53718-2153
or e-mail it to eschmann@scls.lib.wi.us
Questions? Contact wla@scls.lib.wi.us.

2009–2010 Gloria Hoegh Continuing Education Scholarship Recipient

Meredith Houge

Current Affiliation: Director, Galesville Public Library, Galesville

Education: B.A. in Journalism/French, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

How did you find out about the WLA Foundation award program? Is there an individual who encouraged you to apply? The Winding Rivers Library System consultants sent this information to directors, and Marcia Sarnowski, at WRLS, urged me to apply.

There are multiple awards offered by the WLA Foundation. What made you decide to pursue this one? I appreciated the generous amount offered since I wanted to use the funds to attend a conference that my budget absolutely could not support.

Is there anything specific that you used the award for—something you might not have otherwise been able to afford? Absolutely! I found out I had won this award about four days before the WLA Conference in Appleton. Since we had no further money in our budget for travel and education, and since Appleton is way across the state from Galesville (we're 20 miles out of La Crosse), I thought I couldn't attend. However, as soon as I got word of the scholarship, I rushed to register. I was able to attend the entire conference (pre-conference included).



How do you remain active in WLA/WLA Foundation activities? I have not been very active yet, but attending this conference was a major step for me. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, we scholarship recipients were able to attend the awards banquet. It really opened my eyes as to how important and meaningful it is to belong to a group bigger than myself, with such an important mission. What an awesome group of people I met that night.

Why have you chosen to be a professional librarian? Because it's fun! Because there are books and movies and computers and magazines and great people here! More seriously, the things we say in our mission statement are true. We are here to serve the educational, informational, recreational needs of the public, and this is a very worthy purpose. It truly is interesting, varied and often very pleasurable work. It's great to provide service that makes people smile, and being able to do it with BOOKS makes it even more fun.

What area of the profession is of particular interest to you? Small public libraries are the place for me!

Has your scholarship award been publicized at your library, your school or in the community? Not yet, but it will be soon.

Is there anything else you would like to share—perhaps a favorite memory from visiting or working in a library, your favorite book or author to recommend, etc.? Isn't this a dangerous question to ask a librarian? At a small library where I worked, a patron brought back a well-chewed copy of *Dog Obedience for Dummies*. She said she guessed she should have read it first. It was the first time it had been checked out. My favorite books at present are the Temeraire series by Naomi Novik, starting with *His Majesty's Dragon*. 🐉

2010 WLA FOUNDATION CIRCLE CONTRIBUTORS

The WLA Foundation thanks these individuals for contributions made *and processed* through June 7, 2010. We appreciate your generosity and support! If you have made a donation and

do not see your name on this list, please contact Pat Eschmann at the WLA Foundation office (608-245-3645) or e-mail eschmann@scsls.lib.wi.us.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER (\$1,000 TO \$4,999)

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* Indicates 5 or more years of consecutive giving
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