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Arizona Library Association Report, July 2004
Submitted by Teri Metros, Arizona Representative

New Staff Member at Arizona State Library

Stephanie Gerding joined the Library Development Division consultant team in May. Stephanie is a graduate of the University of Tennessee's library school and previously worked with the New Mexico State Library's Library Development Division. Prior to that position, she was a trainer and training coordinator at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Her main responsibilities will be to work with the Equal Access program as developed by Libraries for the Future (LFF). LFF will be partnering with the State Library on this statewide project. This joint venture is being funded in part by a challenge grant awarded to Libraries for the Future from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with matching funding from the Qwest Foundation and LSTA.

AzLA Annual Conference to Meet in Tucson: The Arizona Library Association annual conference is moving from its usual Phoenix location to Tucson this year. In keeping with the conference theme, Libraries: Your First and Last Resort, the conference will be held at the Hilton El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort from November 30 to December 2, 2004.

The conference will feature a great selection of programs during the conference, as well as a number of notable pre-conference offerings. Noted public librarian Susan Kent will present a half-day workshop on Fundraising for Success. This program will be a practical, step-by-step workshop aimed at librarians, trustees, and members of library Friends groups. Participants will be taken through a skill building process that will teach them about the various components of fundraising and grantsmanship. Peter Lisker from the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library will present a half-day workshop on Outrageous Customer Service. Mr. Lisker will tell libraries how they can provide excellent customer service in a world with budget reductions, increased fines, and rapidly changing technologies. The Phoenix Conservatory of Music will present a full day pre-conference program entitled General Music for Librarians: An Interactive Workshop on How to Bring Music into Your Storytime. During the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to have breakfast with Book Lust author and librarian action figure model, Nancy Pearl. Dr. Robert Martin, Director of the Institute of Library and Museum Services will be the featured speaker at the Beta Phi Mu Distinguished Lecture Series.

The Hilton El Conquistador is a AAA Four Diamond resort set in the Catalina Mountains and features natural canyon views and lush desert surroundings. The resort has three award-winning golf courses, 31 tennis courts, a 143 foot water slid, five distinctive restaurants, on-site-equestrian facilities, and a full-service spa. AzLA invites its colleagues from the MPLA region to take part in what should be a very special conference. Online registration for the conference will be available on August 16th. For more information, visit the AzLA Web site at www.azla.org.

AzLA Newsletter Going Digital

Beginning with the next issue, the Arizona Library Association's newsletter will be published in electronic format only. Not only will this save a considerable amount of money for the Association, but it also addresses the changing needs of members. President Betsy Stunz-Hall sent out a message soliciting member feedback about this change and it was overwhelmingly positive.

Tucson-Pima Public Library Resumes Director Search

It was previously announced that Susan H. Hildreth, Director of the San Francisco Public Library, had been selected as the new director of the Tucson-Pima Public Library and would begin her new position on July 19th. Ms. Hildreth, however, has chosen to remain in California after she was appointed to the post of State Librarian by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The City of Tucson already has begun the process of finding a replacement, and is planning to contact other finalists who were under consideration during the search process.

New Director Named at the Chandler Public Library

Brenda Brown, former manager of the Peoria (AZ) Public Library, was recently named to the position of Chandler Public Library Manager, filling the position vacated last year by long-time Manager Karen Drake. Ms Brown holds a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Arizona and is the Past President of the Arizona Library Association.

State Archives Building Project Scores a Victory

After many delays and years of lobbying by archivists and preservationists throughout the state, the Arizona State Legislature finally approved SB 1079 that provided funding for the design of a new archives building for the State of Arizona. The Friends of Arizona Archives and the Arizona Library Association worked together to get the message out to legislators about the critical need for this facility. The bill provided \$2 million in funds for architectural design but did not include any construction monies. Construction costs are estimated to be approximately \$22 million dollars and securing funding for the construction phase will be the focus of future legislative efforts.

The effort to provide a new archives building has been underway since 1983 but the state's finances have prevented funding this much needed project. At the present time, the archival collections are not located in one facility and many documents are stored in inadequate conditions. Records are kept in a variety of locations, including at the Old Capitol Building, which houses the State Library, and the basement of the Executive Tower, adjacent to the Capitol. The building will be named after Polly Rosenbaum, who was Arizona's longest-serving lawmaker. Mrs. Rosenbaum was a member of the House for 45 years from 1949 to 1994. She died Dec. 28, 2003, at age 104. Mrs. Rosenbaum was an advocate for preserving Arizona's history.