

President's Corner: 2009...The End Has Come!

By Greta D. Ober, gretaob@gmail.com

2009 certainly has been an exceptional year for DC/SLA. How honored and proud I am to have served as President during the year that SLA has turned 100! If celebrating a Centennial year wasn't enough, SLA's alignment research (**Align in '09**) brought forward the proposal of a new name:

Association for Strategic Knowledge Professionals. Voting took place in

December, with the majority of votes

for keeping **SLA**. Now we do live in interesting times, don't we!



Traditionally, it is the first newsletter of the year where the Immediate Past-President (that would be *me* beginning in January 2010) puts together a review of the previous year's activities; so I'll be brief for this last issue of 2009.....my last column as President!

Although officially still President until the end of the year, I passed on the DC/SLA gavel to James King (incoming President) at the **Annual Business Meeting and Banquet** which was held on **Thursday, December 3rd**. Prior to this date, I held a transition meeting for current and incoming Board members, giving the new Board an opportunity to meet each other; and for the current Board to pass on any relevant position material as well as their knowledge. In order for a seamless transition in January, the newly elected Board members have already been collaborating.

Need Volunteers - - Committee positions. Of course with a new year, there are always Committee positions to fill. While some committee chairs may choose to work on other committees, others decide to step down after serving within a committee for a few years. So this does open up opportunities. I've stressed before how fulfilling and rewarding it is to volunteer in a professional organization. While it can be a struggle to balance our personal and professional lives (work plus volunteering); keep in mind that committee positions require varying amounts of time - -

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Inside this issue:

President's Corner	1
SLA Alignment Town Hall Meeting.....	3
United Nations Week.....	5
Internet Tips from Gary Price.....	6
Member News.....	7
DC/SLA Annual Business Meeting and Banquet.....	8
Chapter Fundraiser Supports Wounded Troops.....	12
Scenes from Fall Dine Arouns.....	13
From the Chapter Archives.....	14

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Chapter Notes is the newsletter of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Special Libraries Association (SLA). It is distributed six times per year (bimonthly) as follows: January/ February, March/ April, May/ June, July/ August, September/ October, November/ December.

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The deadline for the January/ February 2010 issue is February 1st. The issue will be distributed approximately two weeks after the deadline. The preferred submission format is a Word document sent via email. You should receive an email acknowledgement of your submission. Materials for *Chapter Notes* or requests for mailing address changes should be sent to the Editor.

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so surely there can be a place for you with the DC Chapter. Not only will you develop leadership and perhaps some technical skills, you will become a known member of DC/SLA, providing you networking opportunities and developing friendships. There are many opportunities and never think that you might not have the skills to do something - - take the chance to learn new skills (past Chairs and other Chapter members are always willing to help out). James King is recruiting volunteers for 2010, so I urge you to get in contact with him (James.King@nih.gov) and express your interests; he'll surely find a good fit for you!

Volunteer! I began volunteering within the DC Chapter many years ago: from 1995 to 1998, I was the Chapter Notes newsletter editor; in 1997 I was part of an Internet Committee that created DC/SLA's first website; I served as Chapter webmaster from 1997-1998, and after starting the discussion list, served as list owner from 1997 to 2001. I took a hiatus from the DC Chapter to serve as webmaster of the Social Science Division from 2003 to 2005 before being nominated as Chair-elect in 2005 to then serve as Chair of the Division in 2007.

While not everyone may strive to be Chair of a Division or President of a Chapter, you can see that there are many, many opportunities -- so come forward! I hope to see many new faces in 2010.

Ending 2009 as Chapter President. My year as President ends, but my involvement with DC/SLA continues on. In 2010 I will remain on the Board as Past-President. Then following in the footsteps of other Past-Presidents, I will in 2011 Chair the Nominations Committee, and in 2012 Chair the Awards Committee (where I will be recruiting volunteers to serve with me!).

Happy New Year to ALL!



DC/SLA Alignment Ambassadors Chris Vestal, Shirley Loo, Dave Hemingway, Mary Talley, and James King speak about the SLA Alignment Project at a town hall meeting in November. (photos by William Tuceling)

Alignment Ambassadors Reach Out to DC/SLA Town Hall Audience

By William Tuceling

***Editor's Note: This article was written following a town hall meeting at which local SLA Alignment Ambassadors discussed the association's proposed name change and broader realignment efforts. Since then, SLA members have voted to retain the existing name of the association. SLA has announced that it does plan to continue with other aspects of the alignment project, and to use its research findings to its members' benefit. ***

On November 9, 2009, the District of Columbia Public Library's West End branch was the venue for a DC/SLA Town Hall meeting in which five "Alignment Ambassadors" (Mary Garcia-Tally, David Hemingway, James King, Shirley Loo, and Chris Vestal) briefed 60-some attendees on the objectives, research and outcomes of SLA's multi-year effort to better position itself as the advocate on behalf of its members' interests.

Starting in 2007, futurist Andy Hines, Outsell and Fleishman-Hillard examined the literature; conducted roundtables, focus groups, and a foundation survey; performed market testing and wrote preliminary (2008) and final (2009) reports outlining how SLA could change to achieve this aim. The clear message that resulted was that as



Susan Fifer Canby speaks at the town hall meeting.

many SLA members move from gathering information to producing knowledge, the association needs to convey that transformation to corporate clients in ways which make them realize the increased value our members provide their organizations.



Gloria Zamora

Selecting a new name that better describes who we are and what we deliver is seen as the first step toward achieving that outcome. Since research and testing indicated the word “librarian” conveyed an image of someone who is “nice” but not “necessary”, it was omitted in 16 alternatives stressing 3 key concepts of strategic value, knowledge, and professionalism. Further surveying winnowed this list down to 3 choices of which the Association for Strategic Knowledge Professionals tested the best with members and non-members alike.

Many members in attendance rose to react to the ambassadors’ presentation. Some reinforced the reasoning behind offering only the one new name option as it is most marketable, relevant and inclusive of all the choices. Others advocated voting on all of the 3 leading choices, and one person suggesting tabling the vote for the time being. Current president Gloria Zamora and incoming president Anne Caputo spoke in support of an affirmative vote, but they both stressed that implementing the alignment project’s other findings will happen regardless of the outcome of the name change vote.



Anne Caputo



James King, Shirley Loo, Mary Talley, Dave Hemingway



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Will Davis, Director of the UN Information Center, is introduced by Victor Monti of DC/SLA's International Relations Committee (photo by Greta Ober)

Celebrating UN Week with DC/SLA's International Relations Committee

By Elizabeth Ann Blake

On October 22nd, the International Relations Committee of DC/SLA celebrated United Nations Week at the UN Information Center, where three distinguished speakers addressed a broad range of international topics. Will Davis delivered an overview of the mission and purpose of the Center as well as the nature of his position in the keynote speech. Davis, the director of the UNIC, is the highest ranking UN official serving D.C. and is the representative for the Secretary General in D.C. Next, William Van Pelt, who oversees UNICEF's State of the Children Report, spoke about UNICEF's role in education and presented an introduction to the educational guides that the organization provides to students and teachers throughout the world. Following an intermission during which guests enjoyed appetizers and conversation, the guest speaker, Abdulateef Hashim Khairi, took the podium. Khairi, a lecturer from the University of Baghdad's Library and Information Science Department, discussed the history of libraries in Iraq and shared his experiences as a librarian working in the battle-weary nation. He is currently pursuing a PhD in the United States at Simmons College, and is deeply concerned by the many challenges that still face the library community in Iraq.

DC/SLA Chapter Notes | November/ December 2009 | pg 5



William Van Pelt shows a UNICEF Halloween collection box (photo by Greta Ober)



Abdulateef Hashim Khairi, of the University of Baghdad's Library and Information Science Department, receives a gift from DC/SLA President Greta Ober.



Networking Session (Photo by Elizabeth Ann Blake)



Gary Price highlights dozens of useful internet resources at the "Beyond 23 Things" session (photos by William Tuceling)

Gary Price Wraps Up DC/SLA's "Beyond 23 Things" Series

By William Tuceling

On Wednesday, November 17, Internet guru Gary Price packed the house at the Summer School for the final session of DC/SLA's Centennial Year "Beyond 23 Things" series. Following an hour-long reception, extra seats were required for the 70+ people who came to hear how Price would complete the series' promise of reviewing 100 Internet sites by year's end. DC/SLA President Greta Ober welcomed the audience, and organizer Barbara Ferry introduced the speaker.



Greta Ober and Bill Tuceling



Organizer Barbara Ferry (at left) helps greet DC/SLA members at the "Beyond 23 Things" event

Price immediately launched into exploring the 15 categories in a list of his favorite 60+ Internet sites. He began with "Just IN" news bits about Microsoft Academic Search, Modern Day TV Guide, and DocuTicker. Price continued with comments about the "Big Guys" (Google and Bing), and he also offered some insights into the "Social Search" sites (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, DateCheck and WhitePages.com).

He went on to advocate using SkyGrid and Newsy.com for business and general news, respectively. Price said Trulia, Zillow and Housefront were good for getting real estate information, and he advocated accessing Justia for court filings and Trademarkia for (what else!) trademarks. Price urged his listeners to go to FedFlix, NASA Images, USA.gov, and Clicker.com to locate images and films. He said web archives were available from the California Digital Library and the Harvard Web Archives Collection, and he told the audience that Evernote and Zotero were places to go for personal archiving.



Price urged all of us to keep current by constantly checking several sites for new information about Internet sites. He updates ResourceShelf.com 24/7, and Googland captures blogs about Google's new products continuously. YouNoodle provides information about new companies, and Web 2.0 news is available at Go2Web20.net. Links to these – and all of the sites Price examined – are available at <http://www.bit.ly/sladc09>.



Cameron Gowan, President of LLSDC, with Gary Price



Member News: Susan Fifer Canby Announces Retirement

Susan Fifer Canby retired on January 7, 2010 as Vice President at National Geographic Society in Washington, DC where she applied nearly 35 years of information management experience to shape and direct the Society's libraries and information services. She supported the editorial and business staff and partners of the National Geographic Society with a staff of 18 librarians, archivists, systems and records managers, and indexers. She has managed both the Society's internal university, National Geographic Learning Systems, and the enterprise intranet.

She is currently on the SLA Board as Chapter Cabinet Chair representing 54 chapters in more than 80 countries. She is a past president of DC Special Libraries Association, DC Library Association, CAPCON Board, and former member of the OCLC Member's Council. She was recognized by SLA in 2001 as the Innovator of the Year, became a University of Maryland Alumna of the Year, 2004, and received the SLA Factiva Leadership Award in 2005. Her library has been recognized by SLA's Business and Finance Division as a Center of Excellence for management. She was a Knight Fellow for the Salzburg Seminar, "Libraries for the 21st Century" (2004) and a Freeman Fellow for East West Relations (2005). She is also a member of the Cosmos Club and the Association of Women Geographers.

She will be working with the DCSLA and MDSLA chapters to develop a research guide for newly retired SLA members - so if you have ideas she'd love to hear from you. Her new contact information is susanfifercanby@gmail.com.

2009 Annual Meeting and Banquet

On December 3rd, DC/SLA members gathered at the Woman's National Democratic Club in Washington to mark the end of 2009, the SLA Centennial year. Following a reception and dinner, futurist Andy Hines addressed the group. The event also served as an acknowledgement of the hard work of the chapter's many volunteers. *(photos by William Tuceling)*



Chapter members check in at the Annual Meeting and Banquet





2009 DC/SLA President Greta Ober



Julia Leggett, James King, Diane Schnurpusch, Jessica Beauchamp



Andy Hines, the speaker for the evening, dines with Anne Caputo and Lisa Pogue.



Dave Hemingway and Julia Leggett



Martha Reifschneider



Karen Huffman, Nancy Minter, Sharon Lenius, Greta Ober, Shirley Loo



Greta Ober and Diane Falk



Members of the 2010 DC/SLA Board: Lois Ireland, Gulnar Nagashybayeva, Eileen Deegan, Lorraine Bell, Mary Talley, James King, Greta Ober



James King and Greta Ober



Kari Anderson, DC/SLA Scholarship Committee Chair; Caroline Huggins, recipient of the Catherine A. Jones Memorial Scholarship Award; and Jenny Wood, DC/SLA Scholarship Committee member. Not pictured here are Scholarship Committee member Alicia Koundakjian and Ryan Pineda, InfoCurrent Scholarship Award Recipient.



SLA President-Elect Anne Caputo



Andy Hines, Jane Kinney Meyers, Diane Falk



Andy Hines



Greta Ober and Bill Tuceling

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Reactions from the two libraries have been very positive:

On behalf of the WRAMC Patients and Post Library, thank you all for your generous donation of Playaways. We are thrilled to be able to offer this new medium to the children of Wounded Warriors. Because many families choose to stay with their injured soldier during the recovery period here at Walter Reed, these folks visit our library. I am sure they will enjoy the variety and selection of Playaways now available to them.

I am proud to be a member of the SLA with generous colleagues like those in the DC SLA.

*Eileen Hauser, Librarian
IAP Worldwide Services
USAG Patients and Post Library
Walter Reed Army Medical Center*

Stitt Library is so happy to receive your Playaways for patients in our wards. The titles are very popular and appeal to many different ages and backgrounds. Thank you for your generous contribution.

*Jerry Meyer, Library Director
Tahirih Fuscas, Reference Librarian
E.R. Stitt Library, National Naval Medical Center*

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DC/SLA Fundraiser Supports Wounded Troops

By James King and Deborah Keller

In April 2009, the Washington DC Chapter of SLA held a fundraising event to support the recovering soldiers, sailors, and other service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda National Naval Medical Center.

Proceeds from our fundraising dance, held in the spring, were combined with generous sponsorships from Springer, Playaway, and PFC Energy and used to purchase Playaways – the first self-playing digital audio book. Playaways are half the size of a deck of cards, are preloaded with one of over 8,000 audio book titles, have universal headphone jacks, and give listeners the ability to move back and forth within or between chapters.

James King, President-Elect of the DC Chapter, and Deborah Keller of the Army Corps of Engineers library worked directly with library staff at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Library and the E.R. Stitt Library at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. Library staff members browsed through the Playaway library and selected a number of titles for each of their collections, based upon their particular needs. Playaways Military Division Sales Manger Howard Alston provided very beneficial pricing for this effort, and even donated a number of titles on top of the order resulting in over 40 titles being delivered as part of this effort.

A Look Back At Fall Dine Arouds

This fall, DC/SLA members gathered once again for casual get-togethers at area restaurants. Watch for another round of dine-arounds this spring!



Mama Ayesha's Restaurant, September 10th



Sonoma Restaurant and Wine Bar, November 10th



Mandu Korean Restaurant, October 13th



Guapo's Mexican Restaurant in Tenleytown.



Levantes on October 15th



From the Chapter Archives

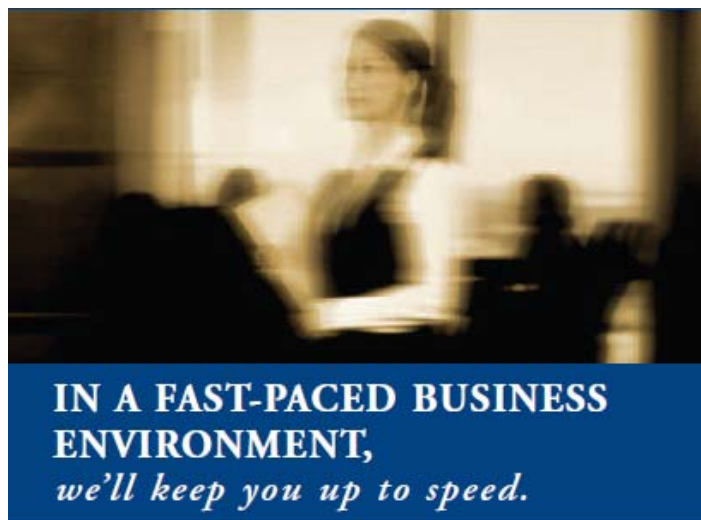
By Karen Danoff, Chapter Archivist

Quoted below is part of an article from the November/December 1943 *Chapter Notes* titled “To Improve or Not to Improve”. Some of this is still relevant today.

“What makes a happy office atmosphere? Well, employees who are able, conscientious, and inwardly happy, who possess a good sense of values, are an asset. The person who does not possess these qualities, who must camouflage and depend too much upon other people’s minds, whose home life is unhappy, whose ideals are not high, will not be happy working near people who are able, conscientious and inwardly happy. The wise executive must have some knowledge of practical and wholesome psychology to make adjustments. Sometimes it is necessary to dispense with the services of one who is a square peg in a round hole. Often, he can round the peg or square the hole. However, that takes much patience and charity. If there is no response to kind and intelligent treatment, dismissal should follow. Often, it is necessary for the employee to be taught to begin to look honestly at himself. It will work wonders and bolster morale and, therefore, efficiency. Perhaps, assistance to an employee is more important than a temporary drag on production because, if our sense of values is correct, a reformation in the personality of one human being is more important than a few typographical or other errors. A happy employee should make fewer errors.

In other words, efficiency is getting the work done but not at the expense of the happiness of the staff...Yes, office efficiency is not just a matter of keeping the typewriter oiled and having the most imposing letterhead. It goes deeper. It touches the mind, heart, and the greatest of these three, the soul, seat of conscience. It grows when all of these three parts grow and improve. When all three parts improve harmoniously in the superior, the executive, and the staff, you have real efficiency as a result.”

(D.C. Public Library, Washingtoniana Division, D.C. Community Archives, Collection 14, Box 13, Guide to the Records of the D.C. Special Libraries Association).



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The passing of the gavel: to mark the end of this SLA Centennial year, DC/SLA President Greta Ober passes the gavel to incoming Chapter President James King at the annual banquet. (photo by William Tuceling)