

**Urban Librarians Offer Mini Libraries, Conference**

Urban Librarians Unite (ULU) collected more than 20,000 children’s books to help replace library collections damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The library advocacy and support group, founded by 2012 *LJ* Mover & Shaker Christian Zabriskie, also placed Mini Libraries in front of libraries that were closed by storm damage in Queens and Brooklyn.

The minis hold about 100 books at a time, and ULU doesn’t expect any of them back.

“Our Mini Libraries will suffer from the same limitations as any little library,” ULU said on its website. “They could never be mistaken as an alternative to the branch libraries they substitute for and are intended to support. They do offer some comfort and succor, especially to kids and families, and they remind people that libraries—and their librarians—are nimble, caring, and quick to respond to the needs of their communities.”

Meanwhile, ULU hopes the minis will evolve and is looking at ways to augment them, including counters, lighting, library boxes, or even visiting librarians (something that may become more viable as the weather warms).



Urban Librarians Unite mini library at Brooklyn PL’s closed Red Hook branch

The Mini Libraries are colorful and highly visible to the public and fit with many of the other initiatives ULU has undertaken in the past, from a mass hug for the New York Public Library’s Schwarzman Building to a march of zombie librarians over the Brooklyn Bridge to a “book seeding” campaign to protest proposed cuts to New York libraries.

However, ULU is also planning some behind-the-scenes work—geared toward the support aspect of its mission

rather than the advocacy piece—in the form of its first conference, which will focus on the issues of frontline information professionals in urban areas.

The event will take place on April 5 at the Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture at Brooklyn Public Library’s Central Library. The theme is “Living in Interesting Times,” and topics may include teens in gangs, ebooks in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas, innovative outreach, and job information services.

**Justice Dept. Green Lights Random/Penguin Merger**

The Department of Justice approved the proposed merger between Random House and Penguin “without conditions,” the publishers’ parent companies announced on February 14. Bertelsmann and Pearson, respectively, still expect the deal to close in the second half of 2013. The merger is still under review by other antitrust authorities, including the European Commission and the Canadian Competition Bureau.

If they get those approvals and the merger goes through, Bertelsmann will own 53 percent and Pearson 47 percent of the new company. Markus Dohle, CEO of Random House, will be

**≡ INSIDE ≡**

- SF Law Library Sues City .....2**
- Kid Lit Authors Visit Sandy Hook.....4**
- Palo Alto Library Shares Data .....5**
- Columbus Library Notes Sell Out.....5**
- PA Grants \$3.7M for Libraries .....6**



**Library of the Year**

All libraries are good, some are great. *LJ* is looking for role-model libraries to vie for the honor of being the 2013 *Library Journal*/Gale Cengage Library of the Year. Learn more and submit your nominations at [lj.libraryjournal.com/awards/library-of-the-year-nomination-guidelines-2](http://lj.libraryjournal.com/awards/library-of-the-year-nomination-guidelines-2)

Postmark deadline: April 6, 2013

## Interview

### Flying Twice As High: Reading Rainbow 2.0

LeVar Burton, host and executive producer of the Peabody Award-winning PBS series *Reading Rainbow*, talks to *Hotline* about its reincarnation as a subscription-based tablet app, RR Kidz.

#### After the show was canceled, did you immediately know you wanted to relaunch the brand?

It was a result of the outcry. We knew we were going to do something with the brand, and we knew it wasn't television. When we [started as] a television show, it was about using the prevailing technology of the day to steer kids back in the direction of the written word. That technology happened to be TV. Today? Not so much. When we were growing up, our parents knew that they could turn on PBS knowing it was good for you. My dream for RR Kidz is that we become like a PBS for parents in the digital realm.



#### Can you tell us about bringing books into the app?

We built a tool to convert PDFs into books. We're acquiring a tool now to inject new content—already-made digital books—into our distribution platform. We're coming out on an Android platform very soon. We're going to have a web version soon.

#### What are your goals in terms of universal access and library access?

I want to speak to [the American Library Association], and we had a big meeting yesterday at the New York Public Library. I want this app to be ubiquitously available. For that to happen, we need to be platform agnostic and there have to be more tablets in the marketplace at affordable price points. Every culture on the planet has a tradition of storytelling. Take whatever information you want to disseminate. Embed it in the storytelling idioms that are native to the child. Put those interactive stories on tablet devices, and we will revolutionize the way we teach.

CEO; John Makinson, chair and CEO of Penguin, will be chairman. Bertelsmann will nominate five directors to the board and Pearson, four.

### Open Access PeerJ Publishes First Articles

Multidisciplinary open access journal publisher PeerJ announced the publication of its first 30 peer-reviewed articles on February 12. Co-founders Jason Hoyt, formerly chief scientist and VP for research and development for Mendeley, and Peter Binfield, formerly publisher of the Public Library of Science (PLOS), launched PeerJ in June 2012. They quickly garnered support for the project, ultimately assembling an editorial board of 800 academics and an advisory board of 20—five of whom are Nobel laureates.

PeerJ is now hoping that its business model can help make academic publishing more efficient and less expensive for both researchers and libraries.

Article processing charges are a key point of difference between PeerJ and traditional academic publishing models. Rather than requiring researchers to pay processing fees for every article published, PeerJ offers authors a three-tiered lifetime membership plan, with fees ranging from \$99 for lifetime rights to publish one article per year in the journal, to \$299 for publishing unlimited articles each year.

### SF Law Library Sues City for More Space

The San Francisco Law Library filed a lawsuit against the City and County of San Francisco on February 6. The case, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, alleges that since 1995 the city has violated both City Charter Section 8.103 and state law, which requires the city and county of

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
*Library Journal & School Library Journal*

**VP, Group Publisher** Ian Singer

**Editor-in-Chief** Michael Kelley

**Editor** Meredith Schwartz

#### Contributing Editors

Kate di Girolomo, Matthew Enis,  
Bette-Lee Fox, Josh Hadro, Karyn Peterson,  
Gary Price, Rocco Staino

**Art Production** Josephine Marc-Anthony

**Creative Director** Mark Tuchman

#### TO CONTACT HOTLINE:

##### Editorial

Phone: (646) 380-0700

Fax: (646) 380-0756/0757

E-mail: [LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com)

160 Varick Street, 11th floor

New York, NY 10013

##### Advertising

Roy Futterman or your LJ rep

Phone: (646) 380-0718

[rfutterman@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:rfutterman@mediasourceinc.com)

##### Classified

Howard Katz, Classified Manager

Phone: (646) 380-0730

##### Production

JoAnn Powell, Production Manager

Phone: (646) 380-0741

##### Subscriptions

Phone: 800-588-1030

[www.libraryhotline.com/sub](http://www.libraryhotline.com/sub)

##### Outside U.S.

Phone: 515-247-2984

LIBRARY HOTLINE (ISSN 0740-736X) (RPUSA 123397467) is published weekly (every Monday except on the two Mondays nearest to the year-end holidays) by Library Journals, LLC, 160 Varick Street, 11th floor, New York, NY 10013. Randy Asmo, Chief Executive Officer; Ian Singer, VP, Group Publisher. Library Hotline is a registered trademark of Library Journals, LLC. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. SUBSCRIPTION: \$119.99 per year, Canada \$159.99, Other (incl Air) \$159.99, Single Copy (U.S.) \$5.95, and Single Copy (all other) \$10.00. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address to: Library Hotline, PO Box 5881, Harlan, IA 51593-1381 Telephone 800-588-1030. Outside U.S. 1-515-247-2984.

Printed in the U.S.A.



San Francisco—Veteran's War Memorial

San Francisco to provide proper funding and adequate space for the library.

According to the library's statement, in 1995, the library was moved from city hall (which closed to repair damage from the 1989 earthquake) into a temporary space at the Veteran's War Memorial building. But when city hall reopened, the library was not moved back. Instead, it remains in a

14,310 square foot room, which the library says has poor climate control, numerous leaks, glaring sunlight, and inadequate seating and wiring.

As a result, the library has placed approximately 165,000 volumes, about two-thirds of its collection, into "inaccessible and environmentally unsafe" storage.

"Our board has sought consensus and compromise with the City of San Francisco for nearly 18 years," said Kurt Melchior, president of the Law Library Board of Directors. "During that time, we have seen the city fail time and time again to provide an appropriate space."

What finally pushed the library into legal action is a looming deadline: in May, the Veteran's War Memorial building, too, is scheduled to close for renovation. "Even at this late hour, the city still has not proposed any viable plan to permanently and properly locate the San Francisco Law Library and has rejected a suitable option recently submitted by the library," said Melchior.

Melchior refers to a possible new site at Van Ness Avenue and Post Street. According to the court pa-

pers, 35,000 square feet, the area that the city in 2010 assessed the library needs, are available. (In fact, according to the filing, the city has agreed that the library needed 35,000 square feet as far back as 2000.)

However, the library has "drastically reduced" its collection to fit into 30,000 square feet, which the filing claims is less than professional space planners projected but comparable to other, similar law libraries elsewhere in the state. The city, however, is willing to fund only 22,000 square feet in the Van Ness location, and, according to library spokesperson Charles Goodyear, the city has not offered an alternative location where the same amount of rent would cover more square footage, or even one with comparable space. Among the criteria Goodyear cited as going into the site selection include "being relatively affordable, relatively close to the Superior Court, and on a mass transit line."

The library is asking the court to order the city to pay for at least 30,000 square feet and to prevent the city from evicting the library from its current location until it has a new home. The city attorney's office has a policy of

## Library Books: Ask Your Doctor for Details

In the UK, patients who consult their doctor about mental health issues may be prescribed a book from the library instead of, or in addition to, medication or counseling. The plan, called Books on Prescription, will start in May. A physician's prescriptions will give patients immediate membership at the local library and include recommended titles from a list of 30 compiled by the nonprofit Reading Agency. They include both medical nonfiction and feel-good fiction, according to the *Independent*.

The plan was announced by the Reading Agency and the Society of Chief Librarians at the British Library on January 31. Its development was funded by the Library Development Initiative Fund of Arts Council; the Reading Agency applied to the Department of Health for funding



for the following three years. The plan has been endorsed by the Department of Health as well as the Royal Colleges of Psychiatrists and General Practitioners.

"There's growing evidence that shows that self-help reading can help people with certain mental health issues get better," Miranda McKearney, director of the Reading Agency, said.

According to the *Guardian*, it is based on a similar program in Wales, led by clinical psychologist professor Neil Frude, while others are in place in Denmark and New Zealand.

Besides helping individuals feel better, the plan could be good for the health of the UK's ailing library system, particularly if the costs are borne out of health budgets.

## People

The Colorado Library Consortium, Centennial, appointed **Jim Duncan** as its Executive Director. He was formerly Director of Networking and Resource Sharing, Colorado State Library, Denver.

**Carl Grant** was named to the newly created position of Associate Dean for Knowledge Services and Chief Technology Officer, University of Oklahoma Libraries, Norman. He previously worked for many library services companies, including Ex Libris, and his own company, CARE Affiliates.

**Gail Haar** announced that she will retire as Director of County Library Services for Marin County, CA, effective March 30. She has been with the library for 23 years.

**Lesa Holstine** is now Public Services Officer at the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, IN. She had been Library Manager, Velma Teague Branch, Glendale Public Library System, AZ.

Innovative Interfaces appointed **Christopher Le Blanc** as its Senior Vice President of Global Sales. He was previously Vice President of Global Partnerships and Channels at Pitney Bowes Service Solutions.

The LYRASIS Board of Trustees Nominating Committee announced its candidates for positions on the board. For two At-Large Representatives: **Richard Clement**, Utah State University, Logan; **Alberta Comer**, Indiana State University, Terre Haute; **Elizabeth McClenney**, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library; and **John Szabo**, Los Angeles Public Library. For one Public Librarian: **Gina Mill-sap**, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, KS, and **David Singleton**, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, NC. For one State Librarian: **Julie Walker**, Georgia Public Library Service, Atlanta, and **Ken Wiggin**, Connecticut State Library, Hartford.

## In Memoriam

**Rene Kuhn Bryant** died on January 30. She was a former Associate Editor of the *Harvard Library Bulletin*.

**Brooke Sheldon**, American Library Association President, 1983–84, died on February 11. She was 81 years old.

Send People notices to [LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com)

not commenting on litigation in progress. A court date has not yet been set.

## Kid Lit Authors Visit Sandy Hook School

The children of the Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown, CT, were visited by 12 children's authors and illustrators on February 12, the school's first assembly program since moving into its new building following the December 14, 2012, shooting that took the lives of 26 children and staff at the school.

The event, which was delayed by a day after 30 inches of snow fell in the

area, was selected "because we wanted to focus on teaching and learning," principal Donna Page told *Hotline*.

Fairfield, CT-based Susan Hood and Newtown resident Bruce Degan, creator of the "Magic School Bus" series (Scholastic), filled in for author/illustrators who had conflicts with the rescheduling.

Planning for the event took shape immediately following the tragedy, when Marc Tyler Nobleman reached out to Isabel Almeida at the United Way of Western Connecticut and offered to organize the group visit as part of the process of returning to normalcy. Nobleman is author of

more than 70 books, including *Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman* (Charlesbridge, 2012).

Normalcy was evident when Tad Hills, Bob Shea, Katie Davis, and Mike Rex visited kindergartners who welcomed the visitors with smiling faces and the enthusiasm of any five-year-old. "You are a good drawer," exclaimed one kindergartner, as Shea created various animals from jelly bean-shaped figures. "I have a book of yours at home," said another, when Hills shared the trick of drawing his famous duck from his "Duck and Goose" books (Schwartz & Wade).

The only reminders of the December tragedy noticeable by visitors are the many snowflakes sent to the school from around the country and hand prints on the wall of the lecture center from places like Winchell Elementary School in Kalamazoo, MI, and the Queen Anne's County High School in Sudlersville, MD.

The class visits were followed by two assemblies for grades one to three, where the group presented an author/illustrator variety show complete with a guitar and song solo from Daniel Kirk, creator of the "Library Mouse" series (Abrams). Silly poems and songs followed from Alan Katz, author of *Take Me Out of the Bathtub* (S. & S., 2001). Vincent Kirsch brought a toy theater to retell the story of his book *The Chandeliers* (Farrar, 2012). Also, Tracy Dockray did a hip-hop reading of Fran Manuskin's *The Tushy Book* (Feiwel, 2008), which Dockray illustrated.

Nonfiction then took center stage when Meghan McCarthy demonstrated how she uses YouTube to help with her research on topics such as bubble gum, aliens, and astronauts.

"Anytime we can have authors and illustrators in front of kids is a good thing," says Yvonne Cech, the school librarian who helped coordinate the day. "So many of our students are writing and drawing their

own stories, and it's inspiring to have these people here."

## Palo Alto Library Shares Data on Open Platform

The Palo Alto City Library, CA, has made its statistical data available to the public via an open data platform recently implemented by the city.

The city partnered with the cloud-based Junar Open Data Platform in order to increase public access to high value, machine-readable datasets generated by various service areas and departments, including the library.

The library now has an open data page that shows numerous statistical items, such as how library funds are spent, what materials are checked out, and how many visitors the library sees each year. The datasets are accompanied by graphs, and users can share the information and take actions such as getting embed codes, exporting data views, or exporting to Excel or Google spreadsheets, to name a few.

The project was led by Jonathan Reichenthal, the city's chief information officer. Palo Alto anticipates that by making the data available in this way, it will increase community engagement. Members of the public can participate in challenges and hackathons that will develop applications that save money and enhance city services at no cost to the municipality.

## Columbus Library Funding Notes Sell Out

Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), OH, *Library Journal's* 2010 Library of the Year, launched its Library Fund Library Facilities Notes sale on November 15, 2012, to help fund its 2020 Vision Plan. Notes are a shorter-term, more flexible debt instrument than bonds and can be sold in smaller amounts. The notes sold out in three hours, the library said in a statement,

with three times as much interest than the number of notes available.

On Tuesday, December 4, CML officially closed the sale, which will provide the library with \$99 million to begin work on phases one and two of its plan. In issuing tax-exempt notes, the library committed to meeting the

Internal Revenue Service's spend-down targets, which call for CML to spend approximately \$60 million over the next five years on the project.

The vision plan includes renovating or constructing ten of CML's 21 facilities. Work is already under way at the Whitehall and Driving Park

## Branching Out



Loudoun County Public Library, VA, welcomed its eighth branch with the February 23 opening of the **Gum Spring Library** (pictured) in Stone Ridge. The two-story, 40,000 square foot library houses an 80,000-item collection and features dedicated spaces for teens and children, a 150-person-capacity meeting room, a conference room, Wi-Fi-equipped public access computers, an elevator, an RFID five-bin sorter, and self-checkout stations, among other highlights. Local tile artist Joan Gardiner created a unique mosaic for the project as well. The facility represents the largest public-private collaboration in Loudoun County to date, totaling \$19.7 million. Real estate developer Van Metre Companies donated the land and the building design; working with design firm Samaha & Associates, the county covered other facets through cash proffers from local developers.

February 23 was also opening day for the latest addition to the San Francisco Public Library, the **Bayview Branch Library**. The 9,000 square foot, \$13.5 million library is the 23rd finished library to be funded through the

city's Branch Library Improvement Program, passed in 2000. It was designed by THA Architecture and Karin Payson A & D, with construction by KCK Builders, and is targeting Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification through such sustainable features as the installation of solar panels, two green living roof gardens, and an inventive air-circulation system. Among the other attractions are specific teen and children's areas; expanded collections, including a large focus on Chinese-language materials; two quiet study rooms; a meeting room accessible after business hours; and an interior courtyard. Historical photographs of the Bayview community are featured in ten exterior glass panels.

Three debuts is the charm, with the beginning of the Cedar Rapids, IA, comeback and the opening, also on February 23, of the **Ladd Library**. Named after the late Marilyn Ladd, who left the library a gift of \$750,000, the Ladd Library is the first new permanent facility in Cedar Rapids since the devastating flood of 2008; its completion leads up to the reopening of the Central Library this summer. The 21,000 square foot, \$2 million library is located in space in the Westdale Mall once occupied by a Target store, according to the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*. Designed by OPN Architects, the library has two study rooms, a community room, 20 public access computers with free Wi-Fi, and an extensive collection of books and media.

Send information on groundbreakings and ongoing and completed building projects to [blfox@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:blfox@mediasourceinc.com)

Photo courtesy of Loudoun County Public Library.

The U.S. **Government Printing Office** (GPO) joined Pinterest. The GPO will use the social media platform to share government history with the public.

With a grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** (IMLS), **North Carolina State University, Raleigh**; strategic consultancy **brightspot**; and technical and management support provider **Strategy Plus at Aecom** created the Learning Space Toolkit. The service helps in the design and planning of learning spaces and can be accessed free of charge at [www.learningspacetoolkit.org](http://www.learningspacetoolkit.org).

Additionally, **IMLS** and the **Library of Congress** launched the National Digital Stewardship Residency program. Ten recent graduates of master's programs will be given a nine-month residency in various District of Columbia institutions.

The third annual **National STEM Video Game Challenge** opened for student submissions, sponsored by **IMLS**, whose workshops will be held across the country to help students design new video games.

Send News Briefs to [LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com)

branches, to be followed by the Main Library, which CML plans to renovate and expand to include the adjoining, former Ohio School for the Deaf property (see also *Branching Out, Library Hotline*, 2/4/13, p. 5). After that, branches and neighborhoods likely to be affected include Dublin, Hilliard, Martin Luther King, Northern Lights, Northside, Parsons, and Shepard.

### PA Grants \$3.7 Million for Library Facilities

Pennsylvania's **Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund** awarded more than \$3.7 million in grants to 15 public libraries across the state, Gov. Tom Corbett's administration announced on February 14.

**Le Cléo**, a French open access science collection, partnered with **Serials Solutions' Summon** service to index its content. Also, Summon received an award for Most Innovative Technology of the Year at the **Asia Digital Publishing Summit and Awards**.

The **Lake Superior Libraries Symposium**, held in June 2012, was presented with the **Standing Up for Rural Wisconsin Schools, Libraries, and Communities Award**. The award honors projects "that improve the quality of life in rural Wisconsin communities."

Five new customers switched to the **Soutron Global** platform: Chartered Institute Marketing, BG Group, TLT, Jones Lang LaSalle, and Inventia. Soutron Global transitions libraries and information centers to digitized technologies.

The **Wayne County Public Library System, NC**, went live on the **Evergreen** open source integrated library system. Wayne County is the 12th library in the North Carolina Cardinal consortium to join Evergreen.

The funds will be used to finance repairs and upgrades to library facilities. Through a competitive grant process, applicants could qualify for up to \$500,000, which must be equally matched. This year's recipients were chosen from among 28 applicants.

The **Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund** is funded by 15 percent of the state's realty transfer tax. Public libraries are allocated four percent of those funds, distributed via the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Since it began in 1993, the fund has given \$23.6 million to support 212 Pennsylvania libraries. The fund also fosters projects in higher education and historic preservation, as well as the recreation, parks, and conservation that give the fund its name.

### FCC Chair Makes Video To Thank Libraries

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chair Julius Genachowski recently released a YouTube video thanking the nation's librarians for their service and describing libraries as "a vital partner to the FCC in one of our central missions: closing the digital divide and making sure every American can access the opportunities of broadband Internet."

Published to coincide with the American Library Association (ALA)'s annual Midwinter Meeting, the video highlighted how poor digital literacy skills and a lack of Internet access pose significant challenges for millions of Americans. ALA and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have been working with Genachowski and FCC staff to support broadband adoption and digital literacy training at libraries as part of a solution to these problems. In the United States, nearly 100 million people do not have broadband access at home, and 66 million lack basic digital literacy skills, according to an ALA press release.

"For millions of Americans, libraries are the only place where they can get online. For millions more, libraries are an important complement to their at-home connectivity," Genachowski said. "I believe libraries are more important than ever in empowering people to thrive in the digital age. Now is the time to close America's skills gap. I hope every library and every community will join me in this commitment this year."

"This gap in digital literacy skills has an impact on every aspect of society: our economy, education, health care, and civic engagement," ALA president Maureen Sullivan said in a release. "ALA is proud to work with the FCC, IMLS, and others to support our state and local libraries in making sure everyone in our communities can fully participate in the digital age."

Introducing

# Book Verdict

Expert Reviews of Print & Media

Your complete library collection  
development resource

Over 300,000 reviews from the most trusted names in libraries

**LIBRARY  
JOURNAL.**

**School Library Journal<sup>®</sup>**

**The Horn  
BOOK<sup>Inc.</sup>**



**Junior Library Guild.**

Click. Connect. Collect.  
[www.BookVerdict.com](http://www.BookVerdict.com)

# Help more people read with every book you weed.

Better World Books will turn your discards and donations into funding for you and literacy causes around the world. We've generated more for libraries and literacy than any other provider. Over \$13 million and counting!



**EASY**

**NO PRESCREENING REQUIRED**



**COMMISSION EARNED ON BOOKS SOLD**



**FREE SHIPPING / SUPPLIES**



**BOOK DONATIONS SUPPORT**



**PERSONALIZED REPORTING**



**INGRAM CREDIT AVAILABLE**

Find out why more libraries choose us over any other provider.

[library@betterworldbooks.com](mailto:library@betterworldbooks.com)

888-510-7103 x1706

[www.BetterWorldBooks.com/Libraries](http://www.BetterWorldBooks.com/Libraries)

**\$13 Million Raised. 7 Million Books Donated. 3,000 Libraries Served.**

  
**BetterWorldBooks®**  
BETTER FOR THE WORLD. BETTER FOR YOU.