



THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Official Newsletter

NINE BOOKS ARE FINALISTS FOR THE 9TH ANNUAL LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA LITERARY AWARDS

WILLIAM STYRON IS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENT

The Library of Virginia and the Library of Virginia Foundation are pleased to announce the finalists for the 9th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards. The finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from 116 books nominated for the awards. The winners will be selected from among these finalists and announced at a gala celebration on October 21, 2006, at the Library of Virginia.

The finalists for the best work of fiction by a Virginia author are:

Geraldine Brooks—*March: A Novel* (Viking)

Kurt Rheinheimer—*Little Criminals: Short Stories* (Eastern Washington University Press)

Rene Steinke—*Holy Skirts* (William Morrow)

The honor books in the fiction category are *Sabbath Night in the Church of the Piranha* by Edward Falco, published by Unbridled Books, and *Lies* by William Hoffman, published by River City Publishing.

The finalists for the best nonfiction about Virginia or by a Virginia author are:

A. Roger Ekirch—*At Day's Close: Night in Times Past* (W. W. Norton & Company)

James Horn—*A Land As God Made It: Jamestown and the Birth of America* (Basic Books)

Joe Jackson—*A World on Fire: A Heretic, an Aristocrat, and the Race to Discover Oxygen* (Viking)

The honor book in the nonfiction category is *Jefferson's Secrets: Death and Desire at Monticello* by Andrew Burstein, published by Basic Books.

The finalists for the best book of poetry by a Virginian are:

Claudia Emerson—*Late Wife: Poems* (Louisiana State University Press)

Eric Panke—*Reliquaries* (Ausable Press)

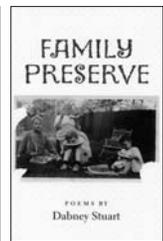
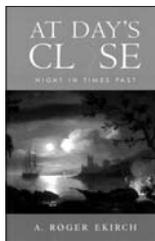
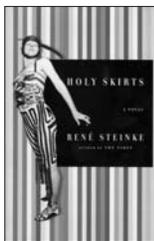
Dabney Stuart—*Family Preserve: Poems* (University of Virginia Press)

The honor book in the poetry category is *Dark Under Kiganda Stars* by Lilah Hegnauer, published by Ausable Press.

The recipient of the Library of Virginia Lifetime Achievement Award is William Styron. Born and raised in Newport News, Virginia, Styron has written novels that are admired and honored around the world. His first book, *Lie Down in Darkness*, displays the fullness of his gifts—indelible characters, unforgettable scenes, and a compelling story. His projects have been various, ambitious, and controversial.

Styron won the Prix de Rome from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for *Lie Down in Darkness*, the Pulitzer Prize for *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, the American Book Award for *Sophie's Choice*, and numerous other awards and honors. His writing has grappled with disturbing, unresolved moral questions and harrowing events. As a result his books have challenged generations of readers to examine their beliefs. He has never shied away from controversial subjects and has attracted both praise and debate.

The winners of the fiction, nonfiction, and poetry awards will be announced on Saturday, October 21, 2006, ...see **Celebration**, pg. 6



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Governor Names New Poet Laureate

Governor Timothy Kaine has named Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda of Middlesex County to serve as Poet Laureate of Virginia, an honorary position created to encourage the exchange of arts information and perspectives. Kreiter-Foronda is a poet, painter, sculptor, and lifelong educator. Her publications include four books of verse, articles on writing, and book chapters on poetry and thinking skills. Her poetry honors include three Pushcart Prize nominations, an Edgar Allan Poe first place award, and three Artist-in-Education grants and one Arts-on-the-Road grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. In 1992, she was named a Virginia Cultural Laureate for her contributions in the field of American Literature.

Teachers Enrolled in Day of Architecture Program Visit the Library

In June, educators and administrators from the counties of Chesterfield, Cumberland, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, and Powhatan and the City of Richmond, as well as from independent schools, visited the Library of Virginia as part of the Eleventh Annual Summer Institute sponsored by Partners in the Arts. This program is supported by the Arts Council of Richmond and collaborates with the School of Continuing Studies at the University of Richmond to educate teachers about ways to incorporate the visual and performing arts into the traditional curriculum.



through drawing, photography, and writing. After lunch and a walking tour of the remaining buildings, the teachers gathered in the Library's conference rooms to learn about architectural resources available in the agency's collections.

Participants heard about resources available from the Library's Web site, including the online catalog and digital collections that might be incorporated into the classroom. Additionally, attendees examined archival materials from the Library's extensive architectural holdings. The drawings, plans, and manuscripts related to the buildings that they studied during their tour of the city. A question-and-answer session brought to a close their day of "guided discovery" through Richmond's built environment.

As first-time participants in the Partners in the Arts program, Library of Virginia staff members eagerly accepted the opportunity for additional educator outreach and look forward to working with these teachers and administrators as they share their new knowledge with their schools and colleagues. Further, the Library welcomes all educators to explore its vast holdings as they develop curriculum, augment existing lesson plans, and explore new areas of scholarship.

—submitted by Vincent Brooks, Archival and Records Management Services

SOLINET Offers Help to Flood-Damaged Libraries

In light of the recent flooding in many areas, the Southeastern Library Network would like to remind libraries and cultural institutions that it is available to assist both members and non-members in disaster recovery efforts.

SOLINET offers its expertise to help libraries and other cultural institutions decide how to handle immediate water damage as well as resulting damage from mold and other environmental factors. It offers both telephone and e-mail consultations free to both members and non-members. This assistance is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays. Their preservation staff is available by calling 800-999-8558 or by e-mailing tmason@solinet.net.

SOLINET also offers a series of leaflets, available for download from its Web site

(www.solinet.net/preservation/prespubs), which cover drying techniques, mold prevention, and referrals to disaster recovery services and suppliers of disaster recovery materials.

"Institutions can often prevent more damage to collections by acting quickly," said Tina Mason, SOLINET preservation services manager. "We are here to provide assistance and advice to those trying to mitigate damage."

Founded in 1973, SOLINET is a non-profit membership organization serving more than 2,600 libraries of all types and sizes in 10 southeastern states and the Caribbean. Primary programs are Member Services, OCLC Services, Preservation and Access, Electronic Resources, Library Products, Digital Services, Educational Services, and Consulting.

Campbell County Public Library Wins National Awards

The Campbell County Public Library received three national awards from the Library Administration and Management Division at the 2006 American Library Association annual conference in New Orleans. The library's Annual Report (Best in Show), Special Programs and Events (Best in Show), and Web Page/Home Page (Honorable Mention) won in the category of libraries with budgets under \$499,999. The Fiscal Year 2004–2005 Annual Report contains not only the expected statistics, but a visually exciting look at activities ranging from African American reunions to book clubs to community parades. Book Mates: A Program for Children and Parents won in the Special Events category for a 10-week program on kindergarten readiness for children and their parents. The Web page may be viewed at <http://tlc.library.net/campbell/>.

The Campbell County Public Library was one of only two Virginia libraries to receive awards. Virginia Tech's library was recognized for Printed Materials Promoting Web Sites.

Groups Assist with Rebuilding Efforts and Re-establishment of Public Library Services in Louisiana and Mississippi

Recognizing the critical support public libraries provided to communities during and after the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services recently announced major grants to support the re-establishment of lost public library services and rebuilding of public libraries along the Gulf Coast in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's \$12.2 million grant will help libraries establish up to 22 temporary facilities in Mississippi and Louisiana so that community members can access books and computer and Internet services, will provide support for the planning of rebuilt or restored libraries, and will eventually pay for new computers in rebuilt public libraries. The Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund will make \$5 million available to support new reconstruction and recovery of Gulf Coast public libraries. The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), ...see **Flood**, pg. 7

Library Acquires 18th Century Portrait of Virginia Colonial Governor

At an auction in Charlottesville late in March 2006, the Library of Virginia acquired a portrait of Sir William Anne Keppel, 2nd Earl of Albemarle. Previously owned by Horace and Helen Burr, Charlottesville area-based collectors, the oil-on-canvas portrait, attributed to Charles Phillips, was offered at an auction of the contents of their historic Charlottesville home, Carrsgrove (1747), by the Harlowe-Powell Gallery.

Sir William Anne Keppel was born on June 5, 1702, at Whitehall Palace, London, the only son of Sir Arnold Joost van Keppel, 1st Earl of Albemarle, and Gertrude de Quirna van der Duyn, Countess of Albemarle. He was baptized in the Royal Chapel in the presence of his namesake and godmother, Queen Anne. Educated in the Netherlands, Keppel returned to England where in 1718 he succeeded to his father's titles and estates and in 1723 married Lady Anne Lennox. The union produced seven daughters and eight sons. Keppel began his distinguished military career at an early age when in 1717 he was appointed a captain in the Coldstream Guards. Military successes led to political and diplomatic appointments including ambassador to France, Knight of the Garter, Groom of the Stole, and member of the Privy Council.

On the recommendation of Sir Robert Walpole, George II commissioned Keppel governor of Virginia on November 4, 1737, a position he held until 1754. Although Albemarle never came to America, he employed lieutenant governors Sir William Gooch (until 1749) and Robert Dinwiddie

(after 1751) to administer the government in Williamsburg. Relations between Albemarle and his lieutenant governors were often strained because the former attempted to exercise certain appointive powers that Gooch and Dinwiddie, in order to preserve their political influence, were reluctant to relinquish. Albemarle's place in Virginia history rests in part on the role he played in the unintentional weakening of imperial ties between the colony and England. Keppel died in Paris in 1754, at the age of 52.

Given its apparent age (the portrait was painted about 1740), the painting at auction was in remarkable condition and appeared to have escaped overenthusiastic or inexperienced restoration. A pre-auction examination carried out by Fine Art Conservation of Virginia proprietor Scott Nolley determined that the painting was unlined, on its original stretcher, and extremely dirty. According to Nolley, the condition was "the result of benign



neglect—in my opinion, one of the greatest preservatives there is." After a thorough cleaning this spring, the painting is now in remarkable aesthetic condition. The colors that were largely obscured by dirt and discolored varnish are astonishingly vibrant. Perhaps the most amazing and rare aspect of the painting is that it exhibits all the characteristics of its purported age, but has escaped restoration campaigns that might have resulted in a largely altered artifact. The portrait is currently installed in the Library's administrative suite.

—submitted by Tom Camden,
Collection Management Services

KATIE JOHNSON TO SERVE AS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Katherine "Katie" M. Johnson has joined the staff of the Library as the new education coordinator. Johnson comes to the Library from the South Carolina Department of History where she served as assistant director of Teaching American History in South Carolina.

In that position she developed curriculum resources to meet the South Carolina social studies academic standards; organized teacher workshops; implemented collaborative programs with other cultural institutions; operated educational outreach programs for teachers, institutions, students, and school districts; and worked extensively with teachers to develop lesson plans incorporating primary sources.

She received her bachelor's degree in American studies from the College of William and Mary and her master's degree in public history from the University of South Carolina. Johnson worked as an intern for the Historic Columbia Foundation and for Colonial Williamsburg and as a historic interpreter for the Spotswood Society at the College of William and Mary and for Mount Vernon.

At the Library she will develop and implement educational resources, programs, and outreach for K-12 students, teachers, and the general public. Among the products she will develop are curriculum guides, lesson plans, and Web and print publications geared to the Virginia Standards of Learning for Public Schools.

"Katie's very successful work with the Teaching American History in South Carolina program and her enthusiastic approach will greatly aid the Library of Virginia in moving forward with its educational initiatives," said Dr. Gregg Kimball, director of publications and educational services at the Library of Virginia.

Teachers can contact Johnson by calling 804-371-2126.

HISTORICAL FILM RESOURCES ADDED TO LIBRARY'S CATALOG

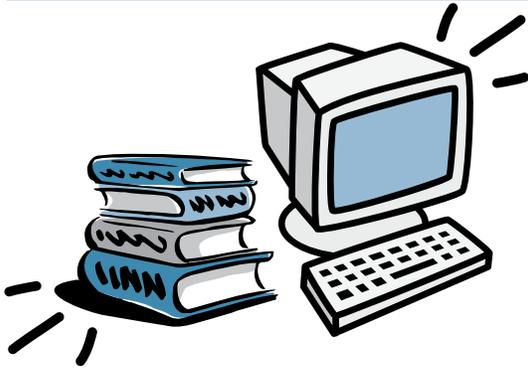
A recent delivery of catalog records for electronic federal documents included some special government records. Accessible from the Library of Virginia's catalog are a selection of more than 100 newsreels, video clips, and historical film resources from the National Archives. They range from an 1894 film of Carmencita, a famous Spanish dancer, to a 1981 NASA film called "Space for Women."

Resources include films from the 1930s documenting work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and other government entities, as well as newsreels on the construction of Boulder Dam, the 1945 inauguration of FDR, and World War II.

These materials are in the public domain and also are available at the National Archives Web site. This batch of newsreels is the first

to be digitized through a joint project of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration and Google Video.

A quick way to find these electronic resources in the Library's catalog is to search the Books and Journals catalog, using the keywords "google video web site."



Did you know...?

The Library of Virginia has obtained a set of *Phonefiche*, a collection of selected Virginia telephone directories (both yellow and white pages) recorded on microfiche for the years 1977 through 2005. Besides addresses and telephone numbers, these directories often contain area maps, local zip code guides, historical information about a community, listings of local cultural areas of interest, local bus route maps, calendars, and local dialing information. They provide an excellent snapshot of a community for a given time, and provide coverage of both urban and non-urban areas.

JAMES RIVER COMMENTARIES

Arguably the James River is one of America's most storied waterways. It provided riparian sites for Powhatan chiefdom villages and English settlements, invasion routes during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and passage into the Virginia interior. As Blair Niles wrote in the *Rivers of America* series title, *The James: From Iron Gate to the Sea* (Farrar & Rinehart, 1945), "So much of significance has happened in the James River watershed that this river cannot belong to one state alone, but must belong to all." More than 1,100 registered historic landmarks lie within the basin. The James is Virginia's longest and largest river, flowing 340 miles from the Allegheny Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay and draining 25 percent of the commonwealth. The river's history, people, ecology, and recreational use are the subjects of numerous books.

State of the James (James River Association, 2002) is an ecological health report on the river and its watershed. Photographs, maps, charts, and graphs assess land use, wetlands, living resources, and water quality. Nearly 50 years earlier, out of concern for the future of the river, the Virginia Academy of Science formed the James River Project Committee. The committee asked prominent scientists, educators, and industrial and social leaders throughout the state to contribute articles in their fields. Included in the exhaustive benchmark study *The James River Basin, Past, Present and Future* (1950) are chapters on the fauna, agriculture, forestry, geology, healthcare, industry, and transportation in the watershed.

For exploring the river itself and the histories of the communities, canals, and railroads on its banks, there are two atlases by

W. E. Trout. The author uses detailed maps, marginal and inset notes, illustrations, and text to locate and describe historic sites, ruins, and natural features. *The Upper James Atlas: Rediscovering River History in the Blue Ridge and Beyond* (Virginia Canals & Navigations Society, 2001) follows the Jackson River to its confluence with the Cowpasture River to form the James and then onto Lynchburg. The *Falls of the James Atlas: Historic Canal and River Sites on the Falls of the James with a Special Supplement on the Tuckahoe Creek Navigation* (Virginia Canals & Navigations Society, 1995) provides coverage of the James River's course through Richmond from Bosher's Dam to the Great Ship Lock Park.

Bruce Ingram imparts his lifelong knowledge of the river in *The James River Guide* (Ecopress, 2000). A fishing and canoeing guide to the James from its headwaters to Maidens, the book is divided into trip chapters that include "the essentials," maps, and narratives on angling and paddling each trip's portion of the river. Jerry Uhlman, *Richmond Times-Dispatch* "Flyways and Byways" columnist, has written *A Birder's Guide to Virginia's Historic James River: Exploring America's First River from the Chesapeake Bay to the Blue Ridge Mountains* (Flyways Press, 2002). The author gives directions, trails, avifauna to look for, and site background for more than 30 birding areas.

Two reporters wrote articles for their newspapers about their explorations of the James River. In the summer of 1993, Garvey Winegar of the *Richmond-Times Dispatch* did a series of articles about his experiences, the people he met, and the history he passed on his "230-mile canoe float from the James River's confluence to Richmond." These arti-

cles are collected in *The Unseen River* (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 1993). Similarly, early in the fall of 1998, Earl Swift was assigned by the *Virginian-Pilot* to travel the entire length of the James from its Jackson River headwaters to its Hampton Roads mouth and upload daily reports to the paper. Swift expanded his articles into the book *Journey on the James: Three Weeks through the Heart of Virginia* (University Press of Virginia, 2001).

Besides *The James: From Iron Gate to the Sea*, there are other histories of the river. *The James: Where a Nation Began* (Dietz Press, 1990) is a collection of essays on the events and people primarily of the tidewater James that Parke Rouse Jr. wrote for the *Daily Press* and other periodicals. Ann Woodlief interweaves the river's past with her musings and experiences on the James in her work *In River Time: The Way of the James* (Algonquin Books, 1985), while John Theilgard provides the book's black and white photographic interpretation.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Two new titles in the Arts section of the Reference collection are notable and significant additions to the Library of Virginia collections.

For nearly a century now the French encyclopedia of artists *Dictionnaire critique et documentaire des Peintres, Sculpteurs, Dessinateurs et Graveurs* by Emmanuel Bénézit has been a basic reference tool. The Library has in its holdings the 1948 and 1976 French editions. The Reference department has acquired the newly published *Benezit Dictionary of Artists*, (Editions Gründ, 2006).

The revised and updated edition of this classic French encyclopedia was published in English for the first time this year. This indis-

pensable reference work is more than a dictionary. Entries vary in size depending on how much is known about the artist and include the name, medium worked in, school affiliation, and period of activity for each. In addition, a brief biography and the signature or monograms of the artist are listed along with a bibliography and auction records whenever available. The English edition has international appeal since it includes the most important factual information about almost every painter, sculptor, engraver, and draftsman from all countries and schools from Antiquity to the present day.

First published in 1911 in three volumes, it was revised and expanded approximately every 15 to 20 years. The current English edition consists of 14 volumes. It was put together over a period of more than ten years by a team of art historians who reworked, translated, and updated existing entries and created thousands of new entries to bring the dictionary up to date. For a detailed history of this title, please visit www.benezit.com

The other work of note is *The Domestic Architecture of Benjamin Henry Latrobe* by Michael W. Fazio and Patrick A. Snadon (John Hopkins University Press, 2006).

Latrobe, known for his work on the United States Capitol, was the first professional architect with extensive training to work in America. Born in England, educated in Germany and Prussia, he returned to England where he worked as an architect and in 1789 became surveyor of the public offices and engineer of London. His most well-known works in the U.S. are in Washington and Philadelphia; however, Latrobe also had ties to Virginia. He arrived from England in Norfolk on May 20, 1796, and lived for a few years in Virginia. He worked as an engineer for the James River and Appomattox canal companies and the Dismal Swamp Land Company, received his first large commission in America to design the Virginia State Penitentiary in Richmond, and designed many private mansions. In 1798 he moved to Philadelphia where he designed the Bank of Pennsylvania, the Bank of the United States, and other buildings. Through his engineering skills, Latrobe was the first to supply Philadelphia with water, pumped by steam from the Schuylkill River, in 1800.

Latrobe's achievements in engineering and architecture are many; however, this book focuses on Latrobe's domestic

architecture. It sets a benchmark against which other treatises on architects may be measured. It is a meticulously researched and plentifully illustrated study of all Latrobe's domestic plans. This study documents Latrobe's exploration of ideas of classical forms and prototypes adapted to the needs of an American house. He created what he called a "rational" house to fit the demands of the citizens of the new republic. Latrobe's time in Philadelphia and Washington led to the development of a new urban type—the town house. Library of Virginia patrons may be especially interested in Chapter Four, "Houses for the Virginia Landed Gentry (1795-1798)." Two of the known houses he designed for the landed gentry in Virginia are the Tayloe and Harvie houses. The architectural plans for these are discussed extensively in this chapter.

In addition to examining his drawings and plans, the work explores the minute details he designed for façades and interior spaces. His elevations, longitudinal and cross sectional, and drawing perspectives demonstrate his abilities and his dedication to a well-thought-out structure. The authors point out how his engineering background served him well when he was called upon to find building solutions, or when he established innovations to suit his plans to the lot of land and the type of lighter construction in use in the United States. Most of his houses are gone now. From the 60 domestic commissions he designed, only three survive.

The book is divided into eight chapters, each one representing a significant period of development in the life of Latrobe. The eighth chapter is of special note because it provides an analysis of his work within the context, theories, and trends of the period. In addition, an introduction sets the stage and provides biographical and personal details, and an epilogue provides a summary of his achievement in creating a distinct American domestic architecture. The book provides a catalogue of his domestic projects, followed by copious notes. Finally, a bibliographic essay on all of the books written about him discusses the contribution that each one added to the understanding of Latrobe's work. All in all, the reader will find this a fascinating history as well as a meticulous reference work.

FORMER STATE LIBRARIAN DIES

Ella Gaines Yates, who served as state librarian of Virginia from 1986 until 1990, died June 27, 2006, of cancer in Atlanta. Yates was the first African American and first woman to hold the office of state librarian in Virginia.

A native of Atlanta, she was a graduate of Spelman College and received her master's degree in library science from Atlanta University in 1951. She earned a doctoral degree in law from Atlanta University in 1979.

New DVB Finding Aid Available Online

In conjunction with the publication of volume 3 of the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (which covers 471 names from Allen Taylor Caperton through Edward Dwight Daniels), the DVB editors are pleased to announce that a new finding aid is now available on the Library of Virginia's Web site at www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/pubs/dvb/classind/index.htm.

This Classified Index enables researchers to approach the biographies in a variety of ways to meet different research needs. It breaks down the 1,400 names in the three published volumes chronologically, geographically, by gender, by race, by contributor, and in other ways.

The entries provide volume and page numbers for each biography to give the user instant bibliographical reference. The earlier version of the Classified Index was text-based; the new version is a database and provides much faster access to the desired information. The new Advanced Search feature allows users to search by two or more selection criteria.

A teacher seeking local biographies to feature during Black History Month, for example, can use the Advanced Search to get a list of African Americans in Charles City County. A researcher can get a list of women active during the American Revolution, or of persons involved in the arts between 1950 and 2000, or of persons with careers in religion who lived in Wise County. The Classified Index supports detailed research in a variety of fields across four centuries of Virginia history and culture.

FIND US ONLINE
www.lva.lib.va.us

Nominations Open for the *New York Times* Librarian Awards

The *New York Times* has long been committed to fostering literacy and building awareness of issues important to local and national communities. The *New York Times* Librarian Awards were created to support and recognize public librarians, who do so much to nurture a better-informed society. This year, the sixth year of this national awards program, the *Times* will honor 21 public librarians from across the country.

The award recognizes those librarians in public libraries whose exemplary performance and outstanding community service have made their libraries friendlier and more accessible institutions.

Eligibility Guidelines: Eligible nominees include any librarian with a master's degree in library science who is currently working in a public library in the United States. Nominators are encouraged to nominate librarians who consistently demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism, knowledge, and public service in the execution of their duties. Nominations of family members will not be considered. Retired librarians are not eligible. Awards are not given posthumously.

Academic librarians are not eligible for this program. However, the *Times* is pleased to inaugurate the *New York Times* Academic Librarian Awards, which will honor three librarians who are currently working in university libraries. Nominations from college and graduate school students, faculty, and staff will be accepted in September and October of this year. More information about the program will be posted on the *New York Times* Web site in September.

Winners of both the public and the academic Librarian Awards will be announced in the *Times* in December and each will receive \$2,500 and a commemorative plaque.

To nominate a public librarian, please go to www.nytc.com/community/nomination2006.pdf. Print out the nomination form and mail it to:

The New York Times
2006 Librarian Awards
229 West 43rd Street, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10036

A committee of high-ranking library professionals is responsible for reviewing nominations and choosing the winners. Last year, the *Times* received 1,500 nominations from 47 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Many in the public library community have applauded the awards program, including the American Library Association and *Library Journal*, which stated, "In singling out these librarians, the *Times* honors all librarians. It is a program worth emulating."



On June 29 a delegation from Texas toured the Library of Virginia and the State Records Center. The Texas State Library and Archives is scheduled to begin a renovation and expansion project later this year. The team, composed of the project director, representatives from Bailey Architects of Houston, the construction management team, and the Texas Archives was interested in the Library's stack space and public service areas.

Celebration... from 7:00 to 9:30 PM at the 9th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors & Friends. The winners of the People's Choice Award, sponsored by James River Writers in partnership with the Library, also will be announced that evening. Winners will receive a monetary award and a crystal replica of a book. Tickets are available at \$75 per ticket. For ticket information, please call 804-371-4795.

68th National Folk Festival to Honor Gulf Coast Musical Traditions

The 68th National Folk Festival, taking place October 13–15, 2006, on Richmond's downtown riverfront, will celebrate and honor the music and musicians of the Gulf Coast. Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders will bring Creole jazz and blues from New Orleans. The Lost Bayou Ramblers from Lafayette in southwestern Louisiana will perform Cajun music inspired by traditional acoustic *bal de maison* music. Rounding out the Gulf Coast portion of the festival will be Willie King & The Liberators bringing blues from the eastern Mississippi–western Alabama area.

"We are proud to celebrate and honor Gulf Coast musical traditions," said Jon Lohman, director of the Virginia Folklife program at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and member of the National Folk Festival programming committee. "Home to some of America's most beloved and precious musical traditions, the region continues its long struggle to rebuild communities and reclaim its culture in the wake of the nearly unimaginable destruction caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita."

In addition to the performers from the Gulf Coast, the 68th National Folk Festival will feature three of America's most renowned Irish musicians—button accordion master Joe Derrane, fiddle virtuoso Seamus Connolly, and guitarist John McGann—collectively known as The Boston Edge, and the exciting African American "sacred steel" gospel sounds of The Lee Boys group from Richmond Heights, Florida.

"Sacred steel originated in House of God churches more than 75 years ago," explained Julia Olin, executive director of the National Council for the Traditional Arts. "The Lee Boys are fourth-generation sacred steel players, and one of the most highly regarded bands in the genre. Joe Derrane of The Boston Edge ranks among the greatest Irish accordion players who ever lived, one of those pivotal figures who have taken the instrument to an unprecedented height of virtuosity, vitality, and creativity."

Since 1934, the National Folk Festival has celebrated the roots, richness, and variety of American culture through music, dance, traditional craft, storytelling, and ...see **Folk**, pg. 7

Flood... a federal grant-making agency that provides leadership and support to the nation's museums and libraries, will contribute \$500,000 to the foundation's effort to help staff the temporary facilities.

The Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund's \$5 million grant will focus on the physical repair and reconstruction of up to eight public libraries across the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama affected by Katrina. The Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund has engaged the Americans for Libraries Council, a national non-profit advocacy organization for libraries, to manage this grant. The grant will target the repairs of facilities ready for immediate attention, the rebuilding of facilities with substantial damage, and the replacement of damaged or lost collections.

The Southeastern Library Network, a regional library network that serves the southeastern United States and the Caribbean, will administer the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant and work in partnership with the state library agencies of Louisiana and Mississippi to assist libraries damaged by the hurricanes. These libraries face a significant recovery process. In Louisiana, 107 public libraries were initially reported destroyed or damaged, with 40 still closed; in Mississippi, 34 public libraries were indefinitely or temporarily closed following the hurricanes, with eight remaining closed. SOLINET and state library agencies estimate that approximately 500 public computers were lost in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Staffing temporary facilities while heavily damaged or destroyed libraries are rebuilt is a significant challenge. The Institute for Museum and Library Services grant will help support initial staffing needs until additional resources are secured.

LIBRARIES—THE PUBLIC VALUES THEM; BUDGETS UNDERFUND THEM

They're as old as the fabulous library in Alexandria, Egypt, two millennia ago, and as new as cyberspace. They're repositories of culture and venues for enjoyment. They're wellsprings of information and understanding, of enlightenment and entertainment.

They're local libraries, and citizens think they're important.

But a recent survey by a respected firm that explores national issues brought to light a problem that's apparent to many library denizens: the disconnect between the value citizens assign to libraries and the reluctance of elected leaders to make them a funding priority.

Libraries receive scant attention come budget-writing time. They compete with needs that have higher priority in officials' eyes, with projects that have more razzle-dazzle. They often don't have the advantage of ardent and organized advocates, like those who step up to make sure teachers, firefighters, and police get favored status in budgets.

But the public cares about libraries, and sees them as essential to productive and healthy communities. People value both libraries' traditional roles—reference services and circulating collections—and the newer ones, like providing access to computers and online resources. Libraries are viewed as better run than many local services. Those surveyed gave libraries higher grades than any other community institution, including schools, health care, police, or local government.

But their funding is thin. Isle of Wight County, for example, puts less than 1 percent of its local dollars into library services. In Hampton, libraries get \$2 million; that's 1 percent of the \$203 million in local money spent on city services, an even smaller percentage if you factor in other local spending, including \$70 million on capital projects. Williamsburg, home of a regional library that's a model of what a library can be, invests 2.7 percent of its local dollars. If Hampton did the same, its library budget would increase 150 percent.

Citizens generally think libraries are thrifty with their money. Just imagine what they could do with more adequate funding. Like more effective outreach to the many children who don't have exposure to reading when they're young and suffer as a result when they get to school—and to those who need a safe, nurturing place for homework and enrichment after school. Libraries could serve a valuable function in getting citizens together to talk about civic issues. They could do more to help citizens gain access to government information that affects them, such as the budgets that determine how their hard-earned tax dollars are spent and the reports that show how well they're spent. And provide more convenient computer access for those who don't have it.

Here's an intriguing result of the study: The citizens who are most active in local affairs—who vote in nearly every election, who make things happen, who are involved in their communities—also tend to be big fans of libraries. They're also the folks local politicians are most likely to listen to. Maybe more of them need to direct some of their civic activity toward securing more appreciation and money for libraries.

—This editorial was originally published on August 1, 2006, in the *Daily Press* and is reprinted with permission.

Folk... food. It is the oldest celebration of traditional arts in the country and regularly attracts more than 100,000 people each year. This "moveable feast of deeply traditional folk arts" has been held in 27 communities around the country and in 2005 it began the first of its three-year tenure on historic Richmond's downtown riverfront.

Presented by Richmond Region 2007, the National Folk Festival features more than 25 artists or groups on seven stages with continuous music and dance performances, along with world-class craft demonstrations from



across Virginia, children's activities, a folk arts marketplace, regional and ethnic foods, and more. The free three-day festival is one of the largest in Virginia and draws visitors from across the country.

The festival is produced by the National Council for the Traditional Arts, City Celebrations, Richmond Region 2007, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Richmond Renaissance, the Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Children's Museum of Richmond. Working in close cooperation with the producing partners are the City of

Richmond, the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, the Richmond National Battlefield Park, and the Library of Virginia.

In 2008, the folk festival will travel to a new city, but Richmond will continue the cultural celebration by presenting its own festival—with the same commitment to quality and authenticity established by the national event. For more information and the latest lineup of performing groups, please visit www.nationalfolkfestival.com or call 804-788-6466.

—submitted by Katie Boyer,
68th National Folk Festival

Harriette Davidson holds *Despair*, a circa 1935 sculpture by Leslie Garland Bolling that she inherited from her aunt, Josephine McLear. Family history relates that McLear, who worked for the Internal Revenue Service in Pulaski, Virginia, was given the sculpture by an elevator operator.

Davidson contacted the Library about the sculpture after seeing the story on the opening of *Freeing Art from Wood: The Sculpture of Leslie Garland Bolling* in the July 30 issue of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. *Despair* will join the other 30 Bolling carvings on display at the Library. The exhibition is free and open to the public through October 21.

Bolling carved more than 80 sculptures during his career, mostly out of poplar with pocketknives. Most of his carvings were between 12 and 20 inches high, and usually depicted a single figure engaged in work or play. The Library of Virginia is interested in locating more of Bolling's work. If you think you know the location of any Bolling sculptures, please contact Barbara Batson at 804-692-3518 or bbatson@lva.lib.va.us.



Library Board Adopts Meeting Schedule

The Library Board has adopted its meeting schedule for 2006–2007. The following dates were set for Board meetings:

September 18, 2006

November 13, 2006

January 19, 2007

March 19, 2007

June 11, 2007

The Board's meetings are held in Richmond at the Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, and are open to the public.

FREEING ART FROM WOOD

THE SCULPTURE OF LESLIE GARLAND BOLLING

EXHIBITION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA THROUGH OCT. 21, 2006
800 EAST BROAD STREET
MONDAY-SATURDAY
9:00AM-5:00PM



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