

From the President

Beverly Gass, President

Dear members of NCLA and others who so generously read this, My intentions were wonderful. I had great ideas about having guests prepare the President's Column for *North Carolina Libraries* after I wrote the first two or three. I even asked Frances about the idea. I was also pleased that Frances did not have to remind me that it was time for another president's letter. I even wrote the submission deadlines in my calendar to make sure that I did it just right. It was good solid start.

But something happened. Maybe it's my personal Y2K event a year early. Frances has had to send a gentle email reminder that it's time. I worry that I may have to talk to her in person. I have not been answering the phone. I suspect she is on to me.

Not only am I late with the column, but, even worse than all that is I have no notion of any brilliant thing to say. No profundities. Not even lame musings. What will I write? What could I possibly have to say that anyone would want to read except those truly addicted to the printed word? Is there anyway to be at least as interesting as the back of the cereal box? I'm sure not.

But having just begun to read and absorb *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach, it comes to my mind that it might be okay to merely list some things I am thankful for as president of NCLA and as a librarian. And if it is not okay to those of you who have read this far, it is okay with me.

I am thankful for my phone conversation with Judie Davie last night. I am thankful to know a librarian with fire in her belly and the wisdom of years of trying to put it out. I am thankful for Sandy Neerman who inspires and delights me and who I can count as a girlfriend. I am thankful for Kem Ellis who is simply pure pleasure for me to know and to work with. I am thankful that I live in the county where these two public library directors live and work.

I am grateful for those that I work with. I am thankful for Linda Saunders who is not only a beautiful librarian but a librarian who is certain that she made the right career decision. I am thankful for Belinda Daniels Richardson who just gets the work done and does not have to chatter about it. I am thankful that I know Keith Burkhead who only wants to work with you and not against you. I am thankful that I have been able to work side-by-side with Betty Jean Lipford for more than 25 years.

I am thankful that I could work with Martha Davis and that I can believe that she really liked working with me. I am thankful that Davidson County Community College had the sense to make her their library director. I am thankful, too, that Don Forbes wants to work at GTCC. I am thankful for Betty Jones who simply works too much.

I give thanks that I have had an opportunity to work with Sandy Cooper. I am thankful that she came to North Carolina where all libraries are better because of it. I am grateful that I know Susan Nutter. I am grateful that I can count her among my friends. I am grateful that I have avoided writing a sentence about how I wish I were just like her.

I am thankful for my community college colleagues like Carol Freeman who has risen to the occasion of being the chair of the Marketing and Publications Committee in ways that I never knew were needed. I am grateful to Peggy Quinn for her eagerness to work for NCLA and to bring a new source of energy to us. I am grateful for Shirley McLaughlin for her courage in speaking out and asking questions on behalf of the community college library directors. I am grateful that I have come to know Barbara McKibbin and that she is president of the North Carolina Community College Learning Resources Association.

I am thankful that Phil Barton's Friends group at Rowan County Public Library sold such great calendars for 1999. They made great gifts. I am thankful that Maureen Costello is the Administrative Assistant for NCLA and that she knows more and more what we do and need. I am grateful that I know Louvenia Somerville of UNC-Charlotte and Ray Frankel. I am genuinely delighted to know Jerry Thrasher and Richard Wells. I

am thankful that Richard Wells gave me such good advice about moving from a Japanese car to a German car and that some might find that not a happy transition. I think he might be mistaken now that the VW Passat seems so appealing after 200,000 with my Honda. I am thankful for my Honda, but I am ready for a change.

What gratitude I feel for watching Susan Melson and Lisa Driver work on the RAC of NC LIVE and Jackie Case on the TRAC and Susan Vaughn and Pam Doyle on the Interlibrary Cooperation Committee. I am thankful for Rhoda Channing who brings flair and style to the Executive Board of NCLA. But then so does Vanessa Ramseur and Pauletta Bracy. I am thankful that I know so many people that I wish I were like. Maybe that's okay after all. Maybe admiration does not mean that I am not okay, too. I am grateful for Diane Kester, who probably spends more hours on NCLA than anyone I know. I am thankful that she is treasurer, on the Web committee, on the Technology and Trends Round Table, and on and on and on. I am thankful that I know Christina Yu and Bao Chu Chang and Sue Moody. Oh, how I am still thankful for the wonderful work she did on the NCLA Conference of 1997. I am thankful for Gene Lanier and all the times that he helped me laugh. I am thankful for the ability to laugh.

I am thankful that I have had an opportunity to be the president of NCLA. I am thankful that I am not counting the days until my term expires. I am grateful that Frances Bradburn is editor of our journal. And it is my prayer that all the rest for whom I am thankful (and that is all of you) will forgive me for not acknowledging you. I would also be grateful if you would recruit some other library staff member to join NCLA. I would also be especially grateful if my spell checker could do personal names.

Nominees Needed for Resources & Technical Services Awards

The Executive Board of the Resources and Technical Services Section is seeking nominations for two awards. The winners will receive plaques and \$200 cash awards during the awards presentation at the NCLA Biennial Conference.

Resources & technical services includes: acquisitions, cataloging, classification, resources, collection development, and preservation of library materials.

The **Student Award** is open to students actively enrolled in library education in North Carolina as of July 1, 1999. Recent graduates who are North Carolina librarians are also eligible. Nominees must show a strong potential for contributing to resources and technical service responsibilities with an intent to pursue these areas of library work as a career. Self-nomination is permissible.

The **Significant Contribution Award** is open to North Carolina librarians who have made important contributions to resources and technical services, either in their institutions or more widely. At least part of the nominee's current work must involve some aspect of resources and technical services. Applicants must be nominated by a current member of NCLA.

The nomination deadline for both awards is June 30, 1999.

To submit nominations, contact:

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The deadline for NCLA Scholarships and Loans is June 1, 1999.

One application form may be used for all three financial aid sources:

1. The North Carolina Library Association Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)
2. The Query-Long Scholarship for work with children or young adults (\$1,000)
3. The McLendon Student Loan Fund (\$300) at 1% interest.

Either scholarship or a student loan may be awarded for original or continued study in library science.

Complete information and printable application and reference forms may be downloaded from the NCLA website at:

<<http://www.mindspring.com/~ncla/scholarships/schoregs.htm>>

For further information you may contact:

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