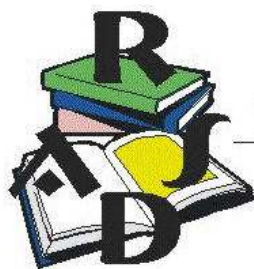


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Reference and Adult Services Division

Spring 2010

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Can Suffolk Be saved?

The East Hampton library has copies of "Can Suffolk be Saved," a 10 part environmental series commentated by local journalist Karl Grossman. The documentary was originally produced for Islip Town Television in 1975. It was aired on PBS WLIW 21, and WOR 9. This documentary includes interviews with many people in politics, education, and the environment. Interviews include Robert Gardiner, H Lee Dennison, Peter Cohalan, Judith Hope, and Lee Koppleman. The series was discovered on a now obsolete video format 3/4 inch U-Matic. Karl Grossman has given us permission to have these interviews put on DVD. The documentary has not been seen in 35 years. Copies of this DVD are available to be borrowed from the East Hampton Library. The first episode can be viewed on Youtube. The Southampton Press is presently working on shortening the documentary, so it can be viewed on there website <http://www.27east.com/index.cfm> If you would like a copy of this documentary, please contact Steven Spataro at the East Hampton Library Steven@easthamptonlibrary.org East Hampton also posses copies of a rare interview with John Wickham of the Wickham farm in Cutchogue, and a rare interview with Southampton Town Historian Robert Keene. Libraries may request free copies for their collection, contact Steven Spataro.

RASD Membership

Currently Reference and Adult Services Division has 333 active members. The board recently made a joint decision to dabble into Social Networking for promotion and acquiring new members. The networking site that we agreed on was Facebook. This new page entitled Reference and Adult Services Division is set up to give instant information on what is happening in our division. If you are currently on Facebook, please check us out and become a fan. There are discussions to participate in and so much more, so add your two cents to the fray.

In addition, we are also very excited to congregate and enjoy the festivities at the Long Island Library Conference on Thursday May 6th. We will keep striving to create our "recipe for success" for our members and our communities. As Reference Librarians we have the pleasure of guiding those in need to the information they desire. As board members we have the pleasure of giving back to our members as well. As the person responsible for Membership, I hope to acquire new members to help our division blossom and prosper as the seasons change in 2010.

Sara Bedell

Librarians Rock

A couple of years ago I embarked on a new journey. As is common, turning forty was life changing. Suddenly, I felt an invisible deadline looming. Having always been motivated by deadlines, I was spurred into action. "Ah, (yawn)... midlife crisis", some of you may be thinking. Yes, but I didn't buy an expensive sports car. I started singing. Tentatively, I took the first baby step of singing in my living room accompanied by a good friend on acoustic guitar. Amazingly, he didn't wince or laugh. Should I try singing at a karaoke club, perhaps? No, I couldn't muster the courage to put myself out there as a possible object of drunken ridicule. My husband encouragingly gave me a gift of voice lessons for Mother's Day. With perspiration streaming down my back, I sang "Angel" by Sarah McLachlan for the instructor, and again, I was relieved at not eliciting derision. Slowly, I began to believe that perhaps, my voice was in fact worthy of public consumption. Then one day, I

New Committee's Firsts

The new RASD PR & Marketing Committee has scheduled their first meeting to be held on April 8, 2010, at SCLS, with coffee at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting to start at 10:00 a.m. Anyone with an interest in public relations, publicity, marketing and programming should attend. Look for more information on the SCLA and Humanities Listservs.

The committee will also have a presence at this year's May 6th, Long Island Library Conference.

We will be presenting a Lunch and Learn, "Adult Readers: Unique Ways to Target them", which will take place from 12:35 to 1:45 p.m. We look forward to seeing many new faces at both events.

If you have any questions, please contact Jo-Ann Carhart at (jcarhart@suffolk.lib.ny.us).

Quick Links...

<http://scla.net/rasd/mainp.htm>

received an e-mail from a colleague who knew of my aspirations announcing open auditions for a fund-raising talent showcase. Wisely, she challenged me with the question; "Are you ready?" There was no turning back. I auditioned for a team of judges and a large room packed with onlookers; marking my first public performance, and was one of the acts chosen to perform in the show. The excitement and terror I experienced defy description. I was hooked.

Since then, I have worked and performed with an acoustic guitarist as a duo; and as of January, I'm singing in a rock cover band. For me, the gratification of these experiences is akin to being chosen as the American Idol. As a socially sensitive, bookish young girl in love with music from birth, the concept of actually performing some day seemed as far out as walking on Mars. In between rehearsals, I still need to remind myself that it's real.

Needless to say, I have met many new people along the way; and I've come to enjoy seeing the looks on their faces when I tell them I'm a librarian. Despite all the articles in our professional journals declaring otherwise; in my experience, the old stereotypes are alive and well. This used to annoy me immensely; but over time I've learned to embrace it. After all, isn't it far more interesting to defy peoples' expectations than to meet them?

Ironically, singing is not as unrelated to librarianship as one would think. Particularly in children's services, we are often called upon to perform. It is an immense help to be able to remember lyrics and carry a tune while leading a story time. If you've ever heard "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" sung off-key you'd understand.

One of the factors that appeals to me about librarianship is our diverse nature. Despite the two-dimensional ideas many harbor about our profession, those of us on the "inside" know how difficult we are to categorize. One reason for this is we come from so many different backgrounds. For many of us, this is not our first or even second career. I know librarians whose previous professions include lawyer, journalist, stage actress, and beer salesperson. I know I'm in good company with my somewhat "checkered" past, so to speak. With this knowledge as a catalyst, I have transmuted my frustration with the existing biases into fuel for a goal. As Mahatma Gandhi stated so eloquently; "Be the change you want to see in the world." This has become the mantra for my modest crusade to alter as many perceptions as possible in this little corner of the world.

Fortunately, I'm not traveling alone. I am buoyed when I learn of a colleague taking horseback riding, ballet or hip-hop dance lessons, or trying their hand at something as publicly ambitious as stand-up comedy or as simple and personal as gardening, scrap booking or baking cookies. Whether it's an interest, hobby, creative endeavor or vocation; delving into the myriad activities the world has to offer can only serve to enrich our personal lives beyond measure while concurrently amplifying the experience and knowledge we bring to our profession. Anything that adds enjoyment to your life and takes you beyond the drudgery of the mundane is worth pursuing. Especially in our harried, over-burdened lives; carving out time for our own unique form of "play" is critical. Fun isn't just for kids! The National Institute of Play; a non-profit public benefit corporation,

promotes fun as vital to our health and relationships; "A life or a culture devoid of or deficient in play exists as a heightened major public health risk factor."

The act of simply attempting something new, even if you decide not to stay with it is immensely rewarding; especially if in the process you overcome a fear. In my humble opinion, this is what it's all about; stretching, learning, enjoying, growing. Being the change we wish to see in the world regarding the perception of librarians is just icing on the cake. I wish you luck on your personal path of pleasure and fulfillment. Enjoy the funny looks you're sure to get when you tell them what you do for a living.

Carmela Gabriele
Deer Park Public Library

Rona Dressler
RASD Ramblings editor



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