



A Newsletter from the Library Binding Institute

Frank M. Barnard Foundation

Awards LBI \$10,000

In April 2006, the Library Binding Institute (LBI) applied to the Frank M. Barnard Foundation for a \$10,000 grant to support the production of materials related to library binding education and advocacy. In June, LBI was notified the grant had been accepted. This month, the LBI office received a \$10,000 check from the foundation along with a note from Eleanor Angoff, president. "On behalf of The Frank M. Barnard Foundation, I am pleased to award this grant of \$10,000 to the Library Binding Institute for the "Library Binding Education and Advocacy" project," writes Angoff. "I look forward to hearing more about the success of this project in the months to come." The LBI Board of Directors voted at its 2006 fall meeting to house the grant money in a bank account separate from the organization's general operating funds.

Vancouver Public Library Update

Last month, LBI sent the membership a link to an article in globeandmail.com about the Vancouver Public Library, an LBI institutional member, which was in danger of closing after 82-years of operation. Following is an excerpt from a recent email reporting on the bindery's current status:

"The library board decided at last week's meeting that the consultant's report was missing many key deliverables. They have struck a committee of two board members - one from management and one from the union - to answer some specific questions on the cost of outsourcing, other options, and potential new insource customers for the library. The committee will report back by

the March 2007 board meeting and a decision will be made at that time. We are hopeful that a workable option will be identified and the bindery will remain in house, and a member of the LBI. Thank you for your interest, and season's greetings!" - Ed Dickson, Bindery Supervisor, Vancouver Public Library

Exclusive LBI Member Tour of the Government Printing Office and Library of Congress Set for June 22, 2007 in Washington, DC

To be held just prior to the 2007 ALA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, June 22 - 27, is a tour of the Government Printing Office (GPO) Bindery and the Library of Congress (LOC)



Conservation Department exclusively for LBI members the morning of Friday, June 22, 2007. LBI institutional member representatives, Butch Wingo, GPO, and Jeanne Drewes, LOC, have been especially helpful in making these arrangements. Look for more details and registration information to follow.

Also in this issue

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LBI 2007 Spring Meeting May 5 – 7, 2007 Hotel Santa Fe • Santa Fe, New Mexico

It's not too early to begin planning for the 2007 LBI Spring meeting, May 5 – 7, Hotel Santa Fe, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Noel Ward, executive editor of *OnDemandJournal.com*, has been confirmed to speak at the meeting. For more information on the hotel, go to www.hotelsantafe.com and for information on things to do in Santa Fe, go to www.santafe.org/Visiting_Santa_Fe/index.html. Registration information will be distributed to the LBI membership in February.

Book Industry News



Book Industry News

On-Demand Book Printing Market in North America Predicted to Grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 26% per Year

Interquest forecasts that the on-demand book printing market in North America will grow at a compound annual growth rate of 26 percent per year from 2004 to 2009. Digital book production will grow faster than the on-demand production of manuals, which face increasingly stiff competition from alternative media. For more information, go to www.inter-quest.com.

What Do ATM Book Machines, Removable Tattoos, and Lunch-Hour Liposuction Have in Common?

Included in Fortune Small Business Magazine's coverage of, "The Next Little Things for 2007" (December 14, 2006), is an article entitled "An ATM for Books, Coming Soon: The most inclusive reader's catalog in the world, at your fingertips," by Emily Maltby.

In it, the author says, "Buying a book could become as easy as buying a pack of gum. After several years in development, the Espresso - a \$50,000 vending machine with a conceivably infinite library - is nearly consumer-ready and will debut in ten to 25 libraries and bookstores in 2007. The New York Public Library is scheduled to receive its machine in February." The author also writes, "Some 2.5 million books are now available - about one million in English and no longer under copyright protection. On Demand accesses the volumes through Google and the Open Content Alliance, among other sources. Neller predicts that within about five years On Demand Books will be able to reproduce every volume ever printed." To view this article, go to http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fsb/fsb_archive/2006/12/01/8395114/index.htm.

Included in Fortune Small Business Magazine's list of 10 big ideas coming from small businesses in 2007 are six-foot roses, removable tattoos, electricity from wave power, body parts from bovines, street smart filters from rainwater, drug-plans go generic, lunch-hour liposuction, your new bankers: hedge funds, and tap the tide. To view the entire article and list, go to http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fsb/fsb_archive/2006/12/01/8395113/index.htm.

DRUPA 2008

Mark your calendar for DRUPA 2008, May 29 – June 11, in Dusseldorf, Germany. For the latest information and to register for the DRUPA newsletter, go to www.drupa.com.

2006 - The Year in Review

Gail Nickel-Kailing, Senior Editor, WhatTheyThink.com, recently posted an article to the WhatTheyThink.com website about industry activity in 2006. Covered are topics about mergers and acquisitions, economic news, people, publications, and industry events. To view the article, go to <http://members.whattheythink.com/home/061218gail.cfm#>.

InfoTrends Announces New Multi-Client Study on the Future of Black & White Production Digital Printing

InfoTrends recently announced a new major study entitled, "The Future of Black and White Production Digital Printing." "With the increased interest in devices offering full, spot, or highlight color and with more monochrome pages being printed on color devices, the future of black & white-only production digital printing devices is in question." For more information on the study, go to www.infotrends.com/public/Content/Press/2006/12.07.2006.html.



Bill Establishes Mechanism for Controlling Future Postage Costs and Creates Stable and Predictable Postal Environment for Catalog, Direct Response and Other Mailers

R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company recently announced that it applauds the United States Congress for its passage of the Landmark Postal Reform Accountability and Enhancement Act. This is the first important piece of legislation significantly to reform the laws governing the nation's postal service in more than 30 years.

The Postal Reform and Accountability Act provides a mechanism for controlling pricing that will replace a lengthy rate-setting process with more predictable, manageable price adjustments, held at or below the rate of inflation with a cap tied to the consumer price index.

WHY PRINT? Print Council Provides Free Business Development Tool for Printers

Printers seeking new business from creatives, marketers and other media decision makers now have a new sales and marketing tool that demonstrates the effectiveness of print. The Print Council is offering them print-ready downloads of a 24-page illustrated brochure called *Why Print? The Top Ten Ways Print Helps You Prosper*.

"Print is striving to retain its position as the world's most popular medium," says Ben Cooper, executive director of The Print Council. "That can be best done by presenting facts on print's performance and showing what it can do. *Why Print?* achieves that mission by visually documenting the most compelling reasons why our medium should have a leading role in marketing and sales campaigns."

"Printers need to make sure print continues to get the lion's share of the media mix, as new alternative media attempt to grab a bigger portion," says Jerry Williamson of Williamson Printing, who is also co-chairman of The Print Council. "*Why Print?* helps them convince media buyers of print's persuasive powers."

Why Print? defines and illustrates "the top ten ways print helps you prosper." They are:

1. Print is for keeps.
2. Print is portable.
3. Print drives a higher ROI.
4. Print is beautiful.
5. Print plays well with others.
6. Buyers seek print.
7. Print is credible.

IRS Increases Standard Mileage Rate for 2007

Under the federal income-tax law, employees or self-employed individuals may claim a tax deduction for business use of a personal vehicle. The law allows a taxpayer to deduct the actual expenses for fuel and oil, depreciation, lease payments, maintenance and repairs, tires, insurance, etc., incurred in the business use of the vehicle. Or, the taxpayer may use an optional standard mileage rate to compute the deductible amount.

The IRS recently announced that it is increasing the optional standard mileage rate to 48.5 cents for business travel in 2007. (The previous rate was 44.5 cents per mile.) The rate applies to use of owned or leased vehicles, including vans and pickup trucks.

Whether or not claiming the optional rate will result in a higher deduction over the actual expense method depends mainly on the vehicle used.

Other Standard Mileage Rates

The tax law also provides optional standard mileage rates for other purposes. For 2007, the rate for vehicle use to obtain medical care is 20 cents per mile (up from 18 cents). The same rate applies to use of a vehicle in connection with a residential move that qualifies for the moving expense deduction. The rate for driving for charitable purposes remains at 14 cents a mile.

8. Print puts them in control.
9. Print is personal.
10. Print is everywhere.

In addition to supporting each reason with user data, the brochure also presents a compendium of the visual impact ink can have when it's applied to paper utilizing advanced printing techniques. Each of its pages demonstrates a different effect print can achieve to catch the eye and inspire the mind of the reader.

"All the noise made by new media fads can distract media buyers from print's effectiveness," says Jim Dunn, President of Heidelberg and co-chairman of The Print Council. "*Why Print?* brings them back by not only telling them how print performs, but showing them as well."

Printers interested in downloading PDF files of *Why Print?* that they can use to produce copies of the guide for their own promotions should visit www.theprintcouncil.org.



**ALA Midwinter Meeting
January 19 - 24, 2007
Seattle, Washington**

Advance Registration Deadline: December 8, 2006

Register now for the ALA Midwinter meeting to be held January 19 - 24, 2007, in Seattle, Washington. The deadline for advance registration is December 8. For more information, go to the following links:

General Meeting Information

www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2007/home.htm

Meeting Registration

www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2007/registration.htm

Housing Information and Reservations

www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2007/travel.htm#hotel

One highlight of the meeting will be a symposium entitled "Definitely Digital: An Exploration of the Future of Knowledge on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of ALCTS", sponsored by The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS). This will be held on Friday, January 19, 2007 in Seattle. Supported by Amazon.com, "Definitely Digital" will examine significant changes in scholarly communication, library services, collections and staffing created by the digital environment. The symposium speakers will discuss scholarship in the digital age, new communication models, the future of cooperative technical services and enabling technologies, and the training and education of staff working with digital collections. Registration for this all day symposium is handled through the ALA Midwinter registration form. Link to <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2007/home.htm> and choose "Registration."

**Library Binding Discussion Group, ALA
Midwinter Meeting**

**Saturday, January 20th, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Sheraton Seattle, - Metropolitan A**

The Library Binding Discussion Group meeting, to be held during the ALA Midwinter Meeting, will primarily focus on topics related to quality control including the fundamentals of quality control, starting a quality control program, and the use of review periods (whether internally or with your commercial library binder). If there are any specific topics you would like to see addressed during this meeting, please contact Laura Cameron at slash@stanford.edu.

**Preservation Technologies to Honor Gary
Frost at the ALA Midwinter Meeting**

Preservation Technologies will be hosting a reception during the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting honoring Gary Frost, recipient of the 2006 Paul Banks and Carolyn Harris Preservation Award. The reception will take place at the Space Needle on Friday, January 19, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

December Issue of ANO Available Online

The December issue of the ALA *ALCTS Newsletter Online* (ANO) is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/alcts/alctspubs/alctsnewsletter/v17n6/v17n6.htm>. In this issue is information about the new ALCTS planning database which will be unveiled at the ALA Midwinter Meeting; IFLA Reports from the 2006 World Library and Information Conference, Seoul, August 20-24, 2006, Part 2; and a midwinter event update.

**NISO Board Appoints James Neal as Vice-
Chair, John Harwood and John S. Erickson,
Directors (NISO Newline, December 2006)**

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) recently announced the appointment of James G. Neal to the position of Vice-Chair of the NISO Board of Directors. Neal was elected by the Board of Directors to replace Robin Murray, who has stepped down from the position but will remain on the Board. At the same time, the Board appointed John T. Harwood from Pennsylvania State University and John S. Erickson from Hewlett-Packard Laboratories to fill open seats on the Board of Directors.

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Library and Association News

Registration Open for the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians, August 5-10, 2007, Cambridge, Massachusetts - ACRL Offering Scholarships ...

Registration is now open for the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians. The institute will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 5-10, 2007. Registration materials are online at www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrl/acrlevents/leadershipinstitute.htm, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Leadership of academic libraries has never been more challenging. Demands for new services frequently outstrip the resources — money, time, and people — that are available. In response to these challenges, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is collaborating with the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education to present the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians. The goal of this innovative program is to increase participant's capacity to lead and to manage. The program helps participants answer two key questions:

- How well-positioned is my organization to meet current and future challenges?
- How effective is my own leadership?

The Leadership Institute focuses on the key skills required of library leaders, including:

- Characteristics of effective leadership in academic organizations
- Transformational Learning
- Planning
- Organizational Strategy and Change

Institute faculty will use various teaching techniques, including: presentations, discussion, videos, exercises, and case studies. Harvard's case studies make attendees active participants in the teaching-learning process. Through lively discussion throughout the institute, participants will be challenged to define management problems and identify and offer solutions.

The Institute is designed for individuals with significant administrative responsibility in an institution of higher education, and who show high promise for making a significant contribution in the future, such as library directors, university librarians, and their associates and direct reports. Participants will benefit most from the program if they:

- Hold a significant library leadership position

- Value the opportunity to step back from the pressures of day-to-day responsibilities and reflect on where you and your organization are going
- Enjoy being a learner again — in a lively, interactive format that takes advantage of the experience of other experienced administrators
- Value new perspectives on effective leadership in academic institutions

Library leaders in HBCU institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and/or Hispanic serving institutions take note!

Two scholarships are available for the 2007 ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute. The purpose of these scholarships is to support the participation of academic and research librarians working at historically black colleges and universities, tribal colleges or universities or those employed at Hispanic-serving institutions. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition to the Institute (value \$1,975).

Scholarship applicants must:

- Be current ACRL members;
- Be employed at an historically black college or university, at a tribal college or university or at a Hispanic-serving institution;
- Complete the online scholarship application form;
- Submit a brief, written statement that describes how participation in the Institute will contribute to his or her leadership development, or define three ways in which the Institute will help improve her or his leadership effectiveness, and;
- Demonstrate that they have support from their institution to attend the Institute by submitting a brief statement of support from an appropriate supervisor/manager/director at the institution.

Complete the application form available at: <https://marvin.foresightint.com/surveys/Tier1Survey/ACRL/144> (please copy and paste this URL into a browser). Questions can be directed to acrl@ala.org; 800-545-2433, ext. 2522.

ACRL is a division of the American Library Association (ALA), representing more than 13,000 academic and research librarians and interested individuals. ACRL is the only individual membership organization in North America that develops programs, products and services to meet the unique needs of academic and research librarians. Its initiatives enable the higher education community to understand the role that academic libraries play in the teaching, learning and research environments.

The Endpaper

Library and Association News

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Jim Neal is Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University, having previously served as Dean of University Libraries at Indiana University and Johns Hopkins University. He has served as President of the Association of Research Libraries, on the Executive Board of the American Library Association, as Chair of the Board of the Research Libraries Group, and on the Board of the Freedom to Read Foundation, among numerous professional and leadership assignments. He is active in national and international forums in the areas of copyright and scholarly communication. He has served as a member of the NISO Board since 2004. Neal will assume the Chairmanship of NISO beginning June of 2007.

Dr. John S. Erickson has spent many years studying the unique social, legal, and technical problems that arise when managing and disseminating information in the digital environment. At Hewlett-Packard Laboratories, he has focused on the policy-based management of distributed, heterogeneous digital object repositories and content processing architectures. Prior to joining HP Labs in January 2000, he was the architect of Copyright Direct™, the first real-time, Internet-based service to fully automate the complex copyright permissions process for a variety of media types. Since 1998, Erickson has been awarded multiple US patents for rights management and information security technologies; numerous related patents are pending. He has been an active participant in a number of international metadata and rights management standardization efforts and currently serves on a number of industry advisory and standards committees.

John Harwood is Senior Director of Teaching & Learning with Technology, a unit of Information Technology Services at Penn State University. He is Penn State's representative for the Committee on Institutional Cooperation's Learning Technologies Initiative. He serves on the Advisory Board for the IMS Global Learning Initiative, the National Center for Academic Transformation, and the Adobe Corporation. In addition to his administrative work at Penn State, Harwood holds a faculty appointment in the College of Information Sciences and Technology and the College of the Liberal Arts. His main research interests include 17th-century and 18th-century British literature; technologies for teaching and research in the humanities; information technology and its cultural implications; the history of science; and the history of rhetoric and technology.

Po Bronson to Keynote PLA Spring Symposium Luncheon, March 2, San Jose, California

The Public Library Association (PLA) recently announced that bestselling author Po Bronson will present the keynote address at the 2007 PLA Spring Symposium Author Luncheon. The 2007 PLA Spring Symposium will take place March 1-3, in San Jose, California at the Fairmont San Jose. The Author Luncheon will be held on March 2 from noon to 1:30 pm. PLA thanks Random House for their support of the Author Luncheon.

Bronson's "What Should I Do With My Life?" was a #1 New York Times best seller and remained in the Top 10 for nine months. Bronson travels the country recording the stories of real people who have struggled to answer life's biggest questions. He has published five books and written for television, magazines, and newspapers, including The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, and for National Public Radio's Morning Edition. Currently, he is writing regularly for Time magazine in the United States and for The Guardian in the United Kingdom.

In addition to the Author Luncheon featuring Po Bronson, the 2007 PLA Spring Symposium will feature six one-and-a-half-day workshops targeted toward a variety of public library professionals. For more information on the PLA Spring Symposium, including pricing and registration information, contact the PLA office at 800-545-2433, ext. 5PLA, or visit PLA's Web site at www.pla.org. PLA is a division of the American Library Association. PLA's core purpose is to strengthen public libraries and their contribution to the communities they serve. Its mission is to enhance the development and effectiveness of public library staff and public library services.

EPA Library Status Report Questioned by American Library Association

from NCH WASHINGTON UPDATE, Vol. 12, #49; 21
December 2006, by Lee White

As we reported a few weeks ago, there has been a firestorm of opposition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) effort to close its nationwide network of scientific libraries. EPA began closing some of its regional branch libraries and one at its Washington, DC, headquarters earlier this fall. The agency is not only closing the facilities, but has also reportedly begun destroying documents or shipping them to repositories where

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Library and Association News

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they are uncataloged and inaccessible to EPA employees, scientists, and the general public.

On December 11, EPA held a public teleconference to provide a status report on their library system. EPA's position is that it is providing broader access to a larger audience by making agency library materials available through its public web site. EPA asserts that retrieving materials will be more efficient and easier to locate by using its online collection and reference services.

"When libraries go digital, everyone benefits," said Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock. "By modernizing our libraries, EPA is bringing our cutting edge science to your fingertips, whether you live across the street, or on the other side of the world."

EPA claims that, to date, more than 22,000 of 51,000 EPA documents have been made available through the agency's public web site and all EPA unique documents will be online within two years. Documents from libraries within the network that no longer have physical space will be available online as of January 2007.

EPA's claims triggered a swift response from American Library Association's (ALA) President Leslie Burger. "The teleconference December 11 raised more questions than it answered. It is a gross oversimplification to state that everyone benefits when libraries go digital. This is only true when there is a thoughtful digitization plan that ensures valuable information is not lost and public access is retained. We are still waiting for the EPA to disclose its digitization plan and budget," Burger said.

Technical Director's Report

by Werner Rebsamen

The Digital Revolution

Every time I open a trade magazine or search for news related to book manufacturing and on-demand printing and binding, there are articles related to the digital revolution.

Similar to what Kodak and others are experiencing with film materials, the revolution predicted a long time ago is upon us. Over the last few months, we have reported on successful enterprises like Lightning Source. Booksurge is another such company by Amazon.com. In a recent press release, Hewlett-Packard (HP) announced the selection of HP Indigo presses to provide digital color printing for Amazon's expanding books-on-demand business. The release claimed that by "leveraging the power of digital technology to print books in real time, HP will become Amazon's preferred provider for color print-on-demand services." Multiple HP Indigo presses have been installed at the Amazon fulfillment centers and are now producing full-color books on-demand as well as color covers for black and white text blocks. "The ability to produce books on-demand is another result of the transformation from analog to digital printing, and with our HP Indigo presses, we are at the forefront of this trend," said Vyomesh Joshi, executive vice president of the HP Imaging and Printing Group. "Now, through this collaboration, consumers will benefit from integration of HP's digital print technology and Amazon's unmatched ability to offer the broadest selection of books possible.

The books-on-demand market is expected to grow from approximately 20 billion book pages in 2006 to approximately 38 billion pages by 2009. This is due chiefly to the increasing demand for small-volume, rare and self-published books.

(Gee.... just as predicted! Did anybody listen?) On-demand printing is expected to almost double in just 2 years! With such an endeavor, Amazon will be able to significantly increase the number of available titles. HP also promotes other services such as the new production manager digital front-end controller which combines HP IT and graphic arts technologies for rapid file processing in complex digital publishing scenarios. I'm sure that they also offer training opportunities in this regard. What used to be an almost exclusive market for offset printers is now fast changing to high-end digital printing. Other print-on-demand applications produced by HP Indigo presses and many others include everything from personalized marketing collateral to high-quality photo books.

Some library binders anticipated this growth and purchased the same presses. One member with whom I spoke is very happy about this particular investment and has already updated it to the very latest HP Indigo model. As for Amazon.com, this company is just amazing. I purchase books, music, DVD's and many other items including crutches and a wheelchair for my injured wife with a broken hip. The stuff is here the second day

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Something to Think About...

“Each thought, each action, in the sunlight of awareness becomes sacred.”
– Thich Nhat Hanh

Technical Director's Report

by Werner Rebsamen

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and I order it through the Internet! An annual Amazon Prime membership costs \$79 and then all shipping, second day delivery is free. If you need it the next day, the charge is only \$3.99. This is a terrific bargain. And just think, it all started with books! It should be noted that I do not endorse any products or services. This is just a report on what is available.

Frank Romano

Frank Romano addressed the same topic in the WhatTheyThink Dec. 15 newsletter.

In a “Message for Printers as We Enter 2007,” he described how printing was born in the Middle Ages, went through the Industrial Revolution, and that we have now upgraded the industry which has changed virtually everything. Everyone, including suppliers, has to reinvent themselves. We must all relearn what our industry is all about. Frank quoted his grandmother who used to say, “One door closes; another door opens!” He then went on to say: “This applies to all of us as the very nature of business changes. But, where there is change there is also opportunity and I think there is more opportunity than at any other time in our history.” You can read his complete address to the printing industry at the WhatTheyThink.com homepage. It is an interesting, free E-Newsletter. (<http://members.whattheythink.com/home/frank009.cfm>)

Congratulations to Jack Bendror!

In the November 22nd issue of Machine Design, the Mekatronics Ultrabind Plus is covered in an interesting two page article, “Pneumatics Breathes New Life into Old Books.” It describes all of the revolutionary and outstanding features of the machine, now a standard in virtually every library bindery. For engineers who read this particular magazine, the Festo DFM cylinders which provide high clamping forces and stability are described in detail as are all other unique features of the Ultrabind Plus.

I still believe the title of “New Life Into Old Books” is the wrong description. The Ultrabind is no longer an exclusive for library binders. On-demand hardcover binders have discovered the outstanding zero make-ready features of the Ultrabind Plus as well. As I write this article, Mekatronics is installing such a binder at a digital print facility who decided that in order to provide overnight services, they needed to add a hardcover binding operation. To view the article, go to:

<http://www.machinedesign.com/ASP/viewSelectedArticle.asp?strArticleId=61563&strSite=MDSite&Screen=CURRENTISSUE&CatID=3>

Happy Holidays

It's been an interesting year, one which brought many changes to our organization. I'm delighted to work with Debbie Nolan who is doing an excellent job in guiding our trade association into new endeavors. Just look at the new issues of this newsletter, one seems to exceed the other. The all-new LBI web-page and our publication *ShelfLife* are other exiting, new steps into the right direction. I'm sure, there is much more to come. As for the New Year, I take the liberty to quote my colleague Frank Romano who stated: “As we enter 2007, there is opportunity behind every door. With imagination and dedication we will pass through those doors into a bright and prosperous future.”



All the best - Werner

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Executive Director's Report

by Debra S. Nolan

ATM books, removable tattoos, and lunch-hour liposuction. Hmm. (See article entitled "What Do ATM Book Machines, Removable Tattoos, and Lunch-Hour Liposuction Have in Common?" early on in this *Endpaper* issue.) Fast, impermanent, and life changing – ouch! So, this is where business is expected to boom in 2007. *Interesting*. I wonder what this says about our society and lifestyle. Let's see, we want things instantly as long as we have the luxury of changing our minds and if we look good doing it, we're willing to endure a little pain, for a permanent change to our bodies - *as long we look good*. Yikes.

Lately, I've been reading works by Thich Nhat Hanh, a world renowned monk who discusses the importance of mindfulness and being present. I mention this because I think reading a book, in print, requires the kind of mindfulness and presence that brings us back to our nature, to our core. Do instant gratification, plastic surgery, and impermanent body decorations bring us closer to who we are? What would happen if we just stopped, took a deep breath, and sat down to read a good book after dinner rather than watching the latest episode of CSI – Miami? While technology and modern science have improved our lives and businesses tremendously, do we have the presence of mind to stay grounded in our own natures, deliberate before taking action, and simply pause so that we can hear and trust our own intellects and hearts?

Recently, I paused to re-read my favorite childhood book, "Harriet the Spy." In it, I rediscovered phrases, ideology, and personalities that profoundly affected my development as a child and young teen. I love the way Harriet boldly declares her intentions. Whether or not she got her way, this young girl was determined to be heard, if only by herself at times. Ole' Golly, the nanny, quoted Dostoyevski and Hemingway, which inspired Harriet's pursuit as a writer (and spy!). I suppose we all have a bit of Ole' Golly, Harriet, and other fictional characters in us. After re-reading this beloved childhood book, I was reminded of that which I held so dear in my younger years. And, I smiled thinking of how these things are still important despite the time that has gone by and the way the world has changed.

I wish for you all a holiday season and new year which startles your minds and hearts with the infinite possibilities of abundance and happiness that is yours to be had. All the best for a prosperous and joy-filled 2007.

