These difficult economic times require us to leave the comfort zone of our libraries and jump into unknown waters. Many of our CSLA members have already started this difficult journey.

The California Campaign for Strong School Libraries has begun. Messages have been sent from Connie Williams and Jackie Siminitus outlining what the Campaign offers. The website http://librarycampaign.csla.net has all the materials you will need to support ‘action advocacy’ projects in your area. I used this information to write to the editors of my two local newspapers. If you look at the editorial page in your local newspaper, you can find the address and requirements to get a message out to your community. Our efforts do not end after the March notices go out. The public must be continually reminded of the necessity of a fully staffed, adequately funded school library to teach our children to be digitally literate, good readers and lifelong learners.

Members of the Los Angeles School Library Association have organized to fight possible cuts in their positions. We are grateful to them for donating $500 to our Campaign. You as an individual or your local organization can donate too. Just click on the Campaign logo on the CSLA website and a tax-deductible donation can be made. The funds will be used for advocacy efforts such as banners on the sides of buses.

You can also be proactive even when your job is not on the cut list. The paraprofessionals in the Oakley Union School District are giving a presentation to their school board citing their library use statistics and giving them materials from the Campaign. Linda Pennock, one of the Northern Section Region I Representatives, is organizing the group.

Our CSLA Southern Section President, Janice Gilmore-See has taken her expertise beyond her district by writing a book: Simply Indispensable: An Action Guide for School Librarians (Libraries Unlimited, 2010). She has hundreds of tips to help you become indispensable.

Also in Southern California, Marie Slim has created a video entitled “What Teacher Librarians Make.” She posted it on YouTube for all of us to use in our advocacy efforts. She managed to do this while working at three high schools.

Across the state, many of you are going to your school board meetings presenting the case for school libraries. I know from my own experience how uncomfortable that can be, so I applaud your efforts.

I know there are many more of you in California working tirelessly to help your students and teachers while promoting the importance of school libraries. It is impossible to mention all of you, so I hope that these examples will inspire all of us as we swim against the tide in these difficult times.

Diane Alexander
CSLA President
LEADERSHIP FOR DIVERSITY

2011 LFD Scholarship Applications Coming Due

By Susan Dubin

In 2010, the Leadership for Diversity Award was given to Lynne Sundstrom for her program “Read Around the World.” The scholarship recipient was Linda Kennedy. Both are dynamic library leaders who will contribute a great deal to the school library environment.

Lynne’s program was highlighted during a presentation at the 2010 CSLA-CLA combined conference in November. She organized a school-wide event that had children researching customs in different countries around the world. Students also prepared various booths with activities highlighting each country for an Around the World Festival that included music, dance, food and art from the countries researched. Visitors to each booth kept track of where they visited in a “passport” designed for the program. Not only did this program highlight multiculturalism, it was also a model for library/classroom interactive planning and lessons.

Funds for the Scholarship and support for the Leadership for Diversity Award come from the proceeds from the silent auction held during the conference. Donations of items for the auction can be made by contacting the Leadership for Diversity Committee. Next year the Silent Auction will close on Saturday evening so that those who have to leave early Sunday will have a chance to bid and pick up their items.

The Leadership for Diversity Committee offers a scholarship for those training to be librarians. Information is available at http://csla.net/index.php/foundation/awards-scholarships/83-scholarships. Applications are due by April 30, 2011.

All those interested in working with the committee to promote diversity within the library profession are invited to contact Susan Dubin at sdbin@socal.rr.com. Now, more than ever, we all need to work together to promote librarianship and strengthen our profession.
There has never been a more important time for us to assess the state of school libraries in California than this year. The CDE Online School Library Survey is available at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/schlsurvwelcompage.asp. The annual online survey is to collect information from individual schools about their libraries in 2009-2010. It will be active through April 29, 2011.

Information about prior year surveys is available any time. Start by printing out a copy of the questions to use as a worksheet. Return to the survey page when you have gathered your answers. There is a password again and it is the same as last year, typed just like it appears here: @YourLibrary.
The Legislature's two-house Budget Conference Committee wrapped up its work on the 2011-12 California Budget the first week of March. This sets up a vote on the budget in both houses of the Legislature in time to meet Governor Jerry Brown's timeline of mid-March. Republican members of both houses supported some, but not all, of the actions taken, and indicated they were not happy with the array of budget decisions being made by the majority party.

BROAD PROGRAM CUTS MADE
Consistent with actions taken by both Budget Committees, the preliminary Conference Report reaches the governor's total cut level of $12.5 billion, albeit in slightly different ways. These budget reductions included:

- Health and Human Services (not including child care): $6.0 billion
- Redevelopment Agencies: $1.7 billion
- UC/CSU: $1.1 billion
- Transportation Prop 22 Weight Fee Fix: $1.0 billion
- Corrections: $1.0 billion
- State Salaries/State Operations: $700 million
- Child Care: $500 million

Of the total $26.5 billion deficit, the conferees made $12.5 billion in cuts, $12 billion in revenue and $3.2 billion in other solutions (i.e., eliminating redevelopment agencies). The budget includes the assumption of the extension of $8.1 billion in temporary taxes to be placed on the June ballot.

K-12 BUDGET ACTIONS
For K-12 schools, the budget proposal funds Proposition 98 at $49.4 billion, which is about $100 per student more than proposed by the governor. This was done, in part, to take advantage of the latest revenue estimates showing increased state revenue and to offset Proposition 98 reductions made by the two houses in order to spare cuts to child care.

Other issues contained in the proposal include:

- **Deferrals** – A new $2.1 billion deferral, bringing the total amount deferred year-to-year to $9.1 billion, which is about 21 percent of all Proposition 98 money. On the deferral, the details of the how it will work are still being hammered out. The Department of Finance proposal of a July to July deferral met significant opposition. While legislators embraced the pleas from the state's cash flow managers to defer additional money payable to schools in July, the impact of the original proposal on the ability of LEAs to repay locally-issued debt would be in jeopardy. As such, negotiations have been underway for weeks on a series of shorter deferrals that would meet the state's goal but also allow LEAs to be able to manage their debt repayment schedules.

- **Categorical Flexibility** – All of the current flexibility provisions were extended for two years. Both houses will likely review this issue in greater detail during the spring and changes are possible prior to a final budget action in late June.

- **K-3 – Class Size Reduction** – Conference action provides $1.46 billion for the K-3 Class Size Reduction Program. The conferees also adopted trailer bill language to appropriate funding through statute rather than in the Annual Budget Act for the 2011-12 fiscal year. This ensures full funding for the program and is consistent with action taken in the 2010-11 budget.

- **Mental Health** – $80 million in Prop 98 funding is included in the budget for the current fiscal year to cover AB 3632 Mental Health Services to Special Education Students. For the 2011-12 year, Prop 63 funding would be used to cover the AB 3632 costs.

- **Mandates** – $89.9 million is provided to cover mandated cost reimbursement claims for 2011-12. All of the current year mandate reforms will remain in place and a review of the recommendations of the mandate working group will be reviewed in the spring and may be added to the budget at a later date.

- **EIA** – $56 million was added to the Economic Impact Aid program to cover workload adjustments that were missed in previous estimates.

- **Special Disabilities Adjustment** – Both houses supported the Governor's elimination of $74 million in special education Special Disabilities Adjustment formula funding augmentation. The conference report does say that this issue will be revisited in the spring when CDE releases the results of their study of the issue.

- **Emergency Repair Program** – The conferees rejected the governor's proposal to provide $42.8 million in ongoing funds and $10.77 million in one-time funds for the Emergency Repair Program.
• **Reductions to Basic Aid Districts** – Basic Aid Districts were cut by 8.9 percent in the current year and in 2011-12 to make previous “fair share” agreement approved in the 2009-10 budget ongoing.

• **$2.3 million was provided to California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System in the current year** – Language was adopted to better enable the state to acquire knowledge from IBM that can be transferred to LEAs related to the requirements of the School Accountability Report Card.

• **Office of Secretary of Education Eliminated** – The office of the secretary of education was eliminated.

• **Redevelopment** – The governor’s proposal to repeal redevelopment agencies was adopted for a savings to the state general fund in 2011-12 of $1.7 billion. Schools will benefit directly in 2012-13.

**FLOOR ACTIONS EXPECTED SOON**

The budget vote in March was almost a side deal to the discussion about the extension of the taxes. Republicans in both houses are officially opposed to placing the issue before voters. However, many Republicans concede privately that some kind of deal will be put together that will allow the minimum number of Republicans to support the budget and the ballot measure. In support of this effort, the California Chamber of Commerce announced its support for the budget and tax plan and promise to support Republicans who vote for it. As with all issues of supply and demand, the question now is how high the “reform” price will go before the needed Republican members sign on.

It is important to remember that the budget deadline is predicated on a broader strategy of getting the Legislature to approve a constitutional amendment to extend almost $9 billion in taxes set to expire later this year. As this is written, there has been no agreement between the Governor and Republican members that would result in a 2/3 vote of both houses. While the budget is now moving, there is no agreement yet on the crucial tax package. Should a deal on taxes not happen, the state would continue to have a $12 billion shortfall, making it highly likely that significant Proposition 98 cuts would need to be made.

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**Beta Phi Mu Award Goes to Californian**

By Dana Stemig

Dr. Lesley Farmer was selected as the recipient of the 2011 ALA Beta Phi Mu Award. The award is given to a library school faculty member for distinguished service to librarianship education and consists of $1000 and a citation of achievement. Dr. Farmer is a professor in the Department of Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling at CSU Long Beach. As stated by Barbara Jeffus, Dr. Farmer was instrumental in writing the Library Program Standards section of the Model School Library Standards as well as many publications that have advanced school librarianship in California and elsewhere.

**Jewel Gardiner Memorial Scholarship**

By Terry Lai

Jewel Gardiner was the supervisor of school libraries and librarian of the Professional Library for the Sacramento City Unified School District from 1930-1955. She established an elementary library program that was innovative and far ahead of its time.

The Jewel Gardiner Memorial Scholarship is given by Northern Section CSLA to educators studying to become Teacher Librarians. This spring two promising educators were honored with this $1,000 scholarship.

Julie Cook works in the Merced Union High School District as a Librarian and is working toward her Teacher Librarian Credential and Masters at Fresno Pacific University. “Her seven years in the classroom, as an English teacher, has given her many tools that she will use as a teacher librarian. She has shown great initiative to start new programs, collaborate with teachers, and develop her collection.” (Sarah Morgan, TL at Merced High)

Kelly Gregor-Hartlaub has been an English teacher for 14 years. She is working toward her Teacher Librarian Credential and Masters at San Jose State University and has almost completed the program. This outstanding teacher is the co-leader of Alameda High School’s student literacy program. “She is dedicated to her students and to their learning; she is creative and innovative in bringing a rich curriculum that meets and goes beyond state standards. She has collaborated extensively with many teachers from her own and other departments.” (Karen Roemer, TL at Alameda High School)
March in March for Advocacy

By Glen Warren, VP Governmental Relations

I hope that you made your appointments to see your legislators during March in March. If you did not, then you can March in April. It is not as catchy, but better to March late than to never have Marched at all. We need you to use our talking points, making it clear that the Teacher Librarian is the only credentialed teacher at any school campus that is trained to teach kids how to be digitally literate, cyber safe, and information resilient.

Executive Order S-06-09, ordered by the previous governor of California, called for the advancement of digital literacy in California. A leadership council was formed that formally defined “Digital Literacy” as: “a lifelong learning process of capacity building for using digital technology, communications tools, and/or networks in creating, accessing, analyzing, managing, integrating, evaluating, and communicating information in order to function in a knowledge based economy and society”.

In January of 2011, Governor Brown published the “California Information Technology Strategic Plan 3rd Edition, Capitalizing on Opportunities.” In Section 2, Goal 1, Strategy 5, calls for the continuation to “Promote digital literacy in California.” This short section goes on to declare:

“Work with the California Broadband Council and stakeholders (schools, libraries, workforce, tech companies, and state agencies) to bring broadband access to all Californians. Identify opportunities for, and develop partnerships with stakeholders to expand digital literacy.”

In education, Teacher Librarians are one major stakeholder group because we have the ONLY official state standards that directly spell out what digital literacy looks like for all California K-12 students!

When one considers the State’s official definition of Digital Literacy and the model school library standards that spells out specifically for Kindergarten through Twelfth grade how to Access, Evaluate, Integrate, and Use digital information and more, one would think that this is a match made in heaven!

Yet it is not clearly seen by many education leaders and policy leaders in this state. Sometimes the obvious is difficult to understand. This is why we need to keep pointing out the obvious to our legislators so that we are included in the language of future bills.

Here are some examples of the fast moving evolution in the area of digital literacy in this state. We need to move fast as well! My comments are in italics.

SB 402 (CORREA)

Education: curriculum frameworks

Existing law requires the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission to recommend curriculum frameworks for adoption by the State Board of Education in accordance with regulations.

This bill would require each curriculum framework to describe how content can be delivered to intentionally build creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and communication into and across each content area, to the extent the description is deemed appropriate by the board.

This bill should support the implementation of the Model School Library Standards as one of the rubrics used to assess future curriculum frameworks, since ours is the only official state standards that do this! The state needs a Teacher Librarian to be part of each framework team if this is going to be implemented with fidelity.

CLRN’S ONLINE COURSE REVIEW STANDARDS

Below are the results of six months of work with two committees. iNACOL’s newly updated National Standards of Quality for Online Courses will be used by both TxVSN and the California Learning Resource Network to review online courses.

Notice number 4 under Content:

A. CONTENT

The course provides online learners with multiple ways of engaging with learning experiences that promote their mastery of content and are aligned with state content standards or nationally accepted content.
ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS

1. The goals and objectives clearly state what the participants will know or be able to do at the end of the course. The goals and objectives are measurable in multiple ways.

2. The course content and assignments are aligned with the state’s content standards or nationally/internationally accepted content standards set for Advanced Placement courses, technology, computer science, or other courses whose content is not included in the state standards.

3. The course content and assignments are of sufficient rigor, depth and breadth to teach the standards being addressed.

4. Information literacy and communication skills are incorporated and taught as an integral part of the curriculum.

5. Multiple learning resources and materials to increase student success are available to students before the course begins.

CLRN’s Online Course Review Standards for online courses include Information Literacy and communication skills! This is a direct reference to the California School Library Standards. It would seem that CLRN could use a Teacher Librarian to assist in reviewing Online Courses, who else is qualified?

For more information see: http://www.clrn.org/blog/news/index.cfm/2011/2/18/CLRNs-Online-Course-Review-Standards

At the CUE Conference, it was wonderful to meet with our Teacher Librarian Special Interest Group. We had higher attendance than last year. What was interesting is that for the first time we had folks in the room who were not Teacher Librarians or library clerks. We had cyber safety company representatives, an art teacher, an educational technologist, and a California Department of Education Career Technical Education leader. When I asked them, “Why are you here?” it was because that all wanted to support the mission of the Teacher Librarians, to advance a transformation of education in this state with our spirit! It was amazing! On the last day of the CUE conference, Tom Torlakson our Superintendent of Public Schools visited with me about how Teacher Librarians are equipped to advance digital literacy, information literacy, and cyber safety. We may have more friends that we thought if we just look for them!

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applause, Applause

Barbara Jeffus, California Department of Education

Last month’s column reported the passage of the Model School Library Standards by the State Board of Education. While the formal editing process continues, a newer prepublication draft is posted at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/.

If you are curious about the final format, just look at one of the earlier California content standards. No graphics. A serious publication.

Countless hands touched the new document at its various stages of development, more than I can list here. If you reviewed the draft during the public comment period, attended a focus group with CDE staff or in your county or district office, sent an email suggestion, or participated in an information session with CSLA, THANK YOU!

Before there was anything in writing, there was a volunteer writing team that conceptualized and drafted the student standards. It was hard work and what wonderful work they did! Kudos to:

- Rosemarie Bernier, Los Angeles Unified School District
- Anna Koval, Petaluma City Elementary School District
- Pamela Oehlman, Long Beach Unified School District
- Tanya Richards, Modesto City Schools
- Martha Rowland, Sacramento City Unified School District
- Dana Stemig, Modesto City Schools
- Glen Warren, Orange County Office of Education
- Carolyn Williams, Alvord Unified School District
- Connie Williams, Petaluma City Elementary School District

The Library Program Standards are based on much of the work of Lesley Farmer, CSU Long Beach. I cannot acknowledge her contribution enough! Thank you, Lesley.

When the SBE added the caveat of having a group of library experts examine the library standards in light of the new Common Core State Standards, the following experts stepped up:

- Doug Achterman, San Benito High School District
- Stacey Aldrich, California State Librarian
- Rosemarie Bernier, Los Angeles Unified School District
- Peter Doering, Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Lesley Farmer, California State University Long Beach
- Pam Oehlman, Long Beach Unified School District
- Susan Pennell, Madera County Office of Education
- Martha Rowland, Sacramento City Unified School District
- Glen Warren, Orange County Office of Education
- Connie Williams, Petaluma City Elementary School District

Hold your applause. There are more to acknowledge next month!
FIERCE Social Networking

By Marie Slim

In her January 2, 2011 Neverending Search Blog Post, “2011: The year to be FIERCE,” Joyce Valenza implores Teacher Librarians to “Ask Later” and “Don’t Stop at NO.” This resonates with me and my libraries’ (yes—“libraries” plural) recent breakdowns in social networking.

Last year I Twittered and Facebooked for Troy High School. My defunct Facebook page is at: http://www.facebook.com/troylibrary and my neglected Twitter moniker is @troylibrary (http://twitter.com/troylibrary, but my library’s timeline is not visible as I “protected my tweets” to protect the privacy of my student followers).

Developing the Twitter feed and Facebook page and “asking later,” I was able to connect with students and staff in a meaningful way that used “push” technology. I got my message to their computers, their phones – their information space. I tweeted about what we were doing in the library and in classes. What better way to let students, parents and staff know what we do.

I promoted the library’s Twitter page with posters, and put our Facebook and Twitter information on my website. (www.ilovelifbraries.com)

This year I decided to tweet in my district because I have three schools (@fjuhsd), but was put on alert early on in the school year that neither my tweeting nor Facebooking would be permitted for the 2010-2011 school year.

I look over my tweets as @troylibrary and I am sad that I don’t have that tool anymore to help alert my students to new books, changes in hours, baseball scores, sharing pictures, library programs and for just “being available” for my students (see adjacent screenshots).

So if you can do it, DO IT. Use text messaging if you don’t have a smartphone. Follow the examples of pioneering CSLA members:

Twitter:

http://twitter.com/bighouselibrary
http://twitter.com/besschinlibrary
http://twitter.com/DowneyLMT

On Facebook, search for “Bessie Chin Library,” “Big House Library” and “Thomas Downey High School Library.”
Northern Section Region 1 hosted a workshop at Heritage High School in Brentwood that featured a book repair workshop presented by Will Elliott, DEMCO representative. Repair techniques included repair of torn/ripped pages, and reattaching covers. The workshop was well-attended with approximately 25 participants. Participants received repair kits to use during the hands-on portion of the workshop. Raffle tickets were sold to support the Northern Section paraprofessional scholarship. Raffle prizes were donated by a number of vendors, including Alan Schade of BTSB Bookstore, Jim Frederick of Scholastic, Linda Sweeney of Delaney Educational Enterprises, Maurice Fey of Perma-Bound and educational consultant, Naomi Shelan. Naomi also donated “goodie bags” of books for all participants.

Sunflowers and Books was the top selling design at the Library Store this month. It’s a great time to stock up on your favorite design for Mother’s Day, graduations and end of the school year gifts.

http://cafepress.com/csla

How are you using your Library Store items? Please send pictures to cslanews@gmail.com to share.

We’re pleased to announce a new CSLA Member Benefit from our friends at Shmoop! Look for details on this exciting new benefit early next week and on the website. If you are not familiar with Shmoop and their cool educational tools – you’ll soon find out! Stay tuned…

Through a variety of projects and programs, the California School Library Association has developed the California Campaign for Strong School Libraries. The outreach of the campaign is designed to impact school administrators, legislators, parents, students, educators, and anyone who could advocate the importance of your child’s access to a library staffed by a credentialed teacher librarian, clerical staff and a budget to support important resources for reading, research and creative projects. Make your tax-deductible contribution through the CSLA Foundation today—either in monetary form or visit the Library Store.
Information
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Deadline
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SNAP shots

Meeting with Senator Mark DeSaulnier’s assistant
Standing left to right: Kit Hein, Katie Williams, Dommire Davis, Satinder Malhi (assistant for Senator DeSaulnier), Kathy Barrere, Tom Kaun.
Sitting left to right: Diane Alexander, Cathy Johnson, and Dolores Fabel

2011 Calendar

Click here to visit CSLA’s online calendar page >>>

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<td>Minarets High School in O’Neals</td>
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<td><a href="http://conference.cvcue.org">http://conference.cvcue.org</a></td>
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<td>August 5-6</td>
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<td>November 11-13</td>
<td>CSLA/CLA Annual Conference &amp; Exposition, Pasadena</td>
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