



GLS Alumni News

Editor: Eric Halvorson, AM'75

Issue No. 7

Spring 2009

Judith Krug, 1940-2009: Freedom to Read Advocate

Judith Fingeret Krug, AM '64, died April, 11, 2009 in Evanston, IL after a long illness. The long-time Director of the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom and Executive Director of the Freedom to Read Foundation was 69.

Ms. Krug received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Pittsburgh and was awarded a master's degree from the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago in 1964. Early in her career, she worked at the John Crerar Library and at Northwestern University before joining the staff of the American Library Association. She was appointed Director of the ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom in 1967, working with librarians engaged in censorship disputes. In 1969, she was appointed Executive Director of the Freedom to Read Foundation, which raises funds to tackle First Amendment issues in the courts. She founded Banned Books Week in 1982 to promote awareness of right-to-read issues and freedom of expression without fear of censorship. Later, she was involved with censorship issues regarding the Internet which resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court's striking down of certain indecency provisions of the Communications Decency Act of 1996. She also campaigned against provisions of the PATRIOT Act that involved disclosure of library records.

Judith Krug was the recipient of the Joseph P. Lippincott Award, the Irita Van Doren Award and the Henry Kalven Freedom of Expression Award. Most recently, Ms. Krug was presented the William J. Brennan, Jr. Award, given by the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression. The award recognizes a person or group that demonstrates a commitment to the principles of free expression so valued by the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Ms. Krug was only the fifth recipient of the award since it was first given in 1993. She received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Illinois in 2005.

“For more than four decades, Judith Krug inspired librarians and educated government officials and others about everyone's inviolable right to read. Her leadership in defense of the First Amendment was always principled and unwavering. Judith's courage, intelligence, humor and passion will be much missed—but her spirit will inspire us always,” said Jim Rettig, ALA President and Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director.

ILA's 2008 Reference Services Award to Carolyn M. Mulac

The Reference Services Forum of the Illinois Library Association (ILA) presented **Carolyn M. Mulac**, AM'78, Division Chief, General Information Services of the Chicago Public Library (CPL), the 2008 Reference Services Award at the Reference Services Forum Luncheon on September 24th, 2008 at the ILA Convention at Navy Pier.

This award is presented yearly to a librarian or service based on the following criteria:

- Specialized or innovative programs or services;
- Service to the library profession through active participation in professional organizations;
- The nominee has influenced and/or cooperated with persons or organizations within his/her community in the planning or presenting of programs or services for; and
- The nominee has reached and affected persons outside his/her own community by deed, idea, and/or example.

Mulac, a past manager of the Forum, has distinguished herself in the field of reference over the course of her 30- year career as a librarian at the Chicago Public Library. Her work has not only benefitted the people of Chicago and her colleagues at the library, but she has gone on to mentor reference librarians throughout the state through presentations and workshops. Her influence extends nationwide through her work on American Library Association (ALA) committees, her book reviews for *Library Journal* and *Reference Books Bulletin* and her editorial work on seminal reference works such as the 6th and 7th editions of *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries*.

Dr. Peggy Sullivan, PhD'72, who taught Mulac at the University of Chicago, notes that "Her master's thesis was cited in *Women Building Chicago*, a major recent reference title. It was referred to as if it were a doctoral dissertation, surely because those editors believed that such a good piece of research – a biographical study of Mary Eileen Ahern, a librarian prominent in public libraries in the early years of the twentieth century – must have been a part of doctoral study and research, rather than the work of a young master's student."

Carolyn has shared her expertise in customer service, communication and reference sources at ILA, ALA and On the Frontlines: Illinois State Library Practitioners' conferences, as well as at the Indiana Library Federation and Chicago Public Library All Staff Institute Days. In 1996, she helped to organize, recruit and train librarians to work as off-site reference support for the Democratic National Convention held in Chicago that year. She was also instrumental in the design and implementation of reference workshops at CPL.

CPL First Deputy Commissioner, Karen Danzcak Lyons notes, "Carolyn is the very embodiment of what a Reference Librarian should strive to be: intelligent, thoughtful, resourceful, an excellent listener, dedicated and always calm under pressure."

Will Your Words Linger?

Fairfax, VA - **Ruta Sevo**, AM'78 of Fairfax, VA, is a contributing author to **My Words Are Gonna Linger: The Art of Personal History**, an anthology published this month by Personal History Press. "It was an honor to have a story selected from more than one hundred submissions," says Ruta Sevo. "The book is a wonderful example of how personal history can lead to wisdom and growth in both the storyteller and the reader."

Sevo's contribution is an ethical will, also known as a legacy letter. The exercise of writing it follows a guiding principle from Niccolo Tucci: "First learn to write as if you were already dead, and then you will discover that you can write as if you were still alive." It is a "good-bye world" statement to loved ones and friends.

The forty-nine stories in **My Words Are Gonna Linger** celebrate the preservation of personal histories as eyewitness accounts of history. The book differs from similar works by providing insight into the memoir-writing process and practical tips on how to start preserving your own or someone else's life story.

Ruta Sevo wrote the letter in a class taught by Pat McNees who is a professional personal historian in Bethesda, MD. McNees is a member of the Association of Personal Historians Inc. and teaches a life story and legacy writing workshop at the Writer's Center in Bethesda, MD.

The purpose of the Association of Personal Historians is to advance the profession of helping individuals, organizations, and communities preserve their histories, memories, and life stories. Visit www.personalhistorians.org/anthology.php to learn more.

Order **My Words Are Gonna Linger: The Art of Personal History** for \$19.95 plus shipping with a request to storemanager@personalhistorians.org.

Bulletin Board

Alumni Weekend – June 5-7

- June 6 – 10 AM Banner Procession to Convocation
Meet under the GLS Banner in Bartlett Quad
- June 6 – 4:15 PM *UnCommon Core* Panel, Reception
And Exhibition Tour – See Page 8
- June 7 – 11:30 AM Brunch with Books
"The Future of Knowledge", Alumni House, \$20
- June 7 - 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM GLS Alumni Reception
and Tour - D'Angelo Law Library

[Register online](#)

Turning the Page on Censorship

Marianna Tax Choldin, '59, helped found the United Nations of libraries at the University of Illinois.



When she entered Lab, Marianna Tax Choldin was already a citizen of the world, having lived in Guatemala and Mexico. But her interest in languages really took shape during high school trips to Germany, chaperoned by Lab teacher Gregor Heggen.

"It was 1958 when he first took us," recalls Ms. Choldin, '59, AB'62, PhD'79, a librarian and scholar of censorship in the Soviet Union and the post-Communist world. "It was a very different country from what it is now. We lived with German families, and many of us were Jewish, as I am. That experience with German was just life-altering."

A chance meeting with a scholar from the Soviet Union sparked her interest in Russia. At 14, she accompanied her father, anthropologist Sol Tax, to the University of Pennsylvania for a conference. Ms. Choldin killed time reading an abridged translation of *War and Peace*.

"Three Soviet anthropologists asked what I was reading," she recalls. "One of them started lecturing me, 'You should be reading this not in translation, but in Russian, and not in an abridged version.' The irony was that in his country you couldn't lay your hands on an English original of any book. Any version was censored, as it was translated."

Ms. Choldin first visited Soviet libraries during the

Khrushchev era, in 1960, "when things looked like they were opening up a bit." She returned during the period of stagnation under Brezhnev, when all "dangerous" publications were sequestered in the *spetskhran* (special repository) section of libraries run by the KGB.

Ms. Choldin's numerous books and articles include *A Fence Around the Empire: Russian Censorship of Western Ideas Under the Tsars* (1985) and *The Red Pencil: Artists, Scholars, and Censors in the USSR* (co-edited with Maurice Friedberg; 1989).

Now the Mortenson Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of Illinois, Ms. Choldin served as founding director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs from 1991 to 2002. She brought more than 600 librarians from 76 countries to Urbana/Champaign during those years, collecting some remarkable stories along the way. Armenian librarians explained how they kept libraries open without heat or electricity. And Colombian librarians talked of being kidnapped by rebels on their way to deliver books to other libraries: one librarian was let go when he promised to provide the rebels with lunch. "It was remarkable to see how librarians in countries that have very little came up with incredibly creative ways to help people," Ms. Choldin says.

Editor's Note: The above article appeared in **LabLife** and is reproduced here with permission of the University of Chicago Lab School and Ms. Choldin

Nadler Appointed to Second Term as University Library Director

From: Thomas F. Rosenbaum, Provost – The University of Chicago

I am delighted to announce that Judith Nadler has accepted a second term through June 2014 as Director of the University Library. A frequently consulted national and international expert on library science, Judi is known for her broad expertise, the energy with which she undertakes new projects, and her deep devotion to both the Library and the University of Chicago.

Among a litany of important contributions, the crowning accomplishment of Judi's first term was the planning and design of the new Joe and Rika Mansueto Library, a library of superior functionality and iconic architecture. Extending well into her second term, Judi will chair the steering committee that oversees the construction and commissioning of the new library.

As she did during her first term, Judi will continue to make the library an exceedingly effective research tool for faculty, students and staff across campus. She maintains six on-site libraries, proficiently builds our collections, explores and implements digitization techniques, and amasses electronic assets and automating services to optimize the preservation and access of the resource materials upon which we build new knowledge. For all of this, we will benefit from Judi's sound judgment, expertise and extensive experience.

Judi joined the University in 1966 as a cataloger in the Foreign Language Section of the Library's Cataloging Department. She was successively promoted to Head of the Social Sciences Section, Head of the Cataloging Department, Assistant Director for Technical Services and then Associate Director of the Library. In addition to her duties as Director, Judi currently serves as chief selector for the Library's Judaica Collection, having raised much of the funding to build this collection.

Nadler studied history and comparative linguistics at the University of Cluj in Romania, earned an undergraduate degree in English and romance studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a master's degree in library science from the Israel Graduate School, and pursued graduate studies in comparative literature at Hebrew University.

We are grateful to have Judi continue as the Library's guide, administrator, and strategic planner in these challenging times.

Bulletin Board

Join us at ALA!
University of Chicago GLS Gathering
Sunday, July 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Houlihan's, 111 E. Wacker Drive
RSVP: Joan Bentley Hoffman
(773) 702-8742 or jhoffman@uchicago.edu

Elizabeth Kientzle Schaefer, AM'49, writes:

Greetings Eric,

I enjoyed the latest GLS newsletter including your section. I graduated from GLS in Sept. 1949. Two faculty members I remember especially were Jesse Shera and Leon Carnovski.

Positions after graduation were at De Paul University and the John Crerar Library until 1955. After my marriage, I took a break to have a family. As my four daughters grew up, I directed the library in the elementary school they attended in River Forest until 1989. That was followed by two years at Fenwick High School, and finally, ten years I thoroughly enjoyed as part time reference librarian in the Schiller Park and Elmwood Park Libraries.

Two of my daughters are professional violinists: one in the Minneapolis Symphony and the other a sub in the Dallas and Fort Worth Orchestras. I'm enjoying life in a Presbyterian Retirement Home in a suburb of the Twin Cities where three of my daughters live with 6 of my 8 grandchildren. We have an active Sierra Club in Shoreview, rated as one of the best cities in the US for quality of life.

I'd enjoy hearing about any of my classmates from GLS who still keep in touch with the school.

Elizabeth Kientzle Schaefer

Robert Helfer, AM'82, writes:

Eric, glad to see you're still in Hyde Park, and still actively engaged in GLS matters. Maybe we'll get to Chicago, possibly even for the alumni events at ALA. Neither of us is currently an ALA member, so we would mainly just be visiting Chicago (friends, relatives, the city, Hyde Park).

Here's some GLS alumni news:

Lisa deGruyter, PhD'82, and **Robert Helfer**, AM'82, have retired from their respective employments for the State of Texas and have moved to Clarksburg, West Virginia. Lisa served 10 years with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts operating the agency's Unix computers. Previously she spent 10 years with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, where she created the Texas State Electronic Library and developed the program that has allowed every public library in Texas to be connected to the Internet.

Robert served 20 years with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission developing and maintaining an automated system to support their Talking Book Program. Robert continues half-time for the Talking Book Program, telecommuting 1165 miles as the crow flies from his desk in Clarksburg.

Our children, Hilde and Arend deGruyter-Helfer, are now grown and on their own. Hilde is an electrical engineer for Oncor Electrical Delivery in Dallas, and Arend is finishing his third year at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Robert

Dr. Choon Shil Lee, AM'79, PhD'94, made a surprise visit in May to see Judi Nadler while in Chicago early this month. Dr. Lee, now a professor in the Department of Library and Information Science at Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul, Korea, reminisced with Mrs. Nadler about her first job in the cataloging department in Regenstein Library. During the conversation, Dr. Lee spoke with pride about her husband's U of C alumnus status (Dr. Hosung Sun, PhD '81, Chemistry) and also that of other relatives.

Jonquil Feldman, AM'84, is Associate Library Director for Public Services at the University of Texas Health Science Center (UT HSC) at San Antonio. Her division is responsible for providing reference, circulation, education and documentary delivery services. She also coordinates renovations and remodeling projects in the library.

After graduating from GLS, her first position was at the Countway Library at Harvard University. She later worked in libraries at the University of Virginia and University of Pittsburgh before settling in Texas 11 years ago. Jonquil has been active in the Medical Library Association and its chapters. She is a Distinguished Member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals of the Medical Library Association and serves on the Editorial Board of Medical Reference Services Quarterly.

She was a 2008 Leadership Fellow sponsored by the National Library of Medicine and Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries. Her fellowship mentor was GLS alumnus J. Michael Homan, AM'71, who hosted her for two weeks at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine where he is Director of Libraries.

Jonquil's husband, Marc, completed his housestaff training at the University of Chicago while she was studying at GLS. He is now Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at the UT HSC. They have two sons, ages 19 and 17.

We Want to Hear from You!

If you have news you'd like to share, please email me at:

erichalvorson@earthlink.net

or drop me a line:

Eric Halvorson

*5100 S. Hyde Park Blvd. - #2A
Chicago, IL 60615*

Or contact:

Joan Bentley Hoffman

Email: jhoffman@uchicago.edu

Call for Volunteers!

Your editor is calling for volunteers to carry the GLS Banner during the Banner Procession to the Alumni Convocation on Saturday, June 6 at 10 AM.

If you want to lead your fellow alumni to the Convocation on Alumni Weekend, please email me at the address below or contact Joan Bentley Hoffman at 773-702-8742 or email jhoffman@uchicago.edu

Bulletin Board

Alumni Weekend

June 6th - *Un*Common Core Panel, Reception and Tour

4:15 p.m. - Free panel session

“The History and Future of Women at the University of Chicago”

Panel features faculty, administrators, alumnae and current students.

Donnelly Biological Sciences Learning Center

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Join alumni, students, and faculty in the Bartlett Quad at a reception celebrating the experience of women at the University, **\$10**

During reception, students will lead tours of Special Collections Exhibit, “On Equal Terms”: Educating Women at the University of Chicago” in Regenstein Library. This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Gender Studies, the Social Sciences Division and the Chicago Women’s Alliance.

[Register online](#)