



ST. CROIX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

February 2009

President's Message

Greetings All,

I am honored to be the president of the St. Croix Library Association and thank the membership for support as I take the helm to carry on the accomplishments of past presidents and executive members who have kept SCLA alive and active since 1970.

Throughout the past five years, with the leadership of Immediate-Past President Judith Rogers, SCLA grew larger than ever, forged new partnerships, and greatly enhanced the profession of librarianship on St. Croix.

Under former President Rogers, SCLA applied for and received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for close to one million dollars. The

grant funded collaborations between the University of the Virgin Islands and the University of Pittsburgh to provide nearly thirty scholarships to students completing a Master of Library Science degree. They are committed to work for two years in school, public, medical, and legal libraries throughout the Territory. Some are presently student teaching and others are assisting with the automation process which is expanding the Virgin Islands Automated Library System (VIALS) to include all school libraries in a Territorial union catalog, thus allowing the Department of Education to partner with DPNR in purchasing on-line data bases. This will greatly

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Friends are among us!

In the Virgin islands there are several Librar and Friends of Library organizations that advocate and support the promotion of local libraries. If you wish to get involved, please do. We need the community's input and participation.

The activities are very rewarding as they promote family literacy and encourage reading. They also educate the community about the value of libraries in life-long learning. The

more visibility these organizations have the more the information needs can be met. All of these Associations are 501-C non profits. They have their own schedules of meetings, public events and fundraising activities.

There you have it. They exist and are waiting for your contribution to the community. Join today!

Support the 29th Annual African American Read-In

For the entire month of February VIDE is encouraging participation in the 29th annual African American Read-In. This is a national program that documents "read aloud" sessions using the works of African American authors. The kick-off was held at the Florence Williams Public Library on Feb 1 as a collaborative effort of the VI Department of Education, the Territorial Librarian Ingrid Bough, and the St. Croix Library Association.

On Feb 9th in the CHS library three English classes (47 students)

were invited to participate in an official Read-In event. Presentations were given by the following:

Maria Ghirawoo, grade 12, gave a booktalk on "Kindred" by Octavia Butler about an African-American woman living in 1970's California. She is pulled back in time to

the early 1800's and finds herself enslaved on a southern plantation. Maria gave a tantalizing overview of the book and without revealing the outcome created a "cliffhanger" to spark the interest of the 47 students listening. Ms. Norman, a business teacher, did the same with "The color of Water" by James McBride and

Ms. Espinosa, English teacher used props and dramatic readings for a book called "No Laughter Here" by Rita Williams-Garcia. At the end of the presentation, students were clamoring

to check out all three of these titles. It was an extremely effective motivational event coordinated by A.V. Specialist Sharon Prudoff. The program is available on DVD from the Curriculum Center and is expected to be aired on the Government Channel 6.

more pictures on next page



Maria Ghirawoo on "Kindred" by Octavia Butler

friendsofstlibraries@gmail.com

What is a Wiki?



Communications have never been smoother for SCLA librarians. We share resources through a website that each of us can actually edit and this is called a WIKI. By visiting this central space we see the latest announcements, helpful suggestions, and information posted by each of us. You are invited to our Wiki at the web address below which contains links to all the resources covered in our Agri-Literacy PowerPoint presentation seen at this year's Agriculture Fair.

Give it a try with the following link:

<http://stxschlibs.wikispaces.com/Black+History+%26+VI+Resouces+for+Parents+and+Students>



NCTE National Council of Teachers of English
A Professional Association of Educators in English Studies, Literacy, and Language Arts






*Ms. Norman on "The Color of Water"
by James McBride*

*Ms. Espinosa on "No Laughter Here"
by Rita Williams-Garcia*

Help Us Celebrate the Twentieth Year for the National African American Read-In
Sponsored by the Black Caucus of NCTE and NCTE

President's Message

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Thomas and St. Croix. reduce the cost of Internet resources and increase the availability to all patrons in the Territory. The cohort of media professionals have become an energizing force with the teaching of library skills to students and sharing their new knowledge during librarians' professional workshops. They are shaping our future and I am committed to furthering these collaborations to maximize our inherent potentials.

My goals for our future include building on this momentum, growing the scholarship fund, energizing our committees, and maintaining our partnerships. On the immediate horizon is the IMLS "Connecting to Collections Statewide Planning Grant" that SCLA has agreed to support by identifying precious resources in collections throughout St. Croix public schools that are in need of preservation. With the continuing support of the members and the dedication exemplified during our many events throughout the year from the Agriculture Fair to MiniQuest, we will continue to grow and support the profession of librarianship in St. Croix.

In another grant from IMLS, the Association created a "learning community". For one year scores of children had a high quality, afterschool and summer camp experience learning traditional Caribbean arts and crafts and combining these activities with library research skills. At the conclusion of the year, a conference was held at UVI and attended by members from both St.

Respectfully,
Susan K. Allick
SCLA President

I you are interested in becoming a member please mail us at:

St. Croix Library Association
P.O. box 446
Kingshill, St. Croix
U.S.V.I. 00851

