

NYU Medical Library Still Recovering from Sandy

Weeks after Hurricane Sandy battered New York City, progress continues on the cleanup of New York University’s (NYU) flood-damaged Frederick L. Ehrman Medical Library. The Ehrman facility, the main library of NYU’s Langone Medical Center, hasn’t opened its doors since Sandy made landfall on Monday, October 29, bringing with it a 14’ storm surge that overwhelmed the East River. Located near the waterfront on First Avenue near E. 30th Street, the library took on immense amounts of water.

Though the doors aren’t yet open, progress is occurring. Remote computer access for students, collateral damage that affected those even safely ensconced outside the flood zone, is back online. (Repairs to the library’s IT infrastructure were an immediate priority; it was restored within two or three weeks after the storm.) Archival material, including some irreplaceable items, is being patiently and steadily restored. University officials speak of a refurbished, improved facility opening its doors down the road.

Belfor, a Birmingham, MI, company specializing in helping businesses recover from natural disasters, had

personnel on the ground almost by the time the heavy storm winds had subsided, and tangible results were evident within a matter of days. Officials at Belfor did not respond to *Hotline’s* interview requests, but NYU sources highly praised the company’s efforts. “Everybody is just completely impressed with them,” Carol Mandel, dean of NYU’s libraries, told *Hotline*. Belfor’s reputation in the library community was already high thanks to its cleanup and preservation efforts at Tulane University in 2006, following Hurricane Katrina.

SUBMERSION DAMAGE

Yet while things may be moving faster elsewhere at NYU, conservators and staff remain barred from the once-submerged basement level, where there’s been no chance to get a firsthand look at the materials and facilities almost certainly lost. “We’re anxiously waiting for access,” said Laura McCann, a conservation librarian at NYU who has worked extensively on the Ehrman cleanup, “but we don’t know when and if that’s going to happen.” Staff must wait until health officials can be sure it’s not a hazardous area; publicly, at least, there is no timetable, and in early December industrial hygienists were still conducting tests on the space, McCann said.

The Ehrman Library has three levels. The upper floor, the only one above street level, housed most of the archival material (including a rare book room) and “was not impacted at all” when Sandy struck, McCann told *Hotline*. The bottom two floors were not as lucky. The ground floor took on about 18 inches of water, which quickly receded once Sandy moved west and river tides reverted back to normal. Collections and material, kept on carts and shelves, were elevated sufficiently to stay dry. The so-called “cellar level,” one story below ground, was hardest hit. “That was completely submerged,” McCann said. The water has long since been pumped out, but that did not make it habitable for staff—or for physical collections.

Neil Rambo, director of health sciences libraries for the university, declined to put a dollar figure on the cost of the Ehrman Library efforts. He cited any estimate as premature, particularly since work had barely started on the bottom level. In the meantime, there is planning to do in preparation for when conservators can have a look at the closed-off areas. Said McCann, “Where are my collections? Where are my priorities? What are the risks? And how do we mitigate those risks? We’re going through that process right now.”

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Is Your Library Engaged with the Community?

The LibraryAware Community Award recognizes a library that makes its community mindful of what the library can do for it—and delivers on that promise. It will highlight the outcomes of work by libraries that result in better communities and an increased understanding of how libraries contribute to a community’s well-being. The winning library will receive \$10,000; second place, \$7,500; and third, \$5,000. Visit lj.libraryjournal.com/awards/libraryaware-community-award for submission guidelines; the deadline has been extended to **February 1, 2013**.

AWARD WINNERS

Goodreads Choice Awards

Goodreads, the bookish social network that allows users to catalog their reads and snoop on those of their friends, has announced the winners of its fourth annual Goodreads Choice Awards. Find a few winners below; see the full list at ow.ly/fZq2H.

Best Fiction: *The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling

Best Nonfiction: *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain

Best Goodreads Author: Veronica Roth

Best Mystery: *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn

Best Historical Fiction: *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman

Best Memoir: *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by Cheryl Strayed

Best History & Biography: *Elizabeth the Queen: The Life of a Modern Monarch* by Sally Bedell Smith

Best Fantasy: *The Wind Through the Keyhole* by Stephen King

Best Paranormal Fantasy: *Shadow of Night* by Deborah Harkness

Best Romance: *Fifty Shades Freed* by E.L. James

Best Science Fiction: *The Long Earth* by Terry Pratchett

Best Horror: *The Twelve* by Justin Cronin

Best Young Adult Fiction: *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

After Sandy, Libraries Keep Students Connected

The New York, Queens, and Brooklyn Public Library systems have partnered with the city to ensure that students affected by Hurricane Sandy are able to stay on course academically. Late last month, schools chancellor

Dennis M. Walcott announced that the Department of Education (DOE) would offer online courses to students displaced from their homes and to those attending affected schools. "The impact on students demands more resources to ensure they get the education they need," Walcott said. "These online courses will help keep our students on track for their academic success."

The courses—which are an extension of New York's digital iZone initiative (schools.nyc.gov/community/innovation/izone)—can be completed through any computer with Internet connectivity. The city's public library systems will complement the DOE's efforts by offering these students Internet access across its branches. "The city's critically important program to help students displaced by the storm is a public service that we are very proud to offer as we continue to do all we can to help New York recover and support education," said New York Public Library (NYPL) president Tony Marx.

In the storm's wake, librarians have come together to offer support and resources. At November's annual NYCSLS fall conference, New York City librarians discussed a plan to deliver supplies and volunteers to affected libraries so that they could continue to provide essential student services. Linda E. Johnson, president and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library, said that just days after the storm, bookmobiles traversed some of the borough's hardest-hit neighborhoods, delivering books, charging stations, and other materials. "We will continue to help all of our patrons, volunteers, and employees to recover from the disaster," Johnson said. NYPL's Marx added that since Sandy struck, the library has offered free Internet, heat, power, and other resources to thousands of New Yorkers.

To enroll in the city's online courses, students must complete an online form or call 718-642-5885. The city

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will set up a learning plan for each eligible student, who can then go online to access the courses. Along with Internet access, libraries will offer students technical assistance and other support, said Bridget Quinn-Carey, COO of the Queens Library. "Our doors are open, our computers and our trained information professionals are available to help students succeed," she said.

Macy's Features NYPL Among Holiday Windows

In New York City, Macy's holiday window displays and the admiring crowds they draw are a staple of the Christmas season. Still, for the past couple of years, the windows of the chain's flagship have celebrated something besides Christmas that's more unexpected: the New York Public Library (NYPL). NYPL appears in the "Yes, Virginia" series of windows, something that may perplex those who have read only the 1897 letter to the *New York Sun* and its famous reply. What does it have to do with the library?

THE LIBRARY JOINS THE STORY

The answer lies in the 2009 *Yes, Virginia* televised Christmas special, developed for Macy's by Matt MacDonald of marketing firm JWT. Writing a letter and getting a response doesn't take much time or offer many plot twists, so some flesh had to be added to the bones of the story—and that included a visit to NYPL.

Once Virginia arrives at the library, an enthusiastic librarian helps Virginia learn all about the different versions of Santa Claus from various countries. Though the library can't directly tell Virginia whether Santa is real, it is indirectly responsible for the answer she finally gets, because it is seeing the *Sun* newspaper at the library that inspires her to write to the editor and ask.

MacDonald told *Hotline*, "The librarian was inspired by the [TV spe-

Archivist Puts the History in HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*

Archivist Heather Halpin Perez has become something of a celebrity since *Boardwalk Empire*, HBO's hit show about Prohibition-era Atlantic City, launched in 2010. But Perez, who manages the Alfred M. Heston Collection at the Atlantic City Free Public Library, said the work she does for the show is just another part of her job. "I'm not under contract to HBO," she said. "They were kind to put me in the credits, but I'm not on the payroll."

Perez is the only full-time staffer in the Heston Room, assisted by two part-timers. She also puts in time on the library's general reference desk. Yet a few times a month, Perez helps suss out the historical details that make *Boardwalk Empire* so believable. Atlantic City native Ed McGinty does the historical research for the show's writers and often calls on Perez to help him verify information or supply believable



HBO's Jim Sutch, left, and Heather Halpin Perez

scenery. For example, Perez used materials in the Heston Collection to confirm that there was at least one black business owner on the boardwalk in the 1920s. This lends credibility to the show's Chalky White character.

But the show is not meant to be 100 percent accurate, Perez explained. It's a fictionalized account of what life was like in the 1920s along the boardwalk. "The violence in the show was definitely not here in Atlantic City," she said.

With shooting about to begin for season four, Perez recently helped to pull together details for the years 1924 and 1925. She answered a lot of questions about the physical makeup of Atlantic City, like the approximate date when the first streetlights were put up near the boardwalk. "We can usually give a good guess even if we can't give an exact answer," she said. Perez pointed out that she doesn't normally divulge details about the reference questions she receives, but HBO has given her permission to talk about the reference work she does for the show.

Boardwalk Empire has stimulated the public's interest in Atlantic City history. The number of reference questions Perez receives about the 1920s has increased dramatically and traffic is rising on the library's local history website, The Atlantic City Experience (atlanticcityexperience.org). It's even possible that Enoch "Nucky" Johnson, the historical figure who inspired the show, had a library card, since the Atlantic City Free Public Library has been around since 1905. (Perez looked through old circulation records but wasn't able to find evidence that Johnson visited the library.)

Meanwhile, Perez and her colleagues are relieved that Hurricane Sandy didn't damage the library's collections. "There were a few cracked windows, but no water got in," said Perez. The library building, which dates to the 1980s, was elevated slightly to avoid storm surge, and the staff is adept at preparing for coastal storms. "We have a great disaster plan in place," Perez added. The library is putting out a public call for storm photos and oral history accounts of the hurricane and the cleanup efforts.



Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, MD, recently completed its renovation and expansion of the **Andrew G. Truxal Library** (pictured), an original 1968 campus structure. The 45,000 square foot building gained an additional 32,000 square feet in the \$17.2 million project designed by architecture, engineering, and interior design firm EwingCole. The library now opens with a two-story, south-facing glass façade. The project incorporated new computer workstations, for a total of 224; a 134-seat tech center; 20 study rooms; reconfigured quiet areas; a larger reference space; two new computer labs; seating for 800; and a 900 square foot student study area that houses a fireplace and vending machines. The building has targeted Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

The nearly 100-year-old, 16,765 square foot **Washington Heights Branch** of the New York Public Library is inching closer to the end of its three-year renovation. The major concerns of the \$12.3 million project are related to accessibility. The 1914 structure will gain an entrance ramp and a glass-enclosed elevator and

spiral staircase, along with lounge-style seating, through the Dattner Architects—designed overhaul, according to the *Daily News*. Architect Andrew Berman redesigned the children's area, and the library will gain new desktop computers and laptops for check out. The project is expected to be completed in spring 2013.

A new plan is in place at the **Upper Dublin Public Library**, Fort Washington, PA, in order to reach the library's \$250,000 renovation goal. Roughly \$100,000 intended for interior upgrades will not be covered by the Upper Dublin Board of Commissioners; that amount includes a \$20,000 challenge grant. The renovation will feature a larger teen space, a reading room, a reconfigured children's area, additional staff workspace, and an increased community room, as well as new furnishings and a self-checkout station.

The **Ames Public Library**, IA, closed on December 10 in expectation of the beginning of its massive renovation and expansion. The 48,000 square foot library will grow to 77,455 square feet as part of the \$14.1 million project that will likely take from 18 to 20 months to complete. The goal of the construction is to offer more shelf space, "advanced children's services, improved safety and security...and better accessibility to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act standards," according to *Iowa State Daily*. During the rebuilding effort, the library will be relocated to a former bookstore space in the Lincoln Center shopping area.

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cial's] writer's own mother—who was a librarian. We wanted Virginia to be a smart, self-starting, independent little girl. So, naturally, when she sets out to prove the existence of Santa Claus, she went to the 19th-century version of Google—the New York City Public Library. When putting togeth-

er our take on this story, we asked ourselves what we'd do in that situation. Going to the library seemed like the obvious first step."

RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY

The library in the TV special has a healthy dose of imagination, but it is

rooted in the real NYPL of yesterday and today as well. "We did a great deal of research when putting together the story—the grand Fifth Avenue library was under construction at the time Virginia wrote her famous letter. We chose to show the completed library, thinking it would be more beautiful than a pile of stone underneath scaffolding," MacDonald told *Hotline*.

Brian Howard, who designed the "Yes, Virginia" windows, said, "We looked at the movie a lot, but we looked at the real NYPL, too. Because there is a good chance that people who come [to see the windows] will never have seen the movie, but they might have taken a tour of New York [and seen the Schwarzman Building]. So we have to strike a balance." One of the biggest imaginative departures is the centerpiece of the window display: the librarian circling on a rolling ladder a round reading room (which the NYPL main branch doesn't actually have).

The sight is made all the more impressive if you realize that the display, like all the "Yes, Virginia" windows, is made out of a most library-suitable material: paper. (Though the figures are sculpted foam, and Howard said sturdier materials underneath the craft paper are necessary to support the weight of the rotating figure.) The design process took almost six months, and Howard said that as magical as the windows may look from the outside, from behind the scenes they're supported by a lot of technology—much like today's libraries. "It's actually really loud back there," said Howard.

REACHING THE AUDIENCE

It seems the window library's mix of fiction and nonfiction is a hit: after the windows debuted on November 15, Howard conducted some field research, spending several hours watching visitors as they, in turn, watched

the moving figures behind the glass. "It seemed that [the library] was everyone's favorite," he said. For those who haven't seen her yet, the librarian will continue to spin around her paper stacks through January 2.

Indiana Tech Law School Receives Entire Library

Dean Peter C. Alexander announced on December 5 that Indiana Tech Law School, Fort Wayne, which will welcome its first class in August 2013, had received a donation of an entire library collection. It formerly belonged to a law school that was not able to earn American Bar Association accreditation, according to Alexander. (Indiana Tech is itself still in the process of seeking that accreditation.) The donor, a businessperson who lives out of state, wished to remain anonymous, but said, "We are happy that we were able to join with your school and help defer some of your library outlay. We wish you the greatest success."

The exact volume count of the collection is unknown, as is its dollar value, but "there are so many books that they are currently being stored in eight tractor-trailers, and the microfiche collection has been stored in a large climate-controlled storage area," said Alexander. "Everything is in very good condition."

The law school's associate dean for library affairs, Phebe Poydras, said, "This gift is wonderful, and it helps us get a significant start on building our library collection." Poydras has already taken possession of the microfiche and expects that the books will be delivered next June.

There's no rush, because the building that will house them—a 70,000 square foot learning center that will also host a legal clinic and functioning courtroom—is still under construction.

NY Cathedral Named Landmark for L'Engle

From her desk in the library of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, Madeleine L'Engle (1918–2007) greeted visitors, worked on her books, and participated in church activities. On November 29, L'Engle's birthday, the author's spirit filled the cathedral once more during a ceremony at which the building was named a "Literary Landmark" in her honor. More than 100 friends, family, and fans gathered at the main altar of the cathedral, the world's largest Anglican church, while those supporting the dedication and the new literary landmark plaque mounted on the cathedral wall spoke about its significance.

"St. John the Divine is one of New York's architectural wonders and spiritual crossroads," said Leonard S. Marcus, author of the newly published *Listening for Madeleine: A Portrait of Madeleine L'Engle in Many Voices* (Farrar). "Now, everyone who visits there will know what a special role it played in the writing life of one of America's greatest authors for children and adults."

The church played a vital role in the author's life, according to L'Engle's granddaughter, Charlotte Jones Voiklis. "The cathedral nurtured her by giving her a writing home," she said. At the same time, "the cathedral also expanded her horizons by bringing her into a larger conversation about spirituality." The very reverend James

People

Gia Arbogast has been promoted to Assistant Director, Outreach, Communications & Programming, Miami-Dade Public Library System, FL. She most recently was Library Branch Administrator.

Mary Ann Mavrinc is the new Vice Provost and Neilly Dean, River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester, NY. She formerly was Chief Librarian, University of Toronto Mississauga, Ont.

Kathy Meeker, Director, Scituate Public Library, MA, has retired after 23 years of service. She is succeeded by **Jessi Finnie**, former Director, Whitman Public Library, Plymouth, MA.

Donna Perdsock, Director, Euclid Public Library (EPL), OH, since 1992, will retire after 42 years of service at EPL. She will be succeeded January 2 by **Kacie Armstrong**, who currently

is Branch Manager of three facilities of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, OH.

Alicia Salinas, Director, Alicia Salinas City of Alice Public Library, TX, is retiring after 45 years of service. The library, where she began as a cataloger in 1970, has been renamed after her.

Michael Siegler, Director, Smyrna Public Library, GA, will retire at the end of this month after 17 years in the position and 30 years as a Librarian.

David Tate, Director, Van Buren District Library, Decatur, MI, for the past 34 years, will retire December 31. He will be succeeded January 2 by **Ryan Wieber**, currently Director, Otsego District Public Library, MI.

Spencer Watts is the new Director, East Baton Rouge Parish Library, LA. He previously was Director, Mobile Public Library, AL.

In Memoriam

Anne Fredine, former Assistant Regional Library Director, Lake Agassiz Regional Library, Moorhead, MN, and earlier, Director, Moorhead Public Library, for a total of nearly 25 years, has died at the age of 68.

Send People notices to LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com

News in Brief

The **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** is soliciting applications for FY13 Spark! Ignition Grants; the deadline is February 1. Go to ow.ly/fZpkh for more information.

Medina County District Library (MCDL), OH, has contributed more than 1600 knitted or crocheted items to the Warm Up Medina County program, which benefits many local community organizations.

The **Pennsylvania Act 210** of 2012, signed into law November 1, is the beginning of an 18- to 24-month process to update Library Code service requirements and waivers and provisions for continuing education, among other issues.

The children's story room at **Marathon County Public Library (MCPL)**, Wausau, WI,

is the site of a new 650-gallon saltwater aquarium, made possible by a \$76,000 donation from the estate of **Phyllis Donner**.

The **Library of Congress** has received a \$1.5 million gift from **David M. Rubenstein**, cofounder of the **Carlyle Group**, to fund three new annual literacy awards over the next five years.

The **Columbia College Chicago Library** has received a \$16,000 grant from the **National Endowment for the Arts** to host the Big Read in Chicago and suburban areas in spring 2013.

Mountain View Public Library, CA, has received an \$89,000 grant from **Google** to expand technology assistance by implementing a laptop/tablet loan service and continuing funding for bookmobile services.

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A. Kowalski, dean of the cathedral, recalled that L'Engle once said "if she could not write she would die." He added, "We need that voice today—a voice of truth that had an abiding reverence for life's mysteries."

Beth Nawalinski, director of marketing and communications at United for Libraries, the division of the American Library Association that administers the Literary Landmark program, explained the process that recognizes locations throughout the country for their connection to significant literary events. The Empire State Center for the Book, which inducted L'Engle into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame in 2011, put forward the nomination for the literary landmark.

The cathedral joins 122 such landmarks nationwide.

Kids & YA News Bites

• **Going digital:** HarperTeen Impulse, a new digital imprint from

HarperCollins that focuses on YA short stories and novellas, debuted in early December. The first titles released include Sophie Jordan's *Breathless*, a companion novella to her "Firelight" fantasy series, and Scott Westerfeld's *Stupid Perfect World*, a futuristic novella. Four new titles will be available on the first Tuesday of each month through ebook retailers. Among the forthcoming titles are Walter Dean Myers's *The Get Over*, Sarah Mynowski's *Cruisin'*, and Kiera Kass's *The Prince*.

• **Monkey business:** *Curious George Says Thank You* and *Curious George in the Big City*, the first two titles in the "Curious George Multi-Touch Storybook and Activities" series for the iPad, have been released by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Special features include embedded slide shows and animation, touch-responsive puzzles, and activities. Every month for the next six months two new titles will be released. Titles are available in the Apple iBookstore for \$3.99 each.

• **On exhibit:** To celebrate illustrator Garth Williams 100th birthday and the 60th anniversary of E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*, the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, MA, will feature from December 11 to April 22 an exhibition of Williams's artwork—"Some Book! Some Art! Selected Drawings by Garth Williams for *Charlotte's Web*." HarperCollins Children's Books provided support for the exhibit.

• **Programming awards:** Applications are being accepted through February 4 for the 2013 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards. Sponsored by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Institute of Museum and Library Services, the award is open to "after-school and out-of-school time arts and humanities programs sponsored by museums, libraries, performing arts organizations, educational institutions, arts centers, community service organizations, businesses, and eligible government entities."

The primary participants in the program should be underserved children and youth, and the program must have been operational since January 2009, for a minimum of five years including 2013. Find all the information at www.nahyp.org.

• **Books for low-income kids:** The Homewood Suites Books for Kids Library at the Carole Robertson Center for Learning—North Lawndale in Chicago is a new library that has opened as the result of collaboration between Homewood Suites by Hilton and the Books for Kids Foundation, an early childhood education nonprofit. The library was opened to "ensure that all of the more than 235 at-risk children from low-income and mostly single family homes served by the center will have access and regular exposure to new, age-appropriate books."

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Congress Cuts LSTA; Obama To Approve

President Obama is expected to sign the \$915 billion budget bill for FY12 that Congress passed in December 2011, with reduced appropriations for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Government Printing Office (GPO), whose top administrator, the public printer, will soon be out of a job.

LSTA funding stands at \$185 million, a 2.3 percent cut from the \$190 million received in FY11. Susan Hildreth, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which administers LSTA, said she was pleased Congress recognized the need for federal support of museums and libraries. "Ideally, there would be a higher level of funding. But fiscal constraint is currently a fact of life at the federal level," Hildreth said.

Under LSTA, Grants to States was appropriated at \$156.6 million (down from \$160 million); Native American Library Services was funded at \$3.8 million (down from \$3.9 million); National Leadership for Libraries was funded at \$11.9 million (down from \$12.2 million); and the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian received \$12.5 million (down from \$12.8 million).

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BOARMAN'S NOMINATION KILLED

GPO was appropriated at \$126.2 million, down from \$135.1 million, and the Superintendent of Documents will be funded this year at \$35 million, down from \$39.8 million. "It's more money than the House was initially proposing, but we can't say how GPO is going to spend the dollars," said Jessica McGivry, an assistant director for government relations at the American Library Association's Washington office. "They have greater concerns at the moment about the upheaval there, and we are not sure what direction that will take and how that will affect FDLP and FDys," she said.

McGivry was referring to William Boardman, the public printer, who will soon be out of a job. Boardman was first nominated for the GPO's top job in April 2010, and he received a recess appointment from President Obama in 2011. But unspecified ob-

Caldecott Winner Simms Taback Dies

Simms Taback, author, graphic artist, illustrator, and winner of the Caldecott Medal for *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* (Wiley, 2000), died December 25; he was 79.

Taback wrote or illustrated more than 40 children's books, winning many awards, including the Caldecott Medal for his adaptation of a Yiddish folk song and a Caldecott honor for *How Was an Old Lady Swallowed a Fly* (Wiley, 1997). He also received several notable book designations from the American Library Association, Parent's Choice Gold awards, and the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

He designed the first McDonald's Happy Meal box in 1977.

Taback also was a founding president of the Writers Guild, which later merged and became the New York Graphic Artists Guild, where he was a founding member and president. He was an advocate for artists' rights, with his service as author, editor, and production supervisor for *Graphic Artists Guild Handbook: Pricing and Ethical Guidelines*.

Last Call for 2012 Parahorner of the Year!

Library Journal is looking for a Parahorner of the Year! The award is named after the author of the award-winning book *The Last Call* (2011). The award is given to the author of the best book published in 2011. The award is given to the author of the best book published in 2011. The award is given to the author of the best book published in 2011.

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