

OLAQ

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Best Of...

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Best of ...

Any time passionate and articulate librarians have the opportunity to write about libraries and librarianship it is a “best of” moment for the profession. The winter issue of the *OLA Quarterly* is a celebration of just such authors and their writings in a “best of” compilation of *Quarterly* articles.

As guest editor, I asked *OLAQ* readers to submit nominations for memorable articles from the past 9 years—articles that left an impression; clearly reflected feelings, visions and desires; made readers laugh or gave them a new and interesting perspective on a subject.

As the suggestions came in there was clearly a thread that linked all the nominees—passion. Passion for the profession and all it represents.

In submitting Susan Gilmont’s *Do Crabs Have Favorite Colors?* article, one respondent shared “I remember that when she (Susan) read it as a

staff meeting presentation here at The Valley Library (then Kerr Library) sometime before it was published she got a standing ovation, probably the only one I’ve ever seen at a staff meeting.” Susan’s honesty in presenting her experiences vividly portrays the profession that she has found to be a “great gift.”

Candace Morgan, a true champion for intellectual freedom, shared her erudite views on choice and access during the tumultuous times when the Internet was still in its infancy in public libraries. Her views (particularly her conclusion) written in 1998, offer sound advice still compelling today.

Rebecca Cohen and Steven Engelfried opened their hearts to us in the Fall 1999 *Heart of a Librarian* issue. Both Rebecca and Steven shared their personal journeys and depth of commitment to the profession. Their stories stirred many

readers’ recollections of their individual paths to librarianship.

The events of 9/11 left all of us unsettled both personally and professionally. Fred Reenstjerna’s observations demonstrated how Oregon libraries responded in the wake of national tragedy. Through the examples Fred cites we share what he calls “an impressive testimonial to the responsiveness of Oregon librarians to their communities’ needs.”

Finally, in Sandra Rios Balderrama’s stirring commentary, *Deep Change—Diversity at Its Simplest* she eloquently inspires us to understand and embrace the many facets of diversity. She calls us to create our own definition of diversity—one that is meaningful personally, one that will guide us in our lives and our work.

This issue celebrates librarians sharing the best of their profession and the best of themselves. Please join me in applauding their contributions.

—Pam North, *Guest Editor*
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