



Mid-South Information: Bulletin of the Mid-South Chapter

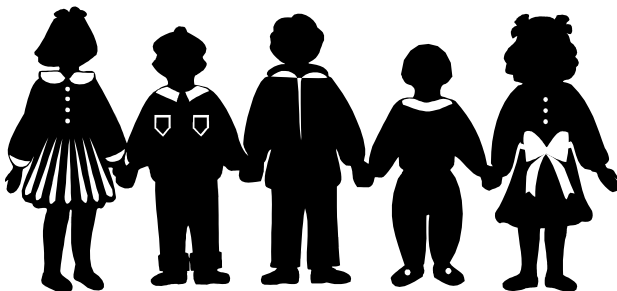
Spring 2004

Volume 26, Number 4

Next Meeting Hope House

The next meeting of the Mid South Chapter will be on Thursday, May 20, 2004, at Hope House Day Care Center in Memphis, TN. Lunch will be Dutch Treat--\$8 per person; it will come from the Medical Center Deli. The Chapter will provide lunches for the members of the Hope House staff.

Maureen Fitzer reports that we will be presenting books to Hope House in our fifth year of charitable giving. (Hope House decided against receiving software as discussed earlier.) Hope House has been the recipient for the past three years.



Directions to Hope House: Hope House does not promote its address in the interest of protecting the privacy of the children in its care. It is located on Idlewild, in mid-town Memphis, in the middle of the

block between Union and Madison Avenues. If you are coming west on Union, turn right on Idlewild. The house will be on the left. If you are traveling west on Madison, make a left onto Idlewild; the house will be on the right. There is a sign so you will be able to see which house to go to. Parking is in the back.

RSVP to Octavia Perryman by Tuesday, May 18th (telephone: 901-272-6522; email: okperryman@buckman.com).

--*Kay Cunningham, University of Memphis,
Secretary/Treasurer, Bulletin Editor*



Minutes of the Mid-South Chapter SLA Meeting

March 25, 2004

The Mid-South Chapter SLA meeting was held at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Those in attendance were Pam Walker – Crichton College, Christina Barnes – Memphis Public, Octavia Perryman – Buckman Laboratories, Maureen Fitzer – Buckman Laboratories, Rosemary Nelms –

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Commercial Appeal, Rosie Dixon –
Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Jan Smith –
Commercial Appeal, Jan Orick – St. Jude,
Peggy Jones – St. Jude, Cheryl Lamb –
Buckman Laboratories, and Carol McCarley
– Guardsmark.

President Christina Barnes called the meeting to order, welcomed our new member, Peggy Jones and thanked Jan Orick for providing the wonderful lunch. The first topic of discussion was our joint meeting with Memphis Area Library Council. MALC has set the program schedule for Thursday, April 22nd from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The hors d'oeuvre reception will be from 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The program, a mini workshop by David Hutchens, "Making meaning: using storytelling as a tool for learning and change," will be from 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. The Librarian of the Year Award Recognition will be from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Vice-President Octavia Perryman presented 3 caterers and their menus she had selected for the reception. They were Melissa Hardage of West Memphis, Lisa Ruch of Crichton College and Executive Chef Catering. After much discussion the group decided to focus on Melissa Hardage and Lisa Ruch and to make some menu changes with both. Octavia will be contacting each caterer and getting final pricing to email to the group for a final decision.

Our second topic of discussion was our charity project. It was decided we would spend \$500 on Hope House buying mostly computer software and some children's books. Maureen Fitzer will be contacting Hope House to see what they would like to have and what they need in this area. We are planning for the meeting to be at Hope

House. Lunch will be Dutch treat and we will buy lunches for the staff as we did last year.

The third topic of discussion was the \$500 stipend for the Vice-President or President to go to the annual meeting in June. The stipend is for the Vice-President unless they do not go and then the President may use the funds or pass the funds to another officer. Octavia will be going to the conference and using the chapter stipend.

The last topic of discussion was the new governing document provided by national headquarters. We carefully reviewed the new document and expressed concerns over membership falling below 25 members for more than one year, a minimum of four members on the Executive Board, and no member serving in the same office for more than two consecutive terms. Christina had already spoken with Dav Robertson, Chapter Cabinet Chair, concerning the minimum of four members on the Executive Board since we have always had the same person serve as secretary and treasurer. It was decided that since the Past President

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Mid-South Information is the official bulletin of the Mid-South Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. It is published four times a year in the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is July 1, 2004. Please send information to be included to the editor:

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sits on the Executive Board that we could continue to have the same person be Secretary and Treasurer. Christina contacted Dav about the membership falling below 25 members for more than one year after our meeting. Dav said that national would have to consider putting the chapter on provisional status but that realistically they would not do that without helping us to get more members. His experience has been that as long as there is a good faith effort, national doesn't take drastic measures.

We also briefly discussed the fact that Dav was really wanting us to put our newsletters on the SLA web space and also have a discussion list. Christina is checking with nationals to see how they can help us do this as easily as possibly as we do not know HTML.

Our next chapter meeting will be our charity project at Hope House on Thursday, May 20, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted,

Octavia Perryman, Buckman Labs, Vice-President/President-Elect & substitute Secretary

Report on the Joint Meeting SLA/MALC

April 22, 2004

A very successful joint meeting of the Mid-South Chapter Special Libraries Association and the Memphis Area Library Council convened on Thursday, April 22 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Memphis College of

Art. Roughly 60 area librarians were in attendance.

The meeting began with a reception, catered by Melissa Hardage of West Memphis, Arkansas and sponsored by the Mid-South chapter. The menu was delicious and included bacon-wrapped smokies, ham and turkey croissants, veggie and fruit trays with dips, a strawberry cheese ring, mini cheesecakes, and kahlua brownies.

After the reception, the program began. Rosa Burnett served as Mistress of Ceremonies, introducing the officers of MALC and SLA. MALC arranged for the speaker: David Hutchens of Smyrna, Tennessee. His presentation, "Making Meaning: Using Storytelling as a Tool for Learning and Change," was informative and thought-provoking. See the following article, "David Hutchens and Storytelling" for more details.

MALC also honored its Librarian of the Year, Judy Card, recently retired from the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center. Judy began her career there at the South Branch, became head of the Children's Department at the Central Library, and eventually took on the job of creating the systems' staff development program. Sally Johnson, MSCPLIC's Deputy Director, introduced Judy with reflections on their years together at the institution and comments from other librarians were offered on a video, which was interspersed with photographs from Judy's life and career.

Judy was honored with a proclamation from Mayors Wharton and

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Herenton, as well as with a special surprise from MALC. In lieu of a traditional plaque, MALC arranged for a customized READ poster featuring Judy holding a copy of *Goodnight Moon*.

The meeting came to an end at 7:45.

--respectfully submitted,
Kay Cunningham, University of Memphis,
Secretary-Treasurer, Bulletin Editor

David Hutchens and Storytelling

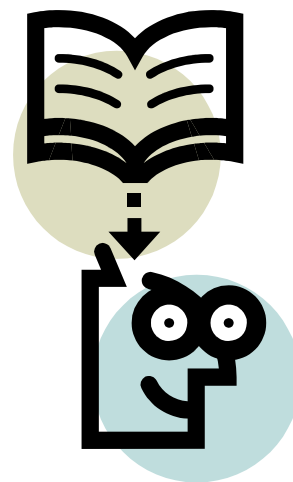
David Hutchens is a speaker, a business writer, a learning designer, and a children's author—though it might be better to say that he applies the principles of writing for children to his business writing and corporate presentations. He does have a new children's book, *PageLand*, but it could appeal equally to adults.

In whatever field, his subject is story-telling. In his presentation he explained how story-telling can be used to explain abstract or complex subjects, to generate support for change, to develop or sustain a culture, and to capture learning and spread knowledge. He did this, however, by beginning with a story—his account of how he learned what a learning organization was, the story of his first unsuccessful attempt to assist Coca-Cola with promoting the ideas of a learning organization to its employees which lead him to the creation of his first "learning fable," *Outlearning the Wolves: Creating a Living, Learning Organization*.

Hutchens says that the power of stories as a tool for change lies in their ability to create shared meaning. Stories

create quick ownership of ideas, although, he cautions, each hearer of a story brings his own set of meaning with him. Some of these meanings may be held in common with the teller and other hearers; some may be unique. While a story-teller cannot predict how a story will affect each listener, he can use stories to make quicker and more memorable connections with them.

There are also various kinds of stories, and the type of story determines the impact it will have. Stories range on a continuum from those reflecting present reality (urban legends, water cooler chatter, books by Tom Clancy) to distant reality (fairy tales, fantasy like the Lord of the Rings or Star Wars. Stories also run on another continuum of buried connections (dreams and fantasies) through the explicit (parables, fables, business books). In choosing stories it is best to avoid the extremes: don't be too explicit or too buried.



Outlearning the Wolves was the first in Hutchens' Learning Fable series. Other titles include *Shadows of the Neanderthal*, about cognitive process; *Tip of the Iceberg*, about principles of systems learning; *Lemming Dilemma*, about personal mastery.

For more information about David Hutchens and to read samples of his work, go to his web site (<http://www.DavidHutchens.com>). Several articles are available as well as summaries of his presentations. He has material available on complexity, fostering trust, organizational relationship, and learning within the organization.

*--Kay Cunningham, University of Memphis,
Secretary-Treasurer, Bulletin Editor.*



SLA MOVES TO ALEXANDRIA (VA)

Washington, D.C., April 22, 2004— The Special Libraries Association (SLA) will relocate its international headquarters to Alexandria, Virginia, from Washington, DC. The move is projected to occur over the weekend of May 20-23.

The new 15,000 square-foot, state of the art facility features:

- a technology-focused information center that will serve as an evolving model for the worldwide community of information professionals;
- modern facilities for meetings and small conferences;
- a telecommuting center for members, visitors, and contract personnel;
- an updated technological infrastructure for enhanced communications;
- and ergonomically designed workspace to promote greater collaboration and interaction among SLA staff.

“The move to Alexandria represents a milestone in the Association’s long and proud history,” noted SLA Executive Director Janice R. Lachance. “Our new headquarters will serve as a tremendous resource to our staff, board of directors, members and the Association community at large. I'm pleased that SLA and other associations have recognized Alexandria as prime location for businesses.”

The SLA Web site will be offline during the move. Questions or concerns should be directed to SLA staff by telephone to +1-202-234-4700.

The new SLA Headquarters is located at:

331 South Patrick Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Since 1985, SLA has been headquartered in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, DC. Prior to 1985, the Association was located in New York City.

About SLA

SLA is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves more than 12,000 members in 83 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy, and networking initiatives. For more information, visit us on the Web at www.sla.org.

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