

December 2000

## Adventures in Librarianship: Convention Mirror Site

Ned Kraft

*Ralph J. Bunche Library*, [kraftno@state.gov](mailto:kraftno@state.gov)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Kraft, Ned (2000) "Adventures in Librarianship: Convention Mirror Site," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 12: Iss. 6, Article 38.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3124>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.

**Book Reviews**  
from page 71

that it's floating free?" This is a bad move. After all, anthropomorphism is pretty heady stuff for the four-to-eight set. Still, on the balance, it's a lovely little book with especially lovely illustrations, and a worthwhile addition to any children's collection.

Numeroff, Laura, ill. by Felicia Bond. *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies*. New York: A Laura Geringer Book. An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2000. 40p. ISBN 0060278676; ISBN 0060278684 (lib. binding). \$15.95. Ages 3-7.

and  
Janice Cohn, D.S.W., ill. by Bill Farnsworth. *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate*. Morton Grove, Ill: Albert Whitman and Co., 1995. 40p. ISBN 0807511536. \$6.95. Ages 9-12.

Reviewed by **Jennie Vaughn**  
(Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC)  
<jvaughn@warren-wilson.edu>

Just in time for the gift-giving season comes a delightful new book from the folks who brought us *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*, and more. *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies* is whimsical, endearing – and it has a fun Christmas twist. “If you take a mouse to the movies,” it begins, “he’ll ask you for some popcorn. When you give him the popcorn, he’ll want to string it all together.” Soon our diminutive protagonist wants a Christmas tree on which to hang his popcorn strings. He’ll build a snowman, then a snow fort, and he’ll insist on a snowball fight. Then he’ll get cold; he’ll want to come inside and listen to Christmas carols. He’ll make ornaments for the tree – he’ll need glue, and lots of glitter – and then decorate it. When he steps back to examine his work, he’ll remember that he forgot the popcorn strings. He’ll want some popcorn – and chances are, he’ll want to go to the movies.

For readers of this delightful series of books, the formula here is nothing new. But if it ain't broke, why fix it? The “circular” plot is fun and inventive, the text is simple and memorable, and the illustrations are nothing short of adorable. This book is a winner. And if this review isn't convincing enough, consider this: in the spirit of the season, the publishers have dedicated a portion of the book's profits to First Book, a national non-profit organization that promotes children's literacy.

On a more serious – but equally heartwarming – note is *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate*. Based on a true story, this book recounts how a small town fights back against hate crime. The year is 1993 and the place is Billings, Montana. It's the third day of Hanukkah and almost every window in the Schnitzer house is lit with a menorah. Young Isaac is doing his math homework when a rock crashes through his bedroom window. When the police chief comes, he tells Isaac's parents that the incident was a hate crime – that they were targeted because they were Jewish. He encourages them to put away their menorahs. But Isaac's parents aren't about to let fear and hatred triumph. She calls the TV station and tells them what's happening. The newspaper runs a story. A special town meeting is called. “The Schnitzers have been urged to take down their menorahs so they won't be a target,” a community leader says. “What if the rest of us were told to take down our Christmas trees and lights because people might throw rocks at us for being Christians? I say, let's take a stand. Let's all put up menorahs.”

What happens next is truly inspiring. After the meeting, churches of every denomination distribute pictures of menorahs for people to tape to their windows. The local newspaper prints a full-page picture of a menorah and asked the townspeople to display it on their windows our doors. Thousands do – and soon not a street in Billings is without a menorah. For a while the window smashing continues. But soon it slows to a trickle – and then stops all together.

This simple story is a beautiful illustration of hope and goodness. It teaches that bigotry and hatred, no matter how powerful, can be beaten if people join together and fight for what's right. It's a wonderful story for the new millennium. 🐱

## Adventures in Librarianship — Convention Mirror Site

by **Ned Kraft** (Order Librarian, Ralph J. Bunche Library,  
U.S. Department of State) <kraftno@state.gov>

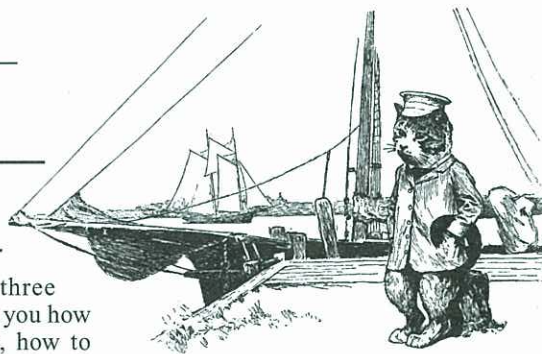
**7:00 a.m. “Fun Crawl/Sit”** — The 3rd annual Fun Crawl/Sit will surely attract librarians who had too much fun in our host city the night before. Participants can choose either the 1K Crawl or the 40 minute Sit. Registration is \$15 in advance, \$20 on-site and includes one bloody mary and the commemorative “Semi-Conscious” t-shirt.

**7:30-9:30 “Books for Breakfast”** — Have breakfast with best-selling author J. D. Salinger. Fresh from the talk-show circuit, Mr. Salinger promises a lively discussion of “phoniness” in the American psyche, and the symbolic importance of game shows in our culture. Should be a blast!

**8:00-8:45 “Wet Behind the Ears”** — If you've never been to a library conven-

tion before, listen in while three “older-but-wiser” librarians tell you how to spot a meaningless meeting, how to schedule bathroom breaks, and how the whole \*\*\*\* profession is going to \*\*\*\* in a handbasket. Good guidance from folks in the know!

**9:00-10:00 “The New Volunteers”** — Library directors from leading public libraries describe how they use child-volunteers to upgrade systems, lay fiber-optic cable, and run Web searches. “Children under 10 are a valuable untapped resource,” says one director, “and many children, if asked nicely, will do just about any chore asked of them... it's the parents we have trouble with.” Learn how to steer clear of those parents, and the many other advantages of child labor, from professionals in the field.



**9:30-10:30 “Fun with Funds”** — A panel of library finance directors shares their tips for getting budget increases. Find out how civil disobedience could work for you. Learn the correct way to apply various pressure techniques such as harassment, blackmail, and overdue retrievals.

**10:00-11:00 “E-Books: Are they coming? Are they not? Have you seen any?”** — Find out how e-books will affect your library. Several of our panelists claim to have actually seen an ebook, others say they know people who have seen one. Could this be a trend?

*continued on page 73*

## Profiles Encouraged

**Name:** Dan Arbour

**Position:** Vice President, Marketing and Sales, UMI Division.

**Born where and when:** Pontiac, Michigan, June 24, 1952.

**Current residence:** Ann Arbor, MI.

**Education:** BBA Western Michigan Univ., MBA Eastern Michigan University.

**Job experience summary:** 20 years of experience in library information publishing.

**Proudest/most recent accomplishment(s):** Being current President of FOLUSA (Friends of the Library, USA).

**First job:** Financial Analyst—UMI.

**Biggest recent surprise:** How the Web has changed all of our work lives so quickly.

**Favorite pastimes:** Long walks with my wife of 25 years.



**Last book read or literary tastes:** *Flags of our Fathers*, historical novels.

**What would you like to be doing seven years from now?** Still helping libraries develop their role as the social, intellectual, and cultural center of our communities.

**Had I but world enough and time..** Spend more time watching my daughter's soccer games.

# ChoiceReviews.online

More than reviews, it's a complete

 **R**eviewing   
evolution!

- ★ access to more than 70,000 reviews via the Internet—all the CHOICE reviews since September 1988 ★
  - ★ e-mail notification of new reviews, based on individual subject interests
  - ★ customized list creation and management
  - ★ SUBSCRIBE for only \$395!
- Annual subscription includes personalized access for up to 20 users and all corresponding print issues of the magazine

We encourage you to sign up  
for a 60-day free trial:

[www.ChoiceReviews.org](http://www.ChoiceReviews.org)

CHOICE

*ChoiceReviews.online*

100 Riverview Center Middletown, CT 06457-3445

e-mail: [choiceonline@ala-choice.org](mailto:choiceonline@ala-choice.org)

Phone: (860) 347-6933 x23 Fax: (860) 346-8586

CHOICE is a publication of ACRL, a division of ALA.

### Adventures in Librarianship from page 72

**10:30-11:30 "Copyright Conundrum"** — Cloris Weary, of Darkmound University Library, discusses how her library has dealt with recent court decisions on copyright and fair use. Darkmound pioneered the use of student volunteers to blockade photocopying machines and remove ink cartridges from printers. When properly applied, such tactics can have the added advantage of reducing the incidence of plagiarism.

**11:00-12:00 "Branching Out"** — Pinedale Public's director, Simon Slip-

pers, outlines how selling woman's shoes can dramatically increase a library's visitor statistics. "Libraries need to diversify if we truly want to serve the public," says Slippers. "We've had great luck with classic pumps, but some of the athletic shoes have done just as well." Should library schools be offering this as a specialty? Come and voice your opinion!

**11:30-12:30 "Consolidated Publishing: Where do we go from here?"** — Representatives from the two remaining publishing companies discuss their plans for taking over each other, and what form future expansion might take. "We fore-

see a world," says Miriam Mensch, Vice-President of the Vision Division of Uber Verlag, "when libraries will no longer need to shop for anything, when there will be one source, one provider, one master." Sound intriguing? Join us!

**1:00-2:00 "Lunch with Leon"** — The infamous Leon Redman, of Redman's Rare Books, reminisces about the days before wood pulp and glued spines. Although Leon will be fed intravenously, you can enjoy your choice of smoked salmon or "penne arabica" while your host clears his throat and spins yarns of bygone days. Advance reservations only. 🐼