

Library Matters @ McGill

www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter/

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FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



Revelers at the Festive Fête held on December 18 at Redpath Hall included, from left: Prof. Anthony Masi (Provost); Janine Schmidt (Trenholme Director of Libraries); François Émond (Cyberthèque architect); Diane Koen (Associate Director, Planning and Resources).

We are always reading reports of the behaviour of the “born digitals” and the generation who is also known as the “google” generation. A recent British study undertaken under the auspices of the British Library (www.bl.uk/) and JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee, www.jisc.ac.uk/), who provide world-class leadership in the innovative use of IT to support education and research, confirms what many of us who deal with students every day have known for a while. The Library Journal (www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6525984.html) in reporting on the study states that:

- Young people are not very web-literate
- Libraries must make interfaces easier
- Libraries must integrate content with commercial search engines

Every recent report including those by OCLC (www.oclc.org/) has stated the same. Yet libraries are slow to respond to the needs identified. There is an awesome responsibility to ensure that today’s young people gain the information skills to access and use the amazing resources available. The report highlights the use of e-books and we already have over one million available. And yes book sales are dropping outside the recreational market. We have the resources, but can our students and faculty find what they need from the vast information array available? Our holdings must be fully available in OCLC and then searchable via Google Scholar as well as Worldcat, for example, and our information skills programs must be firmly linked into curriculum offerings. The future is now and we must design our products and services around today’s information searcher and not the one of yesterday.

E-books are developing in interesting ways. Best seller lists of novels in Japan now include books created on cell phones. Of ten best-selling novels in Japan last year, five were created on cell phones. Fast moving thumbs generated thousands of words over many months to form these novels. Sponsored by the popular Japanese

PLEASE SEE **FROM THE DIRECTOR** ON PAGE 3

The *Library Matters @ McGill* newsletter, brought to you by the *you-never-heard-it-from-us* editors, seeks to exchange and encourage ideas, innovations and information from McGill Library staff at all levels.

The newsletter is published monthly. The latest issue, as well as an archive of past issues, can be found at www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter.

We welcome your contributions. The deadline for submissions is the first day of the issue month. Send your input to the *you-never-heard-it-from-us* editorial team:

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WHAT'S NEW

THE CYBERTHÈQUE IS OPEN!

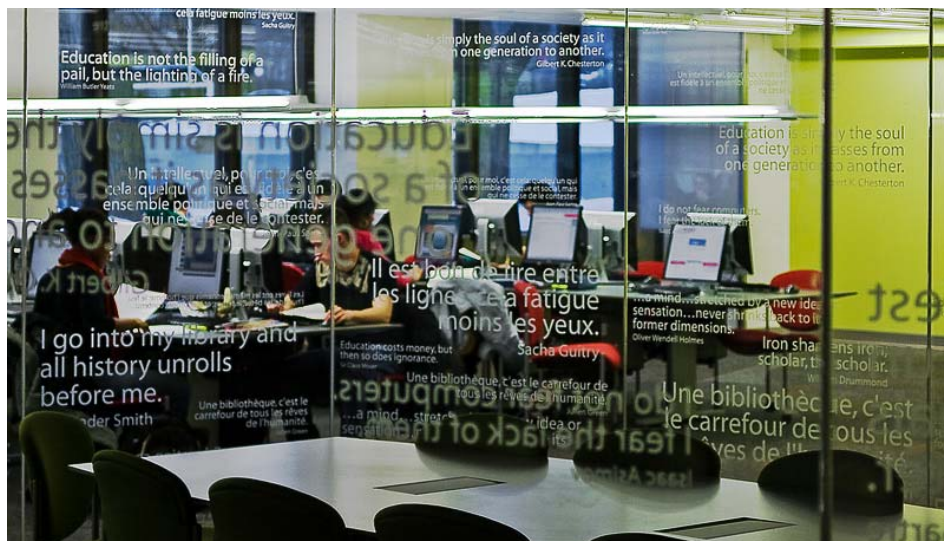
The McGill University Library's Cyberthèque—a large-scale, multi-purpose information facility—opened its doors for the first time to McGill students on Monday, January 14. Located in the Redpath Library Building at street level facing the snow-covered field, the “experiential” Cyberthèque offers a diverse range of studying and learning spaces for groups and individuals, various technology and multimedia installations and friendly, convenient assistance. The Cyberthèque offers students fresh opportunities for study, learning and information access.

The facility includes:

- four glassed-in, soundproof group study pods and nine colourful banquettes equipped with group work tools including glassboards and laptop projection to plasma and LCD screens
- quiet tables with or without computers for individual study
- an e-classroom for information literacy programs, equipped with six 52-inch screens and adaptable to multiple teaching configurations
- an assignment production area outfitted with printers, scanners, photocopiers and a vending machine for school supplies
- a service counter staffed by library technicians, librarians, student navigators and library assistants
- casual study areas dotted with movable, comfortable seating.

The Cyberthèque can accommodate 250 users, on 125 workstations and additional seating for wired and wireless laptops. Finishing touches are now being applied in anticipation of a formal launch in the near future.

The project was funded by student IT funds provided through the office of the Chief Information Officer, as well as funds from donors and the Library's Operating Grant. The Cyberthèque project was made possible by the contributions of many, however special thanks go to ékm architecture, particularly François Émond, Bregman and Hamann Architects, McGill Facilities, Pierly Construction, McGill ICS, McGill NCS and McGill Ancillary Services.



“...man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but usually manages to pick himself up, walk over or around it, and carry on.”

— Winston Churchill

ESCHOLARSHIP@MCGILL ARRIVES!

BY GENEVIEVE GORE (COORDINATOR, ESCHOLARSHIP@MCGILL)

What is eScholarship@McGill?

eScholarship@McGill is a digital repository that archives and showcases McGill's research. The Library maintains the repository, thus providing another valuable service to the McGill community and the world beyond.

eScholarship@McGill contains ePrints and eTheses authored by McGill faculty and students, and adheres to the principle of open access.

How are eTheses added?

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies began offering the option of submitting theses electronically in April 2007. The benefits to students include wider and faster dissemination of their work. Once eTheses are approved by the University, they are sent to the Library and quickly added to the repository, thereby making them readily available to potential employers, students' families, other researchers, and the online world.

What about ePrints?

ePrints are scholarly publications such as research articles, conference papers, working papers, books and research reports. The Library receives lists of publications from McGill faculty and students, and takes care of verifying copyright permissions on their behalf.

eScholarship@McGill ensures that researchers' publications are available to all and not locked up in subscription-based databases or journals.

How can eScholarship@McGill benefit researchers?

Academic researchers write to maxi-

mize the visibility of their work; generally, they do not write articles for profit, they write for impact or exposure. Research publications have traditionally been accessible via paid subscriptions to journals, the cost of which has risen dramatically in recent years. We at McGill are lucky because we have access to many of these journals through the Library. However, we do not have access to every single published journal. Open access breaks down barriers by making the results of what is often federally-funded research available widely and freely on the internet, quickly and efficiently. Open access has also been shown to increase citation counts for articles.

There are two models of open access: "green" open access, which means self-archiving (e.g. in digital repositories or on personal websites), or "gold" open access, which means publishing in open access journals (e.g. Public Library of Science or BioMed Central journals). Self-archiving or "green" open access is possible because non-open access publishers frequently allow authors to disseminate pre-prints (pre-refereed articles), post-prints (post peer-review), or even the published version of articles on their own personal websites, or ideally, within their institutional repository.

eScholarship@McGill adheres to the Dublin Core metadata standard and will use the CARLCore Metadata Application Profile. These metadata elements are exposed to search engines such as Google, Google Scholar, and YAHOO! via OAI-PMH, the Open Archives Initiative for Metadata Harvesting. This substantially increases the visibility of McGill's publi-

"Open-access publishing requires no subscriptions to use the digital version, allows any use of the material as long as attribution is maintained, and involves placing the material in a public digital database that can be rigorously searched."

– Harold Varmus in Kleiner, K. (2003). Freedom fighter. *New Scientist*, Reed Business Information Limited (*New Scientist*). 180: 46-49.

"A university-based institutional repository is a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation where appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution."

– Clifford A. Lynch, "Institutional Repositories: Essential Infrastructure for Scholarship in the Digital Age" ARL, no. 226 (February 2003): 1-7.

cations on the web.

As of October 2007, eScholarship@McGill contained over 420 ePrints and 152 eTheses. We hope to see these numbers rise as the value of open access is more widely recognized by students and faculty alike. We also hope members of the library staff will encourage faculty as well as students to contribute toward building a strong repository at McGill.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Genevieve Gore, Coordinator, eScholarship@McGill. □

FROM THE DIRECTOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cell phone site Maho no i-rando, these new formats of romance novels begin a new literary culture. They are also being printed in paper format. Perhaps assignments in the future will be created on cell phones?

Last year concluded with a successful library festive fête. Thanks to all for coming and for all the work we achieved in 2007. We were saddened and shocked by the passing of one of our most

respected and well liked library staff, Elaine Yarosky, on December 22 and we pay tribute to her elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have begun the year with the opening of the Cyberthèque. Thanks go to everyone for their patience. Some of the construction is still not quite completed but the students are demonstrating the popularity of the new space with its additional computers, spots for laptops, casual and

formal seating and assistance in the use of it all. The e-classroom in the Cyberthèque will provide the capacity for us to provide the information skills training classes we know our students need to make full use of our resources.

**Janine Schmidt,
Trenholme Director
of Libraries** □

AWARDS SEASON IS HERE AGAIN

The Library is calling for submissions for the library awards. Submissions are due February 29, 2008. The details of the awards follow.

LIBRARY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Purpose and Selection Criteria:

Many Library staff members make outstanding contributions to McGill's continued success and exceptional reputation. The annually presented Career Recognition Award and Library Staff Excellence Award (further details below) recognize these important efforts and achievements. Library staff are encouraged to nominate coworkers who have demonstrated commitment and dedication to the Library's mission statement:

McGill University Library advances teaching, learning, research and community service by providing outstanding collections, access to the world of knowledge, excellence in service and an appropriate library environment, all of which are client-focused and responsive to the needs of the McGill community.

Nominees are expected to have shown an exceptional understanding of the Library's motto: *Information, Innovation, Service*, and may be nominated for outstanding contributions in the areas of:

- Job performance
- Client service
- Communication skills
- Collaboration with other libraries/sections
- Contribution to the practice or profession of librarianship
- Promotional activities
- Teamwork
- Special initiative/s
- Creative problem solving.

All Library members of the library staff, with the exception of the winners of the 2003-2007 awards and the Director and Associate Directors, are eligible for nomination. Permanent part-time and permanent sessional staff may be considered for the awards provided the length of service is equivalent to three years full-time employment in the Library. Nominations will be called annually for each of the awards.

Procedure: Following the guidelines for each award, complete the form (see www.mcgill.ca/library-about/general/

awards/) for each candidate and supply a supporting statement (two pages maximum) by the due date, describing how the nominee meets or surpasses the criteria. Send the printed nomination form and supporting statement to the Office of the Trenholme Director of Libraries – Staff Awards Committee.

Frequency of Award: Annually, at the discretion of the Trenholme Director of Libraries.

Decision Process: The Director of Libraries, in consultation with the Associate Directors and the last three recipients of each of the awards will select the successful candidate.

Presentation of the Awards: The awards are presented at an annual celebration.

Career Recognition Award

Purpose: This award will recognize an exceptional contribution by a librarian, currently on appointment to the McGill University Libraries.

Eligibility: All librarians presently on appointment are eligible for consideration.

Procedure: Nominations must be submitted in writing, identifying and describing the nature of the nominee's contribution, together with the endorsement of two McGill librarians.

Past Winners

1988 Angella Lambrou, Health Sciences Library
 1989 Jane Aitkens, Systems Office
 1990 Irena Murray, Blackader-Lauterman Library
 1991 Donna Duncan, Library Technical Services
 1992 David Crawford, Health Sciences Library
 1993 not awarded
 1994 Joan Hobbins, Library Technical Services
 1995 Selima Mohammed, Library Technical Services
 1996 Stephen Park, Law Library
 1997 Louis Houle, Physical Sciences and Engineering Library
 1998 Pat Riva, Library Technical Services
 1999 Eleanor MacLean, Blacker-Wood Library of Biology
 2000 Sharon Lynn Grant, Health Sciences Library

2001 Sharon Rankin, Systems Office
 2002 Hanna Waluzyniec, Schulich Library
 2003 Christine Oliver, Library Technical Services
 2004 Joanna Andrews, Library Technical Services
 2005 Cynthia Leive, Marvin Duchow Music Library
 2006 not awarded
 2007 Kendall Wallis, Humanities & Social Sciences Library

Library Staff Excellence Award

Purpose: This award will recognize an outstanding contribution by a member of the support staff currently on appointment to the McGill Libraries.

Eligibility: All members of the support staff within the Library System are eligible, that is, all staff holding a classification of "LA", "C", "M" or "T".

Procedure: Nominations must be submitted in writing, describing the nature of the nominee's contribution, together with the endorsement of two support staff.

Past Winners

1993 Francisco Uribe, Humanities and Social Sciences Library
 1994 Diane Philip, Humanities and Social Sciences Library
 1995 Theo Lawrence, Library Technical Services
 1996 Adèle Toutant, Law Library
 1997 Gary Tynski, Division of Rare Books and Special Collections
 1998 Louise Nadeau, Library Technical Services
 1999 Mary Lourenço, Law Library
 2000 Jane Jackel, Howard Ross Library/Systems Office
 2001 Anne Habbick, Blacker-Wood Library
 2002 Zafiro Bouwman, Serials Department
 2003 Anna Di Pietro, Health Sciences Library
 2004 David Curtis, Marvin Duchow Music Library
 2005 Penelope Aubin, Library Technical Services
 2006 Lise Hackett, Library Technical Services
 2007 John Black, Marvin Duchow Music Library

□

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Outlook Calendar training
Monday, February 25, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 McLennan building M3-37A

This is a hands-on training session in which staff will work together as a group through the two Microsoft online training modules below. LTS staff will be present to assist and to answer questions. There will be time for practice at the end.

“Get to Know Your Outlook Calendar” and

“So That’s How! Great Outlook Calendar Features to Make Time Work for You”

Registration required. Open to all Library staff. Please discuss attendance with your supervisor. Please email or call Joanne Hay at 4787.

Excel training

These are hands-on training sessions in which staff will work together as a group through the Microsoft online training modules below. There will be practice time at the end of the session. LTS staff will be present to assist and answer questions.

Wednesday, February 27, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

“Get to Know Excel: Create your First Workbook”

Friday, February 29, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

“Get to Know Excel: Enter Formulas”

Registration for either or both required. Open to all Library staff. Please discuss attendance with your supervisor. Please email or call Joanne Hay at 4787.

An exploration of Web 3.0 and Libraries: was Web 2.0 so long ago?
Thursday, February 28, 2008

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bronfman Building, Room 179

If you attended one of our popular Web 2.0 presentations, you know how the Web 2.0 approach to social computing is already revolutionizing Library services. By contrast, Web 3.0 products such as the Semantic Web and web ontology languages are still highly experimental. They have not had a noticeable impact yet, but they possess even greater potential to redefine the ways in which Libraries—and Library staff—provide service to clients. Join Andrew Collier, Rajiv Johal, Deborah Meert, and Louise O’Neill for a glimpse of the future.

Open to all staff, no registration required. Please discuss attendance with your supervisor. □



“I am too much of a sceptic to deny the possibility of anything.”

— Thomas Henry Huxley, British biologist



Answer to the holiday puzzle from December

K I L M

M I L K

S A B R S

B R A S S

R S C C U I

C I R C U S

H W A T E R

W R E A T H



Where does Santa like to study when he’s at the Library?

At the

C H R I S T M A S C A R R E L S

*A Celebration of
Elaine Yarosky's Life*

Tuesday, January 8, 2008
McGill University Library



Elaine Yarosky – Eulogy by Karen and Lauren Yarosky

Mom was quirky to say the very least, and that is something that rubbed off on Lauren and I and set us on a very interesting path through life. Anyone who knew her knew she did not mince words and had very strong opinions and it was almost impossible to ever change her mind. This made her a very strong character and a force to be reckoned with and I have no problem saying that you always knew where mom stood on something once she opened her mouth. She was also very very funny. Mum had a wicked sense of humour and she was very perceptive and I'm sure we have all sat with mom and been shocked, horrified and completely amused at her particular take on any situation. Her stories about all the nogoodnicks hanging out in the library (and no I don't mean the people that worked there) kept many people laughing on her particular take on life. Mom loved the library. You could tell, because it's what she complained about most. She was a librarian for all of my life .. well that's not true, she was a librarian for most of my life and then one day she came home and suddenly she was an information technologist. What kept her going right until the end was her work at McGill. And what was very important to her, and one of the most important things that I am going to say, and that I want everyone to know, is that she worked there for 50 years. It really was one of the big things that kept her going. Up until just a few weeks ago. She was very proud of her commitment to the library, and so are we.

It was incredible the things mum did with only one arm. Lauren and I didn't know that it was even that special because that's how we knew her our whole life. But for somebody with one arm it was very rare that she ever needed a hand (and I'm allowed to say that joke 'cause we said it to her quite a bit). Mum was

incredibly independent. She was strong willed, and she would just find a way to get things done without help a lot of the time. I don't even know how she managed half the stuff she did, because she just did it. And it's funny, because both Lauren and I open up stuff with our teeth, and wrap packages with our feet and barrel through life just knowing stuff has to get done and we just do it ... and it's one of the best and most precious gifts that mum gave us, I appreciate it in myself and I see that not everybody has that gift in this world. We learned that through her just by osmosis and it has served us incredibly well in facing life and also in facing death.

Mum faced so many brutal challenges in her life and it's really just coming home now how strongly she fought for so much. Maybe that's what made her appreciative of the beautiful things in life. Classical music has always been a huge part of her life. In fact, I don't think we were ever allowed to play rock and roll in the house, it was all classical, all the time. Maybe in the 60's and 70's she allowed in a little Joan Baez and Yellow Submarine ... but that was it. Mum sang in choirs for so many years and she practiced so hard that by the time the concert came around both Lauren and I/ we could literally sing the requiems along with her. She specifically requested the music that played today and I'll never listen to Chopin's nocturnes or Schubert without thinking about her. We saw her sing at Carnegie Hall in a choir and it was totally awesome.

Mum surrounded herself with beautiful things. She loved art, she loved music unconditionally and with abandon, good food and nice clothes. All of that was reflected in her home and was something she got from her mum Gammy Rae. I could never do it, but Lauren would sit for hours with her talking about the difference between beige and light beige and pale beige, she would freak out because they painted the front door coffee and it should have been toffee and she

would never care about the cost or the hassle but to her there was no solution but change it to the way she wanted it. And frankly she did and it and it always looked a lot better. She knew what she liked and she knew what she didn't like and it was important to her to make sure things were done right.

Our mum knew how to throw a party – and one of the most important things we ever learned was no matter what patisserie you ordered from, no matter what their reputation, you always look in the box to make sure your order is right before you hop in a cab. You never know if they've done it right unless you check yourself. This may seem like a small anecdote but it actually was mum's philosophy on life and it's true. I learnt this of course because I was helping her out for one of her famous New Years' Eve parties and I didn't check in the box 'cause I was in a rush, and I came home with a raspberry torte instead of a tarte tatin. And you may say "apples or oranges". But if you want life to be a bowl of cherries, and you don't check in the box, you might end up with lemons. And frankly mum thought sure, you can make lemonade ... but tarte tatin tastes better and she sure wasn't going to serve lemonade to her friends. A couple of other things that mum taught us, that really did change my life are times when I called her when I was having really rough times. There are two that I can remember vividly. Once her response was there's more fish in the sea which seem simplistic but kind of changed my life at the time, and sometimes you just need those simple truths. The other was when I called her in existential despair because I was overwhelmed with the fact that the world was a mess and that nothing I could ever do as one simple person could ever make a difference. And mom told me that in Quebec women didn't even have the vote until the 50's and women fought and fought for that right and it took a long time, and strong belief to make that happen, and now we just take it for granted. But

if they hadn't believed in that and fought for that for so long it would never have come to fruition. She told me that I should take that with me, and fight long and hard and be patient and that I could make a difference in life.. and that you have to fight .. and it might be a long one. It was really important lesson because sometimes you need a perspective that is longer than your personal experience to make sense of it ... and mum could be relied on to give you that perspective.

We had an amazing education in our lives. While other kids were going off camping or to Disneyland, mum and dad would be taking us to Europe or New York to see plays or we would be going to concerts on weekends. We ate at the best restaurants, there was no bologna, Captain Crunch or Easy Bake ovens in our childhood. Presents from my parents were always educational, we were always allowed to buy as many books as we wanted, even if it was 20 at a time, we took it for granted that we got music lessons and horse back riding lessons and our whole lives, one of the favorite things that we liked to do with mum since we were kids, was to go to museums and go from painting to painting and discuss each one. Mum would point out things in each one that she thought represented this or that and through this we learnt to evaluate what was put before us and create intelligent opinions about what we saw in our lives. Mum made sure that we went through life looking and learning, and judging and making our own opinions as she did in her own life. This allows you to be a powerful person and live your life as best you can and as you want it. Even when she was very sick in the hospital, she looked at us and said "this is quite an education, eh?" and as difficult as it was to be there and to be going through it all, even then, mum was making us aware that our experience here on this earth is to be evaluated and that we should stay aware of how interesting, horrible, beautiful, banal and complicated life can be.

And with that you do become a stronger person. And Lauren and I are a lot like our mom.

There's way too much to say about mum here, but through all the amazing conversations I've had with all her friends since mum died I know that it doesn't need to all be said right now. I feel like I have to explain to everybody what an amazing and unique person she was , but everybody knows, and like all good art and music, she means a lot of different things to a lot of different people, and through listening to her, hanging out with her and interpreting her, we've all been challenged and humored and moved by her presence. To end I wish you the following that was bred into us but I think is something that we can take from mum's life and apply it to our own ... enjoy the view, demand silence (when appropriate), be strong, always check in the patisserie box (even if it comes from the Duc De Lorraine), listen to good music and listen to yourself. It's not a bad recipe in this tumultuous life.

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***Celebration of Elaine Yarosky's Life
Tuesday, January 8, 2008
McGill University Library***

Janine Schmidt: Welcome to this very special memorial occasion for Elaine Yarosky. We were all shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Elaine's death in December and while many staff were able to attend the service for her, others were absent over the holiday period. We wanted to provide an opportunity for a celebration of Elaine's life in the Library. I contacted Elaine's daughters, Karen and Lauren, and it was they who decided that their Mum should be remembered on a joyous informal occasion which is what we are seeking to do here today. Firstly, therefore, a very special welcome to Karen and Lauren.

We extend to all of you a very sincere welcome – to Elaine's friends

and family, to former staff who return to McGill to remember Elaine with much affection and respect, and to our current Library and University staff at McGill.

I would first like to ask the Provost, Dr. Tony Masi, to speak.

.....

**ELAINE SANFT YAROSKY
B.A., McGill, 1957 (English and French Literature, Art History, Music)
B.L.S., McGill, 1958
Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, 1961 -1965. Completed Course requirements for M.A. in English Literature.
M.L.S. McGill, 1985.**

Prof. Anthony Masi: Elaine commenced work in the McGill Library system in the Blacker-Wood Library in 1958, nearly 50 years ago! Over the span of half a century, Elaine worked in various positions across the Library system, in both full and part time capacities. We at McGill are very proud of that amazing achievement, as I am sure her family is.

In line with her earliest academic interests, Elaine spent most of her time in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, relating both to the collections and to reference and information work. She also had stints in the Law, Education and Social Work Libraries.

In my conversations with her I was very impressed by the way she tried to "shape collections", and by all accounts in the Humanities and Social Sciences area in particular, she did a superb job.

At McGill, over the course of her career, Elaine Yarosky provided outstanding support to generations of faculty, researchers, and students at all levels; she guided and provided wise counsel to scores of young (and some older) librarians; and she made strong contributions to the University through such committees as the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee, the Senate Committee on Libraries and the MAUT Librarian Section.

Elaine also represented the McGill Library on various external committees. In particular her work on the Library Board Executive of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute has been commended by her colleagues. She was much appreciated by those with whom she worked on various CREPUQ committees and she consistently and highly professionally represented McGill's views to the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago. She was also a strong participant in the Executive of the Montreal Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries.

While I did not work directly with her, I did hear much about her from her librarian colleagues and from those whom she served so well. Even a brief encounter with Elaine, given the chance to listen to her speak of her work, and the immediate impression, confirmed by her remarkable years and achievements at McGill and its Library, was of a woman who was thorough, thoughtful, imaginative, intelligent, and tireless in her pursuit of quality and excellence. Elaine Yarosky made highly significant contributions to the Library and to McGill University. I also remember her as being kind, gentle, and generous. I am sure that she will be long remembered by colleagues as a friend and a guide. Elaine made a difference and she will be missed.

.....
Janine Schmidt: In preparing for today, we asked people to send in their memories of Elaine. We have been inundated with wonderful messages describing Elaine's contributions to McGill and the impact she made on each individual with whom she worked. I shall read a few snippets.

- A fiercely loyal friend, implacable upright and discreetly present, much like the heroines of the novels by Barbara Pym or Ivy Compton Burnett that she liked to read.

- She had an uncanny ability to get people to do things they might never have considered. Her technique for doing so remains a mystery...

- Elaine was the quintessential librarian in terms of her commitment to service and the development of a scholarly academic library.

- I wouldn't want Elaine's sense of humour or her concern for her colleagues to go forgotten.

- A more dedicated, zealous librarian could not be found.

- She was always a lady in the truest sense and exhibited poise, class and purpose in all she did. She had a way about her that kept those around her grounded in reality even when she was going through her own personal hell.

- I admired Elaine for her strong service ethics, her unflinching but not cynical realism and her ability to build and maintain relationships.

- Elaine was one of a kind and will be greatly missed.

I had come to know Elaine and respect her enormously in the three years I have been at McGill. We had many chats about various matters – we did not always agree but each of us learned from the other. Elaine demonstrated an amazing capacity to grow and develop and to constantly broaden her horizons. She saw huge changes in her working life and adapted amazingly well to them – even if she did not like doing email at home and even if she was not keen on wearing the dreaded name badge! She will be long remembered for her professionalism; her sense of what was right and what was good; her wit; her charm; her deep brown eyes; her enigmatic smile; her generosity; her energy; her strength; her courage in the face of personal adversity; her sense of self and her sense of purpose; a class one act.

In the words of My Fair Lady:

We had grown accustomed to her face.
 She almost made the day begin.

Her smiles, her frowns,
 Her ups, her downs
 Were second nature to us all;

We grew accustomed to her look;
 Accustomed to her voice;
 Accustomed to her face.

Elaine, we shall all miss you.

.....
Tribute given by Kendall Wallis

**Practice! Practice! Practice!
 Some thoughts on Elaine Sanft
 Yarosky**

Elaine's professional career is well known to most of you, and although her parallel musical career was no secret, there were aspects of it that remained in the shadows. The regular concerts with such professional vocal groups as the St Lawrence Choir, MSO Choir, and even a gig with the Philadelphia Orchestra Chorus punctuated her years and testify to the dedication and above all the quality of the second career that ran alongside her chosen profession as a librarian; a life which most of us see as being quite full enough, thank you, very much. Sometimes to my delight her two careers intersected. There were the late evenings at work when a head would pop around the office door and as proper a Brooklyn accent as was ever heard on Flatbush Avenue would emerge:

"Take back your mink,
 Take back your pearls,
 What made you think
 That I was one of those girls?"

And the show went on from there; "Adelaide's Lament" from Frank Loesser's "Guys and Dolls" was guaranteed to put a stop to any project that was burning the evening oil and make me pack up and go home, shaking with laughter. It worked every time.

An old joke: A man is in New York City and he's late for a concert at Carnegie Hall and he's lost. He's walking down the street and sees a

guy with a violin case under his arm and thinks "This guy'll know where Carnegie Hall is" so he asks, "Hey, how do you get to Carnegie Hall?" Without looking up, the guy with the fiddle case says, "Practice! Practice! Practice!" and keeps walking....

And, yes, eventually Elaine got to the stage of Carnegie Hall.

Practice! Practice! Practice! was Elaine's professional mantra:

- In 1958 Elaine was the Reference Librarian in the Blacker-Wood Library and F. Cyril James was principal of McGill University;
 - In 1961 Elaine was the Reference Librarian in the Social Work Library and John Diefenbaker was Prime Minister;
 - In 1976 Elaine was the Map Curator in the Rare Book Department and Saul Bellow won the Nobel Prize for Literature;
 - In 1989 Elaine was a Reference Librarian in the Law Library and Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister of Great Britain;
 - In 1993 Elaine was Acting Head Librarian in the Education Library and Federico Fellini died;
 - In 2001 Elaine was Acting McLennan Librarian and the film "Jurassic Park 3" was released.
- Because, as a librarian, Elaine grew up in an age of imperfect, often homegrown systems, where you had to know the scope of your collection and the limits of your tools, she learned to work around those limits through knowledge, inventiveness, hard work, applied experience and patience.

One of Elaine's hallmarks as a librarian was her sense of diligence and thoroughness. John Hobbins tells of more than once finding Elaine, at a time when she was a "lowly casual" (her phrase), paid by the hour, long after her time-sheet had expired, working on a reference question because it was important and unfinished. The answer was out there and she would find it. She usually did.

Because Elaine had an experiential, even visceral (or "evidence-based") feel for what was "out there" in the world of information, a world which she knew first-hand in so many of its manifestations, she approached the new technology with a practical view to as to its speed (always undeniable), scope (always less than what was wanted) and usefulness (always high, but rarely perfect).

When the electronic age dawned, the newly sliced kind of bread was not automatically better for Elaine; it had to taste good and be nourishing as well. To her delight, she found it was often both. And, much to the surprise of her daughters, she became an "Information technologist."

In her decades as a librarian, we moved from an age of information scarcity to an age of information superfluity. Because of her wide experience in all those libraries and media (grey literature, law reports, maps, government documents – were you counting?) she knew what was out there and why it was essential and why it was often neglected, much to the detriment of the research question at hand.

Practice! Practice! Practice!

Practice made Elaine physically and intellectually aware of just how much information is out there and how hard it often still is to find it.

Practice made Elaine pedagogically aware of how necessary it is to make that information available and to enable researchers and teach students to find it.

Practice made Elaine philosophically aware how necessary it is to ensure that the Library acquire the best material for scholars and ensure access to it.

Practice made Elaine ethically aware how necessary it is to train and mentor young colleagues to carry on this complex and valuable task.

What have I and so many others learned from Elaine?

Practice! Practice! Practice!

Kendall Wallis
Humanities & Social Sciences
Library, McGill University

Tribute given by Valerie Mayman

Elaine and I have been close colleagues and friends for many years. It was however in the last 15 years or so, that our work collaborations grew into an almost a daily event, and on every large or small library theme imaginable.

McGill has one of the great library collections in North America and internationally. Elaine had a superb knowledge of the collections in the humanities and social sciences and was very proud to have been part of an illustrious tradition of more than 5 generations of librarians and library staff, professors and others in the McGill community, alumni, donors, friends, and members of the broader public, who have contributed to the methodical, and sometimes serendipitous building of McGill's research collections of intense intellectual and scholarly strength, depth, and diversity of subjects.

Every week I personally am amazed or bemused at the numerous and varied requests sent to the McGill Library by external university libraries, near and far, to borrow items from our collections for their researchers, that few or no other institutions own, particularly our 19th and early 20th century materials, in many languages and formats. And one need only take a few moments to behold the astonishing exhibit currently on display in the McLennan lobby to experience a sample of the richness of our collections.

Elaine was always most generous in sharing her knowledge with others, whether working with colleagues at the McGill Library or with consortia

partners, or in providing enthusiastic assistance to students, professors or anyone wanting to learn about using the library's collections.

She was a source of inspiration to many. We deeply admired her courage in the face of many life challenges, and respected her work ethic and dedication.

Her commitment to the profession, loyalty to McGill, and her values, were a beacon and role model for us all. Her passion for music and her singing, love of theatre, film, and art, nourished and defined her.

Elaine also had a compassionate understanding of and empathy for others, was extraordinarily courteous and yet was always pragmatic and forthright. She brought out the best in people. She had wonderful sense of humour and irony, and was a master of the apt anecdote. In private she and I engaged in hot debates in frank and salty language, but she is among those who taught me how to truly listen.

There has been an outpouring of affection and respect from many current and former colleagues and friends who have written notes in recent days. Several have commented on her grace and elegance, her legendary hospitality, and, as one so eloquently stated, "her radiant smile which would cheer the most stressed."

A bright light has gone out in the library at McGill.

As David said on the death of his friend Jonathan, in the Old Testament, Book of Samuel, "How the mighty have fallen".

I shall feel the pain and void of Elaine's loss everyday and miss her keenly.

However, her legacy will forever remain in our collective hearts and mind and soul as we carry on in our work.

Valerie Mayman
Humanities & Social Sciences
Library, McGill University

I would say that three things always struck me about Elaine. The first was courage – courage in facing life under some fairly difficult circumstances of which her handicap was not necessarily the greatest. She faced more than the average number of slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. Second, she was always extremely dedicated to her job, often staying hours later to finish questions when she was a casual and did not get paid for it. Indeed she may sometimes have worried too much about things far beyond her control because of this dedication. She was always highly professional in whatever position she was working, but she also cared about global aspect of library service for which she had no responsibility. Finally, she always acted in a dignified and appropriate manner, at least in public, although she could let her hair down a bit in private. Courage, dignity and dedication are the main traits I associate with her.

John Hobbins
Nahum Gelber Law Library, McGill
University

As a colleague of Elaine's, I think of two things. With Elaine it was all or nothing. Since nothing wasn't an option, it had to be all.

The second thing is the extra mile. With Elaine there was no extra mile - it was always part of the journey.

I can think of no better definition of professionalism. Add to that warmth, charm, humour and a dash of the ability to exasperate, and you have Elaine.

Louise Robertson
Associate Law Librarian and Law
Cataloguer McGill University

A more dedicated, zealous librarian could not be found. Nor could one more gracious and fair in her dealings with colleagues. Elaine's vast knowledge of the library collections and her unswerving commitment to its growth and integrity will be sorely felt.

Marilyn Fransiszyn
Humanities & Social Sciences
Library, McGill University

She had a superb knowledge of collections for the humanities and social sciences. She collaborated across the McGill Library and coordinated her colleagues to develop strong collections across the system. Her knowledge of collections for research libraries was recognized and applied beyond McGill. She represented McGill on the CREPUQ collections group – DCBV, le Groupe de travail sur le développement des collections de la bibliothèque universitaire et de recherche virtuelle québécoise - and contributed significantly to provincial collaborative initiatives for development of collections in all disciplines. This connection generated, as well, friendships with counterparts at other universities.

Her critical intelligence made her a valuable member of McGill's professional librarian community. She was active in the MAUT Librarian's Section, for many years as a member of the Professional Issues Committee and more recently on the Nominating Committee. Her contributions ensured broad participation of and support for librarians at McGill in professional matters.

Jim Henderson
Life Sciences Library, McGill
University
&
Jocelyn Godolphin
Assistant Director, Collection
Services
Concordia University Library

To me Elaine was the intellectual heart of the collection. She made sure

we kept our eye on the ball, not letting us be seduced by easily bought bundles that would give us a white-bread collection, but encouraged us to buy in unsexy formats like microfilm if it meant that would increase the scholarly depth of the collection. She venerated the "orphan" collections like GDOCS and Cutter. Just because the format or classification was cumbersome or different, she prized them for their content, and looked out for their interests with particular concern, whatever difficulties they might present.

For me these were Elaine's greatest gifts to McGill-although her memory of the collection was truly phenomenal. Whenever I had to give a session in a history class, Elaine would remind me to mention all kinds of collections we had purchased in the past that I should have remembered myself but didn't. I don't think she ever had a senior moment. She had a memory like a steel trap when it came to the collection. Who needed Muse when we had Elaine around.

Phyllis Rudin
Humanities & Social Sciences
Library, McGill University

Elaine, as everyone has said, was a wonderful person. As a librarian, she was the consummate professional - intelligent, committed, experienced, creative and always prepared to share her extensive knowledge. As a person she was kind, generous, courageous, sensible and extremely funny. I feel privileged to have worked with her for decades and benefited from being both her colleague and her friend...I guess you could say her cooperative example brought out the best in others. She seemed always to be able to "rise above".

Judy Symansky
Howard Ross Library of
Management, McGill University

Elaine was a beautiful person. She was kind, thoughtful and always wore a beautiful smile. She was

fiercely independent. She rarely asked for help.

Elaine was an excellent Librarian with a capital "L". She loved her work and she loved McGill.

Elaine was the one who knew the library collections better than anyone else. She had worked closely with Elizabeth Silvester and played an important role in the development and growth of the library. She was a liaison librarian long before the term was coined, connecting with Faculty in the humanities. She was instrumental in getting some important gift collections that have added to the greatness of McGill's libraries and have led to its recognition as one of the best research collections in North America.

Elaine had very strong convictions about her library and was never afraid to speak her mind.

She still had so much to contribute to the Library and we will all miss her terribly.

Marilyn Berger
Blackader-Lauterman Library of Art
& Architecture, McGill University

A best friend to so many people
 Intellectual curiosity

Care and concern to students, faculty, all library staff, individual library working in at any given time, the McGill library system and McGill University as a whole

50 years of service to an institution she loved deeply and held in high esteem and proud to be associated with

Patience

Extremely accurate in all her endeavors

Good nature

So much fun to be with (girls night outings--various groups)

Young of heart and mind

Youthful appearance

Classy dresser

Her singing

A big yes to so many things her daughters had to say about her

Joan Hobbins
Collections Services, McGill Library

Committed to excellence in service delivery to the users

Very high sense of duty

Thorough researcher as a reference librarian - would not leave a single possible source unchecked

Concerned for the future of the

McGill Libraries and of the librarians under her supervision

Superb knowledge of our collections and resources elsewhere

A lady in the whole sense of the word. She had class.

Juanita Jara de Súmar
Humanities & Social Sciences
Library, McGill University

When I think of Elaine I think of class and courage and excellence in all things.

Halyna Carpenter,
Humanities & Social Sciences
Library, McGill University

Hard to single out particular memories out of so many, but we both used to get a lot of conversations out of both the London theatre of which she was very fond, and of the British comedies on PBS. It is hard to believe that I shall not hear her calling me again in a very English voice "Mrs Farthing, are you free?" when she wanted to see me. Those familiar with the show Are You Being Served? will recognise the line.

Sheila Farthing, Retired, Library
Assistant Collections Department
Humanities & Social Sciences
Library, McGill University

I always got on very well with Elaine, particularly at the start of my career at McGill (she mentored me at the HSSL reference desk, where I worked afternoons in the late '80s) and when I was Principal Librarian in 2006. She was always the level-headed one who could find a way to persuade others that something could actually be done, even if they thought the opposite. She was also a

lady in the truest sense and exhibited poise, class and purpose in all she did. She had a way about her that kept those around her grounded in reality, even when she was (apparently) going through her own personal hell. Elaine was a wonderful colleague to a great many of us, and she will be greatly missed.

Robert F. Clarke in conversation with Judy Symansky
University Librarian, Trent University

Elaine was someone for whom I had both great affection and great respect. Unswerving professionalism, dedication, intelligence, wit. She was an example to us all.

Margaret (Maggie) Monks
McLennan Librarian, 1992-1997,
McGill University

Elaine had extensive experience throughout the McGill Libraries. Wherever she was, she brought a professional approach that translated into special collections being documented and excellent public services in law, government documents and the social sciences and humanities. Recently she presided over the transition to electronic journals for McGill's largest library, maintaining a judicious balance of electronic and more traditional formats. Elaine was one of a kind and will be greatly missed.

Carol Marley
Former Information Sciences Librarian and Bibliographer
Hitschfeld Geographic Information Centre, McGill Library

I had many occasions to work with Elaine during my time at McGill, both as a "regular" professor and as Chair of the Department of Psychology. Much of the latter was during the period of significant budgets constraints, when the library serials required significant cuts. Elaine was always well-informed of

the interests of the department and ensured that our core collections remained intact. Equally important, she was a fun to interact with, both professionally and personally. I miss her.

A. A. J. Marley
Professor Emeritus McGill University
Adjunct Professor University of Victoria

I admired Elaine for her strong service ethic, her unflinching (but not cynical) realism and her ability to build and maintain relationships. It is truly mind boggling to think of how much change she witnessed over the past 50 years, especially the last 10.

Elizabeth Silvester, former Head,
Reference & Collections
Humanities & Social Sciences Library, McGill University

Everyone who had the good fortune to be a colleague of Elaine's must have appreciated her hard work, dedication and excellent manners. As a friend she was always good fun to be with and her hospitality and generosity were legendary. In recent years, since we moved to England, we have had to rely on telephone calls and on her visits here. We are going to miss that quiet voice on the telephone, and the hilarity of her English trips, when she would fit more theatre visits into a day than seemed humanly possible. A friend like Elaine is irreplaceable.

Albert Schachter
Emeritus Professor, History, McGill University
&
June Schachter, former, Reference, Collections & Government Documents Librarian
Humanities & Social Sciences Library, McGill University

I first was introduced to Elaine, appropriately enough, at a restaurant where she was enjoying a fine meal.

A little later on she was the one with whom I switched jobs. She came to work up in Law (for some peace and quiet) and I went to HSSL (for some buzz and activity). Over the years Elaine, who eventually taught me how to be a better reference librarian, reference desk supervisor and bibliographer was steadfast and loyal.

She could always be counted on to remember the facts and details. She was never without her little notebook which seemed to be an ongoing to do list. I remember her ability to have an opinion and you certainly knew what it was. Topics were broad ranging, from the items held in CRL, to discussions about Inspector Morse and Adam Dalgleish, (yes we knew they were fictional characters), to whether you could tell how expensive a piece of clothing was by just feeling it with your fingers.

Her enjoyment of time with friends was evident as was her love of culture be it music, art or movies. If you went into her office you found her cocooned with selection slips, budget sheets, reports, etc but somehow the conversations always came around to culture. How did you hit the high soprano notes? Which passages of either Mozart's Requiem or Handel's Messiah were the most inspiring to sing? What plays did you see in London? (she told me about seeing the actor John Thaw, even though we still referred to him as Inspector Morse)

She would always try to remind us about culture. Supper discussions at the Taj would often be interrupted with a plea for a cultural discussion - what have you read, or seen or heard...Did you go to a museum on your holiday?

She had an uncanny ability to get people to do things they might never have considered. Her technique for doing so remains a mystery.....to this day I am not sure how she convinced me to run for and serve a term as Chair of the MAUT librarian's section.

I never heard her say "I can't". Faced with a new challenge, she figured out a way to do it. If asked, she would tell you how she did it. I was curious to know how she turned the pages of a music score which was in a three ring binder. Ey's answer was quite practical...she put paper clips on the top of the pages....simple once you think of it....

Louisa Piatti
Law Library, McGill University

Thank you for the invitation to the Memorial/Celebration for Elaine. As I will be going to Toronto that afternoon, I will be unable to attend. I did, however, attend the funeral on December 24. Elaine was a fine person and utterly authentic. We will all miss her.

As a student in my "History of Books and Printing" course, I recall Elaine becoming so immersed in her seminar presentation on the Grabhorn Brothers of California that she made a special trip to New York to see the NYPL exhibition on Grabhorn Press, and persuaded the then Rare Book Librarian - Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis - to increase substantially the Colgate Collections holdings of Grabhorn books. As you might expect her presentation was excellent and very polished!

Elaine was the quintessential librarian in terms of her commitment to service and the development of a scholarly academic library. She was unfailingly polite and pleasant. Her approach was always sane and intelligent.

Thank you again.

Regards
 Peter

P. F. McNally
Professor, School of Information Studies, McGill University

I was shocked and saddened to learn that Elaine has passed away. Over

many years she was one of the librarians I most often turned to for advice and information. We were on many committees together, and she had an excellent ability to conduct business in a pleasant and positive way.

Elaine was always someone I could count on to be cheerful and helpful, even when we were working on something neither of us wanted to do - such as cut back on journal subscriptions or otherwise figure out how to cope with inadequate resources.

With my deep sympathy at this very sad time,

Mary MacKinnon
Associate Dean, Academic Administration and Oversight Faculty of Arts, McGill University

I have known and appreciated Elaine for several years. As McGill's only professor of Latin American history for many years, I was always frustrated by the paucity of books from Latin America in our collection. Awhile back, Elaine and I plotted together that I could buy history, political science, sociology and anthropology books on my forays to Colombia, Chile, the Dominican Republic and the library would reimburse me for them. I took great pleasure in searching bookstores in the capital cities for the best, most cutting-edge books and lugging heavy suitcases back for the McGill library. As a result of Elaine's openness, her willingness to cut through the red-tape, and her concern for learning in all its guises (even if it created administrative hassles), McGill's library is now a beacon for Colombian and other Latin American graduate students in Montreal to find the sources they need to write their graduate theses. Last year the son of the administrator of the Royal Bank in Latin America in the 1940s and 1950s wanted to donate his father's books to our library. Elaine was the one person who most facilitated this donation of a collection with many rare books, worth more than \$40,000 in all, which will stimu-

late much exciting research on the Atlantic World in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. She worked in close contact with the professors and had a deep grasp of what we care about, how we do our research, and what books mean to us and to our students. I feel deeply privileged to have known your mother, who was a wonderful human being and an exceptional librarian who kept the flame of learning alive. I so enjoyed working with her and I will miss her very much.

Catherine LeGrand
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History, Faculty of Arts, McGill University

I received this morning a forward of your memo asking for memories of Elaine for the memorial service. I have a couple that might not readily be thought of.

I worked with Elaine for quite a number of years. She had, in many ways, the same zany sense of humour that I had; and very often, when I was upset by something, came up with exactly the view that would laugh it away. As a sort of footnote to that, we enjoyed playing at an act of two feet-on-the-ground Jews surrounded by all these crazy Gentiles, and colleagues realized that running commentaries by Elaine and myself in a heavy Yiddish accent were ... just our way of having fun watching something.

The second is more grave. Elaine and I both lived many years under the shadow of chronic illness; and we spent a lot of time quite seriously checking up on each other when some new might-be symptom appeared, and were great advocates to each other of what I can always describe as, "If you're feeling off-colour, GO HOME. The McLennan will still be standing when you get back."

I wouldn't want to have Elaine's sense of humour, or her concern for her colleagues, go forgotten.

With very best regards,

Martin Cohen

ELAINE from Irena Murray

She was a fiercely loyal friend - implacable, upright and discreetly present - much like the heroines of the novels by Barbara Pym or Ivy Compton-Burnett that she liked to read.

In her reserve, music was the closest she had to religion - it encompassed beauty, emotion and transcendence, gave fulfillment, was rich with possibilities. She responded to it with all her soul and music suffused her life. The recordings she gave us as gifts over the years are the most precious I own, not only for their exquisite quality but because of what and why she chose.

She loved and understood theatre in a visceral way and could be unforgiving, but unerring, in her judgements of it. The last time she came to London this past Summer, we walked out of the Royal Court Theatre in protest against an "insufferable" play (as the great anglophile Elaine described it), and into the dusk of the ever beautiful Sloane Square. Her legs were giving her trouble, but the passion for the dramatic truth remained undiminished. The great excitements that we have shared after my move to London - Derek Jacobi in Schiller's Don Carlos, Anne Marie Duffy in Shaw's Saint Joan - will stay with me as memories inflected by Elaine's voice, by her acute reflections on what great theatre means.

In her work, as in everything else, she was a resolute perfectionist and her contributions to the greater glory of McGill collections will in themselves be a memorial to her. She had an innate understanding of collections as the underpinning of university life and while the "Republic of Letters" was her natural comfort zone, she learned each new subject dealt her over the years with equal

zeal. Elaine hated compromise and would never willingly accept it. She epitomised the great generation of professionals who came on board in the 1960s and from whom we all learned in our own careers. She had a profound and highly pitched understanding of quality - in people and in things - and it informed everything she did.

With her grave, beautiful face, Elaine gave both dignity and elegance to life that tested her in some very fundamental ways. She has marked us all by her bravery and her determination, but my memories of her will take a more mundane form - her pride in the accomplishments of Lauren and Karen, and her warm, affectionate and delicious New Year's Day gatherings in her home on Argyle, surrounded by friends.

New memories have emerged this week, of a period in which Elaine and I used to have an "early bird" supper on Stanley Street together, just to catch up. I think we both hated the concept (the "early bird" meals smack of Florida and docile retirements), but it was a way to be together. Neither of us would admit it though, so we treated it as if we were having a lemon sole in the old Ritz!

I will treasure one special memory that united us in a caper the immediacy and the lightness of which we never duplicated, but that might as well serve as a way of parting between two otherwise very serious people. It took place in Paris, in the mid-1980s, during one of my sabbatical stays there that coincided with a trip to Europe by Elaine and her family. After a couple of wonderful days in Paris, the Yaroskys were about to leave for Tous and I went to wave them good-bye at the railway station. Elaine and I started an animated book conversation and as the conductor whistled for the final time, she said "why don't you just come along?" and I, without as much as a toothbrush, jumped onto the parting train. In the event, we continued the conversation for three more days!

Rather than saying good-bye then, I will continue that long-ago railway yarn with Elaine - a special friend whose life has illuminated our own, and whose train has simply parted ahead of time.

I am still in a state of disbelief about Elaine. It seems only a few months ago that she was visiting us in London. I always admired her courage and the grace with which she handled her handicap. Perhaps you'd be kind enough to convey to her daughters how very much I admired her, first as a colleague at McGill and then as a friend. I appreciated her fine intelligence, her exquisite manners, and her sense of style and my appreciation and admiration for her great qualities only grew with the years. She was a perfect lady under all circumstances, even when justly outraged over some new stupidity on the part of the library or university administration (some committed by myself, I fear). She was not only a consummate professional and an expert librarian but an exceptional person. I will miss her very much.

Eric Ormsby

Prague, 24 December 2007

Tribute to Elaine, from Lenore Rapkin

Elaine and I have been friends for over forty years (!), predating my involvement in the McGill Libraries but obviously not hers. When we first became good friends Elaine was thinking of going back to school to get a Masters (and/or Ph.D.) in English lit because she had become fascinated with Doris Lessing's writings and thought she would like to write a thesis on her - no doubt she derived some satisfaction when Ms. Lessing recently received the Nobel Prize for Literature, but then, Elaine always had the sensitivity to recognize extraordinary works of art, be they books, musical works, or literary or musical performances.

However, the project quickly took a back seat when she became a mum and decided that a part-time job in the Map Room would be a better balance in her life than a return to academia. Eventually Elaine went back to her old love, the McLennan Reference desk—and anyone and everyone who worked with her there knew that when Elaine fielded a reference question there were no limits to the extremes she would go to find the answer. She always told me it was like solving a huge jigsaw puzzle, putting all the little pieces together until they formed a whole. She worked tirelessly, as she did with everything she tackled, it had to be absolutely perfect, indisputable, before she could finally consider it done.

Our families spent many summers together at Cape Cod, wonderful for the kids but not always so easy for Elaine who suffered a great deal from the dampness. But she was always fun, and my children have such wonderful memories of her from those days as well as from more recent days, Christmas dinner at our house, other events, when Elaine would sit on our sofa surrounded by my three children, all of whom would be in fits of laughter most of the time, overcome by Elaine's wit. Not that she always meant to be funny, she was just so clever and insightful, you couldn't help laughing. Then there were her impersonations—she had an extraordinary ear for music, she had either perfect pitch, or near perfect pitch, so when she would mimic someone it was dead on—I still smile when I think of certain people because I can still hear Elaine mimicking them.

A few final comments—I don't think I have ever known anyone who was as sensitive and as intelligent as Elaine. And as sensitive and intelligent as she was, she would never, in a million years, have believed that on her death all these old friends and colleagues would get together to pay her this wonderful tribute. She was also one of the more stubborn people I have ever known, she would never

let anyone help her with anything, she took great pride in being able to manage on her own, especially after losing her arm. I never make a salad without thinking of her tossing a salad when we would go to her home for dinner—and she was not amused if I asked to help—I don't know how she did it. And of course my husband was always blown away when he would offer to open the wine for her—no way, she was perfectly capable. And she was, absolutely so capable.

My reminiscences of Elaine will go on for many years to come and I will share memories with her girls. But I'm not sure if they know, or if anyone else knows that Elaine is the person responsible for my having become a librarian. I was thinking of returning to school, not quite sure what would suit me best, but she assured me that this was the right thing for me. She encouraged me all through library school, promising me it would get better and that I would love working as a librarian. Thank you, Elaine.

Lenore Rapkin

Dear former colleagues,

I am unable to attend the celebration for Elaine tomorrow as I am out of town but I did speak to Karen and Lauren Yarosky tonight and am sure that they appreciate the effort by McGill.

By her example, Elaine influenced me to become a librarian and in turn my sister Joni Waiser who is still at the Reference Dept. of the National Library.

Elaine was a devoted and outstanding professional.

I miss her.

Jewel Lowenstein

Needless to say, I was shocked and saddened to hear this afternoon of Elaine's passing. Memories flooded back to the time in the Reference Dept. when Elaine was one of our

stalwart "alumnae" who had returned on a part-time basis. Imagine trying to re-introduce our policies and procedures to Elaine, a one-time head of the department! Thankfully, budget restrictions were eventually lifted and she came on board full-time. Many good years of working together followed.

Over the holidays I was reading *The Good Terrorist* by Doris Lessing (1985). I was not entirely taken by it. I felt the heroine was quite infantile and should really grow up. I kept wondering what Elaine, an early fan of Doris Lessing, would have thought of it. By the end, I came to sympathize, a little, but not entirely, with the heroine. Unfortunately I will not be able to hear Elaine's defence of the book. I will just have to grow up and figure it out myself. Perhaps I will try reading more of Doris Lessing in memory of Elaine.

Lu

Lillian Rider

While she had a passionate commitment to her profession and to McLennan Library, Elaine lived a full life outside the university, maintaining close relationships with her family and a persistent interest in singing. I knew Elaine from the library.

I first met Elaine Yarosky in 1984 when I joined the McLennan Reference Department as a young librarian hired on contract. I worked with her in the Reference and Collection Development Departments until 1998. Elaine's intelligence, breadth of knowledge, calm practicality and wry wit made her the perfect colleague.

I recall a dreary spring day in the 1980's when a new arrival came into the Reference Area. He carried a well preserved suitcase, and looked as though he had come straight from an international flight. Tired but triumphant, his overcoat dripping with rain, he walked purposefully up to the desk where I was on duty. I don't remember the dialogue exactly, but it centered on his urgent request for a book about amber that

he was certain would be found in the library of a stellar institution such as McGill University. The reference interview was complicated by his heavy East European accent. This was an important book, he informed me. Everyone had read this book. Even he had read it in his country where so many books were banned. Now he wanted to see the original English edition.

Everything about his speech and body language indicated that we must have this book and that I must satisfy him by giving it to him immediately. No other resolution would be acceptable and clearly I was a fool if I didn't know what he was talking about. I hadn't a clue.

Luckily, Elaine was on hand, cool as a cucumber. "Amber? How interesting. Is this a scientific work?"

The man turned red and blustered, "No, a novel! Surely you know it!" Ah yes, and the author? His reply was unintelligible.

Elaine engaged him in further conversation by showing great interest in the book he was looking for. The only thing she could get out of him was that it was likely published sometime in the nineteen fifties. He didn't seem to want to outline the contents in any way and seemed incensed that we couldn't identify it off the top of our heads.

Remember that this was before the days of the Internet in libraries and we had no access to an online catalog or anything that would allow us to search by keyword. We had to regroup. We excused ourselves and retired to the index stands along the Sherbrooke Street windows where the printed volumes of the Cumulative Book Index (CBI) were prominently displayed. Bent over the heavy volumes, we whispered conspiratorially as we flipped through the pages. We had no author and no clear title, only an increasingly overheated patron. We weren't getting anywhere.

An important novel, published in the 1950's with the word amber in the title? A novel we ought to have in our academic collection, or face shame in the eyes of an intelligent looking, if difficult East European visitor?

Elaine stood up straight as a ramrod. "Could it be...," she wondered aloud and moved quickly back to the desk where the visitor was waiting, "...amber... was it...a very popular novel...?"

"Yes, yes..." Our patron looked hopeful.

"Forever?" said Elaine.

That was it – Forever Amber, by Kathleen Winsor! New York, MacMillan, 1944! CBI bore out the details.

This mass market novel had been banned in Massachusetts and was described to me by Elaine as, "You know, like Peyton Place, not the sort of thing we would have here."

Elaine had nailed it. We heaved a collective sigh of relief and referred our visitor to the public library.

So went our days. They were filled with personalities and reference questions big and small. We were so busy then that we rarely sat down or even stopped for lunch. Times have changed. Forever Amber was reissued and reviewed by the Guardian and even become the subject of at least two dissertations on popular literature.

Now, such a question would be so much easier to answer. In fact, our visitor would have identified it on Google and ordered his own copy from Amazon for \$5 without coming to the library at all, not to mention that he might have been happy to stay in Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, people still line up to ask questions, either in person or online. A stellar role model who witnessed librarianship both pre and post Internet, Elaine has left us to ponder them.

Helen Anderson, Head Collection Development at the University of Rochester Library. Helen was a reference and collections librarian and Head Collections in HSSL at McGill. When Helen left in 1998, Elaine took over as Head Collections.

I am very sorry to hear of Elaine's death and regret that I did not get the opportunity to become more acquainted with her. I will convey this information to others here at CRL.

Meanwhile my sincere condolences to Elaine's family and to the McGill community.

**Bernie
Bernard F. Reilly
President, Center for Research
Libraries**

I feel so sorry hearing the news. Please convey my message to her family if possible. I never got the chance to meet her. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sanghamitra
Sanghamitra Jana ("Sanghamitra"),
the Librarian In-Charge of the Book
Programme, New Delhi Office,
Shastri Institute.**

A very sad and shocking news that Elaine is no more with us.

I will be honoured if the Director of Libraries would include my thoughts about our dear friend Elaine!

She was a great colleague and wonderful Librarian to work with.

I have known her since my Graduate days in Political Science when she was a Reference Librarian. Always there to help students in search of information.

In my later life as a Bibliographer, Elaine displayed understanding and courtesy to her colleagues.

I will never forget her radiant smile which would cheer the most stressed.

I hope to join in honouring her Memory.

Even if may not be there in body my thoughts and soul will be there.

I offer my deepest sympathy to the family.

Many thanks for informing about her passing. It is hard to accept that she is gone.

Syed Naseer

YAROSKY-SANFT, Elaine. After a courageous battle on Saturday, December 22, 2007 in her seventy-second year. Beloved daughter of the late Auckie and the late Rae Sanft. Survived and mourned by her loving daughters Karen and Lauren (Kevin). Dear sister and sister-in-law of Arthur and Judy. Fondly remembered by her nieces and nephews Justin, Jordana (Amit), Meghan, Ryan and all of her wonderful friends. A special thank you to Suzie. Funeral service from Paperman & Sons, 3888 Jean Talon W. on Monday, December 24 at 11 a.m. Burial at the Congregation Shaare Zion Section, Eternal Gardens Cemetery, Beaconsfield. Shiva at her brother's home, Monday through Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in Elaine's memory may be made to The Program for Multiple Myeloma and Related Diseases, Princess Margaret Hospital, 610 University Ave. Suite 5-207, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2M9.

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Elaine and collections colleagues at a breakfast to celebrate Sheila Farthing's MLS, 2002.



The University flag is lowered in memory of Elaine, January 23, 2008