

What movie has had the most influence on your life?

“I was not quite a year old when my father snuck me into the theater to see *Rollerball* (1975). I don’t remember that experience at all, but since then, I’ve come to think of it as the greatest movie about librarianship ever made. No other movie quite captures the dangers of a corporate-driven society that no longer believes in the freedom of information.

Also, as a librarian on the digital frontier, I am constantly reminded of Zed, the failing central computer that supposedly contains all knowledge yet refuses to answer questions. From its example, I hold a bleak vision of what can happen when we digitize information without regard for future formats or preservation, and destroy physical books.”

—**Holly A. Lakatos**, law librarian at the Robert K. Puglia Library, Court of Appeal for the Third Appellate District, in Sacramento.

“*The Miracle Worker*. I saw it when I was about nine or 10. I taught myself the Braille alphabet and sign language out of the *World Book Encyclopedia*. I did end up teaching special education (severe/profoundly handicapped) for about 10 years until I needed a new career. Being a law librarian is much easier.”

—**Chris Tighe**, librarian at Library of the U.S. Courts in East St. Louis, Illinois.

“This may be your toughest *Spectrum* question ever. Upon some introspection, for a number of reasons, it would have

to be *Miracle on 34th Street* (the 1947 original, though the two remakes are okay).

“The obvious reason would appear to be that I have a sideline career as a Santa Claus, but that’s only a small part of why I chose this. I saw the film when I was five—30 years before admitting that I had the look, build, and inclination to put on the red suit and beard. It’s a courtroom movie, with great examples of trial techniques.

It also deals with issues like divorce, single parenthood, and disability in a very positive, progressive manner, and showcases a woman in an authority position for a major company. It treats children as individuals, not props or plot devices.

“Most important for me, however, are the film’s messages: People matter; Service is its own reward; You can have fun, no

matter how old you are. These are values I use, endorse, and cherish on a daily basis. In the movie, Kris Kringle may be the genuine article, but they never truly say. They don’t have to—there is real magic in still believing.”

—**Robb Farmer**, instructional services/research librarian at Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in Montgomery, Alabama.

“While I *should* say *Desk Set*, which has always been a favorite, it’s actually *True Believer*, which has had the most influence on my life. The juxtaposition of extreme cynicism (‘You want to be a criminal defense attorney? Then know this going in . . . everybody’s guilty. Everybody.’) and idealism has always been a banner for me. The movie has reminded me that no matter how jaded



Julieanne Hartman Stevens

you get practicing law, you can always pull your idealism back to the forefront. It’s equally true of being an academic law librarian; no matter how frustrated you might get at times, all it takes is a brief moment with an excited student to be excited about the law again yourself.”

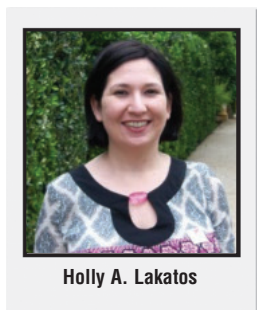
—**Julieanne Hartman Stevens**, electronic services and reference librarian at the Stetson University College of Law, in Gulfport, Florida

“For me, it’s *Major League*, the whimsical, historical story of the Cleveland Indians baseball team that the owner tries to ditch for selfish financial reasons by packing the team with losers. The positive, “together” spirit of a team of misfits, the belief that

every individual has a talent, the traditional come-from-behind sports story, and the fact that there is a very sexy female librarian (which makes for good library scenes, especially when she announces to the main reading room that she has a better body than the stewardess) all combine to create a good feeling.

“Did this movie influence my life, besides making my heart sing for the wild thing? Well, it creates hope for the underdog and a sense that you can succeed when powerful people are voting against you, which is a good feeling, even if it’s just a baseball game. It also serves as a reminder to keep my voice down in the reading room—if I had such a body to defend.”

—**Kathleen Carrick**, law librarian and associate professor of law at Case Western Reserve University Law School Library in Cleveland.



Holly A. Lakatos



Robb Farmer