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MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

February 2006

Volume 50 #4

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New Website Address
www.mpla.us



Help Design MPLA's New Electronic Communities

We need to hear from you...please take the MPLA Interest Survey!

--Carol Hammond, Steward for Implementation of MPLA Reorganization

As part of the reorganization of MPLA, our current sections will be replaced by Electronic Communities. Each Community will represent an interest area and provide a forum for those working in that area to communicate, share best practices and new ideas, help each other solve problems, and find out what others are doing. Each electronic community will have an online discussion space and a discussion moderator who will help organize and promote online activities for the group.

We have not reviewed the interests of members, as represented currently by the sections, in many years. Your input on this survey will give us an idea of how the environment has changed. We want to know what common library topics are of most interest to you for the purposes of online discussions and conference programs. Please respond so as to help MPLA fashion communities of interest that meet the needs of individual members. While we would not recommend limiting an individual's membership to only four, for the purposes of this survey and in an attempt to rank topics, please select no more than four areas that reflect your strongest interests at this time.

Find the survey on the MPLA WEB SITE at www.mpla.us. There will be a link on the first page to take you there and it will only take a minute to mark your four choices. The survey will be open until February 28.

The new electronic communities will be announced in April, and everyone will have an opportunity to opt-in to those in which you'd like to participate.

PLEASE TAKE THE MPLA INTEREST SURVEY

Now! at
www.mpla.us



The MPLA Newsletter is published bi-monthly. Material of regional interest may be submitted to:

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President's Message

Reorganization Update

The organizational changes that were approved at the annual conference are well under way as I write this column. The former Finance & Management Committee and By-Laws Committee have merged to become the Administration Committee. This committee is performing much of the everyday work of MPLA that was previously performed by the full board at quarterly board meetings. The full board will meet less often. The first full board meeting will be via telephone conference call (a first for MPLA!). Our only in-person board meeting will be this July in Denver.

The Administration Committee is in the process of updating the Manual of Procedures to reflect the new organizational structure and plans to have it ready for comments for the conference call. Steward Carol Hammond is making plans to survey the membership for the electronic discussion groups that will replace the current sections. In April, we plan to make the transition from the current committee structure to the new structure that combines several committees, eliminates sections and establishes electronic discussion groups.

My thanks to the hardworking members of the Administration Committee!

It is also time to renew your membership in MPLA if you have not yet done so. Payment can be made via check or PayPal this year. Log on to <http://www.mpla.us/membership/index.html> for full information.

On a personal note, at the end of each year, I like to think back on the books I have read and decide upon my favorites. For 2005, this book was *Flight of Passage* by Rinker Buck, a coming-of-age story about two brothers who fly their Piper Cub coast to coast in 1966. Besides being a great adventure story, it's also a relationship story about two competitive brothers and a former barnstorming father who would like to control their lives. Do you have a favorite you are willing to share with us? Send your title and comments to me at sosenga@frontiernet.net.

-----Sharon Osenga, MPLA President

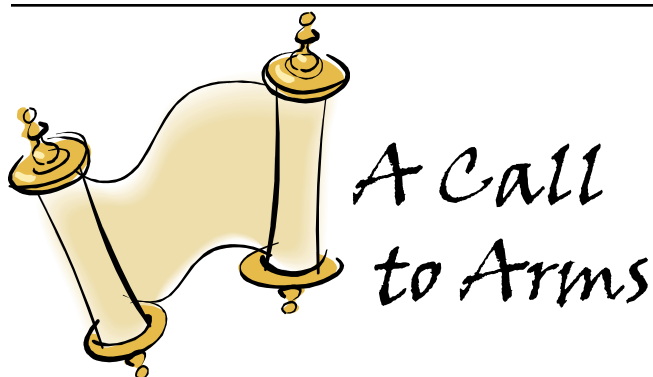
Next Joint Conference - New Mexico 2007

----Wayne Hanway, Vice President/President-Elect

I have been exchanging e-mails with Valerie Nye and the members of the NMLA Conference Planning Task Force since November and I am looking forward to visiting them later on. Exciting ideas are already being considered that should guarantee us a wonderful first-time joint conference in New Mexico.

Regardless of the coming organizational changes in MPLA, it is time now for all members of MPLA to be thinking about programs you would like to have presented and programs you would be interested in presenting at the March 2007 conference in Albuquerque. Any suggestions either way can be passed on to the current section officers or to me. The formal call for program proposals will come later, so if you are developing your ideas now they should be well developed by that time. When MPLA makes the organizational transition, the suggestions will go to the Electronic Community moderators, who will be members of the Program Council, that I will chair.

A great conference is the result of lots of participation by a capable and motivated membership, which certainly describes MPLA. I am looking forward to hearing lots of great program ideas. And by the way, if you have suggestions for extra-curricular activities before, during, or after the conference, please pass them along. Albuquerque and New Mexico have many possibilities, with Santa Fe, skiing, and hot air balloons being just a few of them.



By Dan Stanton
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“A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”

— *Former U.S. President James Madison, 1822*



President Madison’s words incorporate the best of both librarianship and democracy. They also assign responsibility and define expectations for the government and the governed. Government Documents librarians are a passionate group who see their role as the facilitators of Madison’s charge. We are stewards, watchdogs, and advocates of the “informed citizenry” required in Madison’s vision of democracy.

The United States Federal Government is the world’s most prolific publisher, and managing that information has become a specialized area of librarianship. A quick read of today’s news illustrates how government information permeates our lives, but for some reason, government documents librarianship causes some fear among even the most capable users and librarians.

I hope to use this forum to demystify government information and provide tools and resources that will allow you to fulfill Madison’s vision with your patrons and communities in the MPLA region.

The idea for trying this column came about during the WLA/MPLA Joint Conference in Jackson Hole, WY, as MPLA Government Documents Section

Chairperson Kirsten Clark and I discussed outreach to non-govdocs librarians. Let me know how I can help by sending questions, comments, and suggestions to govdocsman@asu.edu. See information on the Government Documents Section at <http://www.mplaus/sections/govdocs/index.html>

The first thing you should be aware of is the Federal Depository Library Program http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/about.html :

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) was established by Congress to ensure that the American public has access to its Government’s information. Since 1813, depository libraries have safeguarded the public’s right to know by collecting, organizing, maintaining, preserving, and assisting users with information from the Federal Government. The FDLP provides Government information at no cost to designated depository libraries throughout the country and territories. These depository libraries, in turn, provide local, no-fee access to Government information in an impartial environment with professional assistance.

As institutions committed to equity of access and dedicated to free and unrestricted public use, the nation’s nearly 1,250 depository libraries serve as one of the vital links between “We the people” and our Government. Anyone can visit Federal depository libraries and use the Federal depository collections which are filled with information on careers, business opportunities, consumer information, health and nutrition, legal and regulatory information, demographics, and numerous other subjects.

Federal depository libraries are located throughout the United States and its territories, and anyone may use the Federal depository collections in any of these libraries. Selective depository libraries tailor their selections of government information products to their community’s primary needs, while Regional depository libraries receive all the materials available through the program.

To find the Federal Depository Library nearest you, please visit <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html> , where you can search by State/Commonwealth/Territory, Area Code, or Congressional District.

We have over 200 years of information that belong to you! Get in touch with us and make James Madison proud.

“King and King” Controversy Continues

---- David Oberhelman, Oklahoma Representative

The controversy that started with the children’s book *King and King* by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland continues in Oklahoma. The book, which focuses on two princes who marry to become “king and king,” was called to the attention of Rep. Sally Kern, R–Oklahoma City. HR 1039 calling on libraries to “confine homosexually themed books and other age-inappropriate material to areas exclusively for adult access and distribution” was passed by the Oklahoma House last session by 81 to 3.

Kerns next wants to write legislation that would remove books considered inappropriate for the children’s area of public libraries and put them in an adult-only area. Kern said, “I have submitted a request for a bill that will involve funding for libraries that do not meet community standards.” She believes this legislation would support community standards in the state: “Oklahoma consistently ranks as a very conservative state in the polls. You know we’re not New York, we’re not California,” Kern stated.

The legislation would include provisions to subject libraries that do not live up to the community standards to possible penalties such as cuts in state funding. Kern is still working on the details of her legislation.

Those who voted against Kern’s resolution last session have also voiced their opinions on the separation of some books into an adults-only area. Rep. Darrell Gilbert, D – Tulsa said, ““It’s all about censorship and trying to control what decisions people have the right to make on their own mind.” “They really don’t have room or the money to separate them,” Rep. Geld Bud Smithson, D-Sallisaw said. “Plus, I don’t see that necessarily blinding a child from some reading material is educational. It’s not the Legislature’s job to tell librarians and schools what they can and cannot put on the shelves. I think we should let the librarians do their job.”

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Evaluation of the Effectiveness of MPLA Leadership Institute

An evaluation of the effectiveness of the MPLA Leadership Institute @ Ghost Range is currently being conducted by institute coordinator Mary Bushing. The evaluation is a two step process: (1) a short questionnaire to be completed by all institute fellows (116 individuals from the 12 state membership region) and by all mentors (approximately 15 individuals not including Bushing herself) and then, (2) individual phone calls to each respondent. At the conclusion of these two data gathering steps, Bushing will compile the findings and create a report for the Leadership Committee and for the Board.

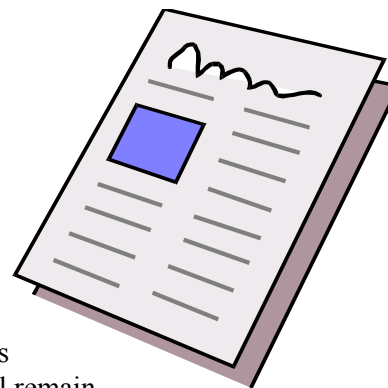
The initial questionnaire is intended to profile the respondents, to provide some statistical data, to identify the key characteristics of the institute, and to give individuals a chance to describe the institute's most important qualities from their perspective. The follow-up short phone conversations are intended to provide more personal and individual experiences that will reflect the effectiveness of the institute upon

the professional and sometimes personal lives of the fellows and mentors. All responses and conversations will remain anonymous, of course. Questionnaires have been sent via email to fellows and mentors from the four past institutes—2002, 2003, 2004, 2005. Efforts are underway to track individuals who have moved and have fallen off the MPLA radar screen. The questionnaire is posted on the MPLA Leadership Institute webpage and anyone who did not receive one but should have, may use the copy there for their responses.

Bushing knows that the findings for the most recent institute attendees will be somewhat less diverse as they have had only a few months to begin to implement changes in their lives and their careers but she is still optimistic that they will have much to offer. There are a surprising number of individuals from previous years who have changed jobs, taken on more responsibilities in existing positions, and/or become far more involved in professional activities at the state, regional (MPLA) level or the national level with ALA, SLA, and their divisions and sections.

It is anticipated that the full report will be used by the committee in their fundraising and sponsorship recruiting efforts. It will also be used by Bushing to promote the institute by using the results as the basis for some articles for national publication in *Library Journal* and/or *American Libraries*. The Board will find the results useful in answering the question "how effective is the leadership institute in developing leaders?" and further, "how well has the money been spent?" Bushing intends to have the report available in the spring.

Questions regarding the study should be directed to Mary Bushing, Leadership Institute Coordinator at marying@msn.com.



*For more information on the MPLA
Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute
go to*

<http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html>

*The 2006 Institute will be
October 29 - November 3, 2006*



Online Library Program Offers 8-week Classes

The Library Science Program at Doña Ana Branch Community College in Las Cruces (a branch of New Mexico State University) will be offering several 3 credit courses, each 8 weeks long, starting in January and March. All courses are offered online. Course beginning in March include:

- Introduction to Library and Information Services
- Introduction to Information Literacy
- Civic Involvement (*requires community service*)
- Multimedia Materials and Presentations
- Cooperative Experience (*requires work in a library setting*)
- Library Science Capstone

Non-degree seeking students who desire single classes for professional development are always welcome, however students may also choose to complete coursework leading to an Associates Degree in Library

Science or a Certificate of Completion in Library Science. Additionally the program offers courses that may fulfill state requirements for Library Media Specialist Endorsements.

Out of state students enrolling in 6 credits or less receive the in-state tuition rates. For further information, go to the web site at <http://dabcc-www.nmsu.edu/bis/libtec/> or contact:

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DABCC
OF NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

American Library Association Announces Literary Award Winners

On January 23 the American Library Association announced the top books and video for children and young adults – including the Caldecott, King, Newbery and Printz awards – at its Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio.

A list of all the 2006 literary award winners follows:

John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature

"Criss Cross," written by Lynne Rae Perkins, is the 2006 Newbery Medal winner. The book is published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Four Newbery Honor Books also were named:

"Whittington" by Alan Armstrong, illustrated by S.D. Schindler and published by Random House; "Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow" by Susan Campbell Bartoletti and published by Scholastic Nonfiction, an imprint of Scholastic; "Princess Academy" by Shannon Hale, published by Bloomsbury Children's Books; and "Show Way" by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott and published by G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children

"The Hello, Goodbye Window," illustrated by Chris Raschka, is the 2006 Caldecott Medal winner. The book was written by Norton Juster and published by Michael di Capua Books, an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children.

Four Caldecott Honor Books also were named:

"Rosa," illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Nikki Giovanni and

published by Henry Holt and Company; "Zen Shorts," written and illustrated by Jon J. Muth and published by Scholastic Press; "Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride," written and illustrated by Marjorie Priceman, An Anne Schwartz Book from Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster; "Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems," illustrated by Beckie Prange, written by Joyce Sidman and published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults

"Looking for Alaska," written by John Green, is the 2006 Printz Award winner. The book is published by Dutton Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA), Inc.

Four Printz Honor Books also were named:

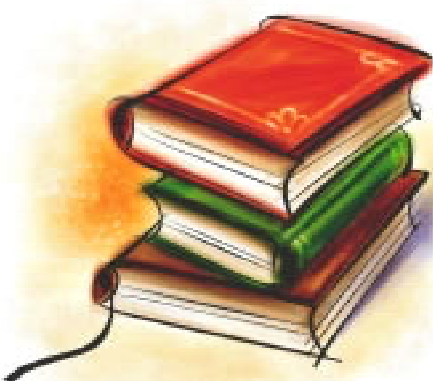
"Black Juice" by Margo Lanagan, published by EOS, an imprint of HarperCollins; "I Am the Messenger" by Markus Zusak, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books; "John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth, a Photographic Biography" by Elizabeth Partridge, published by Viking, a member of Penguin Group (USA), Inc.; and "A Wreath for Emmett Till," written by Marilyn Nelson, illustrated by Philippe Lardy and published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award recognizing an African American author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults

"Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue," written by Julius Lester, is the King Author Book winner. The book is published by Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children.

Three King Author Honor Books were selected:

"Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl" by Tonya Bolden, published by Harry N. Abrams,



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“Radical, Militant Librarians” Announced

---- by Jim Heckel, Director, Great Falls Public Library



It's clear that there are lots of “radical, militant librarians” (or a lot of librarians who want free stuff). Nearly 40 librarians entered the contest to receive a free button reading “Radical, Militant Librarian.” Since I only had 9 buttons to give away, stringent standards understandable only to me were applied to narrow the field.

Documents released from the government through the Freedom of Information Act included a complaint via email from the FBI that: “While radical militant librarians kick us around, true terrorists benefit from OIPR’s failure to let us use the tools given to us.” Librarians were still reeling from being called “hysterical” by John Ashcroft, so of course a button proudly acclaiming “Radical Militant Librarian” was promptly produced and offered for sale. I bought ten thinking to give them away to staff and friends, but instead decided to distribute them on the MPLA and MLA listservs. The Winners (and brief reason why):

- 1** **Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson**, Montana Legislative Library, Helena, because she managed to say the words *naked* and *please* in close proximity. I forgot to mention that I am a sucker for sentences using those two words.
- 2** **Rosanne Siemens**, Kansas Library Association, because she has helped defeat filtering legislation for Kansas public libraries for 4 years!
- 3** **Martin Garnar**, Regis University, Denver, CO, because he thinks the same democracy we are trying to export to other countries should be available here.
- 4** **Dan Stanton**, Arizona State Libraries, Tempe, AZ, because “John Ascroft and his ilk can’t cover us in blue drapes.”
- 5** **Linda Gardner**, Alberton K-12, MT, because she teaches students to “stand up for what is right and be passionate about issues.”
- 6** **Leroy Smith**, Doherty High School, Colorado Springs, CO, because he doesn’t follow directions (his email was way too long) and he keeps challenging the school board to get local control of filters.
- 7** **Scott Lanning**, Serratt Library (Southern Utah University), Cedar City, UT, because he is a lonely guy in southern Utah (he’s a Democrat).
- 8** **Heather Kline**, University of Nebraska Love Library, because she once thought about starting a band called the Militant Anarchists.
- 9** **Debbie Schlesinger**, retired, St. Helena, CA, because she “isn’t out of the fray” and “heartily advocates that all librarians take active and aggressive measures to restore our civil liberties.”
- 10** And the tenth button? I won that... just because.

ALA Literary Awards

continued from page 8

Inc., Publishers; “Dark Sons” by Nikki Grimes, published by Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children; and “A Wreath for Emmett Till,” written by Marilyn Nelson, illustrated by Philippe Lardy and published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award

“Rosa,” illustrated by Bryan Collier, is the King Illustrator Book winner. The book was written by Nikki Giovanni and published by Henry Holt and Company.

One King Illustrator Honor Book was selected:

“Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan” by R. Gregory Christie, published by Lee and Low Books.

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award

“Jimi & Me,” written by Jaime Adoff, is the Steptoe winner. The book is published by Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children.

Pura Belpré (Illustrator) Award honoring a Latino writer and illustrator whose children’s books best portray, affirm and celebrate the Latino cultural experience

“Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart,” illustrated by Raul Colón, is the Belpré Illustrator Award winner. The book was written by Pat Mora and published by Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Random House.

Three Belpré Illustrator Honor Books for illustration were selected:

“Arrorró, Mi Niño: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games,” selected and illustrated by Lulu Delacre and published by Lee & Low Books, Inc.; “César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!” illustrated by David Diaz, written by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand and published by Marshall Cavendish; and “My Name Is Celia/Me Llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/La Vida de Celia Cruz,” illustrated by Rafael López, written by Monica Brown and published by Luna Rising, a bilingual imprint of Rising Moon.

Pura Belpré (Author) Award

“The Tequila Worm,” written by Viola Canales, is the Belpré Author Award winner. The book is published by Wendy Lamb Books, a division of Random House.

Three Belpré Author Honor Books were named:

“César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!,” by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand, “Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart” by Pat Mora, and “Becoming Naomi León” by Pam Muñoz Ryan and published by Scholastic Press.

Schneider Family Book Award for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience

“Dad, Jackie, and Me” written by Myron Uhlberg, illustrated by Colin Bootman and published by Peachtree Press, wins the award for children ages 0 to 10.

Kimberly Newton Fusco is the winner of the middle-school (ages 11-13) award for “Tending to Grace,” published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books.

The teen (ages 13-18) award winner is “Under the Wolf, Under the Dog,” written by Adam Rapp and published by Candlewick Press.

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the most distinguished beginning reader book

“Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas,” written by Cynthia Rylant and illustrated by Suçie Stevenson is the Seuss Award winner. The book is published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Four Geisel Honor Books were named:

“Hi! Fly Guy” by Tedd Arnold and published by Cartwheel Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.; “A Splendid Friend, Indeed” by Suzanne Bloom and published by Boyds Mills Press; “Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa” by Erica Silverman, illustrated by Betsy Lewin and published by Harcourt, Inc.; and “Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day” by Jean Van Leeuwen, illustrated by Ann Schweninger and published by Dial Books for

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Using MPLA's "MemberClicks" Directory and Information

WHAT IS MEMBERCLICKS?

MemberClicks is a dynamic database that provides quick, easy access to MPLA members' information and is a forum for posting and sharing ideas and news.

HOW CAN I FIND IT?

Go to the MPLA home page: **www.mpla.us**. Choose "Member Area" at top. Login with your username and password. (If you can't remember them, there's a place right there to ask)

or

Point your browser to: **my.memberclicks.com/mpla** and get right to login page.

WHAT CAN I DO WHEN I GET THERE?

My Profile

Select "My Profile" in upper left corner.
Your own profile pops up!

You can modify your information in most of the fields shown.

Be sure to "save" your changes.

Try it now! UPDATE your Profile!

Community

Select "Community" in upper left, then go to one of the next choices:

Bulletin Boards: every section, committee, and state are represented with their own board for discussions and sharing information

Event Calendar: a calendar of MPLA events, as well as state conferences

Polls: MPLA occasionally offers polls for members to vote on a variety of topics

Directory

The Directory is fully searchable by name, section membership, state, etc. It can generate a variety of lists which can then be used to send email, print mailing labels, etc.

It is also useful for identifying potential candidates for various positions and assignments.

Select "Directory" in upper left corner, and you have lots of choices for accessing MPLA's complete Membership Directory online:

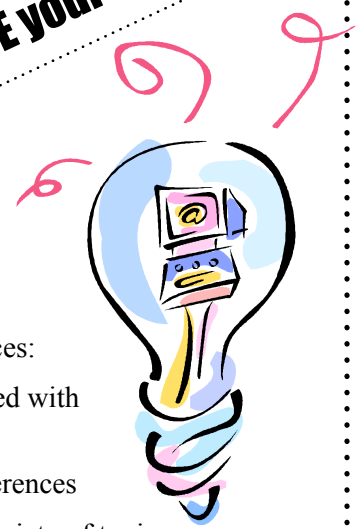
- * View All: scroll through over a hundred pages or so to view brief profiles of members

- * Simple Search: you get a basic search screen

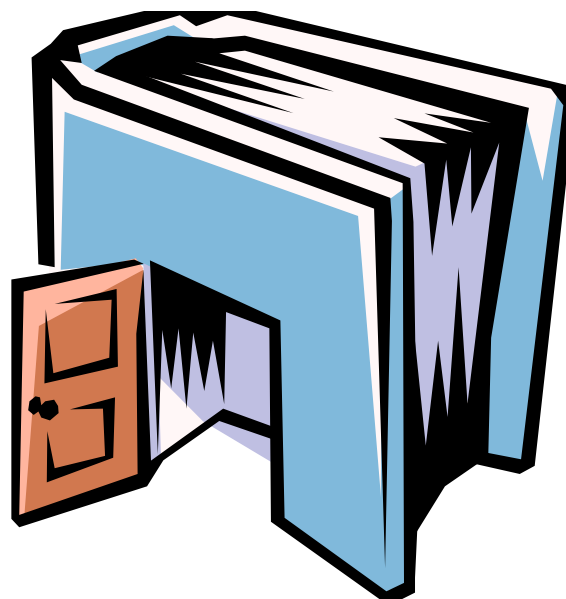
- * Advanced Search: you have several ways to search and format results

- * Contact Center: after you have completed a search, for one person or many, you can send e-mail messages to them individually or as a group

- * Print Center: print information from your directory in different formats



Welcome New MPLA Members!



Arizona

Susan Cable, Reference &
Instruction Librarian, Grand
Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ
Michele Mosco, Avondale, AZ

Colorado

Victoria Boone, Reference
Librarian, Weld Library District,
Fort Collins, CO

Patricia Chapman, Fairplay, CO

Jayati Chaudhuri, Science
Reference Librarian/Assistant
Professor, University of Northern
Colorado Libraries, Greeley, CO

Tania Hajjar, Reference Librarian,
Montrose Regional Library District,
Montrose, CO

Johanna Harden, Archivist, Douglas
County Libraries - Douglas County
Historical Research Center, Castle
Rock, CO

Monica Kirby, Library Director,
Spanish Peaks Library District,
Walsenburg, CO

Mindy Kittay, Business Manager,
Garfield County Public Library,
Rifle, CO

Lisa Knudsen, Executive Director,
Mountains & Plains Booksellers
Association. Fort Collins, CO

Jennife, Leffler, E-Resources Tech
Services Librarian, University of
Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO

Diann Logie, Branch Manager,
Lamb Branch Library, Pueblo, CO

Amy Rodda, ,
Colorado Springs, CO

Leroy Smith,
Librarian, Doherty
High School, Colorado
Springs, CO

Shelley Walchak,
Durango, CO

Iowa

Connie McKnight, Sioux City, IA

Kansas

Sharo Ailsieger, Wichita, KS

Micaela Ayers, Director of Library
Services, Butler Community
College, El Dorado, KS

Pam Barba, Leavenworth, KS

Jeff Bond, Graduate Student,
Emporia State University, Emporia,
KS

Judith Cremer, Assistant Director,
Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional
Library, Topeka, KS

Sara Eccles, Gardner, KS

Karen Gillihan, Library Director,
Goodland Public Library,
Goodland, KS

Verna Graybill, Alva, KS

Brenda Hough, Technology
Coordinator, Northeast Kansas
Library System, Lawrence, KS

Hannelore Leach, Director,
Linwood Community Library,
Linwood, KS

Lynda Linder, Salina, KS

Darrell McNamara, Head Special
Collections Archives Processing,
University of Kansas Spencer
Research Library, Overland Park,
KS

Eric Norris, Hays, KS

Dr. Janice Ostrom, Salina, KS

Brian Rosenblum, Scholarly Digital
Initiatives Librarian, University of
Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Emily Sitz, Director, Southwest
Kansas Library System, Dodge
City, KS

Barbara Waliczek, Emporia, KS

Kristin Whitehair, Resident
Instruction Librarian, Kansas State
University Libraries, Manhattan,
KS

Jerry Wilson, Head Cataloger, Fort
Hays State University, Forsyth
Library, Hays, KS

Laura Windsor, Biomedical
Librarian, University of Kansas
Medical Center Archie R. Dykes
Library, Kansas City, KS

Wichita State University, Wichita,
KS

Minnesota

Marilyn Hedberg, Detroit Lakes, MN

Katie Boyes, Public Services Librarian, Flathead County Library, Kalispell, MT

Nancy Brandt, Librarian/Teacher, Yellowstone Academy, Billings, MT

Tyree Jenks, Billings, MT

Stef Johnson, Library Assistant II, Flathead County Libraries, Kalispell, MT

Yvette Majerus, School Librarian, Moore Public School, Lewistown, MT

Linder Schlang, Missoula, MT

Jennifer Vogan, Gallatin Gateway, MT

North Dakota

Heidi Danielson, Bottineau, ND

Kathy Groendal, Bismarck, ND

Traci Juhala, Assistant Director, Mandan Public Library, Mandan, ND

Dave Klein, Minot, ND

Mary Kroshus, Wahpeton, ND

Beth Postema, Deputy Director, Fargo Public Library, Fargo, ND

Mavis Williamson, Trustee, Minot Public Library, Minot, ND

Nebraska

Duane Abbott, Omaha, NE

Hilda Costanzo, Children's Librarian, Omaha Public Library, Omaha, NE

Sally Gibson, Serials & Electronic Resources Librarian, Reinert

Alumni Library - Creighton University, Omaha, NE

Heather Kline, E-Resources Associate, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

Charlotte Kyriss, Library Asst III, Lincoln City Libraries, Lincoln, NE

Mary Mack, Director, John A. Stahl Library, West Point, NE

Sharon McAnulty, Assistant Director, Ralston Baright Public Library, Papillion, NE

Stan Schulz, York, NE

Renee Thakur, Board Member, Weeping Water Public Library, Weeping Water, NE

Creighton University Library, Michael Lacroix, Director, Creighton University, Omaha, NE

Kearney Public Library, Christine H. Walsh, Assistant Director, Kearney Public Library, Kearney, NE

New Mexico

Elizabeth Eastwood, Reference Services Librarian, Mesa Public Library, Los Alamos, NM

Twila Firmature, Electronic Resources Coordinator, University of New Mexico University Libraries, Albuquerque, NM

Clyde Henderson, Librarian, Crownpoint Institute of Technology, Crownpoint, NM

Allyson James-Vigil, Serials Technician, TVI Community College Library - JMMC, Albuquerque, NM

Dan Kammer, Interim Associate Director - Montoya Campus, Albuquerque TVI, Albuquerque, NM

Jill Lynch, Texas Woman's University, Albuquerque, NM

Trish Murphy, Farmington, NM

Clare Nieto, Cannon AFB, NM

Karen Shmiede, Information Services - Serials, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System, Main Library, Albuquerque, NM

Justine Veatch, Las Cruces, NM

Nevada

Tamera Cirrincione, Librarian III, Washoe County Library, Reno, NV

Richard Kelly, Cataloger, Nevada Historical Society, Reno, NV

Pamela Lenox, Library Assistant III, Las Vegas Clark County Library, Las Vegas, NV

Pamela Sliker, Library Assistant II, Washoe County Library, Sparks, NV

Donna Smith, Resource Librarian, Washoe County Library System, Reno, NV

Holly Van Valkenburgh, Consulting Librarian, Nevada State Library & Archives, Carson City, NV

Mary Wallace, Managing Librarian, Washoe County Library System, Reno, NV

Oklahoma

Janet Croft, Head of Access Services, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Sandra Hamilton, Assistant Director, Alva Public Library, Alva, OK

Jao-Ming Huang, Stillwater, OK

Jeanie Johnson, Oklahoma City, OK

Tim Miller, Clinton, OK

New MPLA Members, continued

South Dakota

Ethelle Bean, Madison, SD

Dennis Nath, District Media
Director, Mitchell School District,
Mitchelle, SD

Jasmine Rousey, Children's &
Youth Services Coordinator, South
Dakota State Library, Pierre, SD

Kelly Coffey, Weekend Supervisor,
Eccles Health Sciences Library, Salt
Lake City, UT

Jim Foster, Lehi, UT

Ed Hahn, Business & Economics
Librarian, Stewart Library Weber
State University, Ogden, UT

Steven Harris, Collection
Development & Management
Librarian, Utah State University,
Logan, UT

Tiffany Herbon, Salt Lake City, UT

Doni Pack, Trainer, Washington
County Library, St. George, UT

Wyoming

Stephen Boss, Laramie, WY

Janet Boss, Children's Librarian,
Albany County Public Library,
Laramie, WY

Susan Centrell, Technical Services
Library Assistant III, Teton County
Library, Jackson, WY

Kathryn Collins-Turner, Media
Specialist, Urie Elementary,
Mountain View, WY

Cheryl Goldenstein, University of
Wyoming, Laramie, WY

Mary Jayne Jordon, Sundance Jr-Sr.
High School, Sundance, WY

Trish Palluck, Wyoming State
Library, Cheyenne, WY

Elizabeth Robertson, Laramie, WY

Dawn Rohan, Intellectual Property
Librarian, Wyoming State Library,
Cheyenne, WY

Marie St. Pierre, Reference
Librarian, Natrona County Public
Library, Casper, WY

Kathy Turner, Urie Elementary
School, Lyman, WY

Susan Vittitow, Wyoming State
Library, Cheyenne, WY

Wendi Walton, LAII, Teton County
Library, Jackson, WY



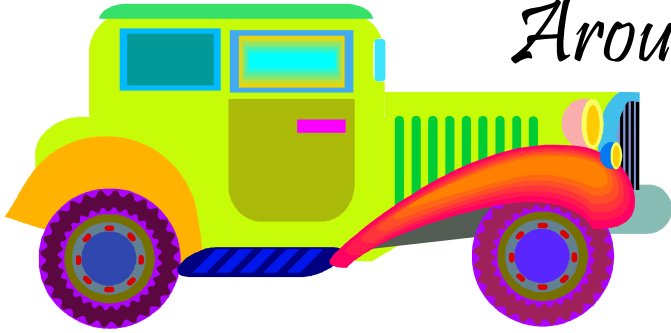
Renew Your MPLA Membership Now!



It's the perfect time to renew your MPLA membership for 2006.
There are several ways to renew:

- Complete the membership form on the back page of this newsletter.
Mail it with a check! -or-
- Go to MPLA's home page **www.mpla.us** and select "Join MPLA" at the top! -or-
- Go right to the online form at **<http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html>**

*For the first time MPLA is offering PayPal as a secure option for paying by
credit card, and you don't need an existing PayPal account to use the service.
Or, you can print the membership form and mail it with a check.*



Around the Region

Arizona

Stephanie K. Gerding, MPLA member and Continuing Education Coordinator at Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records in Phoenix, has co-authored a new book, *Grants for Libraries: A How-To-Do-It Manual* published January 15, 2006 by Neal-Schuman. A first year MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute graduate, she says the new book represents accomplishment of one of her institute goals. Stephanie consults with libraries and assists in grant reviews for the State Library's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). She is also the "Bringing in the Money" columnist for *Public Libraries*. Contact Stephanie Gerding sgerding@lib.az.us for more information or to receive a discount coupon for *Grants for Libraries*, (1-55570-535-9. 2006. 8 ½ x 11. 525 pp. Book and CD-ROM)

Frieda Ling, Health Librarian for the Glendale Public Library, was honored as one of the best librarians in the country by the *New York Times*, who also awarded her a commemorative plaque and a check for \$2,500.



The Mesa Friends of the Library along with the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), a group committed to preserving community educational resources, joined to hold a candlelight ceremony at the main branch of the Mesa Public Library on December 6, 2005. Its purpose was to increase awareness of proposed cuts in the city of Mesa budget that might adversely affect the Mesa Public Library system. The ceremony aimed to send a positive statement to local officials regarding the concern that ACORN, the Friends of the Library, and other organizations have expressed towards the budget issue.

Colorado

Denver Public Library joins Ask Colorado virtual reference team. For years DPL operated *Smartypants*, an excellent online reference service, and they have now brought that experience and expertise to the statewide Ask Colorado initiative. Ask Colorado, funded by multiple governmental agencies, as well as grant money from the Colorado State Library and the federal Library Services and Technology Act, has provided reference assistance 24 hours per day, seven days a week since September 2003. Participating libraries provide monetary and staff support, so the contribution that DPL brings to Ask Colorado is a welcome boost! Go to <http://www.askcolorado.org/> to check out this very popular service.

The Colorado Public Library Board and Trustees Pocket Handbook, a guide for new and continuing board members, has recently been published by the Colorado Department of Education. The *Handbook* brings together descriptions of types of public library boards, their responsibilities and relations with the community, as well as Colorado library laws and helpful resources. Presented online in late December 2005, the handbook will soon be available in print.

Jean Heilig has been appointed Finance Manager/ Special Projects Coordinator for the Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education. Most

recently Heilig was Senior Director of Research and Information for e-global library at JonesKnowledge.com as well as the Library Director for Jones International University. She is an adjunct faculty member in the Master of Library and Information Science Program at the University of Denver.

Rick Ashton, City Librarian of the Denver Public Library since 1985, will retire on February 28, 2006. During Ashton's 20-year tenure the Denver Public Library has experienced major growth. In 1985 the Library checked out about 2.5 million books per year. This year's total will be about 10 million.

Kansas



The Johnson County Library recently won a 2005 National Service Award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). In December staff,

Library Board, Friends and Foundation members crowded into the Central Resource Library's meeting room to hear the announcement County Librarian Mona Carmack, an announcement timed to coordinate with the press release from IMLS and the article in the Kansas City Star that day. It was a secret she had kept since August. The National Awards for Museum and Library Service honors institutions for extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions to their communities. The Johnson County Library will receive \$10,000 and will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The Johnson County Library is also the 2005 recipient of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) ASCLA/ KLAS/NOD Award for its "Literature for the Learning Disabled Adult" program. Donated by Keystone Systems, Inc., the \$1,000 award and certificate is given to a library organization that has provided services for people with disabilities. The award is presented by ASCLA, a division of the American Library Association (ALA). "The 'Literature for the Learning Disabled Adult' program of the Johnson

County Library represents a model demonstration of a collaborative effort to provide meaningful participation in literary and educational program," stated Barratt Wilkins, ASCLA award committee chair.

Montana

Suzie McIntyre recently joined the staff of the Great Falls Public Library as head of Information Services. A Great Falls native and resident, She has a Masters of Library Science degree from the University of Washington.

Northwest Archivists, the regional archival association serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, will be holding its Annual Meeting in Butte May 18-20, 2006. The meeting is designed to encourage professional development and networking among archivists and others interested in preservation and access to historical information.

The Great Falls Public Library received a \$20,000 grant from the estate of Kathleen Cosgriff and Frances Zipperian. \$10,000 will go to the Foundation Corpus, \$5,000 to the Fiction retrospective collection and \$5,000 towards a planned Young Adult Center. The Great Falls Rotary Club donated \$3,000 to the Great Falls Public library this year, making a total of \$81,000 over the many years they have contributed to the library. This money is dedicated to purchasing children's books.

The Fort Peck Tribal Library will use grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to microfilm the *Wotanim Wowapi*, Fort Peck Reservation newspaper, and provide copies of the microfilm to the Montana Historical Society, MSU-Bozeman, Roosevelt County Library, Fort Peck Tribal Archives and Fort Peck Tribal Library. Another component of the grant will provide a security system for Fort Peck Tribal Library to curb the removal of materials without checking them out. The grant will provide up-to-date equipment and storage units for the involved parties. The third component of the grant will be to provide a Summer Reading Program for the children of Poplar and surrounding area in Summer 2006

Nebraska

Rivkah Sass, Director of the Omaha Public Library, has been named Library Journal's 2006 Librarian of the Year. "Sass has labored with passion, joy, and a heavy dose of courage to begin to push OPL toward greatness," says John N. Berry III, Editor-In-Chief of Library Journal. The award is celebrated in a cover story of the January issue (also available at <http://www.libraryjournal.com>). Sass started her career as children's librarian at the Spokane County Public Library in Washington. Since then, she has held various positions from front line to management, including five years as reference and information services coordinator at Oregon's Multnomah County Public Library. Her work there led to her being named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker in 2002.

The 2006 "One Book One Nebraska" program is rolling! The selection is Alex Kava's *One False Move*. Kava, who lives in Omaha, will make personal appearances across the state. The book is set in Nebraska and Kava, a best-selling suspense author, says the idea for the book was inspired by a bank robbery that took place in Lincoln several years ago. MPLA members serving on the 2006 "One Book One Nebraska" steering committee are Becky Baker, Sandy Elton, Lisa Olivigni, and Brenda Ealey. The 2006 "One Book One Nebraska" will be partnering with Southeast Library System, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Regional Library Systems, Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska Library Commission and other organizations.

2005 Golden Sower Awards went to: Grades K-3: *Togo* by Robert Blake; Grades 4-6: *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli; Young Adult: *Mississippi Trail, 1955* by Chris Crowe.

The new Lexington Public Library's dedication took place 6th, 2005, with ribbon-cutting attended by Governor Heineman and Lt. Governor Sheehy, Mayor Cook, Sharon Osenga, MPLA President, Rod Wagner, Director, Nebraska Library Commission and Richard Miller, the Commission's Director of Development, past LPL directors Jean Sands and Ruth Seward, local librarians and local dignitaries and contributors to this event along with Masonic cornerstone laying ceremonies. The library is over 19,000 sq. ft., in

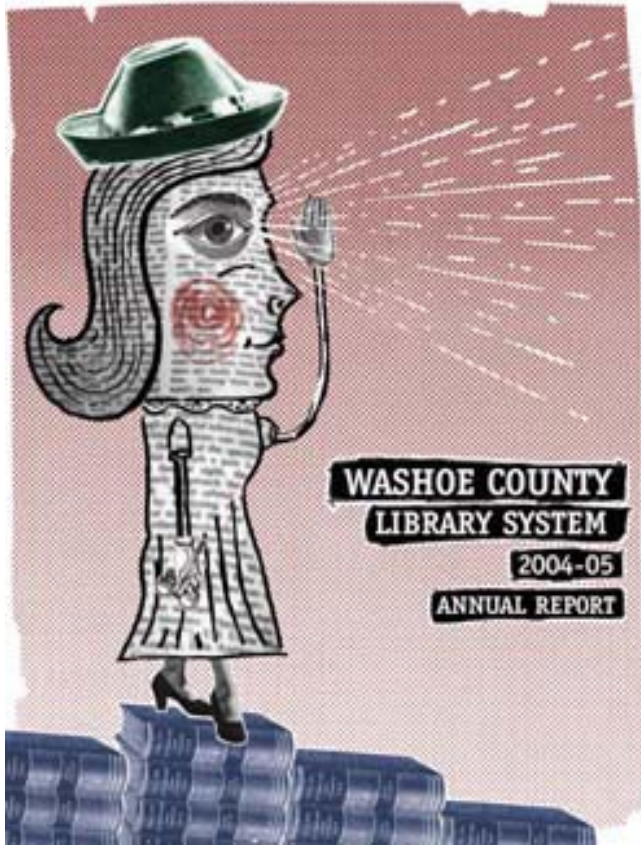
comparison to the old library which was about 5,000 sq. ft. Toné Mendoza is the library director.



Lexington Public Library

The 2005 Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB), recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or concerning Nebraska. This year's winners are: **Anthology:** *A Different Plain: Contemporary Nebraska Fiction Writers*, Ladette Randolph, Editor, University of Nebraska Press; **Children:** *Going North*, Janice N. Harrington, Jerome Lagarrigue (Illustrations), Farrar, Straus and Giroux; **Children's Honor Book:** *Effie's Image*, N. L. Sharp, Dorothea Rohner (Illustrations), Prairieland Press; **Young Adult Honor Book:** *Worth*, A. LaFaye, Simon and Schuster; **Cover/Design/Illustration:** *On Ancient Wings*, Michael Forsberg, Michael Forsberg Photography; **Cover/Design/Illustration Honor Book:** *Mirror of the Wood*, Karen Kunc and Jukka Partanen, Blue Heron Press; **Fiction:** *Dating Dead Men*, Harley Jane Kozak, Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc.; **Fiction Honor Book:** *Little Men*, Gerald Shapiro, Ohio State University Press; **Non-Fiction:** *A Life with Dogs*, Roger Welsch, MBI Publishing Company; **Non-Fiction Honor Book:** *On Ancient Wings*, Michael Forsberg, Michael Forsberg Photography; **Poetry:** *How Much Our Dancing Has Improved*, Barbara Schmitz, The Backwaters Press;

Nevada



*The Washoe County Library System's Annual Report was chosen as a **Marketing Treasure** by that magazine.*

Marie Cuglietta is Las Vegas Clark County Library District's new Public Services Director. She began work as a part time library assistant. She has her MLS from BYU and worked her way up on the public side of library service. Five years ago she was appointed the Collection Development Manager for that district and oversaw the transition to centralized selection for LVCCLD. She began her new job in October and says it keeps her very busy.

Katherine Mossman is Washoe County Library System's new Information Services Librarian. Kate was previously with the New York Public Library at the Donnell Library Center where she was the supervising reference librarian. She has written many articles in library literature and was pleased to come home to the West, where she was raised.

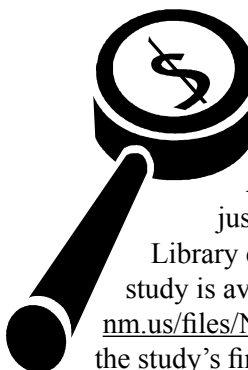
Its all about us! The Washoe County Library System reports that its latest branch library is pictured in the December issue of *Library Journal* and its South Valleys branch is the July centerfold in the Sirsi/Dynix calendar.

Correction, and apologies the Washoe County Library System. It was erroneously written in the December newsletter that the library was closed so staff could attend the Nebraska Library Association conference. Well actually they didn't travel quite that far! They attended their own state conference in Nevada. --ed

New Mexico

First Annual Children's Book Festival. On December 3rd the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum in Las Cruces hosted the first Children's Book Festival. Twelve vendors attended, displaying and selling children's books just in time for parents searching for holiday gifts. There were several authors on hand to sign newly purchased books. New Mexico's first lady, Barbara Richardson, kicked off the event with a book reading for children.

Librarians Push for New Bond. New Mexico librarians and the New Mexico Library Association will be seeking \$53.5 million in General Obligation Bonds from the 2006 Legislative Session that will run January 17th thru February 16th. A task force of academic, public, and school librarians has been formed to support the Bond effort. According to the current distribution chart, public libraries will receive \$18 million, school libraries will receive \$18 million, and academic libraries will receive \$15 million. The remaining \$2.5 million will be allocated to State operated libraries.



State Library Employees Fight for Higher Salaries.

The New Mexico State Library conducted a salary study in August of 2005 in order to justify a salary hike for State Library employees. The pay inequity study is available at <http://www.stlib.state.nm.us/files/NMSLSalaryReport.pdf>. Among the study's findings was that 35 State Library

staff members are eligible for food stamps based on basic food stamp eligibility. Three of these eligible employees have masters degrees. Employee turn-over at the State Library in the last year and a half has cost the State of New Mexico nearly \$1 million. Among the recommendations included in the pay inequity study is a request to move all librarian classifications to the midpoint of the current salary scale, at a cost of \$243,731.

North Dakota

New West Fargo Public Library. After many years of dreaming and planning, the new West Fargo Public Library is open for business. The Library held its grand opening on October 1, 2005. Additional space, more computers, a business center, and a homework center are just a few features of the new library. West Fargo Library Board President David Saxowsky says, "The role public libraries play in their communities is critical to their future, and this new facility says we are ready to be a player." Saxowsky says, "The success of this project was due in large part to the professionalism of the West Fargo Public Library staff." The new library was renovated from a former school gymnasium which gives it a warm, open feeling. The library has recently expanded its hours to serve the needs of its patrons.

Bismarck State College Library will be hosting its 7th annual "Book Talk at BSC" this winter. The theme is "Classics Redux". The books discussed and their counterparts include: *Ahab's Wife* inspired by *Moby Dick*. *The Hours* inspired by *Mrs. Dalloway*, and *Life of Pi* inspired by *Robinson Crusoe*.

Notable Government Documents. At the recent NDLA Annual Conference three ND government documents published in 2005 voted most notable are:

- 1st place – Prehistoric life of North Dakota (map) by John W. Hoganson and Brett Woodward, published by the NDGS;
- 2nd place – Butterfly gardening in North Dakota by Janet Knodel, et.al., from the NDSU Extension Service at NDSU;
- 3rd place ND Lewis & Clark audio adventure (CD) produced by the ND Tourism Devision and Clay S. Jenkinson.

Oklahoma



*MPLA Webmaster Dan Chaney with Stormy.
Dan is also Social Sciences Librarian at the Edmon Low
Library, Oklahoma State University.*

Southeastern Oklahoma Public Libraries Affected by Drought. The drought that has been plaguing Oklahoma during the past year has been especially hard on the Southeastern corner of the state. Wayne Hanway, Director of the Southeastern Public Library System and MPLA President Elect, reports that libraries in his system will be hard-hit by the drop in

recreational activities and tourism. The impact on libraries and local governments generally tends to be delayed, because tax collections lag behind what is actually happening in the economy. Communities heavily dependent on outdoor recreation, like Eufaula and Broken Bow, will take a real hit in their sales taxes. Since the libraries in both of those communities are part of multi-county systems, the sales tax slump will affect city expenses for building repairs and improvements at the library. Property tax collections will probably be down some, but that will just compound the existing problem with the state's failure to reimburse the counties for economic development exemptions.

South Dakota

Joe Edelen was recently promoted to Head of Content Management & Systems for the I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota.

South Dakota Newspaper Project. The Friends of the Huron Public Library received grants from DAR and the South Dakota Community Foundation to create a plan for digitizing South Dakota newspapers and to create a TEST database using a sample of South Dakota newspapers. Liz Bishoff and Tom Claeson from OCLC were hired to help create the digitization plan. They facilitated a DDN meeting and an in-person meeting with South Dakota librarians and Cultural Heritage Center employees to provide information about the digitization process, to provide information about digitization projects in-process, and to assist in developing a digitization plan for South Dakota.

The American Library Association recently announced that **Layne Library at Dakota Wesleyan University** is one of 50 libraries nationwide, and the only library in South Dakota, to be named as a pilot site for a documentary film viewing and discussion series on World War I. "The World War I Years: America Becomes a World Power," is a six-week program that features scholar-led lectures, documentary film screenings, and readings and discussions.

The Deadwood Public Library held its Annual Christmas Open House in conjunction with a rededication ceremony for the 100th anniversary of the library building.

Utah

Commencement Ceremonies. Emporia State University, School of Library & Information Management (SLIM), held commencement ceremonies for 28 Master of Library Science graduates of its Utah distance education program in December. Randy Silverman, Preservationist Librarian at the Marriott Library, was the commencement speaker. The fourth SLIM-Utah cohort of students began in August 2005.

Wyoming

Food For Fines at Natrona County Public Library. During its December's "Food for Fines" program, the Natrona County Public Library donated over 2,500 items of nonperishable food to Joshua's Storehouse, a volunteer-run food bank. For the first two full weeks in December, NCPL accepted cans of food and other nonperishable food items in lieu of money for overdue library items. Patrons were overwhelming in their generosity, bringing in bags of food to pay for fines, many of which were less than a dollar. The program also allowed a number of families and individuals who had been unable to use the library because accumulated fines to start 2006 with a clean slate.



Larry Tennyson, Natrona Public Library, with donated "Food for Fines"

ALA Literary Awards

continued from page 10

Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group.

Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults

Jacqueline Woodson is the 2006 Edwards Award winner. Her books include: "I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This," and its sequel, "Lena;" "From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun," "If You Come Softly" and "Miracle's Boys."

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award for most distinguished informational book for children

"Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley," written by Sally M. Walker, is the Sibert Award winner. The book is published by Carolrhoda Books, Inc., a division of Lerner Publishing Group.

One Sibert Honor Book was named:

"Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow," written by Susan Campbell Bartoletti and published by Scholastic Nonfiction, an imprint of Scholastic.

Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video

Michael Sporn, of Michael Sporn Animation, Inc., and Paul Gagne and Melissa Reilly, of Weston Woods Studios, producers of "The Man Who Walked Between the Towers," are the Carnegie Medal winners. The video is based on the book by Mordicai Gerstein and is narrated by Jake Gyllenhaal, with music by Michael Bacon.

Mildred L. Batchelder Award for an outstanding children's book translated from a foreign language and subsequently published in the United States

Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., is the Batchelder Award winner for "An Innocent Soldier." Originally published in German in 2002 as "Der Rusländer," the book was written by Josef Holub and translated by Michael Hofmann.

Two Batchelder Honor Books also were selected:

"Nicholas," published by Phaidon Press Limited and "When I Was a Soldier," published by Bloomsbury Children's Books.

Alex Awards for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences

- "Midnight at the Dragon Café," written by Judy Fong Bates and published by Counterpoint.
- "Upstate," written by Kalisha Buckhanon and published by St Martins
- "Anansi Boys," written by Neil Gaiman and published by William Morrow & Company
- "As Simple as Snow," written by Gregory Gallaway and published by Putnam
- "Never Let Me Go," written by Kazuo Ishiguro and published by Alfred A. Knopf
- "Gil's All Fright Diner," written by A. Lee Martinez, published by Tor
- "The Necessary Beggar," written by Susan Palwick and published by Tor
- "My Jim," written by Nancy Rawles and published by Crown
- "Jesus Land: A Memoir," written by Julia Scheeres, and published by Counterpoint
- "The Glass Castle: A Memoir," written by Jeannette Walls and published by Scribner

May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Award recognizing an author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children's literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site

Kevin Henkes will deliver the 2007 lecture. Henkes has published seven novels and more than 20 picture books, as well as a number of board books for young children.

For more information on the ALA youth media awards and notables, please visit the ALA Web site at www.ala.org.

More Tributes to Joe Edelen

MPLA Executive Secretary Emeritus

My memory of Joe Edelen intersects with our first mutual interest, the Junior Members Round Table of ALA. In my usual fashion, I offered, as the organization's president living in a nearby state, to come to the MPLA association meeting, joint with Colorado that year, where I told the attendees how active participation in an association outside their state could help them build leadership skills. That was the topic. More important to me personally is that the people I met there became a core group of professional friends over my career. Joe Edelen became one of them. When we talked, we strategized our job problems, sure, but we even talked through the kid problems. It was as though we raised our kids together while we solved library problems.

When I moved out of MPLA territory in the mid 1970s, I missed the quality of the organization that had been one of my first experiences mixing with other young professionals outside my own state. The energetic, fun loving people I met through MPLA were always having a good time – with Joe in the lead.

In the mid 1980s, when I moved to Oklahoma, eventually becoming the Oklahoma Library Association president, I began thinking of my goals as president. I saw the location of the state as an opportunity to explore “what if” with a state that had been a former member of the now defunct Southwestern Library Association. I contacted Joe, the support staff of the effort, working with me for months to show the Oklahoma state association the benefits MPLA offered a small, unaffiliated state association that up to then had used the library models and lived in the shadow of its larger neighbor, Texas.

When the term and the goal were accomplished, Joe asked me what was going to be my next project. “Don’t know”, I said, and he said, “Why don’t you think about MPLA? You could do the job, and we need candidates for president.” So goes the story that eventually became the model of how we approached other states, mostly through Joe’s contacts in that location, to increase state membership in our association. And so also came the introduction of long range planning during my term as president, arising from discussion with Joe, who worried about the long term well being of MPLA.

When the association’s leaders came together to consider the association’s survival, with the able facilitation of Donna Jones Morris, they recognized that one facet of MPLA’s future depended on movement into new venues such as electronic communication. They saw it as the way to draw closer together the far flung corners of MPLA’s territory, and even while expanding, to remain close and personal. The leaders also looked at themselves and knew we needed to draw leaders into our circle. We did not know, during LONG sessions in Denver meeting rooms, where we fought out the language and the future of MPLA, that we were setting up models that many associations have since followed.

When the remodeling plan for the Mountain Plains Library Association dust had settled, Joe Edelen called me to say – “Hey. There is a meeting at ALA to talk about Leadership Institutes. I think you could do that. Could I sign us up as a team?” At the meeting, we were proud of the miles ahead that first Long Range Plan had positioned us and we knew then how we would bring a Leadership Institute together for our association. Others there were advised to start at the beginning – with a Long Range Plan for their association.

This long story is just to tell you what many know: that Joe often sought out the people who could make a difference in MPLA, and brought the need together with the person.

His recommendations for committee membership have been a lifeline for incoming presidents, his assessments of those who might do the job terse but truthful. It is that man, Joe Edelen, who deserves credit for the association that made its transition into a new century at the top of the pack. Now he leaves it in transition once again, to a cadre of new leaders he has had a major role in growing within our ranks.

Your friendship and support made both the vice-presidential and presidential terms, when we had an ailing president, productive and power packed! Thanks for the memories, Joe.

---- Marilyn Hinshaw, President, 1998-99

This letter is a tribute to a gentleman who has given much to our regional library association, Joe Edelen our MPLA Executive Secretary. When I was President of MPLA in 1983-84 Joe was a fount

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Tributes to Joe Edelen, *continued from page 22*

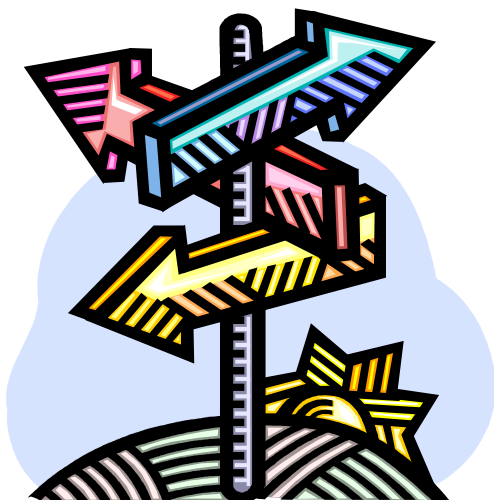
of knowledge about MPLA and an almost daily consultant. He helped support all the MPLA activities. Before and after I was MPLA President I remember working with him on many projects. In fact now Joe and I find that we both started participating in MPLA in the same year and I believe I can say that both of us have gained more than we have given to MPLA. Joe guided MPLA to sound financial operations. He made sure that budgets adhered to all the rules and that everyone strived to make a profit where possible. I learned a great deal about organizing successful library training from Joe and from MPLA.

On behalf of MPLA, Joe - thanks for many years of leadership for MPLA. We are glad that you will be continuing to be a member - just like many of your friends.

----Donna Jones Morris, *President, 1983-94*

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UPCOMING MPLA CONFERENCES

- 2006: No conference
(transition year to spring conference)
- 2007: Albuquerque, NM
(joint with New Mexico Library Association)
- 2008: (April 30-May 3) Salt Lake City, UT
(joint with Utah Library Association)
- 2009: Overland Park, KS
(joint with Kansas Library Association)
- 2010: Oklahoma
(joint with Oklahoma Library Association)

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