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# MPLA

Mountain Plains Library Association

# Newsletter

December 2006

Volume 51 #3

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Joint  
Conference  
2007

Albuquerque  
New Mexico



NMLA/MPLA  
March 14-16, 2007



## 2006 Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute a Huge Success

*By Mary Bushing, Leadership Institute Coordinator*

This year's Leadership Institute in northern New Mexico had 31 participants and 5 mentors in addition to the primary facilitator, Maureen Sullivan from Maryland. These 37 individuals arrived at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu on Sunday afternoon, October 29 and departed Friday morning, November 3 after 5 days of concentrated learning, self-evaluation and networking with others from the MPLA member states. As in previous years, fellows shared rooms with assigned roommates, ate together in the dining hall, and spent long hours each day in formal learning sessions addressing both the theory and the practice of leadership.

*continued on page 4*



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March 1	September 1
May 1	November 1

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## President's Message

The organizational restructuring is complete! After many long months of hard work, we have finished all of the items on time. A number of MPLA members worked hard on this project. I want to especially thank Donna Jones Morris who chaired the initial committee and put together the written recommendations; Carol Hammond who directed the project as Steward; Betty Dance for updating the Manual of Procedure to reflect the changes and Wayne Hanway for updating the Long Range Plan. It is our hope that these changes will help MPLA to continue to meet the needs and interest of the membership.

If you are interested to see what lies ahead for MPLA, the updated Long Range Plan is now available on the MPLA website (<http://www.mpla.us/documents/lrp/LRP2006final.doc>). It is designed to guide our organization through 2009.

At the most recent board meeting, we approved a Literary Ireland trip during the summer of 2008. See page 8 for a short teaser article about the trip. Also see Nina Little's account in the Nebraska section of "Around the Region." If you are at all interested in going, please contact me. If there is enough interest, we will go ahead with the final details and prepare a flyer with all the trip details.

The plans for the Albuquerque conference are well underway. The roster of keynotes and luncheon speakers is impressive. I hope to see many of you at the conference March 14-16, 2007!

--*Sharon Osenga*  
MPLA President

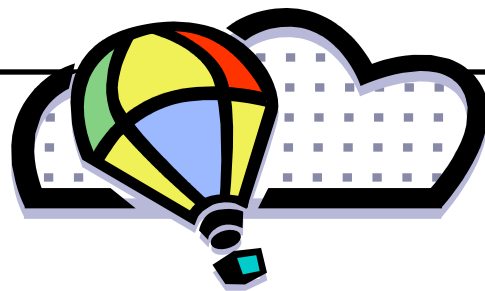
NMLA/MPLA 2007

Joint Conference

Albuquerque, New Mexico

March 14-16, 2007

Albuquerque Convention Center



**Libraries: Launching the Future**

See the conference web site [www.nmla.org/abq2007/home.htm](http://www.nmla.org/abq2007/home.htm)

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*Louise Bolton*

*San Juan College*

*Farmington NM*

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*MPLA Conference Chair*

*Wayne Hanway*

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## Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute *continued from page 4*

Those who attended were selected from approximately 60 librarians who applied for the institute during the 4-month spring application period. They arrived at Ghost Ranch by car, train, plane, and shuttle or a combination of two or three of these means of transportation. The isolation of the ranch is one of its key benefits for the institute while that same isolation makes transportation to and from the ranch a challenge. Once the institute begins however, attendees and mentors seldom leave the 21,000-acre retreat with its natural beauty and serene environment. This year, a small group did visit the Benedictine monastery a short distance away but a long drive on unpaved roads.



Most of those in our group were treated to housing in two brand new buildings – Tumbleweed and Coyote. Both of these newly built “motel-style” buildings are located on the mesa above and behind the general old housing area. The hike up and down the mesa each day helped to work the kinks out after long hours of sitting and thinking! As in past years, there was enough free time to allow participants an opportunity to hike to either or both Box Canyon and Chimney Rock. Fifteen librarians roused themselves from their warm beds at 5:15 on Thursday morning to do the now “traditional” hike up to Chimney Rock for the sunrise. Many individuals enjoyed the opportunity for quiet reflection and meditation while walking the labyrinth, sketching the rock formations and wildlife so often painted by Georgia O’Keeffe when she lived and painted at the ranch, shopping in the gift store for souvenirs, visiting the two museums or just sitting and thinking as the colors changed across the sky, the mesas, and the mountains.

The individual fellows made commitments to themselves and others to “lean into their discomfort” and to take more risks while assuming increased leadership roles within their own libraries and professional organizations. Each fellow developed a plan for personal growth and further learning so that the self-reflection and renewal begun at Ghost Ranch may be continued into their personal and professional lives for months to come.

All of those who benefited from this year’s Leadership Institute wish to thank both our funding partner Sirsi/Dynix and MPLA for providing the necessary funding above and beyond the funding provided by the registration fees. The Leadership Institute has been a life-altering event for many during the previous four years and there is every expectation that some of those in attendance this year will find that this rich opportunity for learning and self-reflection will result in substantial personal and professional change.

During the past five years, MPLA has provided 169 individuals (fellows and mentors) the opportunity for personal growth and renewed commitment to the profession and their roles as leaders within all types of libraries. The MPLA Leadership Institute has touched many lives and hopes to continue to provide quality leadership training and reflective self-renewal for librarians living and working across the twelve MPLA member states.

MPLA on the Web  
[www.mpla.us](http://www.mpla.us)



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*Gail Cooler*

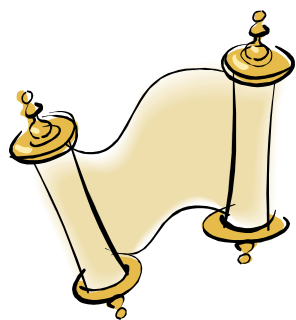


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\* Scholarships are made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



# ARMED FORCES & MILITARY RESOURCES

*By Dan Stanton, Arizona Local Documents Librarian,  
Arizona State University Libraries; govdocsman@asu.edu*

The role of the military is to protect the security of the United States, and it does so under the Executive Branch, with the President as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps were created in 1775, at the time of the American Revolution. The War Department was established in 1789, existing until 1947 when it briefly became the Department of the Army. The United States Coast Guard was founded in 1790 and has been linked to the Treasury Department, the Justice Department, and currently resides under the Department of Homeland Security. The Department of the Navy (which oversees the Marine Corps) was created in 1798.

In 1947, Congress, through the National Security Act, established the Cabinet-level Secretary of Defense position to provide civilian oversight of the National Military Establishment. This action included created the U.S. Air Force out of the Army Air Service/Air Corps/Air Force and placed it under the new Department of the Air Force, and converted the War Department into the Department of the Army. Finally, the three services, Army, Navy, and Air Force, and their leadership (the Joint Chiefs of Staff) were placed under the direct control of the new Secretary of Defense. In 1949, the national defense structure was further consolidated, creating the Department of Defense, and removing cabinet-level status for Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

The US military also maintains reserve components which provide trained units and quali-

fied persons in times of war or national emergency through the Guard and Reserves. The Reserves are associated with the five military services and are considered part of the federal government. The National Guard services are state-subordinate and report to governors as their commanders-in-chief.

**Department of Defense** - <http://www.defenselink.mil>

- <http://www.defenselink.mil/sites/> - Portal to important DOD websites including all military branches
- <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/search/index.html> - Defense Technical Information Center
- <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/> - DOD site supporting troops and their families

## **National Guard and Reserves -**

- <http://www.arng.army.mil/> - Army National Guard
- <http://www.ang.af.mil/> - Air National Guard
- <http://www.armyreserve.army.mil/AR-WEB> - Army Reserve
- <http://www.afrc.af.mil/> - Air Force Reserve
- <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/reshmpg.html> - Coast Guard Reserve
- <http://www.marforres.usmc.mil/> - Marine Forces Reserve
- <http://navyreserve.navy.mil/Public/Staff/WelcomeAboard/default.htm> - Navy Reserve Force

## **Military History**

- <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/our-docs/commission.html> - George Washington, Commander-in-Chief
- <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/> - US Army Center of Military History
- <http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/military.htm> - Smithsonian Armed Forces History

- <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usamhi/> - US Army Military History Institute
- <http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/afhra/> - Air Force Historical Research Agency
- <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/collect.html> - U. S. Coast Guard Historian's Office
- <http://www.history.usmc.mil/> - Marine Corps History Division
- <http://www.history.navy.mil> - Naval Historical Center

### **Congressional Oversight**

- <http://armed-services.senate.gov/> - Senate Armed Service Committee
- <http://www.house.gov/hasc/> - House Armed Services Committee

### **Find Military Personnel**

- [http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/call/locating\\_individuals.htm](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/call/locating_individuals.htm) - National Contact Center - Finding Military Personnel

### **Mountain Plains States Military Information**

- **Arizona**
  - <http://www.azdvs.gov/> - Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
  - <http://www.azdema.gov/> - Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
- **Colorado**
  - <http://www.dmva.state.co.us/> - Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- **Kansas**
  - <http://www.kcva.org/> - Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs
  - <http://www.accesskansas.org/ksadjutantgeneral/index.htm> - Adjutant General's Department of the State of Kansas

- **Montana**
  - <http://dma.mt.gov/> - Montana Department of Military Affairs
- **Nebraska**
  - <http://www.vets.state.ne.us/> - State of Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs
  - <http://www.military.ne.gov/> - Nebraska Military Department
- **Nevada**
  - <http://veterans.nv.gov/> - Nevada Office of Veterans' Services
  - <http://www.nv.ngb.army.mil/> - Nevada National Guard
- **New Mexico**
  - <http://www.dvs.state.nm.us/> - State of New Mexico Department of Veterans Services
- **North Dakota**
  - <http://www.nd.gov/category.htm?id=85> - North Dakota Military Resources
- **Oklahoma**
  - <http://www.ok.gov/ODVA/> - Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
  - <http://www.ok.ngb.army.mil/> - Joint Force Headquarters
- **South Dakota**
  - <http://mva.sd.gov/> - Department of Military and Veteran Affairs
- **Utah**
  - <http://veterans.utah.gov/> - Utah Division of Veteran's Affairs



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# MPLA Long Range Plan Updated

An update to MPLA's Long Range Plan (2004-2009) was adopted by the Executive Board at its conference call meeting October 19.

MPLA Vice President/President Elect Wayne Hanway facilitated the work, commenting that "it is a major update, reflecting all of our structural changes and the significant accomplishments since the plan was first adopted in 2004; but it is not a new plan, even though it has a number of new proposed actions in it." He notes that "the highlight of the updated plan is that it calls for the

Electronic Communities to become active as communities, which requires leadership on the part of the moderators and initiative on the part of each community's members."

The plan's goals address continuing education, membership, leadership, administration, visibility, and communication. The plan is available on the MPLA web site at <http://www.mpla.us/documents/lrp/RP2006final.doc>.

⌘



## Literary Ireland Trip

Ireland has produced four Nobel prize winners in one century: Yeats, Shaw, Beckett, and Heaney, and the Irish way with words is alive, alive-oh! Join us on a customized tour of the streets and fields which gave birth to generations of writers and explore the hidden places which colored their work.

Forget the summer schools with their intense concentration upon the finer points of allegory and hyperbole - we will design a tour to take you to the places which are the backdrop and the inspiration to so many modern Irish writers. In addition, we will tour some of Ireland's favorite tourist attractions, including tours of Guinness, the Bushmills distillery and Belleek Pottery.

Our trip will be two weeks during July, 2008. Anyone with an interest in Ireland is welcome to come along. The minimum number we must have is eight and the maximum number is 20. If you are at all interested in this trip, please send me an e-mail at: [sosenga@frontiernet.net](mailto:sosenga@frontiernet.net). This will not obligate you in any way! If we have enough people interested, the flyer with full information, including cost, will be available June, 2007.



## **Libraries in MPLA Region Excel in Hennen's Ratings**

Hennen's American Public Library Ratings for 2006 found six MPLA libraries ranked in the top five in their population categories. They are:

- Denver Public Library CO - #4  
(Population over 500,000)
- Johnson County Library KS - #4  
(Population 250000 – 499,999)
- Arapahoe Library District CO - #5  
(Population 100,000 – 249,999)
- Hays Public Library KS - #3  
(Population 10,000 – 24,999)
- Mt. Pleasant Public Library UT - #2  
(Population 2,500 – 4,999)
- Hardtner Public Library KS #1  
(Population under 1,000)



### **General MPLA E-List Open for All Members**

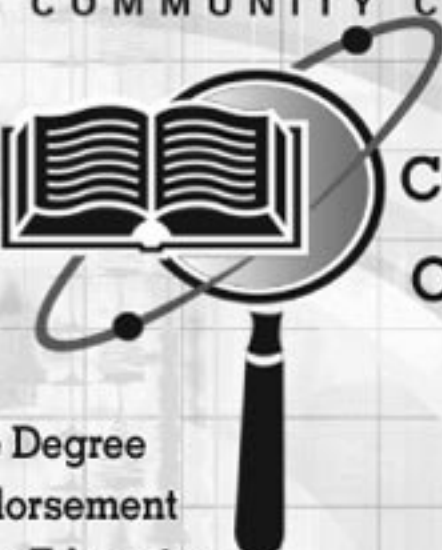
The general MPLA discussion and announcement list is continuing for all members who would like to subscribe. Joe Edelen, former Executive Secretary (now Emeritus) will continue to moderate this list at the University of South Dakota.

**To subscribe to the list,  
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# LAMA Seeks Participants in Building Projects Database

*By Karen McPheeters, ALA LAMA Building and Equipment Section Database committee*

If you are involved in a library building project - a new building, an expansion or a renovation please participate in the LAMA Building Projects Database. If you are in the planning, design or construction phase you have probably looked for information on other library building projects.

The Library Administration and Management Association, a division of ALA, *Library Journal* have developed a Building Projects Database which will have continuously updated information on building projects from libraries of all types and from all over the country, from planning to completion.

The information in the database will come from library directors, consultants, and architects involved with building projects. We need your assistance to develop this database. Be among the first to enter data about your project by going to [www.libraryjournal.com](http://www.libraryjournal.com) and linking to a survey questionnaire through the Buildings & Facilities link. Click on Enter Your Library Project Information to get the survey. Information from your survey will become part of the database.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Library Building

*Can I update the information I put on the survey?*

Yes, at any time, simply by going to the database when it is operational.

*Can I see information about other libraries?*

Yes, isn't that great! And it will be searchable in many ways, too.

*I'm in the very early stages of planning. Do you still want my information?*

You bet, and we hope you will update it as your project develops. We'll even want pictures later.

*Will it cost money to search the database?*

You will register to search. It will be free to *Library Journal* subscribers and LAMA members; others will pay a fee.

*Who should fill out the survey, me or my architect?*

That's up to you. We think architects will really want their projects in this database because it's good advertising for them. Talk with your architect and decide who will do it.

*What if I can't or don't want to answer one or more of the questions on the survey?*

We are happy to get whatever information you submit. Skipping some of the questions is OK.

Please contact me if you have any comments or concerns about the database or the survey. I will pass them on to the committee. Thank you.

---Karen McPheeters, (505) 599-1275  
kmcpheters@infoway.org

MPLA  
Professional Development Grants  
Next Deadline for Applications - December 6, 2006

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# MPLA Awards

## Time to submit nominations!

MPLA members are encouraged to submit nominations for the following awards which will be presented at the MPLA-NMLA Joint Conference in March 2007. Submit nominations to Cassandra Osterloh, MPLA Awards Committee Chair; [cassandra.osterloh@gmail.com](mailto:cassandra.osterloh@gmail.com).

For detailed information on awards see <http://www.mpla.us/documents/procedures/sec6.pdf> on the MPLA web site. Awards are:

### 1. Carl Gaumer Library

**Champion Award:** To be given to the individual, organization or company whose positive support of the Mountain Plains Library Association is demonstrated by constant conscientious endeavors towards libraries, library staff, trustees and professional activities.

### 2. MPLA Distinguished

**Service Award:** To be given to an MPLA member who has made notable contributions to the library profession or has furthered significant development of libraries in the Mountain Plains region, or has performed exemplary service for an extended period of time. In the case of retired individuals, the



nominee may be a past member of MPLA.

**3. MPLA Legislative Leadership Award:** To be given to an individual or group (state legislature, city council, board of education, etc.) in recognition of exemplary legislative leadership or support for growth and development of a library or libraries in the MPLA area within the last two years.

**4. MPLA News Media Support Award:** To recognize the news media organization in the MPLA region making the strongest effort, either in a single presentation or in ongoing coverage, within the past two years,

to promote libraries and library activities to the community.

**5. MPLA Literary Contribution Award:** To be given to an author whose published writings are most successfully furthering an understanding and appreciation of the Mountain Plains region. The author need not reside in the region, and the selection may be based on either a single work or a body of works.

**6. MPLA Beginning Professional Award:** To recognize an MPLA member, who as a librarian/media specialist within the first five years after receiving a library/media masters degree, has made a positive impact on the quality and role of library service.

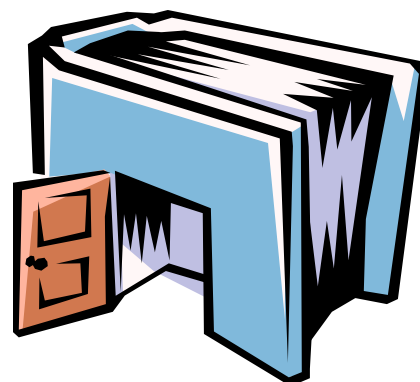
**7. MPLA Youth Services Excellence Award:** To be given to a library that exemplifies excellence in library services to youth.

**8. MPLA Intellectual Freedom Award:** This award is given to an individual or group making significant contributions to the enhancement of First Amendment rights.



---

# Welcome New MPLA Members



## Arizona

Abbie Zeltzer, Librarian, Patagonia Public Library; Patagonia AZ

## Colorado

Kris Johnson, Virtual Reference Coordinator, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado State Library; Denver CO

Julie Stetson, Reference Librarian, Pikes Peak Community College; Colorado Springs CO

## Kansas

Mazel Marie Clothier, Assistant Director Library Services, Butler Community College L.W. Nixon Library; El Dorado KS

Tammy Dickey, Assistant Director, Kearny County Library; Ulysses, KS

Marty Evensvold, Library Director, Coffeyville Community College Graham Library; Coffeyville KS

Iris Irene Jones, Consultant, Southeast Kansas Library System; Iola KS

Cathy Reeves, Director, Dodge City Public Library; Dodge City KS

## Montana

Charlie Potter, Reference Librarian & 1st Year Experience Coordinator, University of Montana Mansfield Library; Missoula MT

## North Dakota

Julie Fischer, Hankinson Public School; Hankinson ND

Robert Jacobson, North Dakota State University; Fargo ND

Susan Kempel, Kennedy Elementary School; Fargo ND

Judy Koester, North Dakota School for the Deaf; Devils Lake ND

Suzanne Morrison, U.S. Courts; Fargo ND

Char Myhre, North Dakota State University; Fargo ND

Arlene Ott, Grand Forks Air Force Base Library; Grand Forks Air Force Base ND

Charlene Weis, UTTC Library; Bismarck ND

Terri Wilhelm, North Dakota State Library; Bismarck ND

## Nebraska

Kate Adams, University of Nebraska Lincoln Love Library; Lincoln NE

Nannette Bedrosky, Creighton University Health Science Library; Omaha NE

Evelyn Bingel, Omaha Public Library Millard Branch; Omaha NE

Harold (Ben) Brick III, Omaha Public Library; Omaha NE

Leigh Geis, Elkhorn Public Schools Skyline Elementary School; Omaha NE

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Susan Livingston, St. Cecilians; Omaha NE

Collette Marsh, Omaha Public Schools  
Educational Research Center; Omaha NE

Deb Pearson, Circulation/Facilities Librarian,  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Love Library;  
Lincoln NE

Kathie Shepoka, Pawnee Elementary School;  
Omaha NE

Rebecca Sims, Offutt Air Force Base Library;  
Offutt Air Force NE

Joy Stortvedt, Student, University of Missouri;  
Bellevue NE

Susan Williams, Adult Services Librarian, Las  
Vegas Clark County Library System Summerlin  
Library; Las Vegas NV

## Oklahoma

Roy Degler, HSS Librarian Oklahoma State  
University Edmon Low Library; Stillwater OK

Southeastern Oklahoma State University;  
Durant OK

## South Dakota

Pamela Sue Bull, Director Britton Public Library  
Britton SD,

Melinda Ellenson, Huron Public Library;  
Huron SD

Krysten Hyder, Rapid City Public Library; Rapid  
City SD

Katie Jensen, Matthews Library; White River SD

LeAnn Kaufman, Marion Public School Library;  
Marion SD

Joyce Moore, Vermillion Public Library;  
Vermillion SD

Lee Ann Paananen, Hearst Library; Lead SD

Carin Schleicher, Siouxland Libraries;  
Sioux Falls SD

Anita Shearer, Elementary Librarian, Brandon  
Valley Schools Brandon Elem/Robt Bennis Ele-  
mentary; Brandon SD

Elizabeth Uhrig, Rapid City SD

Reata Weyrich, Whitewood Library;  
Whitewood SD

Karen Wiechmann, Siouxland Libraries;  
Sioux Falls SD

## Wyoming

Deb Boyles, Conestoga Elementary School;  
Gillette WY

Leslie Jo Gatti, Rock Springs Library; Rock  
Springs WY

LaDonna Leibrich, Sheridan High School;  
Sheridan WY

Meg Martin, Public Services Librarian, Wyoming  
State Law Library; Cheyenne WY

Robert Perret, University of Wyoming Coe  
Library; Laramie WY

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# Around the Region

## Arizona

The **University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science** recently announced the availability of a limited number of full scholarships for its master's program. The scholarships will assist students interested in service to small and rural libraries in Arizona and are made possible through a three year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information see <http://sir.arizona.edu/program/masters/MastersGrantDescription.pdf>.

The **University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science** is one of twelve schools selected for participation in the American Library Association Spectrum Doctoral Fellowship Program. The goal of the fellowship is to provide support for traditionally underserved populations. Funding comes from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The deadline for applications is January 12, 2007. For more information, visit the program website at <http://www.ala.org/ala/diversity/spectrum/phdfellowship/phd.htm>.

## Colorado

**Constitution Day** was observed statewide by public, academic and school libraries with the support of the Colorado Library Association and the Colorado State Library. Twenty libraries entered a drawing for free books, with three elementary schools selected to receive books provided by the contest sponsor, Capstone Press.



The **Colorado Association of Libraries board** agreed to reimburse attendees for membership-level registration at the 2006 MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute. As a board member said during the discussion: "It certainly makes sense for us to grow our own [leaders], and supporting this program is a great way to do that."

Colorado libraries have developed a new strategic plan for 2006 – 2010 called *Moving Libraries Forward: A Roadmap for Colorado Library Cooperation*. The plan was created by a task force appointed by the Colorado Library Advisory Board. The complete plan may be viewed at [www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Strategic-PlanForLibraries2005.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Strategic-PlanForLibraries2005.htm).

The **Jefferson County Public Library** opened its new Arvada Library in September. More than 3,000 people helped open the new state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Olde Town Arvada. It grew from the smallest full-service library to the largest in Jefferson County.

**Jello Biafra** was guest speaker at the Colorado Association of Libraries' Intellectual Freedom Committee's conference awards program. It was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the committee's award in memory of Biafra's sister Julie Boucher.

MPLA member Jim Connor's **Trustee College** team has a new address: [trusteecollege@msn.com](mailto:trusteecollege@msn.com). The Trustee College provides trainers, speakers, and consultants to libraries.

**Parade Season.** The University of Northern Colorado entered October's UNC Homecoming Parade with a float consisting of library furniture and two student employees "acting like students" – working on a laptop and sleeping over a

pile of books. The staff promoted the library's new website, handing out pencils printed with the new URL, as well as candy for the kids. It was described as "great fun!"



Photos by Annie Epperson

## Kansas

Author Rosemary Wells offered a program and book signing at the **Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library** on October 12. Wells' book *Bunny Cakes* is the featured title in the upcoming "Kansas Reads to Preschoolers" program sponsored by the State Library of Kansas. The goal of

the project is for every child from birth to age five to have been read this title during National Children's Book Week, November 13–20, 2006. Governor Kathleen Sebelius is once again serving as honorary Chairperson for the event and kicked it off with a reading of *Bunny Cakes* at the Kansas Book Festival.

Downloadable video has been added to the "**Audiobooks, Music and More**" program. It joins the collection of digital audiobooks and music created through purchases made by participating libraries. Titles are loaned to anyone with a current Kansas Library Card. Additional information is available at <http://kansas.lib.overdrive.com>.

The first **Kansas Book Festival** was held in Wichita on September 29–30. It was very successful, drawing more than 4,000 attendees on the first day. The Festival also included the presentation of medals to the first recipients of the Kansas Notable Books award which included:

- Thomas Fox Averill, *Ordinary Genius*
- Eunice Boeve, *Maggie Rose and Sass*
- Michael J. Everhart, *Oceans of Kansas: A Natural History of the Western Interior Sea*
- Thomas Goodrich, *The Darkest Dawn: Lincoln, Booth, and the Great American Tragedy*
- Michael John Haddock, *Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas: A Field Guide*
- L.D. Harkrader, *Airball: My Life in Briefs*
- Jane Kurtz, *In the Small, Small Night*
- Ande Parks, *Capote in Kansas: A Drawn Novel*
- Gordon Parks, *A Hungry Heart: A Memoir*
- Marcie Penner, *The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers*
- David S. Reynolds, *John Brown, Abolitionist*
- Steve Semken, *The Great Blues*

- Brad Sneed, *Deputy Harvey and the Ant Cow Caper*
- C. Hugh Snyder, *The Youngest Brother: On a Kansas Wheat Farm During the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression*
- Max Yoho, *The Moon Butter Route*

The **Kansas Center for the Book** is also sponsoring a “One Book, One State” reading project for adults which will launch in January and feature *The Learning Tree* by the late Gordon Parks.

The State Library of Kansas and public libraries launched **HomeworkKansas**, an interactive online tutoring service for Kansas children



in grades four through 12 and college intro students on September 6. The service can be accessed at [www.homeworkkansas.org](http://www.homeworkkansas.org) and is available for free to Kansas residents throughout the state.

With a grant provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, **Kansas State University’s Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy** is conducting a series of four public forums to discuss the issue of freedom of information.

The **Kan-Ed** program is in the process of awarding “enhanced meeting room” grants to public libraries for the addition of online conferencing equipment to their public meeting space. The equipment is said to be significantly better than the old polycom technology, including high-quality delivery of real-time action. As a result, the technology also requires a significant amount of bandwidth to operate successfully, including most of a T-1 connection.

**Dr. Ann O’Neill**, Dean of the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at

Emporia State University, resigned her position during the summer due to health-related issues. O’Neill will remain with the SLIM staff and serve as a faculty member. **Dr. Robert Grover**, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies, has been appointed interim dean. Grover previously served as dean from 1981–1987 and 1998–2003.

**Patti Butcher**, former North Carolina State Librarian is returning to Kansas as Director of Statewide Resource Sharing for the Kansas State Library. Patti is a member of MPLA and was a past chair of the Leadership Institute Committee.

Fun and fright went in hand with two Halloween events at the **Kansas History Museum & Library**. “Haunted History” featured flashlight tours of the Museum and Library, flashlight Nature Trail tours, scary bonfires stories by the Bleeding Kansas Lecompton Reenactors, costumed interpreters, outhouse fishing, and a bean bag toss. The event was free. “Tricks & Treats at the Boo-seum!” was a free event especially for children. It had free treat stations, costumed tour guides, and cookie and mask decorating.

A **Partnership for a Nation of Learners** grant for Science, INC Community Partnership: Inspiring Natural Curiosity was awarded to Johnson County Library and its partners. Partners in the \$249,900 grant are Kansas City Public Television, Science City at Union Station, Science Pioneers, and Pathfinder Science. The grant is one of 13 sites nationally awarded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Institute of Museum and Library Science. Together the library and collaborating institutions will build Science INC, a community partnership focused on promoting science-related events, encouraging interest in science, advocating for science-based careers, and inspiring natural curiosity.



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## Montana

“Teen Territory” opens at the **Rosebud County Library** in Forsyth. The special teen area became a reality because of two teenagers from the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA.) The library has been supportive with space, advice and encouragement, funding, and help with grant writing. “Mostly we’ve cheered at every win-win-win aspect of this wonderful project,” said Library Director **Cheryl Heser**.

Librarians from all around Montana met in Chico Hot Springs for the annual **Academic & Special Library Division** along with the **Public Library Division of MLA** for their fall retreat. Hot water and hot topics were enjoyed by all who attended. Riveting conversations were followed by after-dinner thermal floats with book discussions.

Keynote speaker Nancy Pearl and featured author Neil Gaiman will be at the **Montana Library Association Conference, *The Tipping Point – moving Montana Libraries from Good to Great***, which takes place April 25-28 in Helena Montana. Neil Gaiman will be the guest author luncheon speaker, will also lead one session, hold a public book signing.

## Nebraska

**Rivkah Sass**, Omaha Public library Director, received the 2006 Spirit of Literacy Award in late October. She received the award at Literacy Alive, a benefit for the Literacy Center of the Midlands.

The **University of Nebraska Omaha’s Library Science Education Program** received a Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service to its Profession. **Dr. R. J. (Becky) Pasco**, Associate Professor, College of Education and Coordinator of Library Science Education at the University of Nebraska Omaha is a current MPLA member. The Library Science programs include the Community College Technical Assistant program, the UNO/Missouri cooperative Master of Education/School Library Media endorsement programs, and the upcoming UNO/Chadron State Masters of Education/School Library Media endorsement.

**The wheels on the bus keep going ‘round and ‘round.** Nebraska’s librarians will have the opportunity to join their colleagues on a bus trip to the 2007 joint conference of MPLA and the New Mexico Library Association in Albuquerque in March. The transportation is provided free of charge to Nebraska librarians.



*Jim Heckel on the Salmon River in Idaho this summer. He says he was researching new delivery options for ILL. Jim is Library Director in Great Falls, MT and Moderator of MPLA’s Intellectual Freedom and Privacy Issues Electronic Community.*

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The **Nebraska Library Association Board** voted to support Nebraska's participants in the MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institution by contributing \$450 to each candidate's registration fee.

**NLA/NEMA 2006 Annual Conference** was held October 25-27 at Omaha's Qwest Center. Thursday's keynote speaker was Stephen Abram, Vice President of Innovation, SirsiDynix. Friday's keynote was presented by Nancy Pearl, librarian, author and book reviewer. The "Usual Suspects" musical group featuring NLA Lobbyist Ken Winston and various other suspects performed after the awards banquet.

**Literary Ireland** - reported by Dr. Nina Little, *MPLA Nebraska Representative*: Sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, for 12 wonderful days, eight librarians and five non-librarians toured Ireland focusing on literary sites and yes, a few pubs too. Landing in Dublin, the group traveled by bus on a tour that included Trinity College Library, established in 1592, where they saw the Book of Kells and the Long Room, a massive chamber that houses 200,000 of the library's oldest books catalogued by size, with the largest on the bottom. The group also went to Belfast for a visit to Linen Hall Library. Founded in 1788, Linen Hall is the oldest library in Belfast. It houses a large Irish and Local Studies collection including a "Troubles" collection that is the most complete set of documentation on Northern Ireland's history in the world. During an impromptu tour of St. Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry one of the guides discovered there were a number of librarians in the group and insisted she had something to show them. After unlocking a door, a bank-like vault and a grill, a large acid free box was removed and a big old book was set in front of Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library Sys-

tem Administrator and MPLA member. Kathy was told to open the book and read the inscription written in faded brown ink. It said, "This is the first copy of the first issue of the St. James Bible, 1613." The St. James Bible was first published in 1611 and the version being looked at and touched was the first edition printed in Ireland. Included in the group from Nebraska was Maggie Harding, a long-time MPLA member and retiring Executive Secretary of NLA and current MPLA President Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System Administrator.

**Dr. Nina Little** comes to the end of her term as Nebraska's representative to MPLA. She says, "It has been my extreme pleasure and good for-



tune to serve as NLA Representative to MPLA for the past three years. I've enjoyed rubbing elbows and working with MPLA Board members and I've certainly been impressed with their professional knowledge and friendliness."

**Julie Simpson** will take over as MPLA's Nebraska's representative. Julie was a Board Choice Award winner in 2003. She lives in Lincoln, NE and is Eiseley Branch Supervisor. She also supervises the Arnold Heights Library and the Bookmobile and is active in NLA. Most recently Julie served a two-year term as NLA Secretary.

## Nevada

Most of the libraries in **Washoe County** participated in the Early Voting project. During the two weeks before the November 7 election the libraries were available 7 days a week for voting. In 2004 more than 10,000 voters took advantage of the extended hours and shorter lines at voting locations in libraries.



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**Washoe County Library System** received a complaint about *Alice on Her Way*, part of the Alice Book series. This series has been cataloged as Children's but now that Alice is 16 the books are in the Young Adult section. The complainer subsequently "lost" one copy of the book, believing that sexuality should not be discussed in books for children of any age.

The **Humboldt County Library** has a donation project called *Memorial Tree*. An artist used a redwood timber from the old Carlin Railroad tunnel to construct a tree which is on the main floor of the library. Donors may have honoree's name inscribed on the tree for a minimum donation of \$50.

**Las Vegas Clark County Library District** has been named the *Best Place to Work in Southern Nevada* (government category) by the Southern Nevada Human Resource Association. The district was selected for its substantial efforts to build a workplace representative of the community it serves through comprehensive recruitment, retention, training and mentoring practices.

**Anita Laruy**, director of the North Las Vegas Library District, received the Channel 8 2006 Hispanic Award of Excellence. She was one of five Hispanic community leaders to receive the award. The award celebrates Hispanic pride, culture and achievements by highlighting role models of Hispanic heritage. Laruy was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Nevada in 1996.

**Martha Greene**, Washoe County Library System Coordinator for Training, Collection Development and Information Services, ends her term as Nevada Library Association's representative to MPLA. "I have enjoyed my association with this group," she says, and "wish you all the best."

## New Mexico

*American Libraries* published Jeannette Smith's "Library Rescues Important Village Documents" in its October 2006 issue. The article tells of the flood that overwhelmed the village of Hatch, New Mexico in August of this year. Archives and Special Collections at New Mexico State University worked with the village of Hatch to save its local history documents.

**The New Mexico State University Library** recently received a PNM Partnership Grant of \$5,000 from the PNM Foundation. The Library will use the funding to update and expand its water resources collections in order to meet the increased demand for research collections in this area. The Library's water resources collection project will acquire the materials identified by faculty as priority acquisitions.



**The New Mexico State Library Association** held its fall Mini Conference on October 13 in Silver City. Over 130 librarians – nearly double the anticipated number – participated in the day-long conference. OCLC Group Services was launched at the Conference. The shared catalog is a collaboration between OCLC, Amigos Library Services, the State Library and New Mexico's public, school, special and academic libraries.

**The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System** celebrated their newest early childhood literacy program, "Every Child Ready to Read," with a Family Literacy Fiesta. The library held a talk and book signing with bestselling author James Bradley. Kids and families participated in "Story Talks" with children's author and illustrator Betsy James, won books in a lively book walk, interacted with a tutor during a demonstration of the Live Homework Help database, and created fun craft projects.

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**Owen Ellard** has accepted the position of Library Director at Skeen Library at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro. He comes from Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts and has recently served as a consultant to developing libraries in the former Yugoslavia. A native of Ireland, he holds an M.A. in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida, an M.A. in Theater Arts from Pennsylvania State University, and a B.A. in American Studies from the University of Manchester in England.

## North Dakota

**Jim LeRoy Beasley** passed away in September, 2006, after waging a brave battle against pancreatic cancer. Jim was a reference librarian at Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota. He was born and raised in Indiana and received his MLS and Specialist degrees from Indiana University. Jim worked in libraries in Montana, South Dakota and Missouri before coming to North Dakota. Jim left the bulk of his large book collection to the Chester Fritz Library. He was a kind soul who will be greatly missed.

*Dakota Gold: NDLA Celebrates 100 Years*, the NDLA centennial cookbook and history, was recently unveiled at the NDLA conference in Fargo. To preview some sample pages, read a description



of the book, and print out an order form, visit the NDLA website at: <http://www.ndla.info>.

**Marlene Anderson** is chair of the Centennial Cookbook Committee.

The **Centennial Conference of the North Dakota Library Association** was a roaring success according to MPLA North Dakota Repre-

sentative Sally Dockter. Michael Gorman, ALA Past President and President-Elect Dr. Loriene Roy were keynote speakers. Centennial projects included auctioning off a quilt made by librarians across the state which brought in \$330.00; a cookbook with recipes and historical from librarians statewide; posters of libraries which also were auctioned off; and 10 free memberships to MPLA given in a drawing. A 20-year-old videotape of conference "entertainment" was shown before the auction.

The **North Dakota Library Association** sponsored all four of its state participants in the MPLA 2006 Leadership Institute.

## Oklahoma

Oklahoma has been finalizing plans for the **Centennial Conference; 1907-2007**: 100 years & New Frontiers to be held April 2-4, 2007 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Former Governor George Nigh, futurist Steve Abrams, and boys and books advocate Michael Sullivan are among the featured speakers.

A three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will make possible the **Information Matrix Camp**, an information science/library camp for Oklahoma middle school students. The camp will begin July 15-27, 2007, and be held over the next 3 years. This camp is a response to the shortage of librarians in the state. Students will be visiting a variety of libraries in Oklahoma City and the surrounding area: University of Oklahoma's Bizzell Library, Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library, National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism and others. Besides touring, participants will journal, blog, play library related games and watch library-related movies.

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The **OLA Legislative Committee** is looking ahead to elections and the need to acquaint new legislators on library issues. Public library funding, maintaining high standards for school library media specialists, and enabling local communities to make their own decisions concerning purchase and placement of books are among the concerns.

**Wayne Hanway**, MPLA Vice-President/President-Elect, vacationed in southern California in late September. He reports he visited a couple of exceptional public libraries (busman's holiday), and provides these intriguing photos of the Cerritos Public Library children's department and of the rotunda of the Los Angeles central library.



*Rotunda of Los Angeles Central Library  
Photo by Wayne Hanway*

## South Dakota

The **2006 SDLA Convention** was held Sept. 20-22 in Rapid City. Three visiting authors entertained librarians during the Convention. Sue Grafton entertained librarians and many western South Dakota mystery readers. Nancy Pearl, author of *Book Lust* and *More Book Lust*, also shared her writing experiences and her love for reading. Joseph Bruchac, children's author, presented his desire to give an accurate portrayal of Native Americans in children's literature. Bruchac won the South Dakota Prairie Pasque Reading Award for the book, *Skeleton Man* in 2003/2004. His other recent books include *Winter People* and *Code Talker*.



*Cerritos Public Library children's department.  
Photo by Wayne Hanway*



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**Greta Chapman** is the incoming 2006/2007 South Dakota Library Association President. SDLA will celebrate its successes by telling its story through an SDLA Traveling Exhibit Booth to be shown during several South Dakota educational/academic/technology conferences.

The Sioux Falls' *Leaders Are Readers* program won a 2006 Golden Achievement Award from the National School Public Relations Association.

The new George and Eleanor McGovern Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service was dedicated Oct. 7 on the **Dakota Wesleyan University** campus in Mitchell, SD. Former President Bill Clinton, Al Neuharth, and other dignitaries spoke during the event. Peter, Paul and Mary and the 147th Army Band Brass Quintet provided musical entertainment during the festivities.

**South Dakota State Library** begins to implement changes recommended in the 2006 State Library Study. The State Library will focus its efforts on serving State Government and South Dakota libraries – providing training and electronic materials which will allow local library staff to do the best job possible of delivering local library services. Much of the existing State Library book collection will be dispersed to libraries throughout the state to be available through inter-library loan.

Three new electronic databases will be provided by the **South Dakota State Library** and will be available to local libraries throughout the state. They include American Newspapers – Aberdeen, SD and Sioux Falls, SD; Learning Express Library (includes many of the standardized testing manuals); and the Gale Virtual Reference Library.

*Correction:* In the October issue a paragraph about Bill Clinton attending the dedication of the McGovern Library should have been placed in the South Dakota section instead of the North Dakota section. --ed.

## Utah

**Utah State Library and the Library of Congress** hosted a 75 year anniversary celebration of the Talking Book with Utah First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman, descendents of Senator Reed Smoot, and Library of Congress representative Carolyn Sung. Over 200 patrons attended the August event at the Utah State Library



*JaNae Kinikin with Lacey.  
JaNae is Science Librarian at Weber State  
University, Ogden UT, and Co-Chair of the  
MPLA Membership Committee*

A second annual **Thinking Ahead Symposium** was a collaborative effort developed by Weber County Library System and Salt Lake City Library System. It provided a forum for discussion of issues and ideas that will impact libraries in the future. This year the focus was on library leadership, the role of libraries within their community, and the global information economy.

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**Everton Genealogy Collection** was opened to the public in October after finding a new home in a spare courtroom in the Logan Justice Center. The 1.7 million dollar collection includes over 82,000 papers and genealogical resources which are considered to be “one of the most important individual, private collections of family history and genealogy ever” by Genealogist **Nancy Bennett** and others.

## Wyoming

The **Natrona County Public Library** is one of several community organizations partnering with the school district to provide quality programming for students while teachers participate in professional development. During the 2005-2006 school year an NCPL Children’s staff member was in the schools an average of 3 times per week, and 274 programs were presented to over 6700 students.

**Curious George visited the Teton County Library** during National Children’s Book Week in November. The week’s activities featured a lot of monkey business and information on how to raise a curious reader at the library.

Award-winning authors S.L. Rottman and Joyce McDonald presented a joint program at **Campbell County Public Library**. Rottman is the author of young adult novels that include the award-winning *Hero*, *Head Above Water*, *Rough Waters*, and *Shadow of a Doubt*. McDonald is the author of many novels for teens, including *Swallowing Stones*, an ALA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults, and *Shades of Simon Gray*, an ALA Best Book for Young Adults and a nominee for the Edgar Allan Poe Award. The visits were made possible by a Campbell County Recreation District grant, Campbell County Reading Council, and the library system.

The **Teton County Library** presented local meteorologist Jim Woodmencey, who guided

would-be weather buffs through a hands-on class “Lunch ‘n Learn: Maps and Weather.” The free program included a light lunch and focused on where to find online weather maps and how to begin reading them for a better understanding of a short-term forecast. Woodmencey is the author of *Reading Weather* and *Weather in the Southwest* and chief meteorologist and administrator of the site [www.MountainWeather.com](http://www.MountainWeather.com).

**Sandra Barstow** was recently elected Presi-



dent of the the Board of Trustees of BCR (Bibliographical Center for Research). She is Assistant Dean for Administration and Finance, University of Wyoming Libraries, MPLA Recording Secretary, and member of the MPLA Administration Committee.

Tames Alan, actress, historian, and fashion history teacher, presented her Living History Lectures for the **Campbell County Public Library** in October, performing *From the Streets of Shakespeare To the Court of Elizabeth*.

**Teton County Library and PAWS convert overdue fines into Food for Fido.** The library waives current overdue fees in exchange for dry or canned dog and/or cat food, rawhide chews, other animal treats and toys. The library donates those items to the Teton County Animal Shelter and Senior Center of Jackson Hole. According to **Dawn Marousek**, Teton County Circulation Librarian, the program rewards everyone involved. “Ultimately, the Animal Shelter and Senior Center receive much needed pet supplies for animals visiting the Senior Center and awaiting new homes.”





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_____ \$100,000-\$299,999 .....	\$75/yr	_____ \$500,000- up .....	\$125/yr

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## Mountain Plains Library Association

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