

Newsletter

October 2007

Volume 52 #2

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membership.html](http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html)

Look for a New MPLA Community Portal this Fall!

For a number of years now MPLA has had Electronic Communities to promote discussion of issues and shared topics. This fall, however, the Electronic Communities will undergo a retooling to provide a more inviting forum for sharing thoughts and ideas and for communicating with other MPLA members across the twelve-state span. A working group has been specially convened by the Executive Board to develop what will become the new MPLA Community Portal—an on-line meeting place that will be accessible from our homepage, <http://www.mpla.us>.

The Community Portal will have an array of exciting features for interaction and the creative exchange of ideas and resources. Instead of thirteen separate Electronic Communities there will be a single MPLA-wide community with discussion boards on a host of topics of interest to information professionals, a blog on MPLA news and views, RSS feeds, an MPLA wiki, and other services to promote online networking, collaboration, and friendship.

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ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO

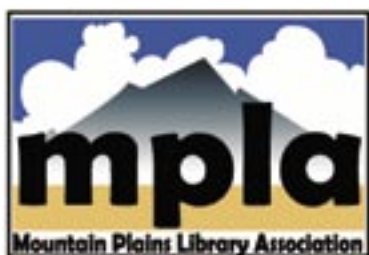
COLORADO
NORTH DAKOTA

KANSAS
OKLAHOMA

MONTANA
SOUTH DAKOTA

NEBRASKA
UTAH

NEVADA
WYOMING



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President's Message

A question I have been asked repeatedly by new members of MPLA is, "How can I get involved in MPLA?" My usual reply is that getting involved requires making your interest known. This can be done in several ways.

The first and easiest way is to indicate the committees you would like to serve on and your areas of interest in your profile in MPLA's MemberClicks database. Recently, the way to show your interests has been to select among the various Electronic Communities. That will soon change, but the interest areas list in the profiles will remain. In making appointments this year, I have relied heavily on both the committee preference and interests lists.

Before you finish with your MemberClicks profile, indicate whether you would be willing to run for office.

THEN, be sure you have changed your MemberClicks password to one that is easy for you to remember. You are not protecting national security here, and it is far more important for you to be able to quickly get into MemberClicks, whether to vote or to locate another member or members and communicate with them.

Another way to get involved will be through the new communications portal that a task force is now in the process of implementing. It will provide a variety of ways for MPLA members to converse, to speak out, to do business - - - because the essence of carrying out MPLA's mission to be a warm and welcoming community that happens to be spread across twelve large states is making it as easy as possible for members to interact, to communicate, and to build both professional relationships and personal friendships.

Certainly one of the key ways to get involved is to see a need and volunteer to help with it. One such need is going to be with the new portal. We will need the services of people who can initiate and sustain discussions in electronic venues. We need people who will speak out and who will respond to what their colleagues in MPLA are saying.

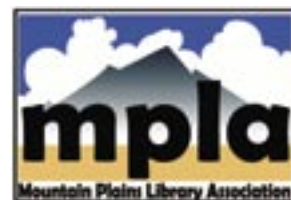
Look for other ways to volunteer. Help staff the MPLA booth at the annual conference or at your state conference. Volunteers will be needed at the annual conference. Submit a conference program proposal. Contact a committee chair and offer to help with a committee project. (Take a look at MPLA's Long Range Plan and you will find many things that are needing to be done.) Contribute an article or two to the MPLA Newsletter. (Editor Judy Zelenski will be happy to suggest topics.)

Opportunities are out there, but the key to involvement always has been that personal initiative is needed. Becoming an active part of MPLA happens when you take steps to make it happen.

MPLA needs you. Go for it.

---Wayne

MPLA Adopts New Logo



At its July Board Meeting the MPLA Board approved a new logo. Graphic designer Nathan Kubes was recruited by board member Beth Avery, who was then Library Director at Western State College, Gunnison, CO. Beth tells how this came about:

Nathan Kubes was one of my students in the Honors Gateway class I taught at Western. He is also the husband of one of the student workers in the Library. He has been selected to do some of the art work for the new observatory in Gunnison and a mural on a building in Gunnison (which can be seen at <http://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/page.php?pname=areatour/gunnison/murals#>). I saw Nathan, who had graduated, at the Farmers Market and remembered the wonderful drawing he had done for an assignment in my class. That drawing still hangs in the Honors classroom. I asked him if he had any thoughts about a logo for MPLA and he said "Let me think about it. I'd love to do something for libraries since I think they're great." A few weeks later he came back with this logo, which was presented to the board.

The Board expresses its appreciation to Nathan Kubes for his contribution to MPLA! The logo will be used in publications, on the website, and for conference displays.

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Thirty Chosen for 2007 Leadership Institute

From over 60 applications for MPLA's 2007 Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute, 30 have been selected to attend. They are:

- Heidi Adams, MT - Medical Librarian, Kalispell Regional Medical Center

- Jennie Burroughs, MT - Government Documents Librarian, University of Montana

- Bev Clouse, ND - Head of Circulation, North Dakota State University Libraries

- Erin Dini-Davis, UT - Reference Librarian, Utah State University

- Cameron Duff, CO - Database/Reference Librarian, Weld Library District

- Colleen Eggett, UT - Training Coordinator/Consultant, Utah State Library

- Kim Huff, AZ - Librarian II, Foothills Branch, Glendale Public Library

- Bridgett Johnson, MT - Director, Lewistown Public Library

- Mary Katherine Johnson, CO - Member Services Manager, Marmot Library Network

- Adriane Juarez, UT - Assistant Manager, Sweet Branch, Salt Lake City Public Library

- JaNae Kinikin, UT - Science Librarian/Associate Professor, Weber State University



- Mary Kirk, OK - Coordinator of Library Access Services, Rose State College

- Richard Landreth - WY Library Media Specialist, Campbell County School District

- Karen Neurohr, OK - Assessment Librarian, Oklahoma State University, Edmon Low Library

- Amanda Owens, OK - Branch Manager, Tulsa City-County Library System, Pratt Library

- Denine Parker, NM - Librarian, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

- Kenna Payne, NV - Youth Services Department Head, Henderson District Public Libraries, Gibson Branch

- Holly Phillips, NM - Coordinator of Electronic Re-

sources & Access, University of New Mexico, Health Sciences & Information Center

- Jasmine Rockwell, SD - Children's & Youth Services Coordinator, South Dakota State Library

- Robert Russell, SD - Electronic Resources Coordinator & Archivist, Northern State University

- Mary Sanchez, AZ - Librarian II, Children's Services, Pima County Public Library, Joel D. Valdez Library

- Brita Sauer, NM - Reference Librarian, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, Las Cruces

- Heather Smith-Collins, KS Curriculum Resources Center Librarian, Washburn University

- Kathy Spencer, ND - Internet Librarian, Rural Assistance Center, University of North Dakota

- Danielle Theiss-White, KS - General Reference Coordinator, Kansas State Libraries, Hale Library

- Gene Ann Trant, CO - Director, Wellington Public Library

continued on next page

Leadership Institute Participants – *continued* from page 5

- Anna Vaillancourt, NV - Assistant Branch Manager, Las Vegas-Clark County Library System, Sunrise Branch
 - Evelyn Walkowicz, NV - Outreach Manager, Henderson District Public Libraries
 - Lori West, ND - Branch Services Manager, Fargo Public Library
- Carla Zollinger, UT - Adult Services & Reference Manager, Provo City Library

Participants will come together for the 2007 MPLA Leadership Institute will open on October 28 along with four mentors, facilitator Maureen Sullivan and coordinator/mentor Mary Bushing. The Institute will provide an intensive “retreat” experience with the group somewhat isolated from the world of cell phones, email, family, friends, and the day-to-day pressures of their library work.



The location, Ghost Ranch Education Center in Abiquiu, New Mexico, is ideal for getting away and concentrating on learning more about leadership skills and analyzing how to improve one's own leadership potential while making plans to bring about the desired changes and improvements.

Attendees represent 11 of the 12 MPLA member states and are from public (14), school (1), academic (11), and special (9) libraries. Coming from places as diverse as Fargo, North Dakota and Las Vegas, Nevada they will form a community of individuals seeking professional development and planning for their future careers and the future of the profession. They will leave New Mexico with a new understanding of the qualities and skills necessary to be a successful leader and with new insights about themselves and their own abilities. In addition, they will depart with new friends and a whole network of peers to call upon as they continue in their library careers.

The mentors selected to attend the institute and to serve as guides for this year's institute are: Carol Hammond, Director of the International Business Information Center, Thunderbird University, Glendale, AZ; Jane Hatch, Branch Manager at the Argentine Branch of the Kansas City Public Library, KS; Robert Shupe, Director of the Mohave County Public Library, former director of the Mohave Community College Library, AZ; and, Judy Zelenski, MPLA Executive Secretary. They are joined by Institute Coordinator Mary Bushing from Bozeman, MT. They will be active participants, will lead discussion sessions, and will make themselves available for confidential consultations with individuals throughout the five-day event which ends on November 2.

EBSCO Information Services is joining MPLA for the 5th time as funding partner, paying one-third of the total cost of the Institute.



The library community in the Mountain Plains region will be reaping the benefits of this

continued on page 7

Leadership Institute, *continued from page 6*

investment in the leaders and managers of our libraries for years to come. Librarians are encouraged to extend their thanks and appreciation to the representatives of EBSCO.

The Leadership Institute Committee, chaired by Patti Butcher, KS, is pursuing future funding opportunities with library vendors who do business with the libraries in the Mountain Plains region. The Committee would like to be able to put a multi-year plan in place so that it is no longer necessary to scramble for funding each year. In addition, the Committee would like to be able to broaden the scope of the Institute in some years to make the experience available to other segments of the library community.

Further information about the Institute can be found at the MPLA website: www.mpla.us.

---*Mary Bushing*
Coordinator
2007 MPLA Leadership Institute

Community Portal, *continued from page 1*

The Community Portal will be evolving over the coming months, more features will be added, and more information will be coming soon on the MPLA website and in future issues of the newsletter. This will be an exciting way for MPLA to bridge the distances with 21st-century technology. As the Electronic Communities transition into the Community Portal, there will be some changes in the organization of the association, but end result will be a more dynamic sense of community.

We will encourage you to look for the exciting developments to come in MPLA's online presence.



---*David Oberhelman*
Chair, Community Portal
Implementation Working Group



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◆ Association Notes ◆

By Laws Revision Approved

The wording of the MPLA by-laws regarding Executive Board voting member was approved by the MPLA membership 141-5, and now reads:

Article VI: 6.1 The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers of the Association, one representative from each member state library association, and the chair of each standing committee.

Summer Board Meeting

The MPLA Executive Board met in the Denver area in July, its only annual “in-person” board meeting other than meetings held at conferences. The rest of the Board meetings are held by conference calls, resulting in significant savings to the association.

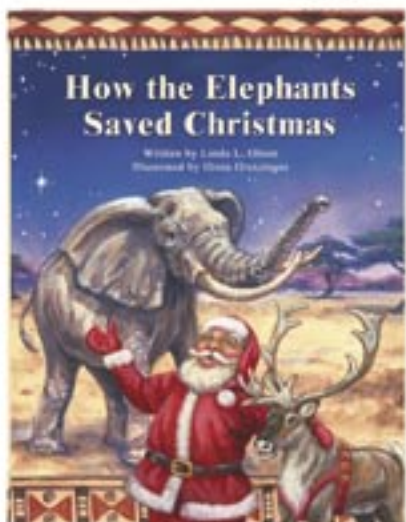
At its summer meeting the board:

- Adopted a new logo (see page 4),
 - Heard an update on the upcoming 2008 Joint Conference. A committee has been appointed to organize MPLA’s 60th birthday celebration.
 - Reviewed and updated the Long Range Plan
 - Approved 2006 financial review which was completed by Louise Treff-Gangler and Annie Epperson.
 - Adopted recommendation of Awards committee to reduce MPLA awards to four to avoid duplicating state association awards (see page 12).
 - Recommended change in By-Laws wording regarding Executive Board voting privileges to be presented to membership by electronic ballot in order to conform to reorganization previously approved by MPLA membership.
- Approved Communications Committee recommendation that MPLA members advertising their products or services can place free classified ads in the MPLA Newsletter; and that members or the vendors/publishers selling members’ products will receive a 50% discount on space for display ads.
 - Approved Electronic Community Working Group recommendation that electronic communities be replaced by a community portal with many communication resources (see article page 1).
 - Thanked Susan Moyer for her work on a comprehensive list of duties for state representatives. The *State Representative Handbook* will be added to the *Manual of Procedures*.
 - Expressed appreciation to outgoing members Colleen Smith (South Dakota Representative) and Richard Landreth (Wyoming Representative) whose terms end in September.



l-r: Colorado Representative Annie Epperson and Nevada Representative Janet Mastalir at a break during the MPLA Board meeting in July,

A NEW HOLIDAY ADVENTURE FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S COLLECTION!



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Illustrator: Greta Gretzinger
Gold Star Press, 2007
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9x12 clothbound with dust jacket
32 pages - fully illustrated
\$18.95

How the Elephants Saved Christmas is a multicultural Christmas story that takes place in Africa. In this tale, Santa and his reindeer fall from the sky and get stuck in the mud of a watering hole. Wild elephants and the boy who lives with them rescue Santa, but can Santa save them when drums sound out great danger for the elephants?

"What a lovely multicultural-holiday-visual story. I found the characters rich in personality and easy to see. The sentences were clear and words well chosen; the story is easy to read. It would be a great read aloud with the drama of the elephants, setting, and the kindness of Santa with the leg brace. My favorite part was the ending – of dropping the snow for Katanga. Perfect and made me smile, too. A great idea for a children's story!"

**Debbie Schlinger, Director
Children's Collection
Teton County, WY Public Library**

***For more reviews including authors J. Patrick Lewis and Ken Thomasma, go to www.goldstarpress.com ***

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VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

by Dan Stanton, Arizona Local Documents
Librarian & Coordinator, Organizational
Development; Arizona State University Libraries
danton@asu.edu

And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country. - John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address

Helping others, making a difference, using existing/gaining new skills, and connecting to the community are just a few of the reasons why people volunteer. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' data released earlier this year <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/volun.pdf>, slightly over one quarter of the U.S. population engages in volunteer activity. While the majority of volunteers participated after being asked to by someone in the organization (43.3%), approximately 2 out of 5 (40.8%) became involved on their own initiative.

The government provides many resources for exploring opportunities for service:

- <http://www.cns.gov> – **Corporation for National and Community Service** – Established by President Clinton in 1993, the Corporation focuses on public service on a national scale and includes programs such as:
 - Senior Corps – “programs that tap the rich experience, skills and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges”
 - Americorps – “members serve through more than 3,000 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and other community organizations, helping meet critical needs in education, public safety, health and the environment”
- Learn and Serve America – “provides support to schools, higher education institutions and community-based organizations, that engage students, their teachers, and others in service-learning”
- <http://www.takepride.gov> – **Take Pride in America** – “a national partnership program aimed at increasing volunteer service on America’s public lands. It is the goal of Take Pride to empower volunteers from every corner of America to maintain and enhance our natural, cultural, and historical sites”
- <http://www.volunteer.gov/gov> - **Volunteer.gov** – “Volunteer.Gov/Gov is a partnership among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, State of New York Division of Veterans Affairs, the Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S.A. Freedom Corps aimed at providing a single, easy-to-use web portal with information about volunteer opportunities. The site allows you to search for volunteer opportunities by keyword, state, activity, partner, and/or date range”
- <http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Public-Service.shtml#vgn-volunteer-your-time-vgn> – **Volunteer Your Time** – Listing of a variety of volunteer opportunities, including cultural activities, safety/security/rescue preparedness, and military/veteran support
- <http://www.peacecorps.gov> – **The Peace Corps** – An organization near and dear to me (Honduras ’86-88), the Peace Corps takes volunteerism to a different level. Three goals can make such a difference:

continued on next page

VOLUNTEERISM & COMMUNITY SERVICE— *continued:*

- Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Government volunteer opportunities are available at the state and local level, as well. Some states have offices and/or web pages dedicated to helping prospective volunteers become involved.

Mountain Plains States Resources include:

- Arizona - <http://az.gov/webapp/portal/subtopic.jsp?id=1763&name=Employment&parentID=1162>
- Colorado - <http://www.colorado.gov/colorado-working/volunteer.html>
- Kansas - <http://www.kanserve.org/>
- Montana - <http://mt.gov/mcsn/>
- Nebraska - <http://www.nvsc.ne.gov/>
- Utah - <http://volunteers.utah.gov> , <http://helpyourneighbor.utah.gov/neighbor>



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***Where Paths Meet:
Connecting
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**Salt Lake City, Utah
April 29 - May 2, 2008**

MPLA Professional Development Grant Application 2007 Deadlines

October 3, December 5



For additional eligibility requirements, funding priorities and application requirements see
<http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html>



Time to Think About MPLA Awards for 2008

After discussion at the July meeting, the Executive Board accepted the Awards Committee recommendation to reduce the number of awards given by MPLA. According to Beth Avery, Awards Committee Chair,

the discussion revolved around the discontinued awards duplicating those given at the state level while also being difficult to demonstrate at the regional level. The four awards that will be given at MPLA in Salt Lake City in 2008 are:

Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award: To be given to an individual, organization or company who has exhibited support for the Mountain Plains Library Association.

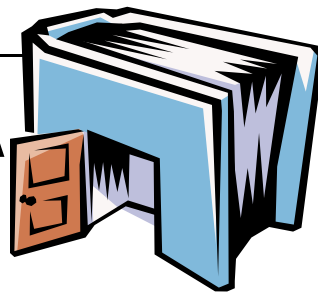
MPLA Distinguished Service Award: To be given to an MPLA member who has made notable contributions to the library profession or has furthered significant development of libraries in the Mountain Plains region, or has performed exemplary service for an extended period of time. In the case of retired individuals,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

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. Nominees will be evaluated on the basis of literary worth, readability, and evidence of responsible research.

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. Factors such as innovative programming and planning, use of resources, and special projects will be considered.

The awards nomination form can be found at <http://www.mpla.us/documents/procedures/appendix6-B.pdf>. Nominations need to be received by Awards Committee Chair Beth Avery, Beth.Avery@unt.edu, by February 8, 2008.

Welcome New MPLA Members



COLORADO

Robin Braine, Circulation Manager, Basalt Regional Library District; Basalt, CO

Beth Hager, Consultant; Greeley, CO

Donna Miller, Library Media Coordinator, Mesa County Valley School District #51 Library Media Department; Grand Junction, CO

IOWA

Ben Johnson, Student, University of Missouri; Council Bluffs, IA

OKLAHOMA

Mary Kirk, Coordinator, Library Access Services, Rose State College Learning Resources Center; Midwest City, OK

Around the Region

ARIZONA

The **Maricopa County Library District** was one of 35 libraries across the US to host a visit from the Harry Potter Knight Bus at the District's Northwest Regional Library in Surprise on July 3. The new branch of **Phoenix Public Library** in Laveen also had a visit that day. The bus tour was sponsored by Scholastic to celebrate the release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. At each library, lucky fans had a chance to board the Knight Bus and share their thoughts on video.



The Knight Bus visits Arizona Libraries

The new **Perry Branch Library of the Maricopa County Library District** in Gilbert officially opened on July 10, and is considered to be the first in the nation to open as a “browsing” library without the Dewey Decimal System. It has a “bookstore look” with “neighborhoods” of books grouped together by a general topic on eye-level shelving in “U” shaped areas of lounge chair seating. As a separate building located on the campus of the new Perry High School, it also serves as the school’s library. The joint-use facility was built by the Chandler Unified School District, is owned and funded by the Town of Gilbert, and is operated as a branch of the Maricopa County Library District.



COLORADO

Beth Avery, a past-president of MPLA and formerly Director of the Western State College Library in Gunnison, is now Head of Research and Instructional Services at the University of North Texas Libraries. Beth continues in her position as MPLA Awards Committee chair.

University of Northern Colorado staff members recently took on a project to beautify the main entrance to the Michener Library. Two planters are filled with plants and two trees are surrounded by more than 40 plants selected for color and hardiness. See more photos at <http://www.mpla.us/stories/>.



l-r: Landscapers Patty Chapman, Linda McCammon-Whalen, Annie Epperson, Kalen May, Lois Leffler. Photo by Ebbie Sanchez.

Fumes from a solvent used to remove glue beneath floor tiles in the Government Publications area forced two closings of the **University of Northern Colorado's Michener Library** during the summer semester. Staff began to suffer adverse reactions in May, and when air ventilation machines did not work the library was closed from June 4-8. When the odor persisted, the building

was closed again from June 24-July 4. During the closures the Skinner Music Library provided reference and ILL services.

KANSAS

The **Pretty Prairie Public Library** received a grant for new children's books from the Libri Foundation of Eugene, Oregon. The grant provides 64 books with a retail value of \$1,068.78. The Pretty Prairie Recreation Commission donated the required \$350 which the Foundation matches on a 2-to-1 ratio.



As one of her first public presentations, new Kansas Poet Laureate **Denise Low** spoke at a regular "Meet the Author," program sponsored by the Johnson County Library.

Photo courtesy of Kansas Humanities Council

The **Derby Public Library** recently announced a grant from Target in recognition of its efforts in promoting literacy and the value of family reading. The grant will be used for a program to be held at the library next winter. **Family Reading Double Feature: Books to Movies** will feature 3 books that have been made into movies: *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo; *Babe the Gallant Pig* by Dick King-Smith; and *How to Eat Fried Worms* by Thomas Rockwell. Each family participating will receive a copy of one of the books. Money from the Target grant will be used for books, refreshments, prizes and incentives for participants, and for a multimedia projector.

Johnson County Library staff were recognized for National Association of Counties and National Association of County Information Officers projects: Photos courtesy of Robert Tucker, Johnson County Government

- "Stories about Women: Preparing Inmates for the Outside," a literature program co-facilitated by Outreach Services Coordinator **C.J. Sullivan** with Johnson County Corrections staff, won "Best of Category" in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Category of the National Association of Counties Achievement Awards, one of only 14 in the nation.



(l to r): C.J. Sullivan, Carole Thrasher of Johnson County Corrections, and Commission Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh.

- 2007 National Association of Counties Information Officers Awards of Excellence presented to the Johnson County Library: Kansas Reads Logo (Graphic Design) Graphic Artist **Cindy Frazer** designed the logo for use by the State Library of Kansas' state-wide Kansas Reads program for Gordon Parks' *The Learning Tree*



(l to r): Cindy Frazer and Commission Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh

- Coming Together: 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony – Adult Programming Manager **Jennifer Mahnken**, CRL Youth Services Specialist **Angel Dew**, and Communications Manager **Kasey Riley**



(l to r): Angel Dew, Kasey Riley, and Commission Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh

The **Kansas Book Festival** will be held at Wichita State University October 5-6. The Festival is presented by the **State Library of Kansas**, the **Kansas Center for the Book**, **Wichita Public Library**, **Kansas Historical Society**, **Governor's Cultural Affairs Council**, **Kansas Arts Commission**, **Kansas Humanities Council**, and **Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau**.

During the August heat wave, **Johnson County Library** facilities were promoted to the public as "cooling centers" by the Johnson County Health Department.

The **Johnson County Library** is the first library in Kansas to implement the Z39.50 computer-to-computer communications protocol to open its holdings information to searching via the Kansas Library Catalog.

MONTANA

The **Lewis & Clark County Library** announced the opening of "Venice: Its Splendor and Decay," an exhibition of photographs by Darryl Patrick through September 29.

Two Montana communities have received grants under the National Endowments for the Arts the Big Read. **Lewis and Clark Library** will be reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and **Lincoln County Public Libraries** will be reading *Their Eyes were Watching God*.

The **Montana State Library's 9th Annual Fall Workshop** will take place in Lewistown on September 28-29. It will feature sessions on Library 2.0, statewide databases, technology for teens, graphic novels and zines, and much more.

The **Montana Library Association** Academic & Special library division and the Public library division are getting ready for their retreat to Chico Hot Springs in October. MPLA Montana Rep Eileen Wright reports that "During the days fantastic programs will be taking place, but at night the bubbly hot tub book discussion is set to take place. Laughter and learning always fills these days at this annual Chico retreat for librarians."



l-r: Allen Weinstein, Archivist of United States with Sami Pierson (Libby), and MPLA Montana Representative Eileen Wright at National Conservation Summit.

A recent article about the seemingly poor reading habits of Americans (one-fourth have not read one book in the past year) stimulated the **Great Falls Public Library** to issue a challenge to the residents of Great Falls during the month of September. Director Jim Heckel says, "We are simply asking people to tell us how many books they have read and we will give prizes to the best readers. This contest is for adults, since kids have their own Summer Reading Program. The focus is on showing that people do read and value books. I think it's important to remember that, in spite of all the glorious technology we offer, libraries are still very much about reading books."

The 2007 **Montana Festival of the Book** took place in September with writers from around the region. It featured award-winning authors James Lee Burke, William Kittredge, Deirdre McNamer, Ron Carlson, Larry Watson, Mary Clearman Blew, Pete Fromm, Aryn Kyle, Christy Leskovar, Kat Martin, Guy Vanderhaeghe, Kevin Canty, Alyson Hagy, and many others.



NEBRASKA

The **Nebraska Library Association** Board unanimously voted to sign a letter of agreement to make official a 20% tuition discount offered by Drexel University. The requirement was to list Drexel on the NLA page as offering a degree in library science. NLA's web site lists Drexel and six

other universities offering library related degrees.

Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World Community will provide fifteen Nebraska librarians with the opportunity to join their international counterparts for several intensive days of learning, study, and building cross-cultural relationships. Participants in the October institute will hear library leaders speak about their leadership and communication styles.



The Public Library section of the **Nebraska Library Association** made Bylaws changes to incorporate TUFs (Trustees, Users and Friends) if a merger occurs.

The **Nebraska Library Association** scholarship committee recently announced the recipients of the Louise A. Nixon scholarships:

- **Marcia Dority-Baker** is circulation supervisor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Schmid Law Library and pursuing a MLS degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia.
- **Karen Dalziel** works as a library assistant at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is an MLS student at the University of Missouri-Columbia.
- **Rose Fredrick** is a library intern at the McGogon Library of Medicine and is attending the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in the MLS program.
- **Cynthia Sellhorst** is vocal and instrumental music instructor at the Doge Public Schools and is attending the University of Nebraska-Omaha pursuing her MS in Elementary Education with Library Media Endorsement.
- The winner of the Duane Munson Scholarship

is **Haishu Zhu**, a MLS student at University of Missouri-Columbia.. She is currently a library assistant at the Lincoln City Libraries.

The **Nebraska Library Leadership Institute** was held July 9-13 at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler. Twenty-six participants, eight librarian mentors, two presenters and three system support staff met for the 4th Leadership Institute. Becky Schreiber and John Shannon of Schreiber and Shannon Associates facilitated a series of exercise, small learning groups, and discussions to help participants examine their own leadership styles to become an effective leader. The mentors served as the support network. The next Leadership Institute is planned for July 19-24, 2009.

MPLA Member **Ben Brick** is the new Head Librarian of Grace University in Omaha.

John Felton, Automated Systems Manager Coordinator Information Services; and **Cindy Cochran**, Automated Systems Manger and Coordinator of Technical Processes, recently retired from the Lincoln City Libraries.

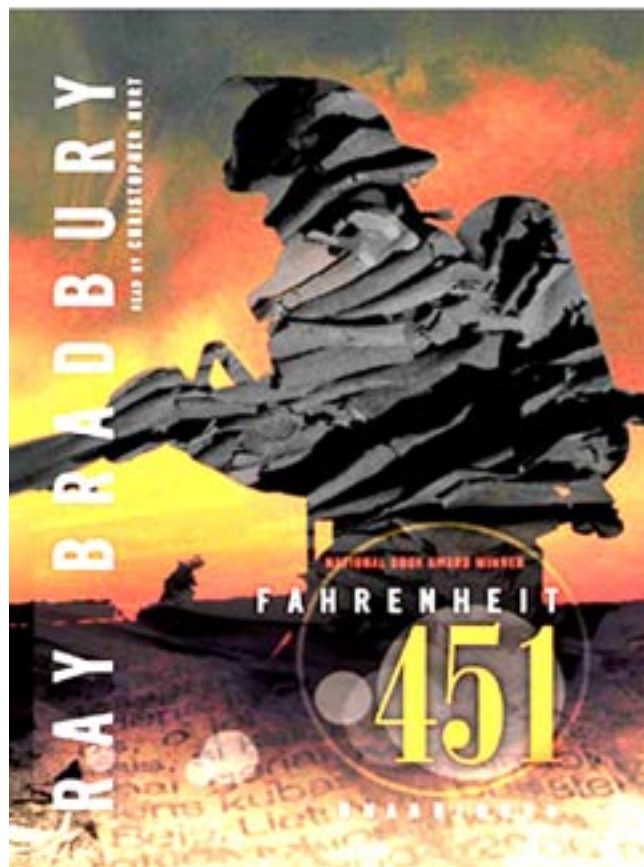
Beth McNeil, previously Associate Dean for the University Libraries at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has accepted a position at Purdue University as the Associate Dean for Information Resources and Scholarly Communication.

NEVADA

The biggest book club in Northern Nevada is scheduled for August 24-October 31. Members of the community are invited to read the classic *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. "The Big Read" will include many events to support literacy, including book discussions, author visits, lec-



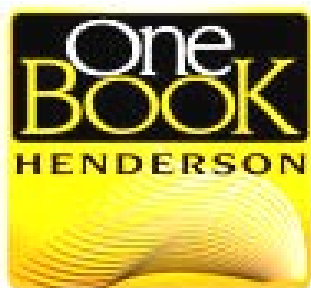
tures, movie screenings and much more. A coalition has been formed for this large-scale project. Key partners are **Washoe County Library System, Carson City Library, Northern Nevada Literacy Council, Washoe County School District, Nevada Humanities, Sierra Arts, City of Reno, Reno Fire Department, Friends of Washoe County Library** and **Washoe County Parks Department**. "The Big Read" has received significant grants and donations from the National Endowment for the Arts, Nevada Humanities, and Nevada Arts Council. The project is a part of the Big Read program sponsored by the National Endowment on the Arts, in partnership with the Institute of Museums and Library Services.



Details regarding construction of the new **Centennial Hills Library** were announced in August. The library, which will open in January 2009, will be near a park, fire station, police station and

the Centennial Hills Community Center which opened in July. The library will include a reading lounge with outdoor seating, wireless Internet, bookstore café, and separate computer areas for adults and youngsters, which can also be used as classrooms. The \$18.1 million project will also serve as the technical hub for the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. The library will use RFID technology to circulate materials and will be a central operations center to machine-sort all materials which have been returned to any of the district's 12 branch libraries.

The **Henderson District Libraries**, in partnership with the Friends of Henderson Libraries, the City of Henderson, and the Institute of Museums and Library Services, will celebrate "One Book Henderson" with the community reading Mitch Albom's bestselling book *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. A variety of programs inspired by the book will be held throughout October and November. For more information visit www.mypubliclibrary.com/programs/onebook.html.

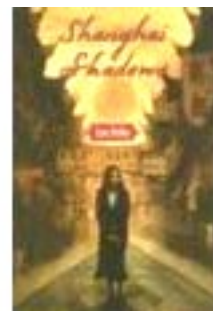


The **Nevada Library Association's** 62nd Annual Conference, *Lighter Side of Libraries* will be held in Carson City on October 4-6. Registration and conference information is available at <http://www.nevadalibraries.org/conference07/index.html>.



NEW MEXICO

MPLA member **Lois Ruby's** book *Shanghai Shadows* has been chosen one of the Bank Street Best Children's Books of the Year. Her novel is also a 2007 Kansas Notable Book, and she will be recognized at the Kansas Book Festival gala in October.



Outreach Librarian **Mark Pendleton** reports that the **Thomas Branigan Memorial Library** in Las Cruces will show the recently released documentary *The Hollywood Librarian: a Look at Librarians Through Film* three times during Banned Books Week 2007.

Leslie Chamberlin, Tireman Library Director, University of New Mexico, attended a graduate summer course through Salisbury University on International Children's Literature. Students visited about 25 authors and 20 illustrators of contemporary award-winning children's books in Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany, and Poland. Next summer, the course will involve travel to Australia and New Zealand. In 2009, a return to Europe is likely, with Paris a virtually certain destination. For more information, contact Leslie Chamberlin, saticoy@unm.edu; Dr. Patricia Dean, pkdean@salisbury.edu; or Dr. Ernest Bond, elbond@salisbury.edu.

Jeanette Smith, New Mexico State University Library, writes that the Big Read will see Doña Ana County residents reading and discussing Rudolfo Anaya's *Bless Me, Última*. The kickoff event on October 5 will feature a keynote address by nationally known author Jimmy Santiago Baca. The Ballet Folklórico de la Tierra del Encanto will also perform. Visit the Big Read Festival web site

at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/bigread/> for the program schedule and information about *Bless Me, Última*, Anaya, and Baca. For more information on the festival, contact NMSU's Humanities Librarian, **Mardi Mahaffy**, at mmahaffy@lib.nmsu.edu.

Sylvia Ortiz and **Mardi Mahaffy**, librarians at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, are planning a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the New Deal Arts Projects. The celebration will include a bilingual self-guided brochure directing visitors to all publicly accessible New Deal Art in southern New Mexico and El Paso, TX. To accompany the tour, a traveling exhibit created by the National New Deal Preservation Association will be displayed in Zuhl Library in October 2008. Contact either Mardi mmahaffy@lib.nmsu.edu or Sylvia sortiz@lib.nmsu.edu for further information.

NORTH DAKOTA

Marlene Anderson, MPLA member and Director of Library Services at Bismarck State College has been chosen the 2007 North Dakota Library Association Librarian of the Year.

NDLA's #1 choice of notable documents at last year's conference, was named ALA/GODORT's Notable Documents as well. *North Dakota, heal thyself: the story of the first hundred years at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the University of North Dakota : 1905-2005*. For a review, see the May 15, 2007 *Library Journal*. Authors are Dr. John W. Vennes and Patrick McGuire.

A coffee shop opened at the **Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library** on June 9. Prairie Peddler, the vendor, named the shop Gelato d' Italia to match its European theme. It occupies approximately 900 square feet on the library's main floor and seats about 24 people.

The city of Valley City will be 125 years old in 2008 and the **Valley City Barnes County Public Library** building will be 105 years old - two good reasons to celebrate.

LAUGH WITH LIBRARIANS. The NDLA 2007 conference theme centers on humor and its benefits for the workplace. Speakers include Unshelved writer Gene Ambaum (the made-up name of a real-life librarian) and co-writer and artist Bill Barner.

OKLAHOMA



"Oklahoma librarians associated with flying airplanes and kung fu?" asks MPLA Oklahoma Representative Barbara Ray. "These are just a few of the presentations held in Oklahoma that dispelled the myth of the stereotypical librarian." See below:

Information Matrix Camp 2007, facilitated by Sharon Saulmon, was a cooperative project between Rose State College and the Oklahoma Library Association with some funding through the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Teens 12 to 14 enjoyed meeting librarians and touring various libraries. Participants were made aware of the shortage of librarians from all types of libraries. They also

learned that librarians can be very interesting people as they met pilot Elaine Regier from the library division of the State Department of Education.

Mustang Public Library hosted a workshop entitled "The Black Belt Librarian."



The workshop by Warren Graham offered a new perspective on library security. After 25 years in security Graham now travels to provide security training to libraries. He discussed the conflict between the desire to protect the collection,

staff and patrons as they maintain a facility that is open to the public with resources available to everyone. For more on the Black Belt Librarians visit: <http://www.blackbeltlibrarians.com/>.

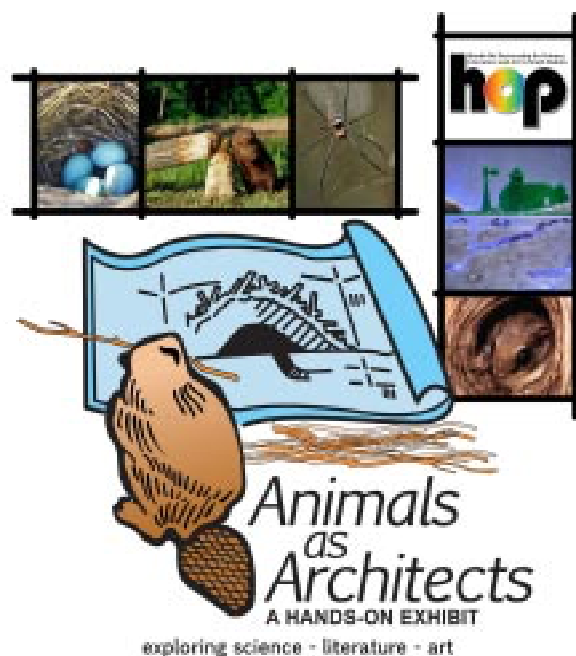
The **Oklahoma State Department of Education** sponsored Encyclo-Media 27, "Celebrating Oklahoma's Legacy." Events were geared to public and school librarians, teachers working with gifted and talented programs in the state, technology educators and school counselors. Wendelin Van Draanen, author of award winning Sammy Keyes mysteries, spoke at the school librarian's luncheon. Capitalizing on her love of reading and running, she is sponsoring "Exercise the Right to Read." Her publisher, Random House, will match every dollar raised with a book. Students who sign up will agree to run/walk a mile a day and read 26 minutes a day for 26 days. Ninety percent of the money raised through pledges goes to their school library and the other 10% to First Book. Individuals and corporations sponsoring Wendelin and her husband in the New York City Marathon will be donating directly to First Book. This fundraising begins October 1 and ends November

4 on the day of the marathon. See www.exercisetherighttoread.org.

SOUTH DAKOTA

MPLA member **Lea Briggs** is now Director of the Presentation College Library in Aberdeen, SD. She was previously Northern State University for 12 years and was one of the fellows in the 2nd MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch. She also was named by ALA in 2007 as an Emerging Leader.

Animals as Architects, a Hands-on Exhibit has been hosted by libraries in South Dakota during 2007. The exhibit was created by HOP, The Hands-On Partnership for Science, Literature, and Art in South Dakota – a project in which kids across the state have the chance to participate in hand-on activities. These activities are combined into a series of easy-to-assemble traveling exhibits that tour different libraries across South Dakota.



To book this exhibit for your community,
605-773-5050 or www.hopds.org

Project partners for the *Animals as Architects* exhibit are the **South Dakota State Library, South Dakota Arts Council, South Dakota Discovery Center, Dahl Arts Center, Rawlins Municipal Library,** and the **South Dakota School of Mines of Technology.** Grant funding was provided by The Institute of Museum & Library Services.

The 2007 **South Dakota Library Association** Convention theme will be Renew, Recruit, Celebrate. Preconferences will be held on Fundraising, Children's Services, School Media and Public Library Standards, Customer Service, and Medical Librarianship. Michael Sauers will open the Convention with "Your Library on 2.0." Steven Kinsella will present "900 Miles from Nowhere" during his luncheon keynote address.

The **South Dakota Center for the Book** has invited all South Dakotans to become involved with a reading group discussing *Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig. The South Dakota Humanities Council will provide a scholar to lead several discussion groups in libraries throughout the state. Doig's novel concerns the closure of rural country schools in Montana, which ended of a 'way of life' for many prairie communities.

The **Watertown Regional Library** reopened on July 23 in it's new facility after 14 months in a temporary location. On July 20th the library hosted two events for special groups to get a sneak peak at the new library. The first was a reception for 100 members of the Friends of the Library; the second was a Harry Potter party with over 400 attending from 9 pm – 1 am. A band concert, a storyteller, a poetry workshop and a teen launch night with bands, games and karaoke followed two weeks later. Director **Michael Mullin**, MPLA member, says, "The people are happy, the staff is happy, and I am happy with the space that we designed. We have found that it does what we planned with sound control while being one large

open space. For example, at one point the storyteller was yelling in the south side of the building and she could not be heard in the reading area on the north."



Inside and outside the main entrance of the new Watertown Regional Library on the morning of the ribbon-cutting

The **South Dakota Festival of Books**, held in September, was presented by the South Dakota Humanities Council. Writers included: Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota, founder and former publisher of the *Lakota Times* and *Indian Country Today* newspapers and author of *Children Left Behind, the Dark Legacy of the Indian Missions*; Warren Hanson, illustrator of *A Cup of Christmas Tea* and four books about a bear named PEEF; Bernie Hunhoff, editor and publisher of the *South Dakota Magazine* and author of *South Dakota Curiosities*; David Laskin, author of *The Children's Blizzard: January 1888*; Sonia Manzano, "Maria" on Sesame Street, and author of *No Dogs Allowed* and *A Box Full of Kittens*; Jean Patrick, author of *Who Carved the Mountain*.

UTAH

After a summer of being displaced, the children's portion of the **Richfield Public Library** has returned to its home. Shelving and books were moved into the basement of the library last week. The basement has a new concrete floor, rest room facilities and pillars added to strengthen the building. Also added to the library is a handicap accessible ramp.

Salt Lake City Public Library has re-opened their search for a new director, after deciding against hiring any of the top candidates. Nancy Tessman retired in June, and there has been an active search this summer. Ultimately the search committee declined to offer the position to any candidate, and said that they are still looking for someone with the right fit.

The **Utah State Library** is celebrating its 50th anniversary. There will be a reception hosted by Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. and First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman at the Governor's Mansion on September 13 to commemorate the event. The Governor's Mansion was the first location of the Utah State Library when it opened in 1957.



WYOMING

The **University of Wyoming** is breaking ground for its new Information Library and Learning Center (IL2C) in September 2007. The ground breaking follows the reopening of the renovated Library Annex in August. The library expansion and renovation project will be completed in 2010.

No Girls Allowed @ Natrona County Public Library. In response to the growing need to keep boys interested in reading and developing literacy skills, the **Natrona County Public Library** began a new program especially for boys and their dads. The program was inspired by boys' reading advocate Michael Sullivan, who visited NCPL in March. The first program held August 2 had a record turnout of 57 boys and men. In future months the library will develop additional events including a book club just for boys. The club will feature *active* ways of discussing books that appeal to boys and help them enjoy reading. See more photos at <http://www.mpla.us/stories/>.



Chess was one of the activities at "No Girls Allowed" program.

The Wyoming State Library was honored as one of seven winners nationally for the prestigious John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award. The award ceremony took place during the 2007 American Library Association annual conference in Washington D.C. The State Library won for the statewide library marketing campaign, ***Wyoming Libraries: Bringing the World to Wyoming.***

The **Wyoming Big Read**, sponsored by the National Endowment of the Arts, is coming to Sheridan County with the Sheridan County Public Library System hosting Big Read kick-off events

at each library. Opening events include a reception, distributing copies of *My Antonia*, viewing the documentary Willa Cather: The Road is All and the traveling exhibit *Willa Cather and Material Culture*, provided by the Cather Center in Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Community youth shattered **Teton County Library's** 2007 Summer Reading goal by 4,000 hours - logging 13,000 hours with books this summer. To recognize their efforts, the library held a Summer Reading Congratulations Celebration featuring free pizza and book giveaways for children and young adults on September. In cooperation with Teton County School District, librarians set 9,000 hours as the total goal to reach for summer reading. The young patrons hit the goal by mid-July and quickly surpassed it, reaching 13,000 hours by late August. Enrollment in both programs totaled 948 youth which represents approximately 31 percent of school-aged youth in Teton County.

The **Sweetwater County Library System** marked 100 years of library service in Green River on July 4. The Carnegie Library in Green River opened to the public on July 4, 1907 and served as the library for 73 years until it was moved to the current location.

The **Albany County Public Library** was named Innovator of the Month for June by Tutor.com whose on-line service, Live Homework Help is offered to Albany County students for free by the library. The award recognized the efforts of **Drew Kamen**, a Children's Service Assistant.

Teton County Alta Branch Library's *Movie Night* is one of several events underway for Teton Valley's One Book One Community read featuring Mark Spragg's novel *Where Rivers Change Direction*.



--CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING--

Instruction Librarian

Weber State University's Stewart Library seeks a librarian with vision, enthusiasm, and a strong service orientation to take a leadership role in the collaborative planning, development, and delivery of the library's instruction program. The design of online instruction, both web-based tutorials and content modules, will be a primary focus as the library seeks to enhance its already strong online instruction presence.

Responsibilities: Provides vision and direction for the Library's general and for-credit instruction program and serves as the Instruction Team Leader. Works closely with the Team to design and develop web-based tutorials and content modules. Collaborates with the Team and the University Librarian to plan, develop, and assess the general and for-credit library instruction needs of the campus. Coordinates and promotes instruction sessions. Serves as a resource person and sets an example for quality teaching. Collaborates with the Team to develop policies and procedures guiding the delivery and assessment of instruction. Participates in reference service, including rotating evenings and weekends, and may have some collection management/faculty liaison responsibility.

Required qualifications: ALA-accredited MLS degree; Record of a strong commitment to information literacy instruction; Minimum of three year's teaching and reference experience in an academic library; Evidence of effective team leadership experience; Experience with assessment of student learning; Experience with creating Web-based instructional modules and multimedia; Evidence of participation in professional organizations.

Preferred qualifications: Ability to work successfully as a member of a team in a changing, innovative environment; Ability to work effectively with students, faculty, staff, and community members; Effective interpersonal, oral, written and online communication skills; Ability to solve problems and to be flexible and creative in problem resolution; Commitment to faculty and staff mentoring and training; Involvement with ACRL's Institute for Information Literacy Immersion Program.; Ability to meet tenure and promotion requirements for research, publication, and service to the university and the profession.

Salary & Benefits: This is an 11-month, tenure track faculty position reporting to the University Librarian. Rank and salary commensurate with qualifications and experience with a minimum starting salary of \$45,000. Excellent benefits including TIAA-CREF.

Application Process: To be considered for this position, complete the online faculty/staff data form at <http://jobs.weber.edu> and attach a letter of interest, resume, and the names and contact information for three references. Screening for the position begins November 15, 2007; the position will remain open until filled. Individual selected must be eligible to work in the U.S. For more information on this position, contact Joan Hubbard, University Librarian at 801.626.6403 or jhubbard@weber.edu

To learn more about the Stewart Library and Weber State University, please visit our web sites: <http://library.weber.edu> and <http://weber.edu>

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RETIREE _____ \$15/yr. **STUDENT** _____ \$15/yr. **TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP** _____ \$15/yr.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP - For Libraries, Business Firms, and other Institutions supporting the Association. Institutional members receive FREE advertising for job openings in the newsletter! Membership fee is based on total annual budget

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