

Newsletter

December 2007

Volume 52 #3

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◆
www.mpla.us

◆
Renew your Membership
online at <http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html>

Leadership Institute 2007



*Scenes from
the MPLA
Leadership
Institute at
Ghost Ranch,
Abiquiu, New
Mexico*

*October 29-
November 2
2007*



ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO

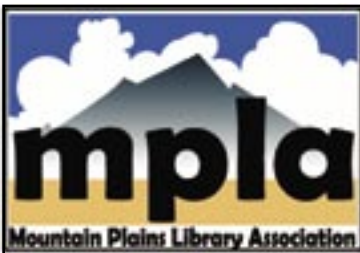
COLORADO
NORTH DAKOTA

KANSAS
OKLAHOMA

MONTANA
SOUTH DAKOTA

NEBRASKA
UTAH

NEVADA
WYOMING



The MPLA Newsletter is published
by-monthly by the Mountain Plains
Library Association

ISSN 0145-6180

Material of regional
interest may be submitted to:

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Submissions:

Copy deadlines for articles, news,
information, advertisements, and
other copy:

January 1	July 1
March 1	September 1
May 1	November 1

Advertising:

There is no charge to MPLA
personal or institutional members
for classified advertising.
Non-members are charged
\$1.25/line. Display
advertisement copy rates are
available from the Editor
(see address above).

**MPLA Membership or
Subscription Business:**

Matters pertaining to individual
or institutional membership, ad-
dress
changes, and claims or orders for
back issues should be sent to:

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Domestic Subscription Fees:
1 yr./\$25
2 yrs./\$45 3yrs./\$65

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President's Message



I have just returned from the last of my scheduled visits to state conferences, concluding with the joint conference of the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association, held at Kearney, October 24th - 26th.

Actually, if MPLA's joint conference with the New Mexico Library Association at Albuquerque last March is included, along with my state association's early April conference in Oklahoma City, then I have been to the state conferences in six of the twelve MPLA states this year. It has been a tremendous experience. I owe a huge collective Thank You to many people in each state, both for their magnificent hospitality and for their creative energy in planning and carrying out wonderful conferences.

First, there were excellent speakers at each of the conferences. For a sampling: fantasy author Jane Lindskold's luncheon talk in Albuquerque, Steven Abram's fast-paced, mind-stretching keynote address in Oklahoma City, Andrew Pace's eloquent discontent with the status quo of searching at the Kansas tri-conference in Topeka, Nancy Pearl's reader's advisory workshop in Helena, Rivkah Sass's energizing keynote in Provo, and actress Harley Jane Kozak's recounting at the Nebraska conference of how she became a mystery writer.

Then there were very special events, like the opening reception featuring Kathy L'Amour in Albuquerque, the presentation of special medals honoring 100 Oklahoma Library Legends, a highly enjoyable library trivia contest in Topeka, a deluxe tour of Montana's State Capitol building (including climbing a steep spiral staircase high up inside the dome), James D'Arc's program on "Hollywood Moviemaking in Utah" (presented in the ballroom! of the Provo Public Library), and the reception at the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney.

One of the marks of a good conference is the difficulty in choosing between two or more appealing programs in the same time slot. Each of these conferences posed that dilemma. I was very glad to attend Nancy Pearl's workshop in Montana, because I had a conflict that kept me from going to it in Oklahoma in 2005.

There is so much to learn at each library conference, but the highlight of each conference is the people, both the new friends you make and the old friends you have missed since your last get-together. That is the very essence of MPLA. Our new slogan says it well: Big Horizons, Close Community.

So I am looking forward eagerly to the next MPLA joint conference, in Salt Lake City, April 29 to May 2, 2008, when it will happen again.

---Wayne

Sixth MPLA Leadership Institute

By Mary Bushing, Institute Coordinator

Thirty-four librarians gathered in Abiquiu, New Mexico for the MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute, the sixth sponsored by the Mountain Plains Library Association and the fifth with EBSCO Information Services as funding partner. Since 2002, EBSCO has donated \$50,000 to provide approximately one-third of the total costs for the five-day event.

Maureen Sullivan was the primary facilitator for the conference. The 29 participants, four mentors and institute coordinator Mary Bushing worked through key leadership concepts using many active learning activities. Each participant returned home with a notebook filled with support materials and personal leadership development plan. In addition, each had many memories of the Ghost Ranch location and a whole new cadre of supportive colleagues.

Look for articles about the participants' Institute experiences in future issues of state association newsletters and in state library publications throughout the Mountain Plains region. More

pictures will be posted on the MPLA website: www.mpla.us -> Leadership Institute.

The Leadership Institute Committee is working to secure ongoing funding for additional years of this professional development program. The Committee is considering a variety of changes for future institutes in an effort to best meet the needs of individuals with appropriate personal characteristics as well as an interest in assuming leadership roles within libraries and within local, state, regional, national, and even international professional associations. Once funding is in place, information regarding future institutes and the criteria for attendance will be publicized throughout the region.

Interested persons should check the MPLA website (www.mpla.us) for further information and application details. Direct questions to Mary Bushing at marying@msn.com.



Meet MPLA's State Representatives

A representative from each of MPLA's member states is elected by individual state associations. State reps serve as voting members of the MPLA board for three-year terms. Broad duties include promotion of MPLA membership; publicity from MPLA to the state and from the state to MPLA; and liaison between the MPLA Executive Board and the state association's governing board. Current State Reps, with their comments to questions posed, are (in reverse state order):



Marcia Cheney – WYOMING



Position: Children's Librarian, Campbell County Public Library, Gillette, WY

What do you like best about your work? I love working with children and seeing them gain a love for reading. I enjoy planning activities that will bring them into the library and help them learn that reading is fun and li-

braries are a great place to be.

Previous involvement with MPLA? I was fortunate enough to be in the first group of the MPLA Leadership Institute. That was a great experience. I arrived home from the Institute on Friday and took my final for my MLS on Saturday.

What do you do for fun outside work? I enjoy camping, reading, rockhounding, spending time with my family and cooking.

A favorite? I have two favorite vacation spots. One is Yellowstone National Park, I've vacationed there since I was a baby and love it more and more each time I go. The other place is Disneyland, it turns me into a kid again and I can just laugh and have fun.



Emily Schultz – UTAH



Position: Manager of Cataloging at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City

What do you like best about your work? Seeing production of digital images through our new processes. Also knowing that hundreds of thousands of original images are being cata-

logued and made available to genealogical researchers each year — both on film, as well as the newer digital records.

Previous involvement with MPLA? I am new to MPLA but I have been very impressed with its offerings!

What do you do for fun outside work? Reading, reading to my children (ages 2 and 9), spending time with family, cooking, organizing.

A favorite? Favorite book of all time: *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, by Annie Dillard



Elvita Landau – SOUTH DAKOTA



Position: Director of the Brookings Public Library where she's successfully survived two software migrations and a building project.

What do you like best about your work? Being able to be creative and at times, a little silly, with programs and services while meeting the

public's informational and recreational needs keeps the position fun.

What do you do for fun outside work? Reading, gardening, needlework, and watching as much competitive figure skating as possible.

A favorite? Having tickets to the US Figure Skating National Competition in Minneapolis in January.



continued on next page

State Reps – continued from page 5

Barbara Ray – OKLAHOMA



Position: Program chair for the Master of Science in Library Media and Information Technology at North-

eastern State University, Broken Arrow, OK.

What do you like best about your work? I love getting to meet the students in the program because they are so passionate about instilling a love of reading and assisting their students in obtaining the best resources for their information needs.

Previous involvement with MPLA? This is my first time to be involved in MPLA.

What do you do for fun outside work? For fun I love to read, garden, and play with my grandchildren, ages 4 and 1.

A favorite? My favorite something would have to be ice cream!



Al Peterson - NORTH DAKOTA



Position: Training Coordinator for the North Dakota State Library, responsible for designing and implementing of training programs as well as other duties.

What do you like best about your work? I enjoy the opportunity to get out into the community and put on trainings.

Since taking on the position of Training Coordinator, I've traveled all over the state, to all four corners and many places in between.

Previous involvement with MPLA? I've been a member of MPLA since 2002 and I'm a graduate of the 2003 Mountain Plains Leadership Institute. I look forward to serving North Dakota as state representative for MPLA.

What do you do for fun outside work? Outside of work, my hobbies include gardening, cooking, fishing, camping, and hanging out with friends.

A favorite? I'm not originally from North Dakota. I grew up in Moon Township, PA, a suburb outside of the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (once a Steelers fan, always a Steelers fan).



Valerie Nye – NEW MEXICO



Position: Head of Public Services, College of Santa Fe Fogelson Library

What do you like best about your work? Creating classes and working with students

Previous involvement with MPLA? I have been New Mexico's Rep since 2004

What do you do for fun outside work? Writing and photography.

A favorite? Chocolate Cake!



Janet Mastalir – NEVADA



Position: Branch Manager, Paseo Verde Library, Henderson, NV

What do you like best about your work? The best part of my job is the opportunity

to work with a committed, creative staff. I marvel at their abilities and talents as they share their enthusiasm for libraries with members of our community.

Previous involvement with MPLA? I joined MPLA after graduate school, so I've been a long-time member. I have served on MPLA's Professional Development Committee and Awards Committee.

continued on next page

State Reps – continued from page 6

What do you do for fun outside work? I love to travel, and my husband pushes me to visit places that I would never have dreamed possible. Over the years we have toured China, Egypt, New Zealand, Scotland and Ireland, and we still have many other destinations on our vacation list!



Julie Beno – NEBRASKA



Position: Public Services Manager. Bennett Martin Public Library, the downtown library for Lincoln City Libraries.

What do you like best about your work? I love being a librarian. Graduate school taught me to see the world in a whole new way. Some of my best friends were in

the Emporia State -Nebraska program of 1994. To me librarianship is connecting to the public, working together with the staff and learning from them, and creating access to the materials and online resources.

What do you do for fun outside work? For fun, I play golf with three other librarians. We laugh, play, tell stories, and sometimes keep score, but never lie or cuss.

A favorite? I bike, travel, read, ski and hang out with my three great daughters and of course, my dog, Gertie.



Eileen Wright – MONTANA



Position: Reference Librarian and Archivist, Montana State University Billings Library, Billings Montana. I also have the fun job of working within the children's collection.

What do you like best about your work? Along with my fellow librarians, wearing many hats is what makes my job so fun and interesting. One day I will be work-

ing with a new special collection, and the next day I am working with a student trying to find the best kids book to work for a presentation in class. My days are never the same – they can be intriguing and amusing at the same time.

Previous involvement with MPLA? I have been on the nominating committee, was fortunate to be a part of the Leadership Institute, and I am right now the Montana State representative.

What you do for fun outside work? I am the “taxi mom” to some very active kids.

A favorite? When I get a break, my two dogs and I get to spend some time walking a trail and enjoying the big, blue skies of Montana. Then it is back to the house to take care of the menagerie of animals at home – bearded dragon, fat-tail and leopard geckos, euro-mastics, tiger salamanders, a degu, a hamster, two cats, and Oh! don't forget the two kids.



Susan Moyer – KANSAS



Position: I recently celebrated my 15th anniversary as the Director of the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library in Junction City, KS. Whodathunkit!

What do you like best about your work? One of the things I most enjoy about my job is that it allows me an almost endless

opportunity to work with other entities in the community to help make great things happen for the library and for our town. It truly is amazing what can be accomplished through collaboration and partnership.

Previous involvement with MPLA? I've been the Kansas rep to MPLA since Moses was in toddler time.

What do you do for fun outside work? Like almost everyone I know, work occupies most of my time as it does my husband who farms and raises cattle. We both love basketball, though and have season tickets for the mens and womens teams at nearby Kansas State University.

continued on next page

State Reps – *continued from page 7*

Go Cats! (Please don't tell my alma mater, the University of Texas.) I also love to travel and hope to visit very corner of this earth before I leave it.

A favorite? I'll always come home to my favorite spot, the farm nestled in the creek valley in the rolling Flint Hills. It's paradise!



Annie Epperson - COLORADO



Position: Instruction Librarian and Women's Studies-Subject Specialist. University of Northern Colorado Michener Library

What do you like best about your work? The best thing about my work is the chance to interact with college students and my campus colleagues. Students

are learning so much all the time – academically and about themselves and the world. I am lucky to be a part of “the village” that gets to raise the next generation of citizens.

Previous involvement with MPLA? Liaison between Colorado Association of Libraries and MPLA in recent years, and involved with MPLA since before I completed my MLIS in 2003.

What do you do for fun outside work? Camping, growing my own food, travel, learning to sew and quilt.

A favorite? My favorite season is spring, because of the promise held within each furled leaf and blossom. My favorite season is autumn, because it reminds me to rest, slow down, and appreciate peaceful patience.



Shirley Condit – ARIZONA



Position: Outreach Services Librarian, Pinal County Library District, Florence, AZ



Utah Library Association
connecting libraries

Where Paths Meet

MPLA
Mountain Plains Library Association

and our communities

salt lake city
april 29-may 2, 2008

Conference Website:

<http://www.ula.org/conference/2008conf/>

Online Program Proposal Form:

<http://www.mpla.us/forms/2008conferenceprogram.html>

*Deadline for program proposals
extended to November 30, 2008*

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New Mexico State University



DACC

Doña Ana Community College

MPLA Awards Nominations Due February 8 2008

Nomination form at
<http://www.mpla.us/documents/procedures/appendix6-B.pdf>.

Send Nominations to Awards Committee Chair Beth Avery, Beth.Avery@unt.edu, by February 8, 2008.

Energize Young Writers



Enemy Pie as featured on:

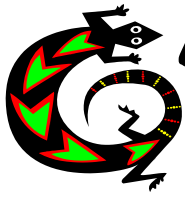


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American Indian Resources

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

Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Indian. –

--Robert Orben

Prior to the colonization of the Americas by European nations, Indian tribes were sovereign and self-governing. Once colonies were established, desire for expansion followed, leading to treaties which placed tribal lands under the “protection” of a European power. This “protection” led to interference on the part of colonial and United States governments into the internal affairs of tribes. Self-governance and sovereignty eroded in areas of criminal jurisdiction, economic activity, social values, and tribal ways of life, until tribes were reduced to ‘dependent sovereigns’ with very limited control over their affairs.*

General Resources

<http://www.usa.gov/Government/Tribal.shtml> - From the USAgov web portal, links to resources and services for tribal governments and Native Americans.

http://www.usa.gov/Government/Tribal_Sites/index.shtml - Links to tribal government information. There are 561 federal recognized tribal governments in the United States.

<http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html> - The Bureau of Indian Affairs is responsible for the administration and management of 55.7 million acres of land held in trust by the United States for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives.

<http://library.doi.gov/internet/native> - From the Department of the Interior, links to a variety of

resources for/about Native Americans, from news to ethnobotany.

<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/aian/index.html> - Links to statistical data collected by the Census Bureau.

Law

<http://www.tribalresourcecenter.org> - The National Tribal Justice Resource Center was established through a Justice Department grant and provides assistance to tribal justice systems.

<http://www.tribal-institute.org> - From the Native American owned and operated Tribal Law and Policy Institute organized to design and develop education, research, training, and technical assistance programs.

<http://wsll.state.wi.us/triballaw.html> - A collection of historical and current law resources from the Wisconsin State Law Library.

<http://indian.senate.gov/public> - This Senate Committee has jurisdiction to study the unique problems of American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native peoples and to propose legislation to alleviate these difficulties. These issues include, but are not limited to, Indian education, economic development, land management, trust responsibilities, health care, and claims against the United States.

<http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/indians.html> - Library of Congress-selected links to legal resources pertaining to Indians of North America.

Health

<http://americanindianhealth.nlm.nih.gov/> - Resources selected by the National Library of Medicine.

<http://www.ihs.gov> - Responsible for providing health services to approximately 1.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to more

than 557 federally recognized tribes in 35 states.

Culture and History

http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/History_and_Culture/AmericanIndian_History.htm - Online resources and annotated bibliographies for studying the culture and history of American Indians.

http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_nativeamerican.php - Primary sources, lesson plans, and search tips for teaching and researching Native Americans.

http://www.free.ed.gov/subjects.cfm?subject_id=125 - Educational resources from a variety of government agencies and partners.

Some MPLA State Resources

ARIZONA - <http://www.indianaffairs.state.az.us/>

COLORADO - <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=LeftLtGov%2FLLGLayout&cid=1189110010318&p=1190968674172&pagename=LLGWrapper>

MONTANA - <http://tribalnations.mt.gov>

NEBRASKA - <http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us>

NEVADA - <http://indiancommission.state.nv.us/default.htm>

NEW MEXICO - <http://www.iad.state.nm.us/>

NORTH DAKOTA - <http://www.ndhealth.gov/ndiac/>

OKLAHOMA - <http://www.oiac.state.ok.us/>

UTAH - <http://indian.utah.gov/>

*(Summarized from Tyler, S. Lyman. *A History of Indian Policy*. Washington DC: United States Department of the Interior, 1973, 30-31.)



ULA/MPLA Conference Planning Underway

Planning for the 2008 conference in Salt Lake City, Utah is progressing well. Jim Rettig, ALA President-elect has agreed to be the keynote speaker. This will be a great opportunity for you to hear his thoughts for the profession and interact with him.

We are lining up exciting authors to speak and programs proposals are starting to arrive. If you want to present a program, please go to <http://www.mpla.us/forms/2008conferenceprogram.html> and submit your proposal. The deadline for program proposals is has been extended to November 30. We need great programs!

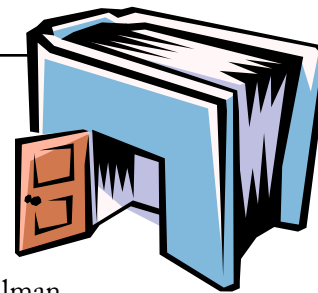
The MPLA Conference team and the Utah Library Association Conference Committee are working hard to make this a fun conference as well as a great learning experience. I'm excited about the ideas we are generating and will have additional announcements as we approach the conference.

This conference marks the 60th Birthday for MPLA. Plans for a party are underway. According to MPLA President, Wayne Hanway, "It's going to be fun!" Don't miss this event.

Be a part of the excitement! Plan to attend, "Where Paths Meet: Connecting Libraries and our Communities" April 29 through May 2, 2008 in Salt Lake City, UT.

**--Rob Banks, Conference Co-Chair
rbanks@tscl.org**

Welcome New MPLA Members



NORTH DAKOTA

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North Dakota Rural Assistance
Center; Grand Forks, ND

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University of Nebraska Lincoln
Love Library; Lincoln, NE

Pam Koch
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brary; Cozad, NE

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GayLynn Burchett
Systems Librarian, Avera McKen-
nan Library; Sioux Falls, SD

Sharlene Lien
Elementary School Librarian, Dis-
covery/SF Schools; Sioux Falls, SD

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brary; Hot Springs, SD

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Colleen Eggett
Training Coordinator/Consultant,
Utah State Library; Bountiful, UT

Josh Hanagarne
Librarian, Salt Lake City Public
Library System Day-Riverside
Branch; West Valley City, UT

Allyson Washburn
e-Learning Librarian, Brigham
Young University; Provo, UT

Kristin Ward
Student, Murray, UT

M. Burt Barnard
Librarian, Stevens Henager Col-
lege; Salt Lake City, UT

Cynthia Lopez
ITT Technical Institute
South Jordan, UT

Deborah Smith
Librarian, Weber County Library
Ogden, UT

Karen Hale
LDS Business College; Salt Lake
City, UT

Steven Law
Family History Library; Salt Lake
City, UT

Ruth Tanner
Santa Clara Library; George, UT

Sue Hill
Library Director, Brigham City
Library; Brigham City, UT

WYOMING

Maggie Swanger
Reference & Electronic Resources
Librarian, Laramie County Com-
munity College Ludden Library
Cheyenne, WY

Suzanne Dorn
Librarian, Worland Middle School
Library; Worland, WY

Keith Weaver
Administrative Assistant, Laramie
County Community College Lud-
den Library; Cheyenne, WY

Georgia Lundquist
Librarian, Campbell County High
School Library; Gillette, WY

Fred Antelope
Librarian, St. Stephen Indian High
School Library; Arapaho, WY

Lori Clark-Erickson
Library Media Specialist, Jackson
Hole High School Library
Jackson, WY

Lisa Marie Wetmore
Asst. Librarian, Teen & Tech
Service, Fremont County Library
System Dubois Branch
Dubois, WY

Mary Lynn Pilant
Librarian, Fremont County School
District #24; Shoshoni, WY

Julie Berentson
Information Technology Specialist,
Campbell County Public Library
Gillette, WY

Ron Chesmore
Library Media Specialist, St. Ste-
phens Indian School Library
Arapaho, WY

Jonathan Harwood
Head Librarian, Sweetwater
County Library System Rock
Springs Library; Rock Springs,
WY

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MPLA Sponsors Literary Ireland Tour July 6-18, 2008

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 MPLA 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. Visit places which are the backdrop and the inspiration to so many modern Irish writers. The tour is open to anyone interested in Ireland or literature. There is some walking involved each day.

The personalized two week tour will depart from a gateway city on July 6th. Air arrangements will be made individually and are in addition to the land cost. Tour must have 12 people. If less than 12 people register, the tour will be cancelled.

Land cost is \$2700/person (MPLA member) or \$2750/person (MPLA non-member) in shared rooms. A single supplement will apply for non-shared room. The land cost includes eleven nights accommodation with accompanying Irish breakfast, bus, driver/tour guide, dinner on five nights and fourteen entrance/tour fees.

Note: The tour fee is based upon a \$1.40/E1.00 (dollar to Euro). If the dollar continues to fall in value, there may be an adjustment charge. Deposit of \$500 is due by December 31, 2007. Full payment is due June 1, 2008.

For more information contact Sharon Osenga, Trip Coordinator and MPLA Past President. Meridian Library System; 1015 Central Avenue, Suite B; Kearney NE 68847; sosenga@frontiernet.net.

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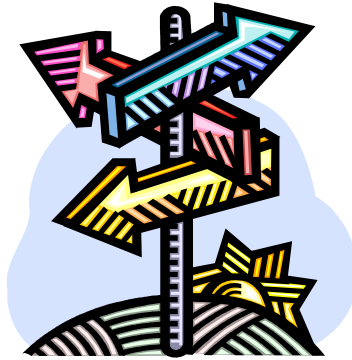
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Around the Region

ARIZONA

The **Oro Valley Public Library** held its 2nd Annual Book Festival “Oro Valley Rocks,” which featured raffle tickets for a Ford Mustang Bullitt.” All proceeds were for the benefit of the library.



rado Alliance of Research Libraries Digital Repository.

The **Weld Library District**, coordinating with the **University of Northern Colorado**, is participating in *The Big Read*, a National Endowment for the Arts initiative. Weld county residents are encouraged to read **Rudolfo Anaya’s *Bless Me, Ultima***, and participate in book talks, group discussions, and other activities throughout the county.

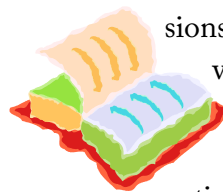
COLORADO

The Colorado State Library and its Special Populations & Issues group announced a new website with links and ideas for libraries of all types. Nearly a year in the making, the site provides resources applicable to any diverse or special population including ethnic minorities, persons with physical and mental disabilities, seniors, immigrants, and gender-related. See www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/librarydiversity.htm. The project was supported by an LSTA grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The **Denver Public Library** recently received a \$778,500 award from the for “Creating Communities: Digitizing Denver’s Historic Neighborhoods”. The library, in partnership with the City of Denver, the **Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries**, **Denver Historical Society**, **University of Colorado at Denver Auraria Library**, and **University of Denver Penrose Library**, will inventory, catalog, and digitize historic documents of the City and County of Denver, linking them to existing information about buildings and neighborhoods and preserving the digital files in the Colo-

KANSAS

All Northeast Kansas area library staff were invited to “Celebrate the Book!” at the Regional Reader’s Advisory Conference in Topeka hosted by the **Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library**. The keynote speaker was Joe Raiola, senior editor of *Mad Magazine*. It also included discussions on various aspects of Reader’s Advisory work, with breakout sessions on pleasure reading related topics such as horror, Muslim fiction, thrillers, and sports. A traditional Reader’s Advisory Trivia Contest capped the event.



Former Kansas Governor **John Carlin**, who served as Archivist of the United States from 1995-2005, returned to Topeka in October for the launch of *Kansas Memory*, the Kansas Historical Society’s newest online offering. It features the largest collection of photographs and manuscripts from Kansas history on the Internet, and can be accessed at kansasmemory.org. The launch coincided with American Archives Month.

Officially sanctioned graffiti heralded the launch of **Johnson County Library's** new Web site on August 15. Armed with cans of blue and yellow spray chalk on the hottest day of the year, teen "guerrilla marketing" volunteers sprayed "NEW," "IMPROVED," and "www.jocolibrary.org" in park-

ing lots of all 13 library facilities. The teens used templates made from rubber bathtub mats. The launch received press attention in both print and broadcast media.



The **Kansas Book Festival** was held October 5-6 on the campus of Wichita State University. From biographies and poetry to children's books and gardening, the programs showcased authors in over 70 programs. The Festival was presented by the **State Library of Kansas**, the **Kansas Center for the Book**, the **Wichita Public Library**, the **Kansas Historical Society**, the Governor's Cultural Affairs Council, the Kansas Arts Commission, the Kansas Humanities Council, and the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The **Johnson County Library** began a pilot collection of video games with 70 copies representing 35 titles in various platforms. The collection is intended for young adults and families. Platforms include Playstation 2, Playstation 3, Xbox 360, and Wii. Each title has copies that can be requested and copies that are available only to walk-in patrons.

MONTANA

Lee Phillips is the new Director of the **Butte-Silver Bow Public Library**.

The **Montana State Library** announced that it is able to pay the entire cost, for the next two years, of the Gale statewide periodical databases contract. Any Montana library that is listed in the Montana Library Directory will automatically have access to the periodical databases for this two year period.

Andrine Haas, Director of the Jane Carey Memorial Library at Dawson Community College in Glendive is retiring in December 2007. She has been a member of MPLA since 1987.

The **Montana State Library** recently announced that Montana resident **Mary Drew Powers** of Whitefish was selected to receive a \$25,000 scholarship to attend graduate school as part of the State Library's PEEL (Professional Education and Employment for Librarians) program. The scholarship money is provided through a competitive grant, funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services' "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" program. Powers is currently the Assistant Branch Librarian with the Whitefish branch of the Flathead Public Library.

Bozeman Public Library received the Eco-Star award in September. The Library is the first LEED certified public building in Montana.



The Montana Library Association's Pennies for Peace Campaign resulted in a school built for the Central Asia Institute in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. The school was built in the 2005 Earthquake Zone and has more than 150 students.

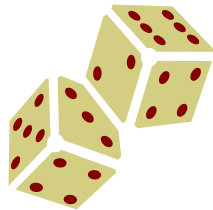


As reported by ALA, a plan to restrict public access to physical collections at the **Montana State Library** in Helena as the library makes a major transition to digital access came under heavy criticism in mid-October. The draft Digital Library Transition Plan is found at <http://msl.state.mt.us/news/whygodigital.asp>.

NEBRASKA

MPLA President **Wayne Hanway** attended and presented "Library Funding Elections: Getting Over the Hurdles."

The **Legacy Saloon** featured a first-time Casino night to raise funds for the Legacy Fund of the **Nebraska Library Association**. MPLA State Representative Julie Beno reports that several "heavy" gamblers were spotted whiling away their time.



December is "Ditch Dewey" month at **Seward Memorial Library**. According to Library Director and MPLA member **Becky Baker**, the non-fiction section will be reorganized by subject categories that will take the place of Dewey number. The transition is scheduled for December, the library's slowest month.

The **Nebraska Library Association** maintains an official FlickrR page where photographs from

events are posted. See <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nla/>.

NEVADA

Kenna Payne, Youth Services Department Head, Gibson Branch of the Henderson District Libraries recently won a contest sponsored by Demco. Kenna's original design for a rug was selected and will be sold in the Demco catalog.



Kenna Payne with her winning rug

The 62nd Annual Conference of the **Nevada Library Association** was held in Carson City on October 4-6. NLA President, Debbie Jacobs welcomed several hundred librarians and exhibitors to the Nevada Legislative Building for a program of activities built around the theme, "Lighter Side of Libraries." Featured speakers included humorist and director of the Waukegan (IL) Public Library, Richard Lee, and technology expert Michael Stephens, Instructor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Dominican University. At the NYRA Awards breakfast, children and adults were entertained by award winning authors Roland Smith (*Cryptid Hunters*) and Stephanie Meyer (*Twilight*).

The **Boulder City Library District** is searching for a new Library Director to help create the future of the community. Boulder City, a community of 15,000+, is 30 miles from Las Vegas and 4

miles from Lake Mead. The Library District is an independent local government with stable funding. A new 48,500 square foot library was opened in 2002. **Duncan McCoy**, the present Director, is retiring in June 2008. More information can be found at www.bclibrary.org.

NEW MEXICO



Cipriano Vigil Tells the Story of La Llorona (the Weeping Woman) to Participants in New Mexico State University's Big Read Celebration. Photo by Jeanette Smith, NMSU

Three new librarians have joined the **New Mexico State University Library** staff. **T. J. Urbanski**, the new Access Services Department Head, comes to NMSU from Illinois State University. A former reference and instruction librarian at California State University, San Bernardino, **Sarah Baker** joins the library faculty as the Education Librarian. **Alisa C. Gonzalez** is the Social Science Librarian in Reference & Research Services. Alisa was formerly the Public Services Senior Librarian for the West region of the El Paso Public Library and was previously employed as an assistant reference librarian at Youngstown State University where she was the Business Librarian and subject liaison and also the liaison to the School of Engineering.

The College of Education at the **University of New Mexico** will offer a course in Library Collection Development in Los Lunas in the spring semester of 2008 with instructor Leslie Chamberlin. For more information contact Leslie at 505-277-7260 or saticoy@unm.edu.

Registration will start in November for on-line graduate and undergraduate courses in Library Science at **New Mexico State University** and **Doña Ana Community College** in Las Cruces. Several 3 credit courses, only 8 weeks long, will be starting in January and March. All courses are offered online. There are also several short month long one credit courses, with no text required. Non-degree seeking students who desire single classes for professional development are welcome or students may also choose to complete coursework leading to an Associates Degree in Library Science or a Certificate of Completion in Library Science. Additionally the program offers courses that fulfill state requirements for Library Media Specialist Endorsements. Out of state students enrolling in 6 credits or less even receive the in-state tuition rates. For further information about courses or degree options, go to the web site at <http://dacc.nmsu.edu/bis/libtec/> or contact MPLA member Susan Pinkerton: Phone: 575-527-7567 or 800-903-7503 ext. 7567 or Email: spinkert@nmsu.edu

NORTH DAKOTA

MPLA Institutional Member **MINITEX Library Information Network** is offering two in-person training sessions in Bismarck, ND, in January. Workshops include ILL Basics Using WorldCat Resource Sharing and Introduction to the OCLC Connexion Client. For more information see <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/training/oclc.asp#59>.

The 2007 **North Dakota Library Association** was held September 26 -28 in Jamestown, ND. "Laughing with Librarians: Becoming Unhinged and Unshelved!" was the theme for the conference. About 160 people attended the conference. Guest speakers featured included *Unshelved* artist and writer Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum and the "Attitude Doctor" Terry Fleck. Awards handed out included the 2007 Major Benefactor of the Year, given to **Dr. James Carlson** of Fargo for his generous donation to the Fargo Public Library. MPLA member **Marlene Anderson**, director of the Bismarck State College library, was awarded 2007 Librarian of the Year. The 2007 President's Recognition Award was handed to MPLA member **Kelly Steckler**, Director of the Morton Mandan Public Library, for her hard work and perseverance as Chairperson of the Legislative Committee during the 2007 session. **The Minot Public Library** won the Excellence in Service to Youth Award. The association also recognized six members for 30 years of service, six members for 20 years of service, and one member for 40 years of service.

The Grand Opening of the **Fargo Public Library's Dr. James Carlson Branch Library** is scheduled for a November opening. The 15,000 square foot full-service branch library will feature a children's area, a teen center, a large meeting room, conference rooms, information services, twenty-one computers, as well as a wide variety of books, periodicals, and materials for children, teens and adults.

The **North Dakota State Library** has made OCLC FirstSearch available to all libraries throughout the state. With the addition of FirstSearch, six databases are now available through legislative funding and LSTA.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma won the national competition sponsored by the **First Book** program based in Washington D.C. The First Book program provides books for low income children who participate in community based mentoring programs, tutoring, or family literacy programs. The original gift of 50,000 books would not fill the request for books in Oklahoma. The program plans to send another 300,000 when a warehouse is secured. Books will be distributed around the holidays. First Book indicated that middle income families average 13 books per child but in lower income families there is one book for every 300 children. Eighty Oklahoma community centers will receive the books to distribute to children in their communities.



Kim Henry, Oklahoma First Lady, is shown here reading books to children from the First Book awarding of books.

Norman Public Schools won the American Association of School Librarians School Library Media Program of the Year sponsored by Follett Library Resources. The Norman Public School's library program is aligned with the district plan of instruction and provides many opportunities for innovative collaboration. School libraries have strong support from administration and are part of the district's long range strategic plan.

Barbara Ray, MPLA member and Oklahoma State Representative, presented a professional development day for school librarians in Muskogee. She also spoke on education opportunities at a "Support Your Support Staff" workshop held at the **Midwest City Public Library** in September.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The **Brookings Public Library** staff was honored as Grand Marshals during the city's Festival of Lights parade on November 24. The parade organizers felt the parade theme, "Storybook Christmas," fit well with the exceptional job the library staff does in promoting reading to all ages and so chose the staff to lead the parade.

The **South Dakota Library Association** Conference was held October 17-19, 2007 with the theme "Renew, Recruit, Celebrate". Michael Sauer, Technology Innovation Librarian for the Nebraska Library Commission, gave keynote address which set the tone for learning as he reviewed Library 2.0 options. Author Steven Kinsella told of his efforts to memorialize homesteaders in the Great Plains through his book, *900 Miles from Nowhere: Voices from the Homestead Frontier*.

New officers who assumed their duties at the end of the SDLA conference, many who are MPLA members, include **Robin Schrupp**, Grant County Library, Milbank, president, **Nancy Sabbe**, Madison Public Library, Madison, vice-president/president elect, **Judith Howard**, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, Recording Secretary, **Greta Chapman**, Rapid City Public Library, Rapid City, Past President, **Lea Briggs**, Presentation College, Aberdeen, ALA Councilor, **Elvita Landau**, **Brookings Public Library**, MPLA Representative, **Kay Christensen**, Augustana College, Academic/Health/Special Libraries Section, **Jane**

Norling, Beresford Public Library, Public Library/Trustees Section, **Jean Dietrich**, Custer Schools, School Library/Media Section, and **Susan Schleicher**, South Dakota State University, Support Staff Section.

The **South Dakota Library Association** honored three individuals at its recent conference. **Guy Mackner**, Western Books, received the Friends of the Library Award for his commitment to securing South Dakota and regional history materials for library purchase. **Vicki Anderson** was awarded the New Librarian of the Year Award for her efforts at the Northwest Regional Library, Buffalo. **Carole Stricherz** received the Librarian of the Year Award for revitalizing the Cozard Memorial Library, Chamberlain.



l - r: Guy Machner, Vicki Anderson, Carole Stricherz

MPLA member **Lea Briggs** is Library Director of **Presentation College**, Aberdeen. She was previously Reference Services Coordinator for the past 6 years and held various other staff positions for six years before that at the Williams Library at Northern State University.

David Hulkonen, Director of Libraries at the University of South Dakota is retiring at the end of December, 2007.

Daniel Siebersma of DePere, Wisconsin, is the new head of the **South Dakota State Library**. Recently, he served as the director of the Lakeland Library Cooperative, a 41-member public library consortium in West Michigan. He has a master of arts in librarianship from the University of Denver. Former State Librarian and MPLA member **Dorothy Liegl** will focus her efforts on library development.

UTAH



The **Utah State Library** celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gala event hosted by Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. and First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman at the Governor's Mansion on September 13, 2007. The State Library began in the Governor's Mansion horse stables a half century ago and is now a statewide cutting edge library system with bookmobile service, an online library, state-of-the art technical systems and programs for the blind and disabled.

Sue Randleman, director of the **North Logan Library** for the past 10 years, recently announced that she is moving to Texas. With her departure, the very popular "Story time with Quackers," an event that drew youthful crowds to the library each week, will be discontinued. Randleman was heavily involved in the construction of North Logan's current library building, an 11,200-square-foot facility that has enabled the city's book collection to grow from 6,000 volumes to more than 54,000 in her time as director.

Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah County Libraries will have bookmobile services discontinued at the end of December and books will be given to the counties' libraries.

WYOMING

The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** hosted an Xbox and Guitar Hero party Saturday, October 6 in the library's Inner Circle. Teens were invited to come and play for the whole afternoon or stay for a couple of hours

The **Natrona County Public Library** kicked off its 2007 "One Book, One Community" event featuring *Pay it Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde. In addition to the books in the library's collection, the library distributed over 500 copies of *Pay it Forward* throughout the community. Book discussions focused on the power one person can have to make a difference in the world. Over 200 people attended one of two showings of the movie at the historic Rialto Theater in Casper. Several school groups took part by reading the books and finding ways to "pay it forward" in their community. The event culminated in a visit by the author, Catherine Ryan Hyde. Over 1,000 Natrona County residents participated in the program.



Debbie Iverson, MPLA Past-President, Director of the Sheridan College Library, and member of the Leadership Institute Committee, is retiring in January 2008. She plans to do short term consulting projects in areas such as technology,

database and serials access, tutorials, and grant-writing. She says, “I can’t think of any other career that would have resulted in such an interesting set of experiences. I’ve loved working with fellow librarians on projects and conferences in Wyoming and with my friends in MPLA. But, after 30 years of full time work, I’m ready to try my hand in other arenas in librarianship.”

The **Wyoming State Library** has lunched the *Wyoming Place Names Wiki* at <http://wiki.wyomingplaces.org> in order to answer some of the most common reference questions received. An intern created the wiki structure and entered information from Works Progress Administration (WPA) files held by the Wyoming State Archives. The University of Wyoming contributed extensive files of a former librarian who researched Wyoming place names, and the faculty and students will contribute that information.

The winning entry of the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library’s** Coffee Shop Naming Contest is “Read A Latte,” submitted by nine-year-old Tasia Fitzpatrick. Tasia’s entry was selected by the Library Board of Trustees from the 75 entries in the naming contest. Tasia was born in Sheridan and is in fourth grade at Sagebrush Elementary. She made the name up when she was thinking about it at the library. Tasia won a tote bag and a coffee mug for her creativity.



Groundbreaking for the new addition to and renovation of **University of Wyoming’s William Robertson Coe Library** was held October 5. The five-story, 92,765-square-foot addition will include a five-story rotunda skylight, 200 computer terminals, reference services, information technology services, a café, a 1,500 square-foot meeting commons for up to 75 people, twenty group study rooms, and more than 125 office spaces for library staff and faculty members and student employees. Concurrently with the new construction, the 188,656 square-foot of existing building will undergo renovation. The \$49.9 million project is scheduled to be completed in September 2009.

MPLA member **Susan Vittitow** has a new job at the Wyoming State Library as a Librarian in the Library Development Office. She previously worked in the publications and marketing office.

University of Wyoming professor Lewis Dabney has offered to give away copies of his book *Edmund Wilson: A Life in Literature*, published in 2005 and reviewed positively on the front pages of *The New York Times Book Review* and *The Times Literacy Supplement*. It is being republished in paperback and shredded in hardback. He has 100 copies to give to libraries in the Rocky Mountain region. A donation of \$2.83 for postage is welcomed but not required. Contact lm dabney@uwyo.edu; 803 S 12th St Laramie WY 82070. Copies will be mailed in January.

The **Teton County Library** mapped out techniques and tools for finding literary treasures that don’t make the bestseller lists (and some that do) during a Lunch ‘n Learn workshop, **What Should I Read Next?** The event surveyed electronic and other resources to help readers select titles and authors. The workshop is one of many library efforts underway to reach out to readers. In September, the library launched a new **Reader’s Advisory blog** (www.TCLib.org/blog) that shares local librarians’ picks and pans.

Candidates for MPLA Offices Announced

JaNae Kinikin, Chair of the MPLA Nominating Committee, has announced candidates for the two elected MPLA offices.

Electronic voting will take place in advance of the MPLA/ULA Joint Conference early in 2008. All current members will receive dates and instructions for the election by e-mail.



Vice-President/President-Elect Candidates

David Oberhelman



Position: Associate Professor / Reference-Instructional Librarian, Oklahoma

State University Library. Previously Assistant Professor of English, Texas Tech University.

Degrees: MLIS. University of Pittsburgh; PhD in English, University of California, Irvine; BA in English, Rice University.

MPLA Member since 1998; Currently Chair of Communications Committee and Communications Portal Task Force.



Eileen Wright



Position: Reference Librarian/Archivist Montana State University -

Billings Library.

Degrees: Masters of Science in Library Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee. Bachelor of Arts in English, Minor in Spanish; Allegheny College, Meadville, PA

MPLA Member since 2003; Currently Montana's MPLA State Representative.



Recording Secretary Candidates

Robin Brooks Clark



Position: Public Services Specialist, Topeka & Shawnee County

Public Library, Topeka, KS; Previously Assistant Library Director and Youth Services

Librarian, Kilgore Memorial Library, York, NE.

Degrees: Bachelor of Management, Bellevue University; Master's of Arts in Library Science, University of Missouri @ Columbia.

MPLA Member since 2001; Currently member of Membership Committee.



Annie Epperson



Position: Instruction Librarian & Assistant Professor, University of Northern Colorado,

Greeley, CO. Previously Reference Librarian, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Degrees: BS, Natural Resources Management, Colorado State University; MA, Environmental Sociology, Colorado State University; MLS, University of North Texas.

MPLA Member since 2003; Currently Colorado's MPLA State Representative.



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