

Newsletter

February 2008

INSIDE

- 2 ... MPLA Officers
- 3 ... President's Letter
- 4 ... MPLA Award Nominations
- 6 ... MPLA Elections
- 8 ... Political Parties -Government Docs Column
- 9 ... MPLA 2008 Professional Development Grant Deadlines
- 10...Welcome New Members
- 11...Debbie Iverson Leadership Institute Scholarship
- 12...MPLA Conference Featured Speakers
- 13...2008 Conferences
- 15...Around the Region
- 24...Membership Renewal Form

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Conference Preview

Jim Rettig, ALA President-Elect; David Lee King, Digital Branch & Services Manager at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library; and mystery writer Carolyn Hart are among the featured speakers for the MPLA/ULA Joint Conference to be held in Salt Lake City, April 29 - May 2, 2008. See more about the speakers on page 12.

JaNae Kinikin, Conference Publicity Chair, suggests "If you've never been to Utah or would just like to come back for a visit, this is your opportunity to network with new friends, learn new ideas to take back to your library, and visit some of the sights in and around Salt Lake City. You can enjoy the breathtaking views of the mountains and the creature comforts of a city."

For more information see<u>http://www.ula.org/conference/2007conf/</u> <u>index.html</u>or contact JaNae Kinikin: <u>jkinikin@weber.edu</u>; 801-626-6093.

The early registration fee for regular members of the two associations is \$90 and the early registration deadline is March 19. Registration information will be found at <u>http://www.ula.org/</u> <u>conference/2008conf/</u> <u>registration/</u>.



NEBRASKA

ARIZONA NEW MEXICO COLORADO NORTH DAKOTA

kansas Oklahoma Montana n south dakota SKA NEVADA UTAH WYOMING

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President's Message

As I write this, 2008 is still a brand new year. And I am getting more and more excited as the plans for our joint conference get closer to being completed and the registration process gets underway for bringing us together at the Salt Lake City Hilton, April 29 - May 2. Rob Banks and MPLA's Program Council have had a big job to do in soliciting program proposals and then working with our Utah colleagues to put together a conference that will reflect the interests and concerns of librarians today, together with noted authors, special events, a panoply of exhibits, and, of course, many new and renewed friendships.

Meanwhile, many other things have been happening in MPLA. We are getting much closer to the unveiling of the new communications portal. Plans for replacing MPLA's faded exhibit booth materials are moving for-

ward. A colorful new membership brochure has been printed, and like the new booth materials, it will use the new logo and slogan.

Another very successful Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch has been completed, again with high praise from those who participated. The Professional Development Committee has wrapped up their review of the 2007 individual professional development grants and will next be considering pre-conference workshop grant applications, as well as a new round of individual applications. Communications has been involved with the portal project, as well as sharing with Membership on the exhibits booth, the logo, and the slogan. The Nominating Committee has done its work, and online voting will be coming soon.

One committee that needs your help with its work is the Awards Committee. When is the last time that you nominated or shared in proposing someone for some well-deserved recognition? And there is a new award this year that deserves a flood of nominations: the MPLA Unsung Hero Award. It is to be given to any library individual(s) or group(s) in the MPLA region who have worked on a special project that has some significance to a community but which has not been eligible for a library award or which has for other reasons specified by the nominator not been recognized, to the degree that it merits, by any library organization.

I can think of many unsung hero librarians I know and have known: people who have taken a sluggish smalltown library and turned it into a busy, vital community center; people who have done the hard work to get a new building that someone else's name went on; people who started and built up annual used book sales into much-anticipated local and even regional events; people who kept the lights burning despite budget crises; people who have recruited and been mentors for library friends, volunteers, and future librarians; people whose unpublicized services as treasurer have kept libraries, associations, conferences, etc. from fiscal disasters; and many more.

So take a few minutes and propose an award for someone whose efforts have made a difference. Besides the Unsung Hero Award, there are the Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award, the MPLA Literary Contribution Award, the MPLA Beginning Professional Award, and, of course, the MPLA Distinguished Service Award. You know someone who deserves it. What are you waiting for?

---Wayne

Deadline for Award Nominations is February 8

The Mountain Plains Library Association has a new award to recognize an MPLA Unsung Hero. According to Beth Avery, Awards Committee Chair, "the award is given to any library individual(s) or group(s) in the MPLA region who have worked on a special project that has some significance to a community but which has not been eligible for a library award or which has for other reasons specified by the nominator not been recognized, to the degree that it merits, by any library organization."

Four other awards that will be given at MPLA in Salt Lake

City in 2008. They are

Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award: To be given to the 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 nomi-



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nee 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 <u>http://www.</u> <u>mpla.us/documents/procedures/</u> <u>appendix6-B.pdf</u>

Nominations must be received by the committee chair, Beth Avery: <u>Beth.Avery@unt.</u> <u>edu</u> by February 8, 2008.

Vote for **Camila Alire** for ALA President!

Camila is an advocate...

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- ★ Better salaries for all library personnel

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- ★ LIS education

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- Championing all types of literacy ★
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Proven Leadership

President, ACRL (2005) Chair, ALA Committee on Education Chair, ALA Committee on Legislation **ALA Council Member ALA Executive Board Member** LAMA Executive Board Member President, Reforma (1994)

Publishing to Make a Difference

Co-author, Serving Latino Communities

Co-author, Academic Librarians as **Emotionally Intelligent Leaders**

Award Winner

ALA Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award

Scholar-in-Residence for the Chicago Public Library System

ALA/ALTA National Advocacy Honor Roll

Reforma Librarian of the Year



MPLA Elections Electronic Voting February 18 - March 14

Candidates for Recording Secretary

Robin Brooks Clark

Current Position: Public Services Specialist, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka, KS

Previous positions: Assistant Library Director and Youth Services Librarian, Kilgore Memorial Library, York, Nebraska; Library

Associate I /Computer Support Technician, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont, Nebraska Media Center; Paraprofessional, Shelton Elementary School, Dallas, Georgia

Education: Bachelor's of Management, Bellevue University, 2002; Master's of Arts in Library Science, University of Missouri @ Columbia, 2007

Professional activities: MPLA membership committee, 2005-present; KLA Promotions chairperson, 2005-present; KLA Educational Foundation board member, 2006 – present; NLA Public Library Section Vice Chair,; NLA Paraprofessional Vice Chair, Chair, Past Chair; NLA ITART Chair; NEMO fundraising committee chair

MPLA member since 2001

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position? I have a passion for libraries and the people who frequent them both in person and online. I will bring my leadership skills, community building abilities and my strong commitment to our profession and its professional organizations to this position at MPLA.

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office? Besides fulfilling the duties of my office and growing as a professional, I would like to learn more about MPLA's infrastructure and how to put on a conference.

Annie Epperson

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

Previous position: Reference Librarian, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Education: BS, Natural Resources Management, Colorado State University (1997); MA, Environmental Sociology, Colorado State University (2001); MLS, University of North Texas (2003)

Professional activities: MPLA State representative/Liaison between Colorado Association of Libraries - (CAL) and MPLA - current; Member MPLA Administration Committee - current; Appointed to 2007 Audit committee to review MPLA accounts and procedures; Active member of CAL and the CAL Library Instruction Interest Group.

MPLA member since 2003

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position? Enthusiasm and a positive outlook, creativity, and a willingness to work as part of a team to accomplish goals that I support.

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office? Detailed, accurate reportage of all MPLA Executive Board meetings; complete and accurate archiving of MPLA publications, meeting reports, and materials. On a personal level, I'd appreciate a chance to work with the Executive Board and MPLA membership to make this a stronger, more productive organization.



MPLA Elections Electronic Voting February 18 - March 14

Candidates for Vice-President/President-Elect

David Oberhelman

Current Position: Associate Professor / Reference-Instructional Librarian, Oklahoma State University Library (1997 - present)

Previous position: Assistant Professor of English, Texas Tech University (1993-1996)

Education: MLIS – University of Pittsburgh, 1997 PhD in English – University of California, Irvine, 1993; BA in English – Rice University, 1987

Professional activities: MPLA: Chair, Communications Committee, 2007-2008; Chair of Electronic Communities Restructuring Task Force, 2007; Chair of Community Portal Implementation Task Force, 2007; Moderator, Collection Development Electronic Discussion Community, 2006-2007; Interim MPLA Representative for Oklahoma, October 2005-June 2006; Recording Secretary, 2002-2003; Member of Finance and Management Committee; Chair, Nominating Committee, 2004-2005, 2005-2006; Member of MPLA Board of Directors, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2002-2003, 2007-; Committee Memberships in MPLA: Continuing Education Committee, 2002-2003; Nomination Committee, 1999-2000; Finance Committee, 1999-2000, 2002-2003.

Other Associations (Selected): President, ACRL-Oklahoma Chapter, 2007; organized many conferences; chaired the Information Literacy Section; Chaired 5 Committees for Oklahoma Library Association; Chair of the University and College Division of OLA; organized workshops and served on conference program planning committees. Other Activities: North American Editor, *Reference Reviews*; Project Manager



Eileen Wright

Current Position: Reference Librarian/Archivist, Montana State University-Billings Library



Education: Masters of Science in Library Studies, April 2001, Florida State University, Tallahassee,

FL; Bachelor of Arts, English, June 1990, Minor in Spanish, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA

Professional activities: MPLA Montana State Representative - current; Previous: Nominating Committee, Vice-Chair for the Preservation, Archives, and Special Collections Section; Creation of Documentary Heritage - University Archives, Presented at the Academic Forum of the Mountain Plains Library Association Conference October 2004; Mountain Plains Library Association Leadership Institute - November 30 - December 5, 2004; Selected Participant of Librarian's Reader's Theatre, Mountain Plains Library Association Conference October 2005; Selected Judge of the Academic Forum, Mountain Plains Library Association Conference October 2005; Transitional Librarians: Generation X in the Library, Presented at Montana Library Association Conference, May 6th, 2006; Within Montana State Association: Co-Chair for the MLA Conference of 2005; Conference Planning Committee 2004-2006; Awards and Honors Committee member 2006-.

MPLA member since 2003

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position? I am strongly committed to the concept and value of a regional library organization. I have seen and benefited from being a part of MPLA since I joined in 2003. I am convinced that this

continued on page 14

continued on page 14

It's My Party (and I'll Cry if I Want To)

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



The more you read and observe about this Politics thing, you got to admit that each party is worse than the other. The one that's out always looks the best. – Will Rogers

This issue we are going to depart from official government information and take a brief look behind the scenes at "partisan politics". Although political parties have no official role in government (within certain limits, "anyone" can hold elected office), they do wield considerable political power and use it to influence the issues, the procedures, and the candidates in elections, especially at the state and national level.

Political parties have been exerting influence on our government almost as long as we have had elections. Despite the constitutional provisions to keep factions from attaining and maintaining political power (checks and balances, separation of powers, etc.), political parties formed early on to unite and mobilize the electorate towards candidates who best represented a shared ideology or "party line".

As political parties got more established, they influenced more than just ideas. They provided social services, had strong affiliations with newspapers, and often determined who got positions of power and contracts through patronage; essentially running communities, states, and sometimes beyond. Although we still hear of cronyism today, the political reforms enacted in the wake of the political bosses and machines of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries have done much to reduce the control of parties.

American politics is dominated by a two-party system. While it is easy enough to register a political party <u>http://www.fec.gov/ans/answers_par-</u><u>ty.shtml</u>, it is difficult to compete with the established parties in getting your message out and motivating people to vote for you. In addition, the established parties provide enough ideological wiggle room and local independence to keep the majority of voters registered with one party of the other.

Political Parties in the United States - <u>http://</u> <u>usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/election04/parties.</u> <u>htm</u> - Prepared by the State Department as part of a larger document to explain the US electoral process to those unfamiliar with it, this report provides an excellent history of parties.

Wikipedia – Political Parties in the United States - <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_po-</u> <u>litical_parties_in_the_United_States</u> - Wikipedia is a free internet encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit entries.

Politics1 – Directory of Political Parties – <u>http://www.politics1.com/parties.htm</u> – A popular online political site and blog.

Project Vote Smart – Political Parties – <u>http://</u> <u>www.vote-smart.org/resource_political_resources.</u> <u>php?category=Political%20Parties</u> – An attempt to independently provide as much public information about candidates as possible in one place.

Beyond Red vs. Blue – Pew Research Center for People and the Press – <u>http://typology.people-</u> <u>press.org/</u> - An investigation into the complexities of political beliefs.

Trends in Political Values and Core Attitudes: 1987-2007 - <u>http://people-press.org/reports/dis-play.php3?ReportID=312</u> – Another Pew report, this one focused on values and party affiliation.

UVA Center for Politics – Political Party links

- <u>http://www.centerforpolitics.org/about/links</u> <u>polparties.htm</u> - Links to national political parties and their affiliate groups.

Campaign Guide for Political Party Committees - <u>http://www.fec.gov/pdf/partygui.pdf</u> - summarizes the federal campaign finance laws applicable to political party committees as of August 2007.

Open Secrets – Money Raised by Political Parties - <u>http://www.opensecrets.org/parties/index.</u> <u>asp</u> - "A non-partisan, non-profit research group based in Washington, D.C. that tracks money in politics, and its effect on elections and public policy."



MPLA Professional Development Grant Application Deadlines 2008

February 6

April 2 June 4

August 6

October 1

December 3

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



Welcome New MPLA Members

Arizona

Laura Perry Librarian, Maricopa County Library District Fountain Hills Branch Library; Fountain Hills, AZ

Amy Gill Collection Development Librarian III, Sedona Public Library, AZ

Deb Holbrook Coordinator, Coconino Community College, Flagstaff, AZ

Suella Baird Senior Librarian, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ

Jeanette Mueller-Alexander Business Librarian, Arizona State University Libraries; Tempe, AZ

Lise Gilliland Director, Cochise County Library District; Bisbee, AZ

Ann Boles Yavapai County Library District Prescott, AZ

Nancy Deegan Librarian, Central Arizona College Coolidge, AZ

Lucille Castillo Manager, San Luis Branch Library San Luis, AZ

Susan Husband Young Adult Librarian, AzLa Tucson, AZ

Tami Miller-Earick Librarian II, Glendale Public Library; Glendale, AZ

Colorado

Rhonda Lee Altonen Media Specialist, University of Colorado Denver Health Sciences Library; Aurora, CO

Lori Barnes Town Librarian, Town of Vail Public Library, Vail CO

Jeff Lehman Library Board Member, Elbert Country Library District Elizabeth, CO

Julie Carmen Volunteer/Student, Emporia State University; Longmont, CO

Seana O'Grady Technical Services, Denver Public Library; Denver, CO

Deborah Hogue Branch Manager, Rangeview Library District Commerce City Branch; Commerce City, CO

Kristin Baldwin Information Services Specialist, Pikes Peak Library District Penrose Library; Colorado Springs, CO

Emilie Satterwhite Reference Librarian, Pikes Peak Library District Penrose Library Colorado Springs, CO

MaryAnne Wilcox Director, Grand County Library District; Granby, CO

Cathy Cloepfil Assistant Reference Librarian, Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library; Broomfield, CO



Reese Evenson Children's Librarian, Jefferson County Public Library; Arvada, CO

Gloria Hicks Librarian, National Snow & Ice Data Center; Boulder, CO

Kansas

Lane County Library Ruby Martin, Director Dighton, KS

Montana

Christine Hadlow Senior Library Assistant, Missoula Public Library; Missoula, MT

Nebraska

Aitken Educational Specialties James, Aitken, Owner Lincoln, NE

Nevada

Ed Feldman Acquisitions & Bibliographic Services Librarian, Henderson District Public Libraries, Henderson, NV

New Mexico

Tina Cates-Ortega Library Director, Moriarty Community Library; Moriarty, NM

Alisa Gonzalez Social Sciences Librarian, New Mexico State University Zuhl Library; Las Cruces, NM

North Dakota

Agnes Jensen Director, Stutsman County Library Jamestown, ND

Rachel Miller Librarian, Flasher Public School Flasher, ND Karen Arlien Media Specialist, Edgeley Public School; Edgeley, ND

Zach Packineau Circulation Manager, Bismarck Public Library; Bismarck, ND

Kristen Northrup Government Documents Cataloger, North Dakota State Library Bismarck, ND

Carrie Scarr Assistant Director, West Fargo Public Library; West Fargo, ND

Beth Greff Librarian, Mandan Jr. High School Mandan, ND

Clarice Hackman Cataloger, North Dakota State University; Fargo, ND

Iris Swedland Librarian, Velva School and Public Library; Velva, ND

Kristi Maas Children's Librarian, Leach Public Library; Wahpeton, ND

Cankdeska Cikana Community College Antonette McDonald Young, Director, Valerie Merrick Memorial Library; Fort Totten, ND

Aubrey Madler Library Technician, Northland Community & Technical College Grand Forks, ND Cynthia Mason Children's Programming Assistant, Fargo Public Library; ND

Oklahoma

Linda Taylor Senior Cataloger, Oklahoma State University Edmon Low Library Stillwater, OK

Sarah VanGundy Graduate Assistant, University of Oklahoma Bizzell Library Norman, OK

South Dakota

Robert Monge Instructional Services Librarian, University of South Dakota ID Weeks Library; Vermillion, SD

Jody Carlson Library Tech, Grant County Public Library; Milbank, SD

Wyoming

Katrina Brown Student, Sheridan College Sheridan, WY

Time to Renew Your MPLA Membership for 2008!

It's easy to renew online at <u>http://www.mpla.us/</u> <u>forms/</u> <u>membership.html</u>

Debbie Iverson Leadership Institute Scholarship

In lieu of gifts for MPLA member Debbie Iverson's retirement as Director of the Sheridan College Library in Wyoming, the Wyoming Library Association established the *Debbie Iverson MPLA Leadership Institute Scholarship*. Donations from WLA and MPLA members were secretly solicited.

In establishing the scholarship, WLA pointed out that Debbie Iverson has been one of the key individuals in the development, funding and remarkable success of the Institute. As president of MPLA she was instrumental in getting the concept approved and in supporting the work of the initial planning committee for the Leadership Institute. she has played a key role since the beginning of the Institute and has served as a mentor at the Institute. To date eleven Wyoming librarians from public, academic, school and special libraries have attended.

Debbie's response to the surprise was: "To all of you who contributed and to all of you with whom I have worked and played in libraries, this is an absolute thrill; I cannot think of a single thing which would please me more than this."



salt lake city

april 29-may 2, 2008 Conference Website: <u>http://www.ula.org/conference/2008conf/</u> Registration: http://www.ula.org/conference/2008conf/registration/

MPLA/ULA Conference - Featured Speakers

Carolyn Hart

Anointed the "American Agatha Christie," Carolyn Hart will be a featured speaker at the MPLA/ULA Joint conference in the spring. She is the first author to win all three major mystery awards, the Agatha, the Macavity, and the Anthony. In May 2007 *Malice Domestic* honored her career with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Her novel *Letter from Home*, set in her native Oklahoma, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. She was one of ten mystery authors invited to speak at the 2003 Library of Congress National Book Festival on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

Besides her "Death on Demand" series and the "Henrie O" series, she is launching a new series in 2008 in which the protagonist is a ghost. Books include *Set Sail for Murder* (2007); *Murder Walks the Plank* (2004); *Death of the Party* (2005); *Dead Days of Summer* (2006); and *Death Walked In*, March 25, 2008 Carolyn Hart lives in Oklahoma City.

Jim Rettig

Keynote speaker will be Jim Rettig, President-Elect of the American Library Association and University Librarian, Boatwright Memorial Library, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia. He was previously Assistant Dean of University Libraries for Reference and Information Services, Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. His presidential initiatives for ALA include increasing opportunities for ALA members to participate in and contribute to ALA; engaging future leaders through participation; advancing diversity; and advocacy for libraries, library workers, and library users. See his blog, *The Twilight Librarian*, at http://jimrettig.org/blog/

David Lee King

David Lee King is Digital Branch & Services Manager at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. He speaks and writes about websites, digital experience, working with techies and other technology-library related topics. He blogs at <u>http://www.davidleeking.com/</u>. Previous presentations include: *Social Networking: Best Practices for Libraries*, ALA Midwinter 2007 and library association presentations on *Blogs, Wikis* & Other Emerging Trends. He spoke at the joint MPLA/Nevada Library Association conference in Lake Tahoe on *Redesigning the Information Playground*.

State & National Conferences - 2008

Kansas Library Association - April 9-11, Wichita New Mexico Library Association Conference - April 9-11, Las Cruces Montana Library Association Conference - April 9-12, Great Falls Oklahoma Association Conference - April 21-23, Tulsa MPLA/Utah Association Conference - April 29-May 2, Salt Lake City American Library Association Annual Conference - July 9-15, Anaheim, CA Nevada Association Conference - August 14-16, Las Vegas REFORMA National Conference - September 18-21, El Paso, TX North Dakota Library Association Conference - September 24-26, Mandan South Dakota Library Association Conference - September 24-26, Chamberlain Wyoming Association Conference - October 1-4, Casper Nebraska Association Conference - October 15-17, Lincoln Colorado Association of Libraries Conference - November 6-8, Denver Arizona Library Association Conference - December 8-10, Glendale

60 Years old and refusing to act our age!

Make sure your path crosses the MPLA 60th Birthday Party

Where Paths Meet: Connecting Libraries and Communities MPLA/ULA Annual Conference

> http://www.ula.org/conference/2008conf/ Salt Lake City, Utah April 29-May 2, 2008





for Supporting the 2007 MPLA Leadership

MPLA Stories Tales from around the MPLA Region

See More MPLA Articles and Photos at http://www.mpla.us/ stories/



David Oberhelman, continued

for The Mythopoeic Press (scholarly press for nonprofit literary association)

MPLA member since 1998

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position? Over the decade that I have been a member of MPLA I have served in many leadership roles and have worked with the association through many changes (the first Long Range Plan, the reorganization, and now the restructuring of the Electronic Communities into a Communications Portal). I have had an abiding interest in promoting MPLA to our membership and the greater library community, and have valued the opportunities I have had to work with such talented, dedicated people in this region. I have much experience with conference planning and with working on common goals in committee settings, and know both where MPLA has been and where we would like it to go in the future.

What would you like to accomplish during your term

of office? If elected, I would like to revitalize the community spirit of MPLA and make it a vibrant part of the library world. I would like to expand our ability to bridge distances by offering new communications initiatives, expand the presence of MPLA in our member states, and attract new members from all types of libraries to join our energetic, diverse family. I would like to explore mechanisms for supporting our successful Leadership Institute, keeping our annual conferences exciting and informative, and continue to develop continuing education opportunities for our members. I would be honored to represent the MPLA region.

MPLA members will receive e-mailed instructions for voting electronically using MPLA's MemberClicks service. Polls will open February 18 and close March 14.

All members - Please update your e-mail address in your MemberClicks membership profile! See <u>http://www.mpla.us/</u><u>mclicks.html</u> for step-by-step directions.

Eileen Wright, continued

organization is a valuable resource for Librarians in the Mountain Plains States. I attended the MPLA Leadership Institute in 2004. I have been using the skills I have learned from this institute, and they have helped me to work effectively on several committees within MPLA and my state organization here in Montana. I am the state representative for Montana right now. I also served as past co-chair for the Montana Library Association conference. My strong organizational skills helped tremendously in this endeavor. It was an experience that was thoroughly tiring at times but extremely rewarding. My creativity in handling projects will help bring new projects to MPLA and add more support to already existing projects of past presidents.

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office? There are several goals I hope to accomplish while in the position. I want to lead a successful conference with our host state. I want to be responsive to ideas, concerns and joys that fellow members will share with me. Specifically, I want to improve communications between the state representatives and the board. The support needed for our current members and future members is seen through our state representatives. I want to reach out and strengthen our commitment to our members. I will work with the state representatives in getting them the support they need to accomplish the various tasks that have been assigned to them. MPLA is an organization that is constantly moving forward and is blessed with all types of libraries. We also have members who are in various points in their careers. We gain a lot from attending the conferences and being able to network with our members from the various institutions. Networking is an invaluable tool

> to any librarian. We need to continue the benefits received from our regional association by making our state representatives' presence stronger within each of their states.

Around the Region

Arízona

MPLA member Andrew Chanse has been selected for the American Library Association's 2008 Emerging Leaders program. He is a member of MPLA's Professional Development Committee.



Sponsored by Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, the Arizona Convocation 2008, will be held March 2-3 in Tucson. As part of the program participants from libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural organizations will think creatively about visioning Arizona's future with award-winning fantasy writer, Jeff VanderMeer.

MPLA member **Jane Kolbe**, Library Development Division Director of the Arizona State Library, has been awarded the Arizona Library Association's 2007 Library Leadership Award. She has been a mentor with MPLA's Leadership Institute, and has promoted collaboration between libraries and the Arizona Department of Education in their Adult Education Program. She also works with the School of Information Resources and Library Science at the University of Arizona and three urban libraries in the state to develop a leadership academy.

Colorado

The 39th Annual **Colorado Interlibrary Conference** will be held May 1-2 in Lakewood. Speakers include Brewster Kahle; U.S. Internet entrepreneur, activist and digital librarian, who will be discussing Internet Archive and the Open Content Alliance; library consultant Pat Wagner of Pattern Research, Inc.; and George Burke from Bookswim, the online book rental library club that offers home delivery. For more information see <u>http://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/coloillconf/</u>.

BCR, the Bibliographical Center for Research, offers a WebLive

workshop on Local Holdings Maintenance with the Connexion Browser, February 5-7, 2008. The presentation can be viewed and heard by a group of people at a single computer or by multiple people from the same institution at separate workstations. For information on content and costs, see <u>http://www.bcr.org/training/workshops/register.</u> <u>html</u>. BCR is an Institutional Member of MPLA.

MPLA member **Camila Alire** is a candidate for President of the American Library Association

(ALA). Dean Emeritus of both the Colorado State University Libraries and the University of New Mexico Libraries, she has also been Dean of the Auraria Libraries, University of Colorado at Denver. She resides in Sedalia, Colorado. See http://www.camilaalire. com/.



The **Colorado Academic Library Summit** planning committee seeks presentation proposals for high quality concurrent and digital poster sessions for the third Colorado Academic Library Summit 2008 to be held May 23, 2008. Deadline for proposals is February 15. For information contact Jay Devaughn, Jay.Devaughn@ccaurora.edu.

Kansas

National and international participation in the 2007 Constitution Day Poster Contest, a project of the Kansas Library Association Government Documents Roundtable, culminated with a presentation on November 17 to three Kansas City-area winners at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Johnson County Library Government Documents Librarian Martha Childers chaired the task force,. Other task force members were Tom Adamich, Robert Morris University, Mary Burtzloff, National Archives - Central Plains; and Arlene Wiler, Youth Services Librarian, Johnson County Library. Partners were the National Archives – Great Plains Region and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, both in Kansas City, and Robert Morris University, Pennsylvania.



Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II with the winners, left to right, Courtney Mathews, 2nd place; Anishka Mehra, 3rd place; Kimberly Chungong, 1st place. Photo by Kimberlee Ried

"Finding a Voice: Changing Lives Through Literature," was presented by Robert Waxler of the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, cofounder of the *Changing Lives Through Literature* program to Johnson County Corrections officers, mental health professionals, and library staff. The Johnson County Library co-sponsors the program with Johnson County Corrections and Johnson County District Courts as an alternative sentencing program for both adults and teens. Johnson County's teen sessions were the first in the nation, and are co-facilitated by JCL's Youth Outreach Librarian **Kathy McLellan** and Youth Services Manager **Tricia Suellentrop**.



l to r: Former Probation Officer Marlys Shulda, Johnson County Corrections; Youth Outreach Librarian Kathy McLellan and Youth Services Manager Tricia Suellentrop, Johnson County Library; and Robert Waxler. Photo by National Changing Lives Through Literature staff.

JoCoHistory.net now includes more than 2,400 photographic images from the **Kansas School for the Deaf**, following digitization of that collection, the only known project of this type and scale. Gallaudet University, the nation's oldest deaf institution of higher education, will be placing a link to the collection on its library's Web site.

The Johnson County Library Foundation has donated over \$12,000 to purchase books to be given as gifts in Judge Kathleen Sloan's courtroom in the 10th Judicial District of Kansas. Called CARE (Courtroom Arranged Reading Encouragement) Program, every child entering Judge Sloan's courtroom can choose a stuffed toy or book to take home as their own. Youth Outreach Librarian Kathy McLellan selects the books.

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library staffers **Robin Clark** and **Sandy Lane** found a new way to boost student exposure to the Kansas state children's and young adult book award nominees. Realizing that it is impossible to reach all students in the service area in person, they collaborated with Topeka area gifted students to produce creative videos featuring book reviews of the current William Allen White (WAW) nominees for 2007-2008 that were then uploaded to Youtube. The videos include interviews from "The Dr. Dyl Show", several inanimate object reviewers, masked anonymous book reviewers, and one with exceptional headgear. The staff hopes that as students view these peer produced video reviews, they will be more interested in reading the nominees and better prepared to vote their choice for the best book of the year. See review videos at <u>http://</u> <u>www.youtube.com/profile_videos?user=TopekaLi</u> <u>brary</u>



Montana

Mary Kay Bullard is the new Branch Librarian for the Bicentennial Library of Colstrip. She was previously in Deadwood, South Dakota, where she worked as a librarian for six years.

Belt Library welcomes **Kathy Miller** as a new staff member.

A committee at **Jefferson High School** decided to keep the book *Sexy* by Joyce Carol Oates. **Diane Thompson**, librarian at Jefferson High school stated in an email to the library community, "The vote was four to keep it and the principal abstained. Three people spoke in favor of the book, and no one spoke against it. (I know one person was there to support the challenge, but he hadn't read the book and so changed his mind). I did ask that before anyone gave an opinion to state whether they had read the book, all or part."

The Butte Public Archives \$7.5 million bond election won overwhelmingly by a 3-1 margin. The nonprofit Friends of the Butte Archives spent roughly \$13,000 promoting the archives in the weeks leading up to the mail-ballot election with money generated through book and calendar sales and other fundraising over the past decade. The bond issue will fund renovation of the existing archives and construction of a new building adjacent. The current archives building, a former fire station, has been virtually unimproved since it was constructed in 1891.

Nebraska

Julie Beno, MPLA Nebraska Representative reports that the NLA/NEMA annual conference Nebraska Libraries: Charting Paths to the Future was a success. Some news from the conference:

•Lisa Olivigni is the new Chair of Nebraska Library Association. Pam Bohmfalk was elected Vice-chair/Chair elect. Both are MPLA members.

•Attendees at the annual NLA meeting approved creation of the new Young Adult Round Table (YART).

•TUFS members approved the disbanding of the Trustee, Users and Friends group. They have now merged with the Public Library Section. The section will be called PLTS (Public Library, Trustee Section).

•For conference photos use key words in Flickr: NLA NEMA 2007

•Susan Steider, Lincoln City Libraries &

Gordon Wyant, Bellevue Public Library presented a session on Graphic Novels at the NLA/ NEMA Fall Conference.

Michael Stephens, PhD, Assistant Professor at the Dominican University Graduate School



of Library and Information Science in River Forest, IL spoke at the Eastern Library System and Southeast Library System Fall Colloquium in Lincoln on Library 2.0 as strategy guide for helping users find

information, gather knowledge and create content.

Legislative Day is set for February 12. NLA will honor adult volunteers as well as youth volunteers.

Nevada

Steve Davis, Assistant Director of the Nevada Humanities Committee, recently announced new grant guidelines for projects that "broaden perspectives and encourage intellectual curiosity." Li-

brarians are encouraged to submit grant applications for programs which will engage their patrons in community dialogue. For grants of \$1,000 - \$5,000 the deadline is March 10, 2008; for mini-



grants up to \$1,000 there is no deadline. For more information visit <u>http://nevadahumanities.</u> <u>org/grants.htm</u>

The Nevada Medical Library Group is cohosting a Joint Meeting of the Northern California/Nevada Medical Library Group (NCNMLG) and the Medial Library Group of Southern California/Arizona (MLGSCA) at the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas during February 6-9, 2008. For more information about the conference and its theme, *Viva Librarians!* check out <u>http://</u> www.med.unr.edu/ncnmlg/

Recipients of the 2007 NLA Awards were announced at the recent conference. The Librarian of the Year award was presented to Laura Oki for 33 years of service to the residents of Elko, Eureka and Lander counties. Carol Madsen was recognized as Trustee of the Year. She has been a trustee since 1998 with the Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System. Special Citations were awarded to Quest Lakes for her work with the Silver City Volunteer Library, Barrick Goldstrike of Elko-Lander-Eureka Counties for their generous sponsorship of library programs; George Stephanos, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, for his excellent service to libraries in Nevada; Leo Segura, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, for his work with NLA; and Judi Fioti, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, for her innovative children's programs. The Dorothy McAlinden Award for outstanding service by a NLA member not a professional library employee was presented to Lisa Gibson, supervisor of the Micro-Computer Center at the West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, for her promotion of libraries in her community.

Protecting Library & Archive Collections: Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery workshops will be given in Reno on March 4 and April 22; Las Vegas on March 6 and April 24; Elko on July 14 and August 25. Presenter is Kris Kern, Preservation Librarian at Portland State University and Chair of the Portland Area Library System's Disaster Recovery Group. Pre-registration will be available in January. The Nevada Library Association has issued a Call for Proposals for Conference Programs, NLA 2008, August 14-16. The theme is *Bridging the Gap @ Nevada Libraries*. Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact Nikki Winslow, Conference Chair, nlaconfchair2008@yahoo.com.

Starting February 1, **Henderson Libraries** will be closed on Sundays. In the last five years, the district's four libraries and bookmobile have seen nearly 100% increase in use in almost every category, however staff have increased by only 20%. In 2005 tax caps were put in place by the legislature that limited the library district's ability to leverage growth revenues and recover from negative economic conditions, such as those experienced throughout the state this year. With Sunday closings, staff will be scheduled Monday through Saturday to provide better customer service and avoid staffing shortages. Reduced utility costs and janitorial services will also provide cost savings.

The National Endowment for the Arts announced that the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District received a \$20,000 grant to pro-



mote programs related to The Big Read. Big Read activities will be a part of the District's popular adult reading program, "Reading

Las Vegas," celebrating its 7th year in 2008. Participants in the program will be encouraged to read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

The University of Nevada/Reno's Getchell Library will begin its move to the new Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center on May 16, 2008. During the move, a portion of Getchell Library will remain open to provide some library and computing services. The lead architectural firm is Hershenow + Klippenstein. The design firm is Dekker/Perich/Holmes/Sabatini. The Knowledge Center will open for students, staff and faculty in August 2008. See <u>http://www.knowledgecenter.</u> <u>unr.edu/images.html</u>



New Mexico

It is with great regret that the New Mexico Library Association notes the death of **Lois Erwin Godfrey** on November 26, 2007. Lois, elected to the Special Library Association Hall of Fame in 1989 and named an Honorary Life Member of the New Mexico Library Association in 1990, spent 34 years as a librarian for the Los Alamos National Laboratory Library and was described as a tremendous leadership force on local and national levels in both SLA and NMLA.

For information about reasonably priced online Library Science courses at **New Mexico State University and Doña Ana Community College** in Las Cruces contact MPLA member **Susan Pinkerton:** Phone: 575-527-7567 or 800-903-7503 ext. 7567 or Email: <u>spinkert@nmsu.edu</u>. Out of state students enrolling in 6 credits or less receive the in state tuition rates. 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. For further information see <u>http://dacc.</u> <u>nmsu.edu/bis/libtec/</u>.

North Dakota

South Fargo's Dr. James Carlson branch library had its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony in November. The new 15,000 square foot branch library offers residents living in Fargo more computers, a coffee bar, a separate teen area, a large community area, and a drive-up book drop. The new Carlson Branch replaced the Southpointe Branch which was located in a nearby strip mall and was nearly four times smaller than this new facility. In attendance at the ribbon cutting was Dr. James Carlson, the benefactor and several members of his family as well as Mayor Dennis Walaker, State Librarian and MPLA member Doris Ott, and Interim Director Beth Postema.



The **Bismarck Library Foundation** kicked off a \$600,000 fundraising campaign to renovate the children's portion of the Bismarck Public Library. Population estimates based on Bismarck's current growth, predicts the Bismarck Public Library could see increased use of 30 to 50 percent in the next 10 years. Reconfiguring the computer area, new materials purchases, storage for DVDs and other electronic media as well as redesigning the physical look of the children's area are some of the changes being considered.

The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council and the North Dakota State Library have awarded 2007 grant funds totaling \$137,239



to five North Dakota libraries. The projects include the **Bowman Re**gional Public Library's laptop lab which targets computer literacy for teens and senior citizens; the **Dick**inson Area Public Library's portable

computer lab to be used in partnership with the NDSU Extension Service for technology education; the **Hankinson Public Library**'s computer project to offer distance education classes; and the **Mandaree and Grafton Public School libraries** projects to participate in the Statewide Library Online Catalog.

Students at Minot's Longfellow Elementary and Washington Elementary schools have raised more than \$600 dollars for the Northwood School and Public Library which was heavily damaged when the town of Northwood was hit by a tornado in August. The money was raised to purchase books for the school library.

The North Dakota Library Association elected its 2007-2008 Executive Board at the October conference, with Donna James of Valley City State University's Allen Memorial Library serving as president. Other officers include MPLA member Phyllis Bratton, of Jamestown College's Raugust Library as president-elect; Beth Postema, Fargo Public Library, as past president; Laurie McHenry, UND Chester Fritz Library and MPLA member, as secretary; and Michael Safratowich, UND Library of the Health Sciences and MPLA member, as treasurer. The remainder of the Board includes: MPLA member Shelby Harken, University of North Dakota's Chester Fritz Library; MPLA North Dakota Representative Al Peterson, North Dakota State Library; Victor Lieberman, University of North Dakota's Chester Fritz Library; MPLA member Kathryn Thomas, North Dakota State University library; Eileen Chamberlain, Meritcare Library, Fargo; MPLA member Lori West, Fargo Public Library; Bon**nie MacIver**, Leach Public Library in Wahpeton; Kathy Berg, Century High School (Bismarck) library; Naomi Frantes, North Dakota State Library; Kirsten Baesler, Bismarck Public Schools library; Bonnie Krenz, Griggs County Library, Cooperstown; Christine Kujawa, Bismarck Public Library; MPLA member Kelly Steckler, Morton Mandan Public Library; MPLA member Johanna McClay, Bismarck State College library; Rachel White, State Historical Society of North Dakota research library; Mark Holman, Sitting Bull College library; MPLA member Marlene Anderson, Bismarck State College library; MPLA member Doris Ott, North Dakota State Library; and Theresa Norton, UND Library of the Health Sciences.

Oklahoma

"We are all trying to reach the younger generation but it is not always easy to let them know what we have to offer," says **Barbara Ray**, MPLA Oklahoma Representative. The **Oklahoma Library Association** is doing a good job of marketing the skills of librarians through the use of current technology. The University & College Division along with the Information Technology Roundtable, Library Education Division and Public Library Division are sponsoring four workshops under the title of *Reaching the Millennials: Taming the Technology*. The goal is to help librarians working with the Millennial generation become familiar with the preferred methods of sharing information. Topics for the February 29th workshop include reference service through Instant Messaging and the use of wikis for instruction, collaboration and information presentation. There will be a pre-conference workshop before the Oklahoma Library Association conference in April for the third workshop. The final workshop will be held August 8 and concentrate on pod casting, RSS feeds, cell phones, and emerging technologies.

Some parts of Oklahoma suffered last year with

ice but the end of 2007 was marked by the worst ice storm Oklahoma has ever seen. See more in Barbara Ray's



story on the website at MPLA Stories at <u>http://</u> <u>www.mpla.us/stories/index.html</u>.

South Dakota

The 2008 South Dakota Library Association Legislative Day was held January 16 in Pierre with the theme "Join the Circle of Knowledge @ Your Library." Among the activities were visits to legislative committees, a Rotunda display, a library advocacy podcast featuring Stephen Abram, a presentation by new State Librarian, Dan Siebersma, and an evening legislative reception at the State Library. The day was organized by the SDLA Library Issues committee with MPLA member Deb Hagemeier, chair.

The generosity of anonymous donors has led to a \$6 million gift toward the renovation of **Augustana College's Mikkelsen Library**. The new \$7.4 million project will incorporate the latest technology with numerous group and quiet study areas. Plans include a video production and editing suite,



flexible library instruction classrooms, enhanced areas for collections, and gathering spots around fireplaces. The library renovation proj-

ect accommodates a joint effort with **Sioux Falls Seminary** to merge its theological collection into the Augustana library.

The Pennington County Commission signed an agreement with the **Rapid City Public Library** board that will allow county residents to use the city library without paying extra for library cards. Under the new agreement, the county will pay the library \$351,750 in quarterly installments and 14.5 percent of the library's operational costs for all subsequent years. With no contract, county residents faced paying as much as \$70 per year to get a Rapid City library card.

The South Dakota State Library and South Dakota Library Association leadership are negotiating with the State Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT) for permission to renew the subscription to the database, *America's Newspapers* by Newsbank. The Bureau's Senior IT Committee, charged with reviewing all technology purchases over \$50,000, had refused to allow renewal on the basis of cost and duplication of services. The database was ranked #1 by a statewide Electronic Resource Task Force representing school, public and academic libraries, after trials of suggested electronic resources in 2006.

The **Brookings Public Library** and Science Visions Science Center are collaborating to present *Science Café*, a version of the international *Café Scientifique*. Committed to promoting public engagement with science and to making science accountable, *Science Café* provides an informal forum for debating science issues. Each session features a short presentation followed by an open-ended discussion of the topic. Topics discussed this fall include Climate Change in the Plains, Nanotechnology, and Global Warming.

Mary Bushing, library consultant and MPLA member, is the Interim Dean of Libraries at the University of South Dakota, filling in after the retirement of **David Hulkonen** in December. She will work at least through the end of March while the search continues for a permanent Dean.

An online "calculator is now available via the **South Dakota State Library**'s Web site to help students break down the research process into manageable steps. The Research Project Calculator breaks the process into five logical steps. Students choose the format of their research product (essay, PowerPoint, video) and enter the due date for their assignment. The calculator estimates the



dates by which each part of the process should be completed. Students get more than a timeline. Each of the five steps includes further information about what the stu-

dent needs to accomplish in each step of the process. The Research Project Calculator is aimed at high school students and was developed and funded jointly by MPLA institutional member **MINITEX** and MnLINK (Minnesota).

Utah

"Got fines? Give food!" **Utah State University Merrill-Cazier Library** instituted a "Food for Fines" program over the holidays. For fines accrued before November 19, donations of non-perishable goods for the Utah Food Bank waived the fines. Two donated items waived \$5 in fines, with a maximum of \$20. The Salt Lake City Public Library and the Weber County Library will hold a *Thinking Ahead Symposium* 2008 March 13-15. The threeday interdisciplinary forum fosters conversations

about issues affecting the future of America's libraries. The conversations will be introduced and facilitated by a panel of experts including Joe Raiola, editor of MAD Magazine; Ivan Weber, Weber Sustainability Consulting; science fiction author L.E. Modesitt; and Charles M. Grown, Director of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Libraries. For registration information see www.think



registration information see <u>www.thinkinglibrar-</u> <u>ies.org</u>.

Pete Giacoma, Davis County Public Library director, will retire on Feb 29, 2008. **Chris Sanford**, who has been serving as head librarian of Davis County North Branch, will be the new director.

The **Orem Public Library** has received a gift of a painting, commissioned by a family who wished to pay tribute to their mother's love of libraries and literacy. The painting, titled *Toward Mt*. *Pleasant* by painter J. Kirk Richards, was donated by the family of LaRue Roberts Stevens.

Wyoming

In association with the Smithsonian Institute's *Between Fences* traveling exhibit scheduled to open at the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** in January, the library is hosting a local photograph exhibit titled *Fences of Sheridan County* in February and March.

The **Teton County Library** recently presented an author talk with **John Byrne Cooke**, author of *Reporting the War: Freedom of the Press from the American Revolution to the War on Terrorism*. Cooke, a Harvard graduate and an award-winning author of historical novels, is the son of journalist Alistair Cooke.

The Wamsutter Library Foundation received a grant from the Carol McMurry library endowment fund of the Wyoming Community Foundation to purchase a new refrigerator to support a "latch-key" program at the Wamsutter Branch Library. The refrigerator will make it possible for librarian Joni Harris to provide snacks for children who socialize at the library and take part in reading activities and community service projects.

February 27 through April 11 the Natrona **County Public Library** in Casper, Wyoming will host an exhibit sponsored by the American Library Association and the National Library of Medicine. NCPL is one of fifty sites across the country selected to host the "Changing the Face of Medicine" traveling exhibit. The exhibit introduces the general public to many unrecognized achievements by women in the field of medicine, celebrating the lives and careers of some of America's extraordinary women physicians. NCPL will host a number of informative events related to the display including a program about female physicians of the 19th century, presented by Carol Lee Bowers of the University of Wyoming. For more information about the exhibit please visit www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine. "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians" was developed by the Exhibition Program of the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition has been made possible by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health. The American Medical Women's Association provided additional support.

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